

# On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

## Arlington Police Join Nextdoor Social Media for Neighborhoods

*"When I am logged on to Next Door, I know what's going on faster. Now, with the Arlington Police Department involved, I know we're getting information from a reliable source and that makes us feel a lot safer."*

Linda Graves, Woodland West Community Watch



**Nextdoor and APD together for crime prevention and neighborhood safety.** (Left to Right) Sgt. Jeffrey Houston, Linda Graves, Nextdoor Field Organizer Charlie Magness, Nextdoor Senior City Strategist Robbie Turner, Acting Assistant Chief Jim Lowery and Sergeant Vincent Pewitt.

When a 55-year-old man with dementia wandered away from his south Arlington neighborhood a few weeks ago, the man's photo was posted on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor. Within minutes, information was shared with many others. By nightfall, he was found safe.

Last month, the Arlington Police Department announced its participation in an initiative that is opening the door for more citizen engagement in safety and crime prevention. Nextdoor allows the department to expand its social media presence beyond Twitter and Facebook to reach and engage more people.

With Nextdoor, officers can share time-sensitive information with residents in a forum where neighbors are already communicating.

To date, Arlington has 229 neighborhoods using Nextdoor, according to Nextdoor Senior City Strategist Robbie Turner.

Neighborhoods are using this social media tool to do everything from hiring painters and plumbers

to finding lost pets, advertising garage sales and sharing employment opportunities.

During a recent storm, one neighborhood used Nextdoor to warn neighbors to seek shelter indoors. Others have set up virtual neighborhood watch groups to keep an eye on crime. Law enforcement participation adds value to the program, Turner said.

Unlike other social media platforms that are generally open to anyone anywhere, Nextdoor is neighborhood-based and can be accessed only by people who live in a specific community.

Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson said social media platforms are helping to restore a sense of community.

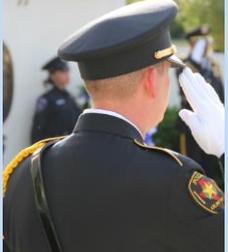
"Social media gets people talking," he said. "It's another good way to connect, get important information and then start some face-to-face communication."

Learn more. Visit [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) or [here](#).

## Annual Tradition Honors Arlington's Fallen Officers



The Arlington community came together at Heroes Park on May 8 to honor its fallen officers. As part of National Police Week, this annual tradition featured a moment of silence, presentation of Colors and a 21-gun salute. In the more than 100-year history of the Arlington Police Department, eight officers have made the ultimate sacrifice. See more highlights, [click here](#).



# On Call

# North District

## Officer Blazes New Trail to Support Youth Services

The Entertainment District Tourism Unit has a strong dedication to serving the community and helping others. But a special assignment recently required one of these officers to fulfill an unusual request in support of youth. Officer Jose Rodriguez participated in the Blazin' Sauce Wing Eating Contest at Buffalo Wild Wings on North Collins Street.

Ten percent of the proceeds earned from this competition and meals purchased on this day



went to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Arlington. It is their mission to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.

During this competition, contestants were required to eat 12 super hot chicken wings in six minutes.

No beverage of any kind could be consumed and no wiping of the face was allowed! Very few have tried to meet this challenge.

Dozens of spectators were in attendance to cheer on the contestants, including Sgt. Jakisha Jones, the EDTU supervisor.

One other contestant quit after eating four wings. Only the strong survived!

A special thanks to Officer Rodriguez, our winner, and to Buffalo Wild Wings for your continued support of programs that serve our youth.



Parents are reminded to "Take 25" minutes to talk with children about safety - the dangers of interacting with strangers, surfing the internet and walking alone. Get more "Take 25" safety talking points [here](#).

### Summer is almost here!

Slow down in neighborhoods and near parks where children are playing and riding bikes. Avoid distractions inside the vehicle. Be alert and observant at all times.

**Congratulations!** Eleven new members will graduate at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29, from a police training academy for Arlington clergy. The **Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership** will also present its 2014 Clint Dobson Memorial Award. Former Arlington Assistant Police Chief Michael Ikner will be the speaker.

