

## **Community Volunteers Assist Irving Police in Crime Prevention**

The Irving Citizens on Patrol (ICOP) program is an extension of the Neighborhood Watch Program and is made up of resident volunteers who work in partnership with the Police Department. The program allows interested individuals to learn about problems in their neighborhood and affect change as part of a community patrol group.

ICOPs do not become physically involved in situations. They are community members serving as reporters who are trained to recognize suspicious or criminal activity and properly report such activities to police. Program participants must be graduates of the Irving Citizen Police Academy and be selected to complete additional training consisting of four, three-hour training sessions.

There are a number of duties ICOPs perform to assist police officers in serving the community more effectively. For example, ICOPs wait for tow trucks requested by officers so officers can return to service and be available for calls.

Resident volunteers also work around retail outlets such as Irving Mall. They can be seen assisting mall officers, using Sky Watch trailers or patrolling the parking lot. Upon additional training and certification, ICOPs also can issue disabled parking citations.

The ICOP program has been in existence for 16 years and, at the present time, 12 decommissioned police cars have been re-lettered and designated for use in ICOP patrol activities. "As their duties expand so has their productivity," said Officer Lance Peikert. "Their hard work and dedication has resulted in more than \$200,000 worth of donated time and mileage over the years."

To learn more about the ICOP program, contact Peikert at (972) 721-3557 or [lpeikert@cityofirving.org](mailto:lpeikert@cityofirving.org).