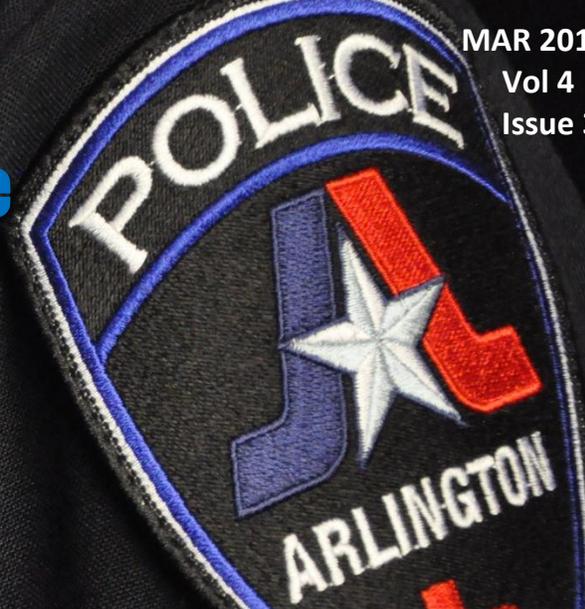


On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington, Texas Police Department

More Behind-the-Scene Moments from the Awards Ceremony Arlington Resident Gets a Special Invite from the Police Chief

What started as an email to the City of Arlington about traffic turned into a special opportunity for Moniqua Parrish.

Parrish accepted an invitation to join Police Chief Will Johnson at the Annual Police Awards Ceremony on Feb. 24 at the Arlington Convention Center.

Parrish was seeing an increase in traffic in her south Arlington neighborhood when she sent an email on Jan. 20.

The next morning, Arlington Police Sergeant Greg Waldron was knocking on her door.

"I didn't expect such a quick response," she said. "He listened to me and talked to me about starting a Community Watch."

He also connected her with NextDoor and today she is receiving crime prevention alerts and safety information from officers in her police district. Parrish was so impressed by his compassion and professionalism, she followed up with another email on Jan. 21.

"I wanted this to be in his file," she said. "I wanted others to know about my interaction with this officer."

An excerpts from her email:

... I've been a resident of Arlington for 20 years, and I am also African American. I've heard and seen the problems in our country regarding the police, but that has not been my experience in Arlington, Texas ...

If awards are ever given to the best police departments in the nation, it is my regard that this Sgt. and Arlington Police department should be at the top of the list. Thanks for all you do, and thank you for treating me as a real person!! Sincerely, Moniqua Parrish

The timing of her email could not have been better. Sgt. Waldron was already being honored as 2015 Supervisor of the Year for his leadership and impact on community policing and public safety.

During the ceremony, awards were also presented to a Detective of the Year, Rookie Officer of the Year and 11 other Arlington Police Department honorees, including two community partnership accolades. Click [here](#) for more highlights from the APD Annual Awards Ceremony.



Moniqua Parrish and Sgt. Waldron



Officer Peter Hughes sings the National Anthem.



High school students enrolled in the 2015-16 Hometown Recruiting Class were special guests.



Arlington Police Foundation members "back the blue" as supporters of the Police Awards Luncheon.

It's Baseball Season in Arlington! Thousands Come Back for the Fan Experience

For many generations of Texas Rangers fans, Opening Day has always been a time-honored tradition synonymous with fun and baseball excitement in Arlington.

Behind the scenes, many years of strategic planning and collaboration have gone into making the day a big success for sell-out crowds.

Traffic management and public safety have remained paramount, said Lt. Scott Brown with the APD Homeland Security and Special Events Unit.

"Over the past years, our public messaging has been consistent. We tell visitors to arrive early and allow plenty of time to reach their destination," he said, adding that social media platforms provide real-time updates about road closures.

The Rangers baseball season has officially started. Before you go, APD reminds fans to follow the safety rules at the venue. Click [here](#) for an A to Z guide on everything you need to know about Globelife Park. Click [here](#) for the Rangers 2016 schedule.



