



On Call



A community news publication of the Arlington, Texas Police Department

Getting Ready for Arlington National Night Out

NEW Series: On Call follows two neighborhood groups as they prepare for Tuesday, Oct. 3.



A block party in west Arlington.

This summer, On Call teams up with the APD Crime Prevention Unit to follow two neighborhood groups as they get ready for National Night Out 2017.

With photos and stories in the newsletter and on the Police Department website, we will go behind the scenes to see what the neighborhoods are doing to plan for Tuesday, Oct. 3.

National Night Out is the largest crime prevention event of its kind in the nation.

Across the country, residents turn on their porch lights and gather outdoors to connect with their neighbors. In Arlington, there are block parties, gatherings on front lawns, parking lots and in neighborhood parks. Close to 200 residents registered their gathering with APD last year.

National Night Out is also a celebration of police and community partnerships.

It's an opportunity for officers to talk with residents about safety and crime prevention initiatives such as Citizens On Patrol and Neighborhood Watch.

National Night Out is a big deal in Arlington. According to the National Association of Town Watch, Arlington is #2 in a national ranking of large U.S. cities who took part in NNO last year.

COMING NEXT MONTH: Meet Barrie Hill and see what she's doing to start a Neighborhood Watch and get her neighbors on board for their first National Night Out. In August, we'll profile one of the largest NNO block parties in the city and share the secret to their success.

Walk and Talk is a Focus on Crime Reduction

Commonly known as a "Walk and Talk," this public safety operation involves officers, volunteers and neighbors all working together to spread awareness about crime prevention.

Teams of volunteers are trained and organized with a goal to help the community know and understand the actions they can take to protect themselves from crime.

A Walk and Talk on the evening of June 10 involved community contacts with mostly Spanish-speaking families. ¡No hay problema! The volunteers on this assignment are graduates of the Arlington Hispanic Citizens Police Academy who study safety and crime prevention in Spanish with officers.

Let's Walk ...



An increase in robberies after dark in three apartment complexes along East Park Row Drive is the reason for this Walk and Talk.

On payday Fridays, Hispanic males were being robbed of cell phones, cash and jewelry, according to Lt. Tarrick McGuire, the APD commander in charge of this safety initiative.

The department was seeing a significant increase in robberies, he said. Because of immigration concerns, many of the robberies were never reported to police.

"With citizen volunteers, we were able to help break down some of the barriers, have conversations and build levels of trust," Lt. McGuire said.

On most Friday nights, this area is bustling with street vendors, children playing and families enjoying the cool night air. Corporal Damien Gary was one of the first officers to make a community contact. The man was a street vendor selling frozen treats.



Members of the Arlington Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association joined Crime Prevention Officer Natalia Aumedes and close to 15 officers and volunteers to talk about safety.



"It was getting late," the officer said. "I told him about the rash of robberies and advised him to start packing up and move inside."

Less than a half hour later, a woman screamed and officers learned the street vendor had been robbed. Five suspects displayed a gun and took the man's cash, jewelry and fled on foot. With a perimeter already set up, officers moved in. A police helicopter and K-9 from Grand Prairie joined the search and four suspected robbers were captured.

Officers recovered the cash, jewelry and frozen treats. They also recovered the weapon used in the robbery. It was an airsoft pistol that looked like the real thing, Lt. McGuire said. No one was injured.

"It is very important for us to work with our police department to help keep our communities safe," said Micaela Ricardez, a HCPA member. "As we talked with people, some were surprised to hear that crime was a problem."

Crime prevention brochures in Spanish were distributed and

families were encouraged to read them and share the information with others.

Knowledge is key, said Officer Natalia Aumedes.

"A person can reduce the chance of becoming a victim of a crime with knowledge and information," she said. "It's the best preventative method."

SAFETY FIRST

Be aware of your surroundings. After dark, stay in well-lit areas and avoid distractions such as the cell phone.

Lock and secure valuables and keep doors and windows locked.

Become an informed resident. Enroll in a Citizens Police Academy Class. Click [here](#).

Report suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1.

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JUNE CRIME PREVENTION SPOTLIGHT NORTH POLICE DISTRICT

Volunteers Walk The Mile to Draw Attention to Human Trafficking

The trafficking of individuals is a serious crime and a violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers. Almost every country in the world is affected.

On June 10, an event in North Texas helped to draw attention to this crime.

APD Human Trafficking Volunteer Coordinator Karen Carranza teamed up with a nonprofit organization to plan a 5K Run and Walk. The purpose was to raise awareness and funding to stop human trafficking not only in Texas but across the U.S. and abroad.

Their hope is that no more individuals will ever walk a mile in a victim's shoes. Participants from across the Metroplex laced up their sneakers for this great cause.

With this event, we formed new partnerships. It's Going To Be Ok was founded by Tonya Stafford, a survivor of

human trafficking. She is on a mission to seek justice for victims through education, research, advocacy and collaboration.

Thanks to this collaborative effort involving APD and sponsors like Telemundo, the Farmer's Market, Eco Latino and many other contributors, this event carried a powerful message of hope and survival.

NEW! Find more crime prevention highlights on the APD website at www.Arlingtonpd.org.



Human trafficking is a global threat to vulnerable men, women and children. To read more about the "It's Going To Be Ok" project, visit their website at www.igtbok.org.



Looking for more crime prevention highlights from police districts? Visit us on the web at www.Arlingtonpd.org.



Officer Kimberly Fretwell is a Crime Prevention Officer in the North Police District. She can be reached at 817-459-5589 or Kimberly.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.

Awards Program Recognizes Volunteers Who Make a Life From Giving

In 2016, collectively they logged close to 36,000 hours, serving the Arlington Police Department and their communities in many ways.

For their servant's heart, they were recognized July 7 at the Annual APD Volunteer Awards Luncheon. The celebration included awards, live jazz and plenty of photos, smiles and applause.

APD officers and staff served volunteers as peak performers were recognized with awards.

One top volunteer was credited for the work she did to coordinate with Citizens On Patrol and mail letters to homeowners who left their garage doors open in 2016. In the South District, another volunteer logged close to 640 hours as a COP

Mobile member and trainer. All pour their hearts into volunteer assignments for no pay or benefits.

Lt. Paul Rodriguez recited a quote from Winston Churchill saying, "Some make a living by what they get, others make a life from what they give."

Arlington has close to 300 active volunteers. See more highlights from the awards luncheon. Click [here](#).



Volunteers from across the Police Department were recognized for their outstanding contributions.



Thank you, APD Volunteers! We appreciate all that you do! Find more photo highlights [here](#).

On Call – A Police/Community News Publication

Published monthly by the Arlington Police Department
Media Office

Send story ideas and comments to the Editor:

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