TPD unveils new Outreach Vehicle

The Topeka Police Department unveiled its new Outreach Vehicle late May.

The Outreach Vehicle will follow the idea of paramedicine, which is the unique intersection of healthcare, public health and public safety.

This vehicle and the idea of paramedicine will provide resources from our continued partnership with Stormont Vail Healthcare, Vales Behavioral Health Care, the Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries and the Topeka Fire Department.

“TPD’s Outreach Vehicle will provide the ability for all partners involved to provide services as a team to the at-risk population of Topeka and Shawnee County,” said Topeka Police Chief Bill Cochrane. “We hope that the Outreach Vehicle will reduce number of 9-1-1 calls, ER visits and provide the community with resources like never before.”

Beginning in early June, the Outreach Vehicle will be manned with a team at least once every week. The team will have a Crisis Intervention Team Officer from TPD, a paramedic from TFD, a mental health specialist from Vales and a homeless outreach specialist from TRM.

Gracious donations from the Stormont Vail Foundation and Kansas Gas Service, a division of ONE Gas, allowed for the purchase of the Outreach Vehicle and the equipment inside the vehicle. The Citizens Academy Ambassadors were an integral part of facilitating the success of this project.

Topeka Police to host interns from across the country

Beginning June 3, the Topeka Police Department will be hosting its first-ever Recruiting and Hiring Internship Program.

In previous years, the Topeka Police Department hosted Washburn University student interns who spent six to eight weeks in different areas of the department. That program has been restructured to resemble a mini-police academy with a strong emphasis on recruiting and hiring.

This internship program will include students from Washburn University, Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri and the University of Southern Mississippi.

The program will include ride-alongs, emergency vehicle operations, a CPR certification, scenario-based training, crime scene processing, defensive tactics, city orientation and written and physical hiring tests.

This internship program will be a win for all involved. TPD will help students who need jobs after graduation, the students will help TPD fill its applicant pool and the community will benefit from the attraction of diversity and talent to Topeka.

The department would like to recognize and thank the following organizations for supporting the new internship program: the Parrish Hotel Corporation, the Citizens Academy Ambassadors, Forge, the Kansas City Royals, the Vinewood Event Venue and the Fraternal Order of Police.
Topeka Police, Topeka Fire team up to collect blood during critical time

The Topeka Police Department and the Topeka Fire Department teamed up to collect blood donations during the third annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive on Thursday, May 30.

TPD and TFD met their goal of collecting 60 pints of blood during a time where blood donations are critically needed. TFD and TPD exceeded their goal and collected 62 pints of blood.

In the battle for the trophy, the Topeka Fire Department came out on top in a score of 36-25 votes.

The real winners, however, are those who donated blood and helped save a life.

“The Battle of the Badges blood drive is one of those yearly events where a little competitive spirit takes over between the members of the Fire Department and the Police Department to benefit a great cause,” said Topeka Police Chief Bill Cochran.

“I know this event is known as the “Battle of the Badges,” blood drive but to me it is really the “Pledge of the Badges,”’ said Topeka Fire Chief Craig Duke. “Each year both departments look at this special way to serve our community. We pledge to go beyond our daily role of public safety services by donating blood. Why? Because that’s who we are.”

If you are interested in donating blood during this critical time, you can search for a blood drive near you by clicking here.

Vehicle burglary prevention

A note from Topeka Police Lieutenant Robbie Simmons

Vehicle burglaries are a common crime across the country, and Topeka is no different. Many criminals find vehicles to be an easy target due to poor habits that many vehicle owners have. We want to remind everyone to Lock it, Remove it or Lose it!

Lock it

Please remember to keep your vehicles locked, wherever you park them. A very large majority of vehicle burglaries occur through an unlocked door. Criminals look for that easy “score” where they can get in, get what they want and be out in a mere seconds and without raising much noise or attracting any attention to themselves. An unlocked door will allow them that opportunity. Most criminals don’t want to break your window because it will create noise. It also becomes a visual cue to bystanders walking or driving by the vehicle that there has been a vehicle burglary which will get officers called into the area to check things out. When criminals go through an unlocked vehicle, there are no obvious visual cues to bystanders which means there will be no calls to the police department. Remember, criminals want to be discrete and fast. When they come across a locked vehicle, they tend to move onto the next vehicle until they find one unlocked.

Remove it

Do not keep anything valuable in your car while it is not occupied. Criminals like to “window shop” and see what you have in your car. The more valuable the items, the more likely they are willing to take to get to it. As I stated before, criminals like to be discrete and fast. The ideal car for them to choose for a vehicle burglary is one where they see something valuable in it and it is unlocked. They know exactly where to go to get the item and all they have to do is open your door, take what they want and walk away. It literally takes just a few seconds and you are left a victim.

In Topeka, we have seen quite an increase in firearms being stolen from vehicles. Whether your vehicle is locked or not, DO NOT STORE YOUR FIREARMS IN YOUR VEHICLE! Please be aware of the opportunities you present to criminals when you leave your garage door opener in your vehicle and your vehicle is parked outside of your house. This provides easy access to your home. I highly recommend you bring that garage door opener inside with you when you go in for the night. Also, please
Lose it.

While there is no 100% fool proof way to prevent vehicle burglaries, if you follow our tips above you will likely bring your chances down of being the next victim. Don’t lose your stuff. You work hard for it; let’s do our best to keep it.

Thank you for doing your part to make our community the safest place it can be.

Lt. Robbie Simmons
2nd Shift Watch Commander
Field Operations Bureau

---

June Community Events/Meetings

- June 3: 6:30 p.m. - Highland Area NTA Meeting - Highland Park High School - 2424 SE California Ave.
- June 3: 7:00 p.m. - North Topeka West NIA Meeting - Papa’s Landing Senior Center - 621 NW Parmarco St.
- June 4: 12:00 p.m. - North Topeka Business Alliance - NOTO Arts Center - 922 North Kansas Ave.
- June 5: 21:30 p.m. - Safe Streets Coalition Meeting - Great Overland Station - 701 N Kansas Ave.
- June 6: 6:30 p.m. - East Topeka North NIA Meeting - Salvation Army - 1320 SE 6th St.
- June 10: 6:00 p.m. - Quinton Heights-Steele NIA Meeting - Grace United Methodist Church - 2627 SW Western
- June 10: 6:00 p.m. - Historic North Topeka East NIA Meeting - Garfield Community Center - 1600 N Quincy St.
- June 10: 6:30 p.m. - Central Highland Park NIA Meeting - Hillcrest Community Center - 1800 SE 21st St.
- June 10: 7:00 p.m. - NOTOMA Meeting - Garfield Community Center - 1600 N Quincy St.
- June 11: 6:30 p.m. - Eleanor NA Meeting - Topeka Shawnee County Public Library - 1235 SW 10th Ave.
- June 12: 6:30 p.m. - Historic Old Town NIA Meeting - Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - 725 SW Buchanan St.
- June 13: 6:30 p.m. - East End NIA Meeting - Rice Community Center - 432 NE Norwood St.
- June 14: 6:00 p.m. - Coffee with a Cop - Café Holliday - 800 SW 12th St.
- June 17: 6:30 p.m. - Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships (SPCP) - District 5 Discussion - Avondale Academy - 3229 SE Westview Ave.
- June 17: 6:30 p.m. - Oakdale NIA Meeting - Oakdale Community Center - 801 NE Poplar St.
- June 17: 6:30 p.m. - Rolling Meadows NA - American Legion - 3800 SE Michigan Ave.
- June 17: 7:00 p.m. - College Hill NA Meeting - Westminster Presbyterian Church - 1275 SW Baswell Ave.
- June 20: 4:00 p.m. - Stuff the Bus Wrap Up Event - Westar Energy Pocket Park - 818 S Kansas Ave.
- June 20: 6:00 p.m. - Monroe NIA Meeting - Brown vs. Board - 1235 SE Monroe St.
- June 20: 6:30 p.m. - National Night Out 2019 Planning Meeting - Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, room 101B - 1235 SW 10th Ave.
- June 25: 7:00 p.m. - Crestview NA Meeting - Crestview United Methodist Church - 2245 SW Evergreen Dr.
- June 27: 6:00 p.m. - Hi-Crest NIA Meeting - Avondale East School - 455 SE Golf Park Blvd.
- June 27: 6:30 p.m. - Ward Meade NIA Meeting - Westside Baptist Church - 1008 SW 41st St.

For a full list of community events visit Topeka 365.

---

Youth Education Officer

Officer Brandon Gogian

The Topeka Police Department in partnership with Topeka Public Schools has created a pathway at The Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers (TCALC). The Law and Public Safety pathway at TCALC will start in August, 2019 and will be taught by Youth Education Officer Brandon Gogian.

More information about the pathway can be found here.

You can contact Officer Gogian with questions or concerns by email at bgogian@topeka.org. You can also call him at (785) 640-9489.

---

Find out who your Community Police Officer is

---

Topeka Police Department
Community Policing Officer (CPO)
Important Numbers

Shawnee County Crime Stoppers/Gun Stoppers Tip Line: (785) 234-0007

Community Policing Hotline: (785) 368-2500

Topeka Police Department Non-Emergency Number: (785) 368-9054