

THE BLUE BULLETIN

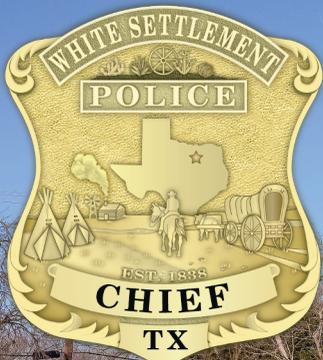
SUMMER 2025

SUMMER
ACTIVITIES

POLICE DEPT.
HIGHLIGHTS

CRIME
PREVENTION TIPS





WELCOME

I hope everyone is having a great start to their summer. As spring fades into the hot summer months, we want to take a moment to tell you about our new quarterly magazine that highlights what our team has been doing and how you can get involved. Our recent focus has been centered on Neighborhood Watch Groups. We have several team members assisting with getting groups started and active. You may have also noticed some of the new signage across town. We are in

I hope everyone is having a great start to

the process of compiling a list of interested neighbors to serve in geographic areas throughout the city to expand our Neighborhood Watch Groups. If you are interested, please email our team at wspd@wspd.us.

We also had an amazing few months with Special Olympics. Be sure to read all about the activities that were completed on behalf of making our city better and filling a need by connecting with young people who have special needs.

On the community engagement front, our team continues to host a myriad of different events that

are fun for all ages. In addition to meeting your local hometown police officers, these events build a stronger community that looks out for one another. We are excited to announce some upcoming programs and initiatives that you can partner with our team.

We appreciate your dedication to being a watchful eye across our community. There is one story in particular that drives this point home in this edition of the newsletter. I hope all of you have a great summer and don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

Christopher Cook
Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police



SUMMER

Summer is officially here. The department was privileged to take part in the annual Summer Celebration on June 28 at Veterans Park. We had our table set up to unveil our new patch collection that is being offered to the community to assist with community engagement programs and initiatives. Each holiday, a special-themed patch will be available for purchase. All proceeds reimburse the cost of the patch with the remaining proceeds being used to support community engagement efforts. The department continues to host the Junior Police Academy,

featuring public safety cadets who have expressed an interest in the law enforcement profession. Available for teens 14-20 years of age, the evening program meets biweekly at the police department. Corporal Jonathan Russell leads the initiative and is supported by his fellow officers. To have your teen join the program, email Corporal Russell at jrussell@wspd.us. UNIDOS is still going strong throughout the summer months. Meeting monthly, with some meetings held virtually online, the program is designed to allow Spanish-speaking residents to learn about the community, local

government, and build a positive relationship with the department. To learn more, contact Corporal Laura Gonzalez at lgonzalez@wspd.us.

We are now enrolling our next Citizens Police Academy, which is scheduled to start on Thursday, September 18, 2025. After completion of a couple of months of training, the class will graduate on November 13, 2025. Graduates can then apply to serve in the department's Citizens on Patrol program. To sign up, email Lt. James Stewart at jstewart@wspd.us.

As you can see, lots of stuff going on this summer. Be sure to stay connected.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS



Joining an existing group or starting a new one is easy. Your first step is to email our team to see if a neighborhood group is already established. If so, we will put you in contact with the block captain. If no group is present, we can show you how to start a new group. There is an application process, training, and resource materials that we provide to get your group off the ground. After the initial neighborhood kickoff meeting, you simply host a few meetings throughout the year and stay connected with our quarterly magazine and bulletins. It's that simple! Reach out today. wspd@wspd.us or 817-246-7070.

1

HOW TO START

Connect with our team via email, in-person, or through the telephone. We will see if a group is already in your neighborhood. If not, we can show you how to start one.

2

KICKOFF MEETING

For new groups, we can help you with the initial kickoff meeting that allows you to get to know all your neighbors and establish a block captain.

3

HOST MEETINGS

The block captain can host monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual meetings to keep all the neighbors informed.

4

STAY CONNECTED

We provide a quarterly magazine, crime bulletins, social media posts, and resource materials to keep everyone informed.

**NEIGHBOR
SEES
SOMETHING
AND CALLED US
TO SAVE THE
DAY**



SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE CONTAINED EXPLOSIVES AND GUNS

A recent example of an engaged neighbor last fall was highlighted on May 23, 2025. The neighbor noticed a suspicious van in the area and telephoned the WEST COMM Dispatch Center.

Within minutes of arriving, the situation transformed from a suspicious vehicle call to a life-threatening situation when officers found an armed man with explosives inside his vehicle. The whole ordeal was captured by officer's body-worn cameras and demonstrated the heightened danger to the community.

"Had it not been for this neighbor's call, the outcome could have resulted in tragedy," said Chief

of Police Christopher Cook. "This demonstrates the crucial role that neighborhood watch groups provide to our department and community."

