

On Call

A community news publication of the Arlington, Texas Police Department



Don't Become a Victim of Vehicle Burglary

Our volunteers are awesome! Our North District experienced a spike in burglary of motor vehicles in a restaurant parking lot. Patrons often go inside businesses, not remembering to remove or hide all valuables from vehicles. Our volunteers answered the call to help with a "vehicle report card" friendly reminder. They looked for vehicles with open windows and valuable property left in the car in plain sight. If you left nothing in plain view and the vehicle is secure, you receive a "Pass". If valuables were left inside or a window was down, your vehicle "Failed".

If you receive a report card on your windshield that says "FAIL," you have not broken any law and are not required to call the police department. It simply indicates that your car could be easily targeted by thieves.

Vehicle burglaries are a crime of opportunity. In a lot of cases, vehicle thieves will target a group of unattended vehicles and start checking door handles to locate vehicles that are unlocked. Once a burglar finds one, they can rummage through a vehicle and be on their way with stolen property in a matter of seconds.

The Arlington Police Department would also like to remind the public that guns should never be stored in unsecured vehicles. Responsible gun ownership means being accountable for a firearm at all times, ensuring it is secured and does not fall into the wrong hands.



If you see anyone suspicious in your neighborhood, please call 911 immediately so that we can try to have officers speak with the individual. Do not look the other way - trust your instincts. You might just be saving a neighbor, a friend or even yourself from becoming a victim of a burglary.

Please share this information with your family, friends, and neighbors! All of us working together can make a difference and improve the quality of life for everyone!



Volunteer engagement plays a huge role in our city and enables our department to run more productively and efficiently. The impact volunteers make can be seen daily through all districts and within every unit. As the new year starts, all city volunteers will be called on even more to assist with special initiatives along with established programs.

The South District hosted a New Volunteer orientation training class in January. This training helps our newly approved volunteers see all the opportunities we have to offer within the police department. This training shows the volunteer how to log into our volunteer system, how to sign up for opportunities, to account for volunteered hours, and an opportunity to get to meet with crime prevention officers and volunteer coordinators. For the experienced volunteer, this was a great opportunity to refresh themselves on proper procedure. The turn out and support for this training was amazing. There were 18 participants from all districts. New volunteers, faced with selecting opportunities that interested them, were guided by officers and seasoned volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer, or know someone who would, please contact Sgt. Vince Pewitt at Vince.Pewitt@arlingtontx.gov

Volunteers Rock!



Human Trafficking

The East District has been kicking off the New Year with some knowledge and awareness. Crime Prevention Officer Marisa Sandham presented two Human Trafficking presentations in the month of January. The first presentation was requested at Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church where the community wanted a better understanding of what human trafficking is and what they could do to help. The second was presented at the east station. Between the two presentations, approximately one hundred citizens attended and were provided with information and resources so they could know the signs to look for and how they can help victims of human trafficking.



Tips on Spotting Human Trafficking

- Human Trafficking can occur anywhere – from bars, clubs, massage parlors, and hotels to apartments and private residences
- Victims do not have control over money, cell phones, or ID
- Victims will exhibit fear and show signs of abuse
- Victim may not know whereabouts and their story may not add up
- Trafficker will speak or interpret for the victim; will not let the victim speak or make eye contact with others
- Excessive foot traffic in and out of locations
- Presence of drugs, alcohol, paraphernalia
- Witnesses can call 9-1-1 to report suspicious activity or signs of human trafficking, or call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline 1-888-373-7888

Fake Threat, Real Regret

We'd like to ask you to take a few minutes to watch [this video](#) with your family.

Across the country and here in North Texas, law enforcement and school districts are experiencing an unfortunate spike in the number of threats being made against schools.

Though the vast majority of these cases turn out to be hoaxes, they instill fear among students and faculty, their families, and the community. In addition, these incidents disrupt the learning environment and require substantial resources and investigative hours from law enforcement.

We cannot tolerate this. And we will do everything in our power to hold those who make threats accountable. But we can't combat this problem alone. We need your help.

We need kids to understand that when you make a threat against a school, regardless of whether that threat is real or fake, you are committing a CRIME that has VERY SERIOUS consequences.



Please share this video with your friends and help us raise awareness by using the hashtag #FakeThreatRealRegret.

And if you ever see, hear, or learn about a threat against a school, please call 911 and notify law enforcement immediately.

The video can be watched here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JE5_xrDtqGE