

# On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

## Officers Apprehend Bank Robbery and Carjacking Suspect

On the police radio, a dispatcher alerted officers to a bank robbery and carjacking in the city limits of Mansfield.

Everyone was advised to "be on the lookout for a suspicious vehicle."

Then, 20 minutes later, another bank robbery call went out.

"This robbery was in Arlington," said APD Police Detective Byron Stewart. "The suspect was armed and heading in our direction."

According to police reports, this violent offender made his way from the east part of the city to the north where his crime spree continued during the morning of Sept. 25.

After the carjacking and two bank robberies, the suspect robbed an auto dealership at gunpoint and fled in a new car from the lot.

Within minutes, a citizen stopped officers and pointed them in the direction of the stolen car.

The pursuit took officers past one elementary school and within 100 feet of the Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building. Along the way, the shooter fired indiscriminately, according to police.

Officers staged at intersections to re-route traffic and keep innocent bystanders from straying into the shooter's path. Detective Stewart said officers withheld their gunfire until it was safe.

"It was amazing that no officers or innocent citizens were killed during this gunman's violent crime spree,"

Police Chief Will Johnson said in a statement to the news media.

"This suspect presented a clear danger to our community and I am thankful that our officers stopped him," Chief Johnson said.

Arlington officers are trained to use extreme caution when the call involves a high-risk traffic stop. Through training exercises, officers prepare for many possible scenarios.

"It was because of our training and preparation (that) no lives were lost," Detective Stewart said.

The community was also thankful.

Arlington resident Amir Ajami was at the car dealership on the morning of the robbery. As he pulled onto Cooper Street, he recalled how officers stepped in to re-direct his travel plans.

"The street was blocked. Everyone was instructed to go in another direction," he said. "I am very appreciative of the Arlington Police Department for their very fast response. I am proud to live in a city with such highly-trained officers."

Detective Stewart said the officers made the difference on this call.

"Had it not been for their attention to detail and extreme bravery in the line of fire, this gunman would have continued his crime spree," he said.

The suspect in these crimes, later identified as 38-year-old Dylan Perry, remains in the Tarrant County Jail where he faces multiple charges including aggravated robbery and criminal intent to commit capital murder.

## The Kiss Seen Around the World



Sgt. McRay was photographed receiving a big kiss from his 4-year-old daughter as he prepared for his evening patrol shift in south Arlington. This post garnered over 2 million views on Facebook. Images like this are being captured all over the world. Using the hashtag, "#Why I Wear the Badge," law enforcement officers are sharing stories, videos and photos of what motivates them each day on the job. This campaign is being sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Keep up with what's trending on social media. Like APD on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. You can also find Chief Will Johnson on Twitter.

## A Safer Place to Exchange Your Merchandise

Consumers who shop online and use Internet sites to sell personal items now have a safer place to conduct face-to-face meetings.

New signage has gone up at Arlington's Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building, designating the parking lot as a Safe Exchange Zone. The address is 620 W. Division St., near the corner of Cooper and Division.

Robbery detectives say people with bad intentions will think twice about meeting you in the parking lot of the Public Safety Building.



The Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building parking lot is now a Safe Exchange Zone.



# On Call North District

## Police Officers are Community Helpers

During Community Helper Week last month, the children in our city learned more about their police department.

Inside pre-school classrooms, Community Helpers Week put the focus on people whose job is to help others.

Toddlers learned how every single day of the year, police officers put on the uniform to help make everyone safe.

During presentations at New World United Methodist, First Christian and Tender Loving Care Schools, students were also reminded to be aware of strangers.

In the parking lot, they were given the opportunity to climb inside a patrol car.

Highlighting the jobs of helpers gave children a better appreciation for the work we do everyday.



October 12-16 was Community Helper Week at New World United Methodist Church.

Following the presentations, toddlers were asked to explain what they learned. They were encouraged to share these lessons learned their family members and friends.

