

# Stay Connected

## The CGPD Community Forum



Casa Grande Police Department – 373 East Val Vista Boulevard – (520) 421-8700

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### Chief's Message — Chief Mark McCrory

In recent months, there has been a concerning surge in teenage violence across our state, drawing significant public attention. Many citizens are understandably asking what measures law enforcement is taking to address this issue. Unfortunately, by the time law enforcement intervenes, it is often too late to prevent someone from becoming a victim of this senseless violence. While the response and investigation by police are crucial for providing justice to victims and their families, as well as apprehending suspects, the true prevention of these violent acts begins within the home. We understand that incarceration is not the sole solution to addressing teen violence. We cannot arrest our way out of this troubling trend.



As a parent myself, I understand the challenges of raising children in today's environment. Parenting is a substantial responsibility, and we strive to strike a balance between being overly involved ("helicopter" parenting) and allowing our children to develop autonomy. However, we cannot rely on others to fulfill our parental duties.

Parenting is a difficult undertaking in today's society and even a parent's best efforts are sometimes met with less than desirable results. Parents hold significant sway over their teenagers' behavior and attitudes, including their interactions with authority figures and others. Effective communication, setting clear expectations, and serving as positive role models play pivotal roles in shaping how teenagers respond to various situations, particularly those with the potential for violence. Engaging with teens, demonstrating interest, actively listening, and providing guidance build trust and respect, fostering an environment where violence is less likely to occur.

In today's digital age, vigilance is crucial both online and offline. Monitoring online activities and a teen's social circle helps mitigate exposure to negative influences. Recognizing early warning signs enables timely intervention to address underlying issues before they escalate into life-altering decisions.

Unfortunately, not all teens have access to supportive environments or positive role models. In such cases, community involvement becomes paramount. Schools, churches, local organizations, and youth services play crucial roles in offering

### CGPD Contacts

Emergency	911 (Area Code is 520)
Administration	421-8721
Animal Control	426-9300
Chaplain	421-8711 x6700
Crime Prevention	421-8711 x6760
Graffiti Abatement	518-5518
Community Service Officers	421-8700 Option 7
Public Info Officer	421-8711 x6760
Records	421-8711 x6651
Silent Witness	836-2100
Towing/Impound	421-8711 x6061
Volunteer Services	518-5518

## Chief's Message (Continued)

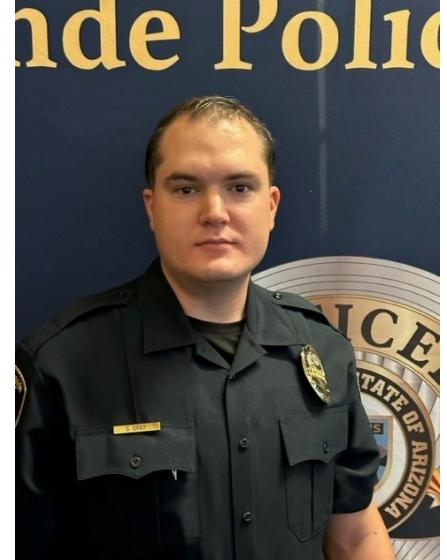
support and resources to teens and parents in need. Collaborative efforts, such as mentoring programs and counseling services, promote positive youth development and instill a sense of self-worth in teens who may lack stability in their lives. At CGPD, we offer programs like the Police Cadet program for individuals aged 14-20 and a summer academy, providing enriching activities while facilitating interactions with police officers.

Our task is undeniably challenging, but the message is clear: curbing teen violence begins at home and starts early. While this may not always happen, it's a responsibility that falls not only on law enforcement, educators, or community leaders, but on all adults. Each of us has the potential to make a difference in the lives of teens and preteens. Sometimes, it truly does take a village to positively influence a young person's life.

### Officer in Training — Officer Stephen Gray

My name is Officer Gray, and I am currently a police officer with the Casa Grande Police Department. Before I started my police journey, I spent 8.5 years in the United States Marine Corps. I graduated from the Gilbert Police Regional Academy in August 2023 and started field training in September 2023. I want to share my personal experience transitioning from a police recruit to a solo-capable officer. Graduating from the police academy was a pivotal point in my life; leaving the Marine Corps left me wondering if I had lost purpose. Now, being a police officer, I have that sense of purpose again, knowing I can help community members daily.

Starting field training as an Officer in Training (OIT) is an overwhelming, yet necessary, experience. You leave the safety of highly supervised scenarios in the academy and apply them to real-world calls for service under the supervision of a Field Training Officer (FTO). The FTO program is designed to let the FTO step away little by little as you develop until, eventually, you are capable of completing everyday work on your own.



The transition from OIT to solo-capable is a pivotal point in every officer's career that symbolizes an increase of responsibility and trust from not only the community but also fellow officers. It's a time for growth and honing individual leadership skills. At first, the transition was nerve-wracking, especially the first day, not knowing what that day would come to be. You quickly realize the training received in the academy and throughout the field training program has built you up to become a solo-capable officer. Becoming independent does not mark the end of the training mindset, and being an officer means you embody the eternal student mindset. Nobody knows everything, and when I got to my first squad on my own in December 2023, I saw every officer turn to each other for advice. I even had more senior officers come to me for advