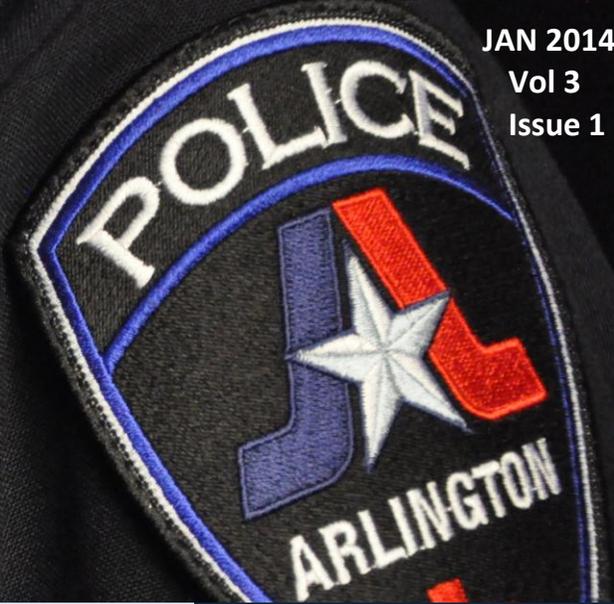


On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

In January, the Spotlight is On Human Trafficking

During the month of January, the Arlington Police Department puts the spotlight on a crime that crosses national and international borders. The crime is called human trafficking. By definition it is the exploitation of an individual through force, fraud or coercion. It involves the recruitment, harboring or transporting of a person for labor or services for the sole purpose of involuntary servitude or forced commercial sex acts.

Through a federal grant, the APD, with guidance from the U.S. Attorney's Office - Northern District of Texas, has aligned efforts with other law enforcement agencies to form the North Texas Trafficking Task Force. This task force is comprised of law enforcement

officials from Arlington, Dallas, Fort Worth, Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI and many other north Texas agencies. Their mission is to rescue victims and ensure their safety through proactive law enforcement and social service delivery that uses a victim-centered approach.

NORTH TEXAS BY THE NUMBERS

63	Number of Reported Victims
9	Number of Reported Suspects
43	Number of Suspects Arrested
25-30	Number of human trafficking cases with Arlington connections

Signs of Human Trafficking

Individual appears to be controlled by someone. Communication and transportation does not exist or is restricted.

Visible signs of torture and abuse.

Heavy traffic with men coming and going frequently from a specific location

A runaway or child with unexplained absences from school. Changes in attire and/or behavior.

In the Community

Thank You! Santa Cop 2013 was a success. [Click here](#) for some memorable moments captured in photos.



January is Human Trafficking Month. Call 817-804-2786 for a presentation for your neighborhood group.

You're invited to participate in the Arlington 25th Anniversary **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Jan. 17-20.** [Click here for event schedule](#) or [ArlingtonMLK.com](#).

The **MLK Holiday** is Monday Jan. 20

The Youth Collaboration Breakfast on January 24 is sponsored by the Arlington Alliance For Youth and will feature keynote speaker **Assistant Police Chief Loretta Hill.**

A new academy class is now forming. To join the **Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership** requires leadership skills and a passion for service. Academy Class #7 will begin meeting in March. Interested? Call Officer Fretwell at 817-459-5589.

All in a Day's Work

On Call with APD Human Trafficking Coordinator Tammy Thomas

A typical day with the Arlington Police Department starts early for Human Trafficking Coordinator Tammy Thomas. If it's the morning after a sting operation involving criminal acts of prostitution, Thomas has follow up work to do first.

"A crucial part of what I do is try and build trust with those who are impacted by human trafficking," she said. "Oftentimes, the individuals we speak with don't have family support and they're left alone to navigate through life's ups and downs."

It is during vulnerable moments when perpetrators are able to integrate into the lives of unsuspecting victims, Thomas said. Victims are manipulated into a lifestyle that can quickly become less desirable and eventually painful. Human trafficking diminishes humanity and dignity, Thomas said. Nearly 70 percent of victims are women or young girls.

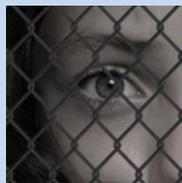
"It's very sad when we speak with a victim and we know she wants to get out, but is too afraid to take the lifeline that is being extended to her. With each victim we encounter, my hope is that something is said during those first few minutes of conversa-

tion that will resonate with her and she will believe that she deserves better."

Thomas is no stranger to serving and helping others.

She has been with the City of Arlington since 1995 before moving into her new role with the APD Central Investigations Division.

