

Crime Prevention Newsletter



Casa Grande Police Department — 373 East Val Vista Blvd. — (520) 421-8700

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Welcome

Officer Thomas Anderson, Crime Prevention Officer

Welcome to the Casa Grande Police Department Crime Prevention Newsletter!

The Casa Grande community is and always has been a very close knit community. We, as members of the Police Department, share your enthusiasm and desire to stay connected. We are proud to present this newsletter to you and hope you find the information we deliver to be useful in your overall effort to reduce crime and improve your neighborhoods and businesses. We also hope to give you a closer look into what resources we provide and what our employees do every day and night to help keep the city of Casa Grande safe and help to maintain the quality of life that we are use to.

Please take note of the upcoming events section and the contact information if you want to reach out to us or provide feedback regarding this newsletter. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your family, friends and neighbors. We expect to produce this newsletter bimonthly and hope to encourage all of you to provide feedback in an effort to give you the most up-to-date information and resources you need and want. Thanks for reading and sharing!

City Contacts

(Area Code is 520)

Animal Control	426-9300
Building	421-8630
City Attorney	421-8600
City Clerk	421-8608
City Court	421-8675
City Manager	421-8600
Finance	421-8601
Fire Department	421-8777
Golf Course	836-9216
Housing	421-8670
Human Resources	421-8600
Landfill	421-8628
Library	421-8710
Parks & Recreation	421-8677
Planning & Zoning	421-8637
Public Works	421-8625
Senior Center	421-8760

Chief's Message

Chief of Police Johnny Cervantes



The Casa Grande Police Department is a leading, progressive, and unified agency of highly trained professionals who inspire excellence within law enforcement and partner with all people to protect, serve, and create a safe community." This vision was born out of our strategic planning process and represents the hard work, knowledge, experience, and dedication of a Police Organization.

Our primary mission is to enhance the quality of life and develop safer communities. In order to be successful, we must have the confidence, support and trust of the people who live, work, and play in our community. That is why we embrace Community Policing as our core philosophy and strive to maintain an open flow of communication and working partnership with the community and all of our strategic partners.

In addition, the Department's ability to identify emerging crime trends and patterns rests with our ability to utilize technology and information as quickly and efficiently as possible. The CompStat process brings both these elements together and assists in identifying those trends. It allows for a coordinated response in a timely manner and

(Chief's Message—Cont. from Pg 1)

provides an opportunity to prioritize the immediate crime issues ensuring that resources are being deployed where needed the most. In support of these efforts, the council has approved the purchase of a new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System to replace a 20 year old system that is currently being used.

We are also in the process of hiring an Information Technology professional dedicated to the challenging and emerging Public Safety technology needs of the future. Both of these acquisitions are vital to our compstat model and will allow the department to efficiently utilize

our resources.

Most importantly, I believe that we have the highest caliber of dedicated men and women in policing! With our vision, the strategic plan, the support from the city council, city leadership, and the community, the Casa Grande Police Department is in excellent position to meet the challenges of the future and perform at the highest levels.

The Goblins Will Get You - Dr. Bob Cornelius, Chaplain/Counselor



Several years ago a little girl asked me what a goblin looked like. I guess I really do not know what a demon or goblin or a witch looks like. But I do know what it looks like after they have done their thing in the lives of people.

In the old movie, The Wizard of Oz, we were thrilled as Dorothy sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." This was a classic. In the movie there was a Good Witch and her

sister the Bad Witch. Perhaps there is a little of both in each of us. The question is: Which is the real you? Good Witch, Bad Witch, saint or sinner?

On Halloween we want to have a lot of fun dressing up and pretending. For most of us we want fun that is safe and friendly. Let's take advantage of the activities provided by our city and our churches. Remember, the Goblins will get you if you don't watch out.



The Casa Grande Police Department would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Halloween! Here are a few reminders for parents and children on this exciting night of tricks and treats:

- Remind children not to enter strangers' homes or vehicles.
- Remind children not to eat treats until you have inspected them.
- Remind children to observe traffic and traffic laws. Stay on sidewalks, not streets. Be aware of moving vehicles on the street and driveways. Avoid alleys

and shortcuts.

