



# On Call



A community news publication of the Arlington, Texas Police Department

## Through Mentorship and Transparency, APD Builds Trust with Arlington Teens

For the last two years, several Arlington Police Department (APD) officers have been cheering, encouraging and mentoring the young student athletes of the Lamar High School Lady Vikings softball team. The bond that these APD officers share with these athletes is immediately, apparent to their team's coaches, families and friends. "I love mentoring these young girls. When I first started talking to them there were a few girls that were a bit apprehensive and didn't want to talk to a police officer. Over time we built a friendship based on trust and now those same girls run up to us, hug us and tell us how much they love us whenever they see us at a game or around the city," said Detective Jennifer Rodriguez. As part of APD's efforts to build supportive relationships between officers and Arlington Independent School District (AISD) students, APD officers spend their free time motivating student athletes to reach for their goals, use their talents and never give up on themselves.

"Through the Coach 5-0 program, we are able to mentor and support these young ladies and other student athletes in AISD. A lot of young people out here are scared of the police, don't trust the police and it's important for them to know that there are officers that do care about them and want to see them succeed," said Officer Kimberly Fretwell. She said that sometimes the students even open up and ask officers for advice on how to deal with issues they are facing at home and at school. This includes topics such as bullying, family issues, grades, and any questions or concerns they have about law enforcement. "Our job as mentors is to provide these students with support and teach them about the Police department," said Rodriguez. The goal of the program is for officers to encourage student-athletes to accomplish their goals on the field and in life. Currently, over 65 APD officers participate in the Coach 5-0 program.



The Coach 5-0 program offers opportunity for APD officers to mentor and connect with local student athletes. Over 65 APD officers currently participate in the program.



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## APD Officers Share Dance with Students at Masquerade Ball



For the second year in a row, Arlington Police Department (APD) officers escorted young ladies to the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance at Lynn Hale Elementary School. These young ladies were escorted because they didn't have fathers or male figures to bring them to the dance. Many of the officers that attended the dance this year also attended it last year.

"Our officers enjoy being a part of this annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. They've stated that they are honored to be able to be there for the girls, and that participating in the event is a lot of fun for them," said Officer Marisa Sandham. "They're happy to take the time out to be involved and active in the community they serve. By participating in activities like this, our officers are making a positive impact on the students, especially the girls they escort to the dance."

This year's theme was "Masquerade Ball." Students, parents and officers wore masks, danced and enjoyed food. Around seventy-five students attended the dance with their parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. Fourteen APD officers attended and escorted students to the dance. Sandham believes that it's important for APD officers to participate in programs like these because it humanizes officers to students, school staff and the surrounding communities.

"By participating in school events and being around students, we can show them that they don't have to be afraid of us and that they can trust us. Many of our officers have said they've been approached by parents and others in the community and have been commended for their outreach efforts in schools," Sandham said. "It's a great thing to have the community speak positively about our involvement in the community and share with us the issues that they feel are important to them."

## APD Looking for Volunteers for Food Bank

Arlington Police Department is looking for residents and organizations that are interested in helping the Fort Worth Community Food Bank distribute food boxes to those in need in our community.

These small boxes contain non-perishable foods that can feed up to three children.

If you're interested in helping APD distribute these food boxes, please contact Sgt. Glen Bucy at [glen.bucy@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:glen.bucy@arlingtontx.gov)



## Local Daycare Honors First Responders

Earlier this month, South District Officers met with children at KidsPark Daycare in the Arlington Highlands. The students honored and showed appreciation for everything Arlington PD first responders do in the community. As part of their interaction with the kids, officers helped the children create colorful police hats, answered questions the kids had about policing, and listen to the children tell stories.

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