This graduate of the Citizens Police Academy has served the department in numerous volunteer capacities, but it is her community outreach role that takes her across North Texas and into high schools, churches and truck stops to reach, teach and make a difference. In November, the NTTTF hosted a national



training conference involving nearly 250 registered participants from law enforcement, medical and social service agencies. The one-day conference was held in partnership with Arlington ISD, the Safe City Commission and Tarrant County College.

APD officials say it is community outreach efforts like this that is resulting in an increase in rescued victims and a greater awareness of the crime.

"I am so proud to be a part of a team that's committed to improving the lives of others," Thomas said. "We invite the public to join us in recognizing the signs of human trafficking and then reporting this crime to police by calling 9-1-1."



New in 2014! Citizens Assisting Police community volunteer program has a new web page! [Click here](#) to see the new page and get involved!

Unidos returns Feb. 4 to Sam Houston High School. Learn more about this NEW community outreach program by calling 817-459-5725.

On Call

North District

Help the Police By Always Being Alert and Observant of Your Surroundings

In the North Police District, an off-duty Arlington officer was enjoying his afternoon with friends when he recognized suspicious activity and immediately acted on it. His actions led to the apprehension and arrest of a criminal.

Last month, Arlington officers were dispatched to a cellular store in the north district. A man entered the store and stole an undetermined amount of cash. He also took an employee's wallet and cell phone as she was calling 9-1-1.

Officer Justin Els was off duty at the time and leaving a restaurant with friends when he saw a man fleeing in the westbound direction. The officer obviously thought this behavior was suspicious and he didn't hesitate to act. He was able to retrieve the license plate number as the robbery suspect sped

away in a silver Mercury Grand Marquise. The license plate was registered to an address in Hurst. After the vehicle description and license plate

were broadcast to all police districts and shared with our law enforcement partners in Fort Worth, Grand Prairie and surrounding agencies, it was determined that a robbery at a restaurant in Fort Worth involved a vehicle that was registered to the same Hurst address.

Officers set up on this location and soon stopped the vehicle. An arrest was made and this robbery suspect is off the streets.

This incident shows us just how important it is to be alert, vigilant and observant. Know how to recognize suspicious activity.

What is suspicious? Basically anything that seems slightly out of place for the area during the time of day could be suspicious.

When you recognize and report suspicious activity, you are helping the Police Department in many ways.

When you call 9-1-1, tell us what happened, when and where.

You are also reminded to note the license number, if able, and vehicle description and direction of flight.

Be prepared to provide officers with a description of the individuals, including the color and types of clothing. When describing a suspect, notice age, race, sex, height and weight. Pick out some unique characteristics which will help you identify the suspect in the future if necessary.

Never place yourself in harm's way. Remember to be alert, stay safe and call 9-1-1.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call

South District

Inside this South Arlington School, Students Learn the ABC's of Bullying

The Arlington Police Department was recently invited in to The Children's Courtyard to conduct a presentation on bullying.

In our lifetime, we've all either dealt with or have seen the effects that a bully can have on a person.

Bullying can have harmful, life-long effects. It is defined simply as an unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.

At The Children's Courtyard last month, children and staff gathered for a great discussion about this topic. We talked about the three basic types of bullying.

The verbal bully teases, taunts or makes threatening statements. The social bully ostracizes and tells others who they can or cannot befriend. The physical bully can be more aggressive and might break or attempt to destroy another's property.

When dealing with children who bully, it is important for caregivers to maintain an open line of communication.

Adults are reminded to model desired behavior of respect and encouragement.

This month, have a talk with your child about saying "no," using a strong tone and walking away. Remind children to report this type of behavior to a trusted adult.



Did you know?

Bullying can occur during or after school hours. While most reported incidents occur in a school building, a significant percentage also happens in places such as school buses and playgrounds. Bullying can also occur on the internet.

If you'd like more information, contact me for a presentation for your class or youth group.

Thank You,
Children's Courtyard!



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Ray Polk at 817-459-5732 or Ray.Polk@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call

East District

Congratulations Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Class #25

Last month, we celebrated the achievements of 21 individuals who have given their time and energy to learning how to be more informed members of the Arlington community.

These 21 men and women are graduates of the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy, an 11-week program that develops awareness and a greater understanding of law enforcement. Their journey with the APD began Sept. 19 and it was a great experience.

On Dec. 11, APD command staff joined members of the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, families and friends of graduates for a ceremony in Council Chamber. Alex Vargas, an academic counselor at Tarrant County College, was our guest speaker. More than half of these graduates are now members of the HCPA Alumni Association and we look forward to their continued active involvement with APD in 2014. Congratulations!