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](mailto:Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call

# South District

## Fundraiser Benefits Police Department and Local Crime Efforts

On Saturday, April 12, the Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association hosted a fundraiser at Firehouse Subs in the South Police District. The event was from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and attracted CPA alumni members, officers and a lot of customers.

Firehouse Subs donated a percentage of their sales to the CPA alumni, who support

the Arlington Police Department and local crime efforts in many ways. Several APD Units joined the event, including Patrol, SWAT and Crime Prevention. The Media Unit shared information on Facebook and Twitter.

As customers prepared to leave the restaurant, some took pictures with officers while others climbed aboard the "BEAR," an armored vehicle used by SWAT during critical situations.

The beautiful weather made for a great day for the community and officers to come together for a good cause. Thanks to Firehouse Subs for your continued support of this community.



### About the CPAAA

After the second Police Academy Class graduation, there was a growing desire by graduates to continue learning, supporting and communicating with the Police Department. In 1997, volunteers organized the Alumni Association. If you have graduated from a CPA, [click here](#) to join the CPAAA.



The **Arlington Police Academy Alumni Association** served hot dogs with all the trimmings during a fundraiser in May. A special thanks to Fry's Electronics for your continued partnership and the community who supported us.

**Save the Date!** The Fourth Annual Officer Jillian M. Smith Scholarship Charity Gala is Friday, June 27. Call 214-287-6921 or [click here](#) to purchase tickets. Proceeds will benefit scholarships for graduating Arlington seniors pursuing careers in law enforcement.



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](mailto:Ray.Polk@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call East District

## New Limestone Community Watch Is Up and Running

It's been only a few months since the efforts of the Police Department, Code Compliance and Fire Department combined for a "Walk the Block" initiative on Limestone Street.

These city departments worked together with residents and property owners to identify safety and code compliance issues on this neighborhood block in the East Police District. Since then, a lot of progress has been made to improve safety and quality of life for residents. The Walk the Block initiative also presented an opportunity for us to help this neighborhood establish an active Community Watch.

On Saturday March 29, these neighbors hosted their first Community Watch meeting in the 2400 block of Limestone Street. Volunteers prepared hot dogs and served ice cones and cold drinks to about 100 neighbors.



City staff from the Arlington Animal Services Division and the Texas Coalition of Animal Protection provided low cost rabies vaccines to more than 30 dogs. Officers talked with citizens about safety and how to prevent crime.

Today, there are a lot of good things happening on Limestone Street and now with an active Community Watch Group, we can expect more good progress to occur in the future.



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](mailto:Maria.Kuehling@ArlingtonTx.gov).

The Park Lane Community Watch will meet June 19.

The Apartment Managers will meet June 10 in the Community Room at the East Police Service Center.

Congratulations! The Windsprint Apartments Community Watch will meet Wednesday, July 2.



The Arlington Independence Day Parade will begin at 9 a.m. **Friday, July 4** in Arlington. [Click here](#) for parade route.

The Arlington Police Department reminds you to celebrate responsibly. **If you drink, do NOT Drive. Designate a sober driver.**

# On Call West District

## What's Up this Summer? Don't Let it Be Your Garage Door

Temperatures are warming up outside, school will be out soon and neighbors can be seen outdoors working in their yards. These are signs that summer is almost here. Every year around this time, officers begin to notice an increase in burglaries.

Neighbors who leave garage doors open for convenience provide an opportunity for criminals to take advantage of an unsecured gold mine. Think for a moment about the items you have stored in your garage. Most of us have tools, bikes and lawn care equipment we have worked hard to obtain.



**Prevent crime. Don't leave the garage open.**

It only takes a criminal five to 10 seconds to enter an open garage, grab something of value and disappear. Help keep your neighborhood crime free by keeping your garage door closed when it is unoccupied.

