

On Call Inside the Blue

A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

The Whole World Was Watching! Arlington Scores Big During NCAA Final 4 Championship Playoff Games

Months of regional planning and collaboration that went into making the NCAA Final Four Championship Games a success in Arlington was affirmed by sports fans from around the world.

On April 5 and 7, the NCAA Final Four games were played at AT&T Stadium. According to figures released by the NCAA, the two-session Final Four attendance totaled 158,682 fans, and online and television viewership records were also set. A record-breaking 1,829 media members from around the world were credentialed to cover this year's playoff games.

In Arlington, traffic management and public safety were paramount as city staff worked in various levels of security.

Volunteers worked with officers to patrol parking lots in the Entertainment District as visible deterrents to criminal activity.

APD captured the fan experience on social media as generations of families exhibited school pride and spirit. Youth basketball clinics in Arlington led by NCAA coaches and student athletes inspired fitness, healthy lifestyles and sportsmanship. When it was all over, the University of Connecticut was victorious in this championship playoff.

Another successful event in Arlington was held on a national stage, said Assistant Police Chief Lauretta Hill who chaired the North Texas Public Safety Committee.

"The regional collaboration was tremendous, and this fact led to our overall success as a city," Assistant Chief Hill said.



From traffic management on area roadways to public safety in and around the stadium venue, Arlington worked to make another national event a big success for North Texas.



APD Volunteers Are All-Stars at Awards Luncheon

On March 26, more than 200 gathered at the Bob Duncan Community Center for the Arlington Police Department Volunteer All-Star Luncheon.

APD has nearly 265 active volunteers who serve the department in various capacities. Volunteers patrol neighborhoods, elementary school areas, serve in Skywatch towers, provide customer

service assistance, perform clerical tasks and many other assignments within the department. In 2013, collectively they logged more than 38,000 hours.

During the event last month, special awards were presented to ten top volunteers whose contributions in 2013

significantly impacted police services. The honorees included Sid and Brenda Richardson, Tracy Corbett, Janice Lewie, Geraldine Foster, Gayle Hatala, Fred and Claudia Gromatzky, Edward Ricardez and Kathleen Mulkerin. **Thank you!**



On Call

North District

IN THE COMMUNITY

Apartment Managers Network and Connect At Monthly Meetings

The Apartment Managers in the North Police District recently held their first community meeting of the year.

They came together for lunch and networking. The Arlington Police Department joined them to discuss crime prevention strategies and the recent crime trends occurring on neighboring properties located north of Interstate 30.

This meeting also included City of Arlington

staff from Animal Services, the Arlington Housing Authority and Fire Department.

Cheri Colbert spoke with managers about the programs provided by the city's Animal Services Division, which includes pet adoptions. She talked about the new mobile adoption unit and the importance of spaying and neutering.

Victoria Hernandez from Arlington Housing and Angie Lopez with Fire Prevention led discussions about safety, security and the importance of working smoke alarms in apartment units.

The goal of these meetings is to work together to discuss ways to be proactive in efforts to keep our neighborhoods safe. It's important that we accomplish this goal by



Apartment Managers meet, network and connect for better, safer communities.

providing an opportunity for open communication between apartment managers, police officers, and community stakeholders.

We are all looking

forward to the next Apartment Managers Meeting.

Contact me if you are an apartment manager interested in attending a meeting.

Unidos returns **Tuesday, May 6** to Sam Houston High School's Little Theater. The spotlight is on Domestic Violence and services offered by Victim Services, featuring keynote speaker Elizabeth Savage. Unidos is a new Hispanic community outreach program, serving Spanish-speaking individuals and their families. Call 817-459-5725 for more information.

The Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association will host a Golf Tournament on **June 9**. Visit www.ACPAAA.net for tournament details.

On **Saturday, April 26**, turn in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal on **National Drug Take Back Day**. [Click here](#) for drop off locations.



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

IN THE COMMUNITY

This Spring, Protect Your Home with Three Lines of Defense

Your home is your domain. It is your safe haven from the stress and strains of life. It's a place where you rest and catch your breath.

A home inspection can help homeowners understand how to safeguard their home from crime.

As a crime prevention officer, we show homeowners that the home has three basic lines of defense: the Perimeter, Exterior and Interior.

The perimeter defense requires having a trimmed lawn and strong, sturdy fencing.

Go to the edge of your lawn and take a look at your property through the eyes of a burglar. Ask yourself, "Would I break into this house?" A bad guy is less likely to choose a home that has a strong perimeter defense.

The second line of defense is the exterior. The exterior defense requires good lighting, locks and landscaping.

Porch lights are simple tools that can illuminate the areas around the entry ways of your home. Locks that have at least a one inch throw are recommended for each exterior door.

Shrubs should be neatly trimmed. When they are too large, they can provide a hiding place for intruders.

The last line of defense is the interior. The interior defense requires a monitored alarm system and auxiliary locks on windows. Remember to



Take a look at your property through the eyes of a burglar.

inspect these areas to make sure all of your windows are repaired and in good working order.

A safe can be a great tool for protecting your valuables such as jewelry and important documents.

If you would like more information about safeguarding your home, contact me about scheduling a free home inspection.

Congratulations! Citizens Police Academy Class #55 will graduate **Thursday, May 1** followed by 23 students graduating from the High School Citizens Police Academy.

Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Class #26 will graduate **May 14**.

ACAPP (Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership) Class #8 will graduate **May 29**.

Severe Weather Season is here! The season can bring frightening storms, heavy rain and incredible wind. Be prepared. KnowWhat2Do has a number of steps you can take to keep you and your family safe. [Click here](#).