On Opening Day and throughout the summer season, visitors can find officers patrolling on bicycles, assisting pedestrians and providing helpful information. At tailgate parties, officers distribute public safety trading cards and Police Pal stickers to children.

Sergeant Jakisha Jones heads up a specialized unit that brings entertainment venues, restaurants, hotels and businesses together to enhance the visitor experience in the Entertainment District. The Tour SMART (Safety Means Always Remember to Think) campaign is reinforcing the message of safety.

"Tourism policing in Arlington is all about collaboration and information sharing," said Sgt. Jones. "We want our visitors to come back."

Arlington's public safety plan is also equipped with trained volunteers on patrol. Using the Motor Vehicle Burglary Report Card as an educational enforcement tool, they are helping to reduce incidents of crime. Volunteers are inside skywatch towers, working with officers to put extra eyes on suspicious activity.

On Call NORTH DISTRICT

YOUTH CORNER

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Before school is out for the summer break, talk to a School Resource Officer about the High School Citizens Police Academy. Led by officers, this program is fun and informative. Get ready to apply in the fall.

The Joey Cushman Memorial Scholarship Fund has a scholarship opportunity. [Click here](#) to apply. The last day to enter is Tuesday, May 3.



GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY is Saturday, April 16. It is the largest youth service movement in the world. It's not too late to get involved. [Click here](#).

Operation Safety Net Depends on Citizen Cooperation

Did you know the Arlington community has an important role in a new initiative we call, "Operation Safety Net?"

What is it? Operation Safety Net is a citywide task force of patrol officers and specialized units created to address a spike in robberies, but we need your cooperation to ensure its effectiveness.

What can you do? On our Police Department website at www.ArlingtonPD.org and across social media platforms, APD is posting photos and videos of robbery suspects.



If you can help identify a suspect, please contact us. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can call Crimestoppers at 817-469-TIPS (8477). You could also be eligible for a cash reward if the information you provide leads to an arrest and indictment.



IF YOU ARE EVER CONFRONTED BY A ROBBERY SUSPECT, HERE ARE SOME BASIC SAFETY TIPS TO REMEMBER:

Try to remain calm and don't make any sudden movements.

If a robber claims to have weapon, believe what is being said.

DO NOT RESIST.

Get a look at the robber so you can provide a good description later.

Activate an alarm AND call 9-1-1, when it is safe to do so.

To ensure you remember all the details, write down descriptions of the robber.

Also make note of the vehicle and any other pertinent information such as direction of travel, type of clothing and whether the robber has a tattoo, body piercings or facial hair.

BE SAFE. Avoid using the ATM after dark, park in well-lit areas when out at night and always be observant and aware of your surroundings.

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.

On Call SOUTH DISTRICT

CONGRATULATIONS!

One of the largest Citizens Police Academy Classes in recent history will be graduating on April 28.

Class #59 graduates will be joined by 17 students who are currently completing the High School Citizens Police Academy program being led by Officer Richard Morrison.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THEM.

Seats are still available for the accelerated Citizens Police Academy Two-Day Class starting April 25 and 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the Citizens On Patrol One-Day Class on April 27.

For enrollment information, [click here](#) or call 817-459-6468.

Service Day Inspires Excellence and Leadership

Service Day at the International Leadership of Texas Academy in Arlington was truly a one stop, give-back shop on Feb. 27.

This was the first in a series of planned events involving the community in a variety of service projects all at one location.

Officers and firefighters joined this special day. We showcased our safety equipment, vehicles and encouraged the participants. The students selected as their motto: "Others Before Self."



Throughout the day, youth-led groups completed a variety of projects. Some assembled hygiene kits for homeless families while others wrote letters and created inspirational drawings, which will be mailed to U.S. military service men and women serving our country. Other student groups organized a book drive and a clothing drive.

With so many service opportunities, there was something available for everyone to be passionate about.