Sgt. John Banner, the lead supervisor at the scene, developed an action plan to remove this armed man from the vehicle safely. As they executed the plan, the suspect was not initially compliant and had to be forcefully removed from the vehicle, even with nearby firearms within his reach.

This encounter was a close call, however, officers performed their duties flawlessly with the help of the neighbor who telephoned this suspicious car in.

READ ALL ABOUT THE STORY HERE:



White Settlement police charge man for alleged plot involving explosives, guns

By Amber Kite | Published May 22, 2025 1:41pm CDT | White Settlement | FOX 4 | [➔](#)





The Honor Guard is one of the most visible units in the department, representing the team at various civic functions, memorial ceremonies, and on the state and national stages. Officer Wesley Gregory serves as the team lead for the department's Honor Guard.

He recently joined Chief Cook on a recent podcast on the WSPD Briefing Room. Be sure to catch this episode [here](#), or wherever you listen to podcasts, as the discussion walks listeners through what the Honor Guard does, how they train, and what guides their precision.

In the early spring, the Honor Guard was very busy representing the team and community. This was the first year that White Settlement Police Captain DeWitt "Wid" Spivey was being added to the memorial walls in Austin and Washington D.C. Captain Spivey tragically died in the line of duty on March 12, 1955, after he suffered a major heart attack while responding and managing a homicide scene in the city. He had served with the department for two years and had previously served with the Comanche County, Texas Sheriff's Office from 1936 to 1942 and served as the DeLeon, Texas Police Chief from 1942 to 1951. This commitment to never forgetting our heroes reigns true by getting the official recognition for Captain Spivey and his family some 70 years after his line of duty death.

The Honor Guard attended both the state and national memorial services in their respective

capitols. As part of the ceremonial events, Honor Guards from around the nation gather together to uphold the solemn promise to never forget fallen brothers and sisters.

The Honor Guard also was front and center at the city's local memorial service, a tradition that Chief Cook established in 2022. Elected and city officials joined department employees, fallen hero families, and community members for a time of remembrance.

The Honor Guard also was tasked with presenting the formal Colors of the United States at the city's memorial day event, in addition to police academy and training class graduations. The team also participated in a parade during the 2nd Annual Walk Through Living History Event hosted by the White Settlement Historical Museum.

As an ancillary team, meaning that teammates hold primary jobs in Patrol, Investigations, and other segments of the department, the Honor Guard regularly trains with other jurisdictions to maintain their high level of attention to detail, reverence, and precision. The Azle, Saginaw, and Westworth Village Police Department are part of the joint Honor Guard that represents communities in western Tarrant County.





SUMMER TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE

1

Stay hydrated, keep cool, and don't forget about elderly loved ones and pets. It's typical Texas... and that means heat and humidity. Use sunscreen as needed.

2

Keep your home safe, especially while away on vacation. Did you know you can request a "vacation patrol" through our website? Yes, you can! Lock all doors and windows. Make your home appear occupied by using timers for lights and leaving a radio or TV on. Arrange to hold your mail, or have a neighbor pick it up for you. Avoid posting on social media that you're away. Motion sensor lights work well at nighttime.

3

Keep your car safe. Always lock your doors, roll up your windows, and don't leave valuable inside your vehicle. As a matter of fact, don't leave anything in plain sight that might attract a "would-be" burglar. **NEVER leave a firearm** inside the vehicle. White Settlement experiences several firearm burglaries from unlocked vehicles every year.

4

Be aware of online scams. Many scammers pretend to email you from an "official" business, but in reality, they are fictitious and try to trick you into giving them personal information or money. The City of White Settlement never demands payment online or over the telephone. When in doubt, hang-up, and contact the business entity directly through a trusted telephone number that you already know.

As far as solicitors, the city requires a permit. So when they show up at your door, you can ask to see the valid permit, or you can contact the police department if they are acting suspicious or violating our ordinance.

5

Get to know your neighbors. There's no such thing as a "nosy neighbor" if they are willing to keep a watchful eye on your home. Let your trusted neighbors know when you will be out of town. Trusted neighbors can also alert you if a suspicious car shows up around your property. Better yet, join or start a Neighborhood Watch Group to keep your whole street safe.

WSPD UPDATES

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN VERY BUSY OVER THE PAST 60 DAYS OR SO... FROM AGENCY INITIATIVES... TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT... GREAT STUFF ALL AROUND"



The team has been busy since the start of May. We attended the National Day of Prayer at Tarrant County Justice of the Peace Precinct #4 organized by Judge Christopher Gregory. Chief Cook promoted several individuals throughout the department to new roles and assignments:

- Megan Batchelder to Chief of Staff
- Carlos Valladares to Corporal
- Brandon Tibbit to Sergeant
- James Stewart to Lieutenant

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics was hosted in White Settlement as the inaugural kick off event for the entire state. Dispatcher Adrienne Stewart was able to secure our spot as the first stop. A fun-filled Touch a Truck was held in the Splash Dayz parking lot. Members of the Brewer High School J.E.T.S. team were treated to a tour of AT&T Stadium in Arlington, home

to the Dallas Cowboys.