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

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Ray Polk at 817-459-6468 or Ray.Polk@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call

East District

Parkview Neighbors Come Together to Re-Develop Vacant Lot

Parkview neighbors are united for a better community. They have built garden boxes and planted a variety of vegetables for those who reside in the area. This part of their project was led by Community Watch Group organizer Shirley Patterson and Michelle Laverette, president of the Parkview Home Owners Association.



While the Parkview neighborhood shows a great willingness to improve the quality of life in their community, General Motors recognized their desire and recently awarded the association a \$25,000 community grant.

With grant funding, volunteers plan to refurbish the lot at 421 Circle Drive, which has been vacant since a fire destroyed a home. This community has purchased the lot

and are now in the process of developing it as a common meeting place for families. They plan to host Community Watch gatherings here and other public events. They also have plans to construct a pergola on this site, which will include four concrete piers for structural support. This part of their project is slated for completion this summer.

APD supports their neighborhood revitalization efforts as we continue to be a partner in efforts to create stronger, safer communities for families.



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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

DID YOU KNOW? Almost 70 percent of Arlington residents participating in the 2014 Citizens Satisfaction Survey rated their neighborhoods moderately high in terms of quality of life. Forty percent of these residents live in areas with active Community Watch Groups and Homeowners Associations. Contact APD or [Click here](#) for everything you need to start a Community Watch in your area.

\$500 Youth Scholarship!! [Click here](#) to apply for the Corporal Joey Cushman Scholarship. Application deadline is May 3.

The Bar Managers will meet at 3:30 p.m. on **May 8** at the East Police Service Station.

On Call West District

There are So Many Ways to Volunteer With APD

Over the past two years, the Arlington Police Department has seen its volunteer program grow to include more than 250 volunteers.

Even with the tremendous growth in volunteers, we still have many opportunities available for those who are willing to give a few hours a week or month.

It doesn't matter what your professional background is or what skills you possess, there's a place for you. This month, we highlight a few of the volunteer opportunities that might interest you.

- **Citizens On Patrol Mobile** – After training, volunteers use city-owned and marked vehicles to assist patrol officers, serving as the extra eyes and ears. Volunteers are trained to be extra observant and to call us when they see suspicious activity.

- **Sky Watch Towers** – You have probably seen these towers in various parts of the city and have wondered if someone was sitting inside. Well, there's a good chance a volunteer was inside. Sky Watch Towers are a great deterrent to criminal activity. Volunteers spend two to four hours at a time inside the towers, which are equipped with heating, air conditioning and two seats.

- **Vehicle Burglary Report Cards** – Once or twice a week for about an hour, officers and teams of volunteers conduct a vehicle burglary details.

They target areas such as parking lots in busy retail districts and apartment complexes. Volunteers leave the BMV Report Card on the windshield to let the owner know if they passed or failed a visual inspection. Volunteers look to see if someone may have left a door unlocked or if property was left in plain view that might entice a burglar to break into the vehicle.

There are administrative opportunities available for volunteers as well. For example, during a recent statewide warrant roundup, volunteers called residents with outstanding warrants to remind them to pay their tickets. If you have a few hours to spare, let us hear from you. Contact me or visit our website to sign up.



IN THE COMMUNITY



Join us at **6 p.m. Tuesday, May 6**, for the APD Annual Memorial Service to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service. Heroes Park is located at 2100 W. Green Oaks Blvd.

The Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association and AARP will sponsor a Driver Safety Course on **Saturday, May 3**, saving you money on your auto insurance. Reservations are required. Call 817-572-4928 to sign up.

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

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

Bacon the “Pot Bellied Pig” – Social Media Aids in Her Return Home



Thanks to Arlington Police and the thousands of fans on APD social media, “Bacon” the pot bellied pig found her way home.

It’s been nearly a month since Bacon escaped from her yard and was found rooting around in a neighbor’s garage near Kent Drive and Sherry Street. The man who found her called 911.

“It’s not every day that we’re called to pick up a pig,” said Field Operations Manager Ray Rentschler with the Animal Services Division. “Obviously, this was someone’s pet. She was so sweet.”

Officers responding to the 911 call petted the pig and took a photo. They notified APD Social Media Coordinator Zhivonni McDonnell who posted it on the department’s Facebook page.

Within hours, television news stations began broadcasting photos of Bacon in hopes that the owner would soon come forward. Arlington Animal Services shared the photo on their Facebook page as well.

On March 25, Maria Jimenez rushed to the Animal Services Center in south Arlington to find her beloved pet waiting.

“Social media works,” Rentschler said. “People started talking.”

Officer McDonnell said she was pleased with the happy ending.

“Social media allowed us to get the word out faster and reunite a family who loved their pig.”

Congratulations – APD Volunteer All- Stars are Recognized for Their Service



Thank you! Back the Blue Bash Supports APD

The Back the Blue Bash on March 20 at the Arlington Convention Center was a big success in many ways, according to members of the Police Foundation Arlington.

“This event gave us a great platform to build good will and create more community awareness about who the Police Foundation is,” said Foundation Board Chair Rudy Martinez. “Through our continued work, we’re letting officers and staff know that this organization is here to support them.”

For more than 10 years, the Police Foundation has funded essential equipment and programs for APD and has provided financial assistance to the families of Tarrant County law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

This fall, the foundation’s musical extravaganza, Police Palooza, returns. The Handcuffs and Mulligans Golf Tournament is Sept. 11. Visit arlingtonpolicefoundation.org to learn more about your Police Foundation.



Back the Blue Bash 2014 featured the Emerald City Band!

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Send story ideas and comments to:

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