**Be a good neighbor.** If you see a garage door open and no one around, inform your neighbor that it's open. They would much rather get a knock on the door from you instead of making a call to police to make a report about stolen merchandise.

**Don't be shy.** When walking in the neighborhood or working in the yard, take a minute and introduce yourself to your neighbors.

Neighborhoods where residents take the time to meet those who live nextdoor and across the street tend to be safer because they know each other and they watch out for one another.

It's always comforting to know that someone has a watchful eye when you're away.

So, get out this summer, enjoy the weather and meet your neighbors. You might discover that you have more things in common than you know.



Team APD defeated the Fire Department in a softball game United Way benefit fundraiser on May 14 at Randol Mill Park.

**NOW on Social Media! Who's That Wednesday?**

Log on to the APD Facebook, Share and Like this post. If you recognize this suspect call Crime Stoppers.



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](mailto:Doug.Glotfely@Arlingtontx.gov).

*"The pieces of this puzzle came together ..."*

## Crime Scene and Arlington Detectives Put Convicted Rapist Behind Bars for Long Time

Thanks to the impressive work of the Crime Scene Unit and two Arlington detectives, a serial rapist is behind bars for a long time.

On April 31, a Tarrant County jury sentenced 27-year-old Brandon Williams to 99 years in prison. Arlington detectives connected him to two separate aggravated sexual assault cases that occurred within a month of one another in 2013.

It was Detective Bill Landolt of the APD Domestic/Sex Crimes Unit who was assigned to investigate the first case.

According to police reports, the victim was able to provide a good description of her attacker, including the fact that the man had a large growth on his jaw and gold teeth. A news release

with a composite drawing of the man was pushed to the news media.

A month later, Detective Anita Douglass was assigned a case involving another sexual assault.

The APD Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene and collected evidence, including fingerprints from the victim's cell phone.

With this evidence, detectives soon learned that the man used the victim's phone, and they worked together to obtain a latent fingerprint match. DNA connected the man to both cases.

The prosecutor, who presented the sexual assault case to the jury, told Sergeant Tim Pinckney that the outstanding job of the detectives made it possible to bring Brandon Williams to justice.

Detective Douglass said the willingness of both victims to cooperate fully in the investigation was also vital to the case.



Looking for more great examples of good police work?

Like APD on Facebook!

"The pieces of this puzzle came together," said Detective Douglass. "We were able to prove that this man was a predator and would likely harm again. Everything we were able to do came together for the benefit of the victims."

In a news release issued by the county, prosecutor Art Clayton said justice was served.

"This week, the defendant had to answer for the evil he inflicted upon others," he said. "Our community is safer with him serving 99 years in prison."

## Congratulations to 40 NEW Graduates of the Citizens Police Academy

On May 1, the Arlington Police Department celebrated the accomplishments of 40 residents. All of them finished the Arlington Citizens Police Academy program and were awarded certificates of completion during a graduation ceremony in Council Chamber.

Photographers and cellphone cameras captured the excitement as each graduate stepped forward to shake hands with police command Staff.

A reception in the Hall of Mayors was hosted by the Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. Chaplain Harold Elliott was the keynote speaker.

In the audience, 16-year-old Zaria Nails, sat with 22 other students waiting for their names to be called as graduates of the High School Citizens Police Academy.

After the academy, this teen plans to join the Police Explorers, then its high school graduation, college and a career in law enforcement.

"I want to be a homicide detective," Zaria said. "I like solving things, plus I want a career with action."

"In the academy, I learned so much, ... more than I ever thought possible. It was a great experience!" she said.



Class #55 CPA Graduates



High School CPA Graduates



Zaria Nails with family after graduation

The Citizens Police Academy is 11 weeks of classroom and field training experience aimed at promoting better understanding and communication between the Arlington Police Department and citizens.

The High School Citizens Police Academy is designed for teens in grades 9-12.

**COMING NEXT MONTH:** On Call introduces the NEW graduates of the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy.

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Send story ideas and comments to:

817-459-5384 or [Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov)

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Nextdoor