Each child was also asked to raise their right hand and take an oath never to walk away with strangers and everyone was presented the Police Officer's Pal sticker and deputized as our helper.



## SANTA COPS CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF HAPPY HOLIDAY SMILES

The Arlington Police Department, in a partnership with the Arlington Police Association, would like to thank everyone who donated a toy for this year's Santa Cops.

Officers are now preparing to serve more than 1,000 boys and girls at Santa Cop parties. Continuing a 30-year tradition, officers will also make home deliveries on Christmas Eve.

A special thanks to the Arlington Independent School District and all who support Santa Cops.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or [Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call South District

## Fall is a Great Time for Celebration in this Community

In the South Police District, Arlington police officers were invited to the Dar El Eman Islamic Center for a Fall Festival.

This was another great opportunity for Arlington officers to connect better with the community.

Children played games, enjoyed face painting and carnival rides as officers shared safety information with kids and adults.

At this community event, many new relationships were formed on this special day. As this great Fall Festival winded down, we were all reminded of the natural beauty of the changing seasons and the rich cultural diversity that exists within our neighborhoods here in Arlington.

It is events like this that bring us together. With our residents, we can celebrate the true sense of community and improve overall quality of life for everyone.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

At 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, Arlington will applaud the graduates of another Arlington Citizens Police Academy Class. This special ceremony also includes 25 student graduates from the High School Citizens Police Academy. Join us.



The **ARLINGTON HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE** returns to downtown Arlington on Saturday, Dec. 5. Click [here](#) for parade route.

**INTERLOCHEN LIGHTS UP** Thursday, Dec. 17 -25

The **TEXAS CHRISTKINDL MARKET** runs through Dec. 23. Click [here](#) for details.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Timothy Hayden at 817-459-6468 or [Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call East District

## Egg Roll Festival Celebrates Asian Culture and Community

The Egg Roll Festival, Business Expo and Health Fair is a grand celebration of Asian culture, art and food.

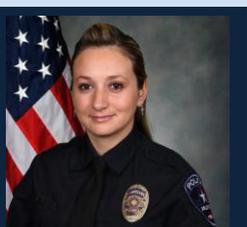
This annual celebration is sponsored by the Tarrant County Asian American Chamber of Commerce.

At the Vietnamese Martyrs Church on Oct. 3, families came together to experience a little bit of Asia in the heart of Texas.

Everyone enjoyed musical entertainment from area elementary and high school students. The event also featured our very own Deputy Chief LaTasha Watson who served as a celebrity judge.

Crime Prevention Officers set up a safety information table. We were assisted by a group of students from Berry Elementary who are all interested in learning more about their Police Department and how we work.

A special thanks to the Arlington Fire Department, Public Library, Arlington ISD and everyone who continue to make this annual celebration a successful event for our community.



### APD YOUTH CORNER

#### NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

The MLK Spirit of Service Scholarship is for students enrolled in college at TCC SE Campus and UT Arlington. Click [here](#) to enter this essay writing competition.

High School students interested in a career in law enforcement can earn credit toward a criminal justice degree and participate in early police training through a program backed by APD, AISD and UT Arlington. Ask a school counselor or School Resource Officer about the **Hometown Recruiting Program**.

Donate an item to help a student in need. CRASH (Communities Raising Awareness of Student Homelessness) is a NEW program being led by the Mayor's Youth Commission. Call 817-459-6499 to find out how you can help.

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

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalia Aumedes at 817-459-5817 or [Natalia.Aumedes@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Natalia.Aumedes@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call West District

## Students and Teachers Show Appreciation at Back the Blue Event

Officers from the West Police District received a special request from Swift Elementary School. School administrators wanted a few officers to stop by. Students wanted to show their support for the work we do.

The West Police District was thrilled to honor this special request. The school was expecting only two or three officers, but many more were able to visit, including Foot Patrol, Crime Prevention, School Resource Officers, Motors Unit and officers from the Entertainment District Tourism Unit.