- Escort your children or know the route they are taking.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Determine a way to identify your children; there are only so many unique costumes.
- Use the Buddy System.
- Stay in well-lit areas.
- Set a specific return time limit.



Graffiti Abatement Program - Sheila Chavez, Graffiti & Alarm Coordinator



The Graffiti Abatement Program is a service offered to the citizens of Casa Grande, to provide those who need assistance with their criminal damage (or graffiti).

When a report is received, a notification letter is sent which states that the owner of the property has (10) ten days to remove the graffiti. Included in the mailing is a liability release which gives our graffiti crews permission to paint.

If the liability release is sent back, the property is put on the list for the next crew who goes out to remove graffiti. The benefit of sending the release back is you are put on a list to have the graffiti immediately removed and most likely the paint will be matched to the existing color.

If the liability release does not come back and the graffiti is still there after (10) ten days, our crews go out and eradicate. The program has many options to choose from in order to allow our graffiti crews the opportunity to remove the graffiti as quickly as possible.

There is a difference between graffiti and tagging. Graffiti is a drawing or inscription on a wall or other public place. Graffiti is usually made up with all types of colors and has a meaning. Tagging is the marking of a territory with a label. Tags are names, gangs, or nicknames. Graffiti involves talent, where tagging does not. It usually does not matter to residents which type of graffiti it is, however, sometimes they are concerned about gangs being in their neighborhood. But it's important to know that a graffiti artist is not a gang member. However, a gang member may be a graffiti artist, and it is common for a tagger to be a member of a gang.

Communicating With Your Child - Officer Matt Duran, School Resource Officer



Prior to entering Law Enforcement I was privileged to be able to work for the Boys & Girls Clubs. I ran clubs in the Town of Guadalupe, the cities of Tempe, Mesa, the Town of Queen Creek and here in Casa Grande.

During the thirteen years I spent in Youth Development I worked with thousands of youth ages 4 to 18. The one thing that I found true in these many experiences is this: kids, no matter what age, have a voice and want to be communicated with.

Based on their many differences, kids have diverse styles of communication. The factor here is giving them a forum for sharing ideas, questions or merely having meaningful conversation. The trust and bond created through honest dialogue with your child is priceless. Often times, the message being conveyed through this interaction can foster talks on choice of friends, prevention of negative behaviors, academics and future career choices.

As a police officer, I have been called to many homes to speak to a child that refuses to obey direction from a parent or guardian. Almost 100% of the time, I will find the child and parent at the end of their proverbial rope in regards to anger and emotion.

As a parent I have been there too. Before it gets that far, know your limits and the limits of your child and take a time out before addressing the topic, or find a trusted adult to help convey your message. Sometimes the same message is better delivered with a different messenger.



The Police Explorer Program - Sergeant John Tena



The Casa Grande Police Department's Explorer Program is an extension of the Boy Scouts of America. The program provides an opportunity for young men and women to experience first-hand how a police department functions and what it takes to get started in the challenging career of law enforcement. Police Explorers perform a variety of community services at parades, festivals, and special events.

Occasionally, the Explorers could be called out to assist police officers in emergency situations, such as searching for missing children, searching for evidence, assisting in major disaster scenes, or to perform other duties required by the Casa Grande Police Department. In addition to gaining a working knowledge of the police work,

the Explorers have the opportunity to give of themselves to their community.

Goals of the Explorer Program:

- To provide positive teenage activities through community involvement.
- To supply a reserve pool of individuals for emergencies or for community service.
- To provide basic Law Enforcement Training.
- To create the potential for young people to learn responsibility and leadership skills.
- To give Explorers the experience necessary for them to make an educated decision as to whether Law Enforcement is the future for them.
- To promote the spirit of cooperation through personal growth and group development.

Halloween Safety Tips For Pet Parents - Linda Garcia, Animal Care and Control Supervisor



City of Casa Grande Animal Care & Adoption Center offers these common-sense cautions to keep your pets safe and sound during this time of the year.

- No tricks, no treats: keep all Halloween candy out of your pet's reach. Chocolate can be poisonous to animals, and tinfoil and cellophane candy wrappers can be hazardous if swallowed.
- During peak trick-or-treat visiting hours, too many strangers in unusual garb can be scary and stressful for pets. When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, take care that Rover or Morris doesn't dart outside. Make sure all pets are wearing identification such as their city animal license or an id tag with current information, just in case they get out. That way we can help get them home.
- It's not a bright idea to keep lit pumpkins around companion animals. Pets are naturally curious, and may be attracted to the bright lights of the flame in dark areas. Dogs and cats could either burn themselves by the flame or knock the pumpkin over, starting a fire.

