



# On Call



A community news publication of the Arlington, Texas Police Department

## 'Tis the Season' to Protect, Serve and Give

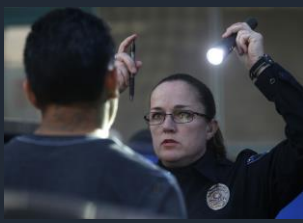
Pitching in to make a positive difference is what Arlington officers do. It's one of the reasons Santa Cops has been successful over the past 31 years. "Santa Cops is truly a community effort led by officers," said Officer Carla Strauser, a lead organizer. "It takes a village coming together."

Santa Cops is sponsored by Arlington Police Association. This year, they are planning to serve more schools than ever before, distributing toys and gifts to 1,052 kids just in time for Christmas.

The Thanksgiving holiday was rich in tradition with officers serving holiday meals at area schools. Civilian employees from Fire and Police Dispatch pitched in to help, providing Thanksgiving meals and groceries to families transitioning out of homelessness. "Not only did our kindness warm their hearts, but our generosity is the safety net needed for ongoing stability," said Officer Stephanie Gillespie whose work is addressing chronic homelessness in our community.

On busy streets and highways, officers are working overtime to combat aggressive driving and step up enforcement to get intoxicated drivers from behind the wheel. The holidays are a deadly time for crashes. Officers in specialized units are also putting an extra focus on safety. "Anticipate increases in crowds and traffic," said Sgt. Juan Rodriguez, who is assigned to the South District Retail Unit. "Our key message is patience. Always be aware of your surroundings and follow the directions being provided by officers. We're out here to help make the holidays safe."

Police Chief Will Johnson recognizes the many acts of kindness being displayed by his department and has launched his annual holiday contest that gives two lucky patrol officers Christmas Day off. Officers are asked to summarize what they did in 2017 to make Arlington better. APD will share the winning submissions on social media.



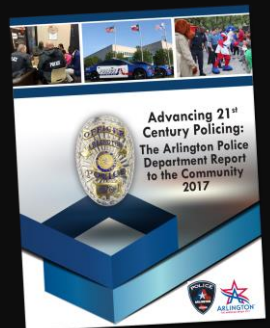
The traffic safety plan has been approved and the homeowners in this north Arlington neighborhood are ready to turn on their holiday lights. The Lights at Interlochen start Friday, Dec. 15. Click [here](#) for map.



**SAVE THE DATE.** The Arlington Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration is Jan. 12-16. Click [here](#) for a listing of community events.

## APD to Publish Community Report On 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing

This month, the Arlington Police Department will publish its Advancing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report to the Community.



APD is one of 15 law enforcement agencies in the country chosen to lead this national policing initiative. The 15-page report was compiled by members of the Advancing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Committee made up of officers and civilian employees. The committee organized in early 2017 to inventory APD policies and programs that align with the six pillars set forth in a national report on Advancing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing in America. "A report like this provides an important forum for the review and discussion of what is most critical to our community," said Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson. Coming Dec. 15. [www.Arlingtonpd.org](http://www.Arlingtonpd.org)

## Thank You, Arlington Police!



(Left to Right) AAPOAA President Sgt. Jakisha Jones, Douglas and Sonya Smith (Officer Smith's parents), AAPOAA member Katrina Hickman, SafeHaven Housing Case Manager Carmen Charles, Jessica Smith (Officer Smith's sister) and AAPOAA member Sharon Jones.

The African American Peace Officers Association of Arlington is keeping the legacy of Fallen Officer Jillian Smith alive through regular contributions to the Safe Haven of Tarrant County. From the Officer Jillian Smith Gala and Fundraiser on Nov. 4, a \$3,000 donation was made to the SafeLiving Fund that helps victims of domestic violence. Officer Smith was fatally wounded on December 28, 2010 while responding to a domestic disturbance.

# On Call

## DECEMBER CRIME PREVENTION SPOTLIGHT

# SOUTH POLICE DISTRICT

## Take Corrective Action, Don't Become an Easy Target for Crime

With the busy holiday season upon us, the Crime Prevention Unit reminds everyone to be alert, aware of your surroundings and use well-lit areas to your advantage.

For example, park in lighted areas so you can see your vehicle and everything around it. Any environment that is well lit can be a safer option at night.

Most criminals are opportunistic, which means if we take time to remove the opportunity for a crime to occur, we can dramatically increase our level

of security. On Nextdoor, watch for Safety Tip Tuesday and more crime prevention tips for a safe and joyous holiday season.

### TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION TO INCREASE YOUR LEVEL OF SECURITY:

Plan ahead. Do not buy more than you can carry.

Carry your purse close to your body or store your wallet inside your coat or front pocket.

Lock. Take. Hide. Never leave valuables inside your vehicle. Don't forget to hide the garage door opener to your home.

Be extra cautious around ATM machines and be aware of your surroundings.

Secure your personal computers by updating security software. Keep your personal information private and passwords secure.



Someone's always watching! Skywatch Towers put extra eyes in the sky in busy retail areas around the city. A special thanks to our police volunteers for serving with us this holiday season!



Officer Timothy Hayden is a Crime Prevention Officer in the South District. He can be reached at 817-459-6468 or [Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov). Looking for more crime prevention highlights from police districts? Visit us on the web at [www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://www.ArlingtonPD.org).

## Happy 30-Year Anniversary, Citizens Police Academy!



Citizen Police Academy Alumni members gather at the West Police District for their monthly meeting.

The first Arlington training academy for civilians made its debut in 1987.

It was a new concept, one of only three in the United States. Roger Anderson remembers reading about it in the newspaper and mailing his application.

"I have always been fascinated by how officers work and how they train," he says. "Signing up for a citizen version of the police academy was something different. It turned out meaningful."

After 11 weeks of classroom-style instruction, Roger graduated. Sixty-six more academy classes followed. The academy allows civilians to spend time behind the scenes of local law enforcement. After graduation, many continue to learn and work with APD as active members of neighborhood watch groups, Citizens On Patrol and as volunteers helping out in police districts.

To increase their support for the department, graduates organized the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association in 1988. Today, their volunteer

service translates into monetary support for police programs like PAL Camp and the Mounted Patrol Unit, said CPAAA President Phil Kabakoff.

From fundraisers over the years, association members have purchased police service dogs, safety light bars for officer motorcycles and car seats for children of domestic violence.

Last year, they bought the department six new unmanned aircraft systems and recently made a \$2,000 donation to Santa Cops.

It all starts with the Citizens Police Academy.

"When you go through the academy and learn what police officers are up against, you want to do all you can to support them," Kabakoff said. "This is our way of giving back and saying thanks for your sacrifice."

Find more about the Arlington Citizens Police Academy, click [here](#).



## NFL Player Has Love for APD

AT&T STADIUM - Players wore their hearts on their feet in week 13 of the NFL regular season and Chief Will Johnson was proud to see the Arlington Police Department patch on a pair of cleats worn by Ty Nsekhe of the Washington Redskins.

The offensive tackle showed his love for APD as part of a NFL-sponsored photo essay competition called "My Cause, My Cleats." The campaign showcases players and the causes dearest to their hearts. Nsekhe is a 2003 graduate of Arlington's James Bowie High School and has worked with the APD Coach 5-0 student athlete and officer mentoring program.

The American Cancer Society, United Way, Wounded Warrior Project and efforts to stop bullying and strengthen brotherhood were other highlighted causes. See their campaign, click [here](#).



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Send story ideas and comments to the Editor:

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

[www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://www.ArlingtonPD.org)