The children involved in this special day got an opportunity to see firsthand what it means to have a servant's heart. The Arlington Police Department was proud to be a part of their experience.



Thank you International Leadership of Texas Academy!



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.

On Call EAST DISTRICT

Growing Relationships and Building Trust in the East District

The East District is filled with many opportunities that allow Arlington officers to enhance community relations and engage citizens in crime prevention.

On March 2, Atherton Elementary School set aside a day for community leaders to visit and read to students.

Officer Gregory Parker, Officer Jessica Salazar and Sgt. Ricardo Lucero met up at the school, choosing some of their favorite books to share with students.

These officers are good examples of what we can do to develop positive relationships with kids very early in life.



In neighborhoods, officers are growing relationships with our residents.

At a Community Watch meeting on March 19 in the Buena Vista neighborhood, Officer Hilary Johnson led a discussion about suspicious activity and how important it is to call the police and report it.

Officer Johnson also reviewed some basic crime prevention safety tips.

This Community Watch Group is one of many active citizen groups in the East District. Their coordinator does a great job of keeping neighbors connected and informed. She also maintains an open line of communication with crime prevention officers and beat sergeants.

When planning your next Community Watch meeting or school-sponsored event, let us know how we can be a part of it. Send an email or call. We look forward to hearing from you.



In classrooms, Arlington police officers are building trust and relationships with children at a young age.

(From Left to Right:) Officer Jessica Salazar, Sgt. Ricardo Lucero and Officer Gregory Parker with Atherton Elementary School Principal Nidia Zaravar.

DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY



On Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., turn in your expired or unused medications for free and safe disposal.

FOUR locations are provided:

Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building
620 W. Division St.

South Police Service Center
1030 SW Green Oaks Blvd.

East Police Service Center
2001 New York Ave.

Walgreen's Pharmacy
4400 W. Green Oaks Blvd.

Never flush pharmaceuticals down the toilet or pour in the drain. Dispose of your unused medications in the trash to avoid accidental poisoning. For more ways to safely dispose of pharmaceuticals, click [here](#).

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.

On Call WEST DISTRICT

Volunteers Advance Their Training to Assist Police and Community

The West Police District is fortunate to have many skilled citizen volunteers who are always willing to serve and make a positive impact on public safety.

This month, Phil Livers, Michael Jentsch and Alex Aguilera stepped forward to attend a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) class.

Last year, all APD Crime Prevention Officers took the course. The skills we learned prepares us to work more effectively with our security survey

program. A security survey is a thorough physical examination of a facility. We examine the risks, review your crime prevention measures that are in place and we make recommendations on how to improve overall safety.

With the skills learned from the CPTED class, we can put specific environmental design theories into action to help property owners create and sustain a climate of safety.

The survey is free of charge to residential and commercial properties in Arlington.

If you are looking for a way to enhance safety at your home or business this spring, contact the Arlington Police Department. Send an email or call. We'll schedule your free security survey.



APD volunteers learn new safety and crime prevention skills.



SAVE THE DATE

APD volunteers are All Stars! On Wednesday May 4, the Arlington Police Department will recognize outstanding service in police volunteerism during the APD Volunteer All-Star Banquet. For more information, call 817-459-5726.



SPOTLIGHT ON CHILD ABUSE



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

On Sunday, April 10, volunteers gathered on the front lawn of the Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building to assemble the Pinwheel Garden.

Each pinwheel represents the APD Crimes Against Children Unit's commitment to protecting children from abuse and neglect.

To learn more about child abuse prevention, click [here](#). If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call 9-1-1.

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.

DWI Officer's Story Wins Local News Reporter an Emmy



WFAA News Reporter Jim Douglas shares his Emmy Award with DWI Officer Stacie Brown.

Jim Douglas has been reporting news since the 1980s, and over the years he's won state and national awards for television excellence. He recently won another top honor.