On the military partnership front, the U.S. Marine Corps VMFA-112 Cowboys Reserve Squadron received a custom coin set to commemorate the upcoming 250th Marine Corps birthday.

The department's Take Me Home program netted two successful reunifications of missing children over the past few months. This program allows parents to register loved ones with the police department who may have a disability, thereby affording officers with relevant information on where the family member resides.

The Junior Police Academy cadets were certified in CPR and basic first-aid by WSPD Reserve Officer Les Kleine.

The department also hosted its annual awards banquet, thanks to generous donors from around town. A total of 23 awards were

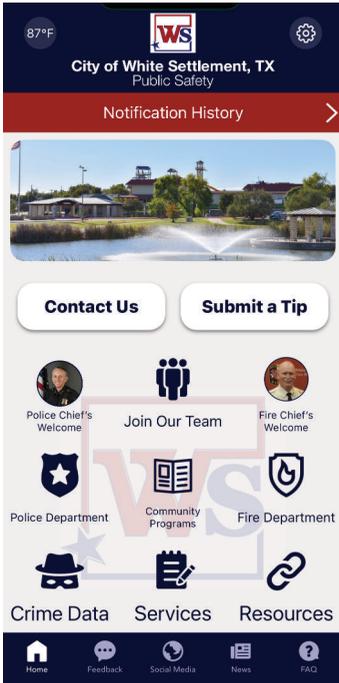
handed out to public safety employees, along with community members. The Trinity Basin Preparatory West Campus invited Chief Cook and police officers to provide graduation remarks on safety and what the law enforcement profession is all about.

Sgt. Frank Blaustein was joined by other officers to provide specialized active shooter training to the community on a Saturday morning.

Detective Geovanny Ramirez was selected as the North Texas Police Chiefs Association Employee of the Quarter for his pivotal role in recovering over \$100,000 in stolen construction equipment.

The department hosted the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration's Civilian Leadership Course at the Pecan Grove Convention Center.

STAYING CONNECTED



During the 2024 National Night Out celebration at Veterans Park, the department launched a new public safety mobile app. The app is free to download on Apple iOS and Android devices. Just go to the app store and search "White Settlement Public Safety" or scan the QR codes below.

What can you do with the app?

- Receive emergency alerts
- Jail inmate search
- Resource materials
- News blog
- Receive National Weather Service alerts
- FAQs page to address commonly requested items
- Social media networks integration
- Contact information for public safety
- Submit tips
- Request extra patrols or let us know when you go on vacation
- Register neighborhood cameras to help solve crimes
- Sex offender search
- Review monthly crime data reports
- Learn about our community engagement programs and initiatives
- Learn about department technologies and policies

The department also maintains a presence on several social media networks including:

- Facebook (Police Department, WEST COMM, and P.A.W.S. Animal Control)
- Twitter/X (Police Department, WEST COMM, and Chief of Police)
- Instagram (Police Department)
- Nextdoor (Police Department)
- YouTube (Police Department)
- Podcast (Police Department)

While the department maintains a social media content moderation policy to keep platforms "family-friendly," the agency invites citizens to follow along to stay informed on what's going on throughout the community. In some cases, the department further restricts interactions and comments based upon the platform to reduce hateful rhetoric, demeaning comments directed at public officials and police officers, and leverage the technology for what it's best suited for... that is to keep the community informed on what is going on.

We invite you to stay informed across multiple social media networks, community engagement programs, and publications that are produced.

