



PARKWAY CENTRAL C.O.P. PATROLLING EFFORTS ARE UNMATCHED

(AUGUST 12, 2009)

Any time someone enters the area that encompasses the community of Parkway Central, chances are pretty good that you will see a vehicle patrolling with C.O.P. signs in no time at all. Sixteen members strong, Parkway Central Coordinator David Livings rotates patrolling responsibilities to ensure maximum coverage of the neighborhood.

Curtice Ervin, Crime Prevention Specialist for the Arlington Police Department, is the Program Director for Arlington Citizens on Patrol. On the night of August 11, 2009, he was in the area of Parkway Central performing a neighborhood lighting survey. The survey required him to drive through the area and track all homes without proper porch and driveway lighting as well as document the number of vehicles left parked on the street. The purpose of the survey is to raise awareness with residents on the importance of removing opportunities that may provoke an auto burglary. To ensure accuracy, residents were not informed of the date of the survey and an unmarked city vehicle was used that night.

As Curtice traveled through the area, often stopping to take notes, he noticed a vehicle with C.O.P. signs pass several times apparently without recognizing him. As instructed in orientation training, the C.O.P. members never got out of their vehicle and approached him. C.O.P. members are also trained to observe activity to determine if it is suspicious. If the activity appears criminal in nature, members are advised to call 911 and give a description of the person, vehicle and activity. If the activity does not warrant a call to 911, members are encouraged to submit descriptions of the subject, vehicle and activity in a C.O.P. patrol report so that it can be filed in the event the subject later returns and commits a criminal offense. At no time did Curtice ever exit his vehicle or do anything that would warrant a call to 911, such as peering into car windows or walking into backyards.

That same night, a C.O.P. patrol report was submitted regarding a suspicious vehicle in the area of Parkway Central. The report had a full vehicle description and the license plate number was correct. Yes, we know this because the plate matched the vehicle Curtice was driving that night. Although we all had a good laugh, both members were commended for following the guidelines of the program and staying safely in their vehicle and simply observing and reporting. This was a good example how the program is designed to work and why Parkway Central is one of Arlington's safest communities