In February 2015, Jim Douglas and a photojournalist took a ride with Officer Stacie Brown for a special WFAA News 8 report called, "Walking in Her Shoes." Officer Stacie Brown is one of Arlington's hardest working DWI task force officers.

In his story, the reporter asks, "If you lost a loved one to a drunk driver, how far would you go to do something about it?"

Would you give up your career? Risk your own life?

This news report is about how Officer Brown gave up teaching to become a police officer who is dedicated to preventing others from feeling the pain of losing someone to a DWI crash. Her work includes both education and enforcement and the story earned Douglas an Emmy Award.

Officer Brown wishes an officer could have stopped her sister 20 years ago. She was driving while intoxicated and died in a vehicle crash.

If you missed the story, click [here to watch.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

APD Officer is Honored as Social Worker of the Year



Officer Stephanie Gillespie

As a police officer, she is already on the streets and in the community, but sometimes she's more of a social worker than a law enforcement official.

Officer Stephanie Gillespie works with homeless populations and those who are often overlooked and underserved.

For her work in the community, Officer Gillespie has been named the North Texas Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). She was honored on March 27.

The award highlights those who are advocates for clients and contributes to a positive image for the social work profession.

James Petrovich with the

TCU Department of Social Work described Officer Gillespie as a "tireless advocate for some of Arlington's most vulnerable citizens." She created an outreach program for poor families living in the city's extended stay motels and serves on the front lines to match families with social services.

APD Victim Services Coordinator Derrilyn Perryman describes her as the "go to" person when officers encounter people in the community with seemingly insurmountable problems and needs.

"Officer Gillespie has never pulled back when she has seen an opportunity to make a difference in a person's life," said Tillie Burgen, executive director of Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex.

"Stephanie may have hit the streets as law enforcement, but she took to the social part of it in a way I've never seen an officer do before or since," Perryman said.

Officer Gillespie holds a master's degree in social work and a doctorate in divinity. She has been with APD since 1997.

Good Police Work: Illegal Grow Operation is Disconnected

Thanks to some local electric company technicians, Arlington police officers were recently able to make an arrest and disconnect a large-scale marijuana growing operation.

According to a police report, a power company supplier was noticing an unusual amount of electricity being used on one residential block in south Arlington. They arrived to find power lines illegally running from a utility pole into a house.

When they smelled a strong odor, they contacted Arlington police. Patrol officers from the South Police district responded.



Working together with the Criminal Investigations Division and Narcotics, officers located the property owner who confirmed the house to be a rental property. Detectives gathered enough evidence to secure a search warrant. Inside the house, they seized a large amount of marijuana along with grow-

ing equipment valued at tens of thousands of dollars.

Officers say the inside of the home had been gutted and was being used exclusively as a grow house.

"On this call, we worked together to interrupt a large scale grow operation and we removed a dangerous situation from a neighborhood," said APD Lt. Donald Fulbright.



LIGHT UP BLUE FOR AUTISM

April 2 was World Autism Day and the Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building along with the West Police Service Center were lit up in blue. A special thanks to APD Corporal Danny Whittington and Office Coordinator Cathy Whittington for their dedication to bringing awareness to this developmental disorder that is estimated to impact one in every 68 births in the United States.

Learn more about autism at www.AutismSpeaks.org.

THANK YOU!



This month, the Arlington Police Department sends a big "Thank You" to all who collected items for the "Giving Back - Backpacks of H.O.P.E." (Helping Others Pursue Empowerment) project.

Lead organizer Tammy Thomas created this project in 2015 with a goal to collect 100 backpacks. Her mission was to help address the needs of human trafficking victims in the North Texas Region. The Arlington community exceeded her goal, collecting 222 backpacks! Each one is filled with clothing items and hygiene products. A handwritten note of hope and encouragement is also included. These backpacks will serve many, including individuals who are homeless.

THANK YOU!

Venture High School, First Baptist Church and Pleasant View Baptist Church.



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

www.Arlingtonpd.org "Join Our Conversation 24/7/365"

Nextdoor