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY TO STAY CONNECTED



APPLE iOS DEVICES



ANDROID DEVICES



FACEBOOK/WhiteSettlementPD



INSTAGRAM/WSPD TX



YOUTUBE/@WSPD TX



NextDoor White Settlement Police



X.COM/WSPD TX
X.COM/WESTCOMMTX
X.COM/COOKTX



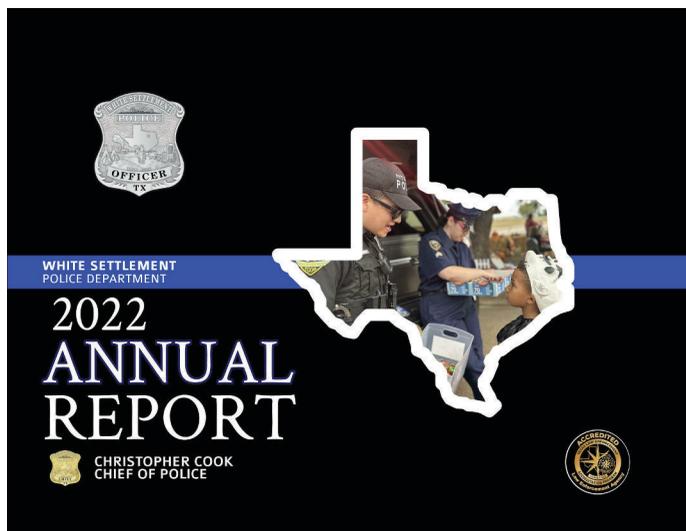
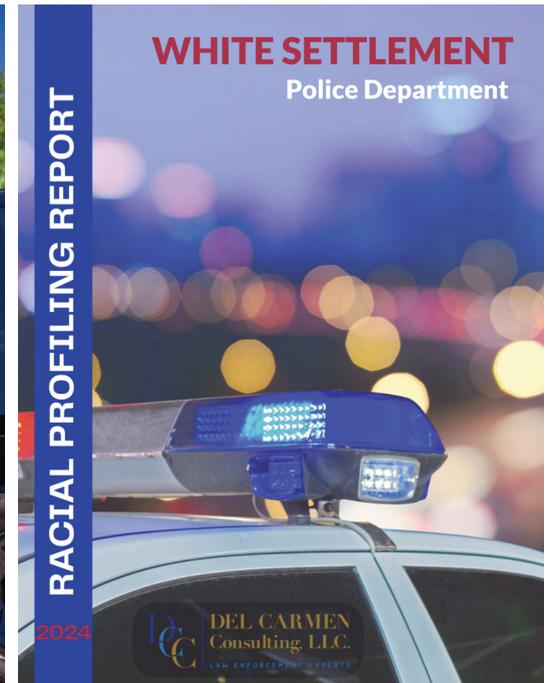
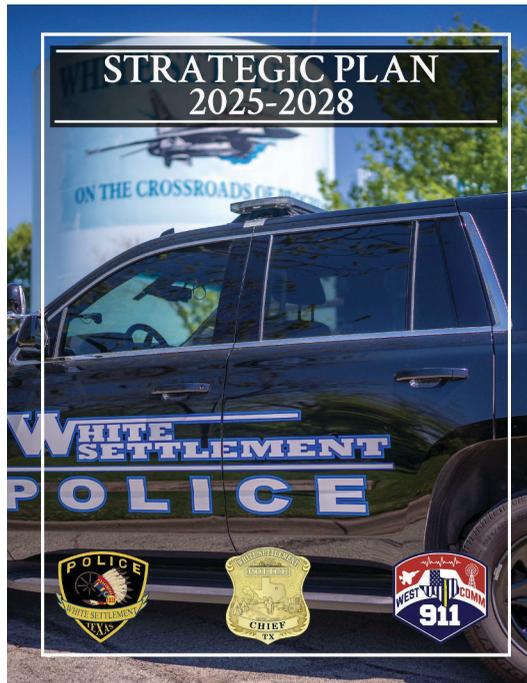
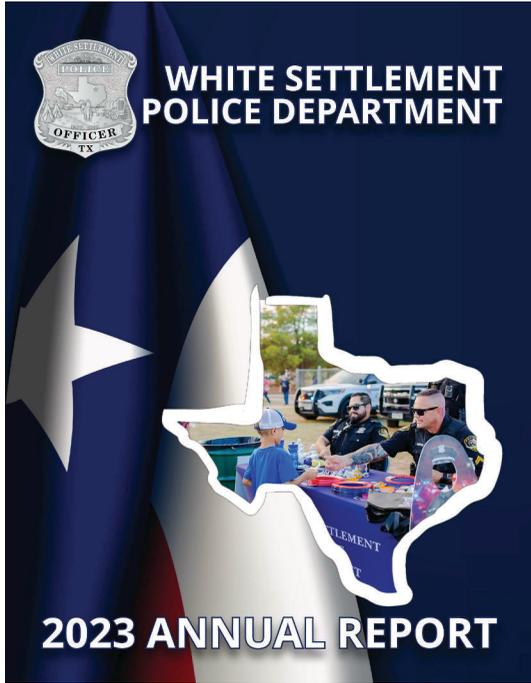
wspd.buzzsprout.com



PUBLICATIONS

Another way to stay connected is to check out our website at www.wspd.us and click on publications. As an accredited agency and to comply with legal requirements, the department produces several high quality reports to keep the community informed. From Annual Reports that catalog the previous year's accomplishments, to the department's multi-year Strategic Plan, to annual Racial Profiling Reports, there are several publications that provide an understanding on how the department operates.

In addition to formal publications, the department provides monthly crime and productivity report cards that are easily accessible through the website, mobile app, and on social media.



WHITE SETTLEMENT



THE BLUE BULLETIN IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WSPD STRATEGIC COMMS TEAM
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