The Hispanic Citizens Police Academy is another innovative concept in law enforcement and police/community relations. Classroom presentations are conducted in Spanish.

A new academy will start Feb. 20!
Contact me about signing up.



Every month, watch for a new crime prevention highlight from the East Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalie Kuehling at 817-459-5817 or Maria.Kuehling@ArlingtonTx.gov.

On Call

West District

More Residents Become Proud Graduates of the Citizens Police Academy

One by one, each graduate stepped forward to receive their certificate of completion from Interim Assistant Chief Jim Lowery.

At the end of this ceremony, 29 residents were recognized as graduates of Arlington Citizens Police Academy Class #54. They spent 11 weeks learning about the Arlington Police Department and building relationships with officers and professional staff.

Class #54 was a very diverse group with students from many different ages and professional backgrounds. They all had one goal in mind and that was to learn more about their police department. During the academy, they took part in classroom discussions about topics such as the K9 Unit, Crime Scene, Internal Affairs, SWAT, Auto Theft and Homicide.

At the conclusion of the academy, many of the graduates talked about how much they'd learned and how

their experiences in the academy have changed their perception of how officers work each day on their job.

The Citizens Police Academy is nothing new in our community. It's been going strong in Arlington for 27 years.

After completing the academy program, members have an opportunity to join the Alumni Association and continue their involvement with the Police Department in many ways.

CPA Alumni members lead fundraising efforts to help pay for items that are not in the police budget. Members are actors in scenarios to train rookie officers before they hit the streets. These volunteers support the department and our officers in ways that are too numerous to list.

If you are interested in having a seat in the next Citizens Police Academy, it will be starting Monday, Jan. 27.

Visit www.ArlingtonPD.org and click on the Crime Prevention link to register.

We look forward to seeing you!



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight each month from the West Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfely at 817-459-6072 or Doug.Glotfely@Arlingtontx.gov.

Homicide Update: Arlington Police Make Arrest in Death of 67-Year-old Woman

Arlington police have made a big break in a homicide case involving the death of a 67-year-old woman last summer.

In December, Shane Lee Dixon of Fort Worth was arrested in Oklahoma. The 37-year-old was extradited to Texas and is facing a charge of murder and unlawful possession of a firearm. He remains in the Tarrant County Jail with bail set at \$525,000.

Signe Edwards was found June 9 by officers conducting a welfare check at the woman's home in the 5300 block of Wild West Drive. Family members, who had grown concerned about the woman because she had not been seen and was not returning phone calls, called 9-1-1.

According to police reports, officers found Ms. Edwards deceased in a back room with massive trauma to her head and face. Early in the investigation, detectives learned that Shane Lee Dixon was routinely hired by the woman to do work around her home. According to multiple witnesses,



Homicide suspect is behind bars thanks to some great detective work.

Ms. Edwards had become upset with Dixon who refused to return a gun she'd asked him to get repaired. He also had not returned money she had given him for gun repair costs.

On June 17, 2013, Arlington officers learned that Dixon had been arrested by the Caddo County Sheriff's Department in Oklahoma on unrelated charges. Arlington detectives traveled to Oklahoma to interview Dixon, who confirmed he had been a handyman for Ms. Edwards. Dixon also claimed he had not been in the woman's home in weeks. A search of the vehicle he had been driving uncovered cell phones and blood evidence that were analyzed. The results of that analysis were recently completed and showed that the blood found in the vehicle belonged to Ms. Edwards. A fingerprint taken from the door of the woman's bedroom was also a positive match.

New Year Starts with 23 New Police Recruits on Arlington Streets

Friday, December 20, was another special day for the City of Arlington and the Arlington Police Department.

It was the day when 23 new recruits took the oath to serve and protect as graduates of Police Academy Class #46.

Class Motto:

***"Never Stop, Never Settle,
We Are One!"***

Class Spokesman Officer Martin Perez publicly thanked family members, friends and members of the APD family and community for their support.

The journey began six months ago with 23 individuals who became a team of one, he told guests gathered for the occasion.

This academy class is made up of sons, daughters, fathers, uncles, and recruits from as far away Detroit, New York and Libya. Four of these new police recruits are hometown heroes and graduates of UT-Arlington.

These 23 recruits are now patrolling Arlington streets in field training that will span six weeks.

A special thanks to the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association for hosting a reception for special guests, officers and their families following the graduation.

Welcome Academy Class #46 to the Arlington Police Department!



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Send story ideas and comments to:

817-459-5384 or Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov

www.ArlingtonPD.org



"Join Our Conversation 24/7/365"