- Dress-up can be a big mess-up for some pets. Please don't put your dog or cat in costume unless you know he or she loves it (yup, some pets are real hams!). For companion animals that prefer wearing their birthday suits, wearing a costume can cause undue stress.
- If you do dress up your pet, make sure that the costume isn't annoying or unsafe. It should not restrict the animal's movement or hearing, or impede his ability to breathe or bark. Keep a look out for small, dangling or easily chewed-off pieces on the costume that your pet could choke on.
- And please remember; if you suspect that your pet has ingested a potentially dangerous substance around Halloween or any time of year please call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.

Please have a safe and wonderful Halloween for you and your pets.

Child Restraint Systems - Officer Jeff Cardita, Traffic Unit



In August of 2012, the Arizona State Legislature made an age requirement change in the Child Restraint System law that many people are unaware of. Previously, children under age 5 were required to be in a child restraint system; however, the new law requires that kids under the age of 8 years old now need to be restrained in a child restraint system. The most common reason for not having kids under 8 years old in some kind of child restraint system is the *driver did not know the age requirement*.

We would like to emphasize the fact that there is an exception to this rule. If your child has reached a height of 4 foot 9 inches and is under 8 years old, then the child is no longer required by law to be restrained in a child restraint device. Looking around, however, there are rarely any 7 year olds who are that tall.

Most kids over the age of 5 will fit in a booster seat which can be found at any retail store. Be sure to find a seat that fits your child always using the manufacturer's height and weight recommendations. The Casa Grande Police Department Traffic Enforcement Unit is doing everything possible to reduce the amount of collisions in the City Of Casa Grande, especially when it relates to injuries sustained by kids in collisions. Using the proper child restraint system may make a difference in your young passenger's life.

If you have any questions about car seat laws or would like more information, please contact me at the Casa Grande Police Department.

Remember, buckle up and drive safely!

Preventing The Use Of Drugs - Cindy Schaidler, Executive Director, Casa Grande Alliance



I drive past a City Park and see children playing tag. The shady Ramada is decorated with colorful balloons as women set the picnic table with covered dishes. A handful of teens are talking and laughing. The men are gathered around the grill and the smoke from something delicious carries a mouth-watering smell all the way into the street. It is a typical Sunday afternoon in Casa Grande.

Although they don't realize it, this family gathering is helping prevent drug use in the teens and children present. When young people feel they are a valued part of their family, they are less likely to engage in substance abuse and other problem behaviors.

We all want our kids to resist the pressures to use alcohol and drugs, as well as other risky and inappropriate

behaviors like violence and gangs. Research shows us what approaches are successful.

Participating meaningfully in the responsibilities and activities of the family strengthens teens against the lure of drugs. And if the adults choose to make it an alcohol-free party, the message to youth is clear: we don't need to get high to have fun.

The Casa Grande Alliance is a community-based prevention coalition committed to helping individuals, families, and our community raise strong and resilient children. Working together, we will create a safe and drug-free community. Come join us! www.casagrandealliance.org

Important Police Department Numbers & Internet Sites

(Area Code is 520)

- Police (Emergency) 911
- Police (Non-Emergency) 421-8700
- Chief of Police 421-8700
- Crime Prevention Unit 421-8711 ext. 6760
- Volunteer Unit 421-8711 ext. 6140
- Traffic/School Resource Unit 421-8711 ext. 6370



www.facebook.com/cgpolice



www.twitter.com/casagrandepd



www.casagrandesilentwitness.com

Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter can be forwarded to the Crime Prevention Unit:

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Casa Grande, AZ 85122
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Silent Witness Anti-Crime Night

The Casa Grande Police Department and Silent Witness invite the whole family to attend Anti-Crime Night on Friday, October 4 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Carr McNatt Park, 1115 N. Brown Avenue.

Enjoy displays by local public safety organizations and fun games. Public safety vehicles and helicopters will also be on display for children to ride and learn more about how they are used during emergencies.