Swift Elementary "Backs the Blue."

Upon arriving, a large sign hanging from the ceiling in the school cafeteria read: "Back the Blue" and all of the students were wearing something blue.

Each student stepped forward to shake officer's hands and give them a high five.

We were each given a handmade card with a note of thanks.

This was a fantastic way for Arlington officers to make contact with the community in a very positive environment.

What a great outpouring of support we received. The day was so successful that the school and the West Police District are working to make this special event an annual gathering.



### ASK US ABOUT AN INTERNSHIP AT APD

The Arlington Police Department is accepting applications for its Internship program. Student applicants must be a junior or senior enrolled at an accredited university.

Applying is easy. Just send us email expressing an interest in our program. Submit a letter of recommendation and college transcript.

For more information, contact Investigator Terry Marin or click [here](#) for more details.

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).

# Inside the MAY Program: Young Men on the Right Track

**WORKMAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL** - The bell rings and 10 young men move quickly to the library. Their mentors are waiting.

In this Oct. 22 mentoring session led by Camp Thurman counselors, each young man was asked to write his goal on an index card.

One student's goal was to "graduate from high school." Another wrote, "go to college," while another wanted "to play in the NFL."

Then, a series of obstacles were put in front of them to prevent each from reaching their stated goal.

Some overcame their obstacles after a lot of hard work, focus and determination.

Sergeant Mike Leonesio was one of several officer mentors who stepped in to help the young men reach the finish line where each note card sat.

"Sometimes things happen in life that prevent us from reaching our goals. Sometimes we need a little help," said Sgt. Leonesio.

Every Thursday after school, motivational sessions like this are underway at Workman Junior High as part of the Mentoring Arlington Youth Program.

The 10 young men in this program are seventh and eighth graders. Each has been paired with an adult male mentor.

In a "Dress for Success" session at the Man's Shop in November, MAY Program participants learned about first impressions and how to strengthen their job skills.

This session was led by Man's Shop CEO Wally Hardin who also taught each mentee how to properly tie a neck tie.

Professional Day is Dec. 3 and graduation is slated for Friday, Dec. 11. Congratulations!



## NEW! COACH 5-0 MENTORING IS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

The Coach 5-0 program is a new partnership between Arlington police officers and area schools.

Officers are stepping up to participate in athletic events, football and basketball games, including practices.

"If you have a servant mindset, a willingness to listen and a commitment to investing in our youth, this is a certainly a great opportunity for you to consider," Police Chief Will Johnson told APD.

Deputy Chief Os Flores, who heads up the APD Community Support Division, is coordinating schedules to allow more on-duty and off-duty officers to participate. This program is expanding to include other athletic events across the city.

"When we take a genuine, heartfelt interest in what our teens are interested in, we can start to build more meaningful relationships with them," Chief Flores said.



Deputy Chief David McGinty on the field at a Lamar High School football game.



Officer Carla Strausser, Deputy Chief Os Flores and Deputy Chief Jim Lowery at a Friday night game in Mansfield.

## Officer Jillian Smith Gala Benefits Domestic Violence Programs and Services

**CACHAREL BALLROOM** - Friends and supporters gathered Oct. 30 for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Officer Jillian Smith Gala organized by the African American Peace Officers Association of Arlington.

This year's casino-styled event put the spotlight on domestic violence. Proceeds benefitted the Officer Jillian M. Smith Safeliving Fund. In 2014, Safe Haven's Safeliving program provided shelter for 674 women and 862 children of domestic violence.

This event is held in remembrance of Officer Smith who was fatally wounded on Dec. 28, 2010 after responding to a domestic assault. She was a graduate of Juan Seguin High School and UT Arlington.



Annual gala puts the spotlight on domestic violence awareness. Thank you for your support!



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Send story ideas and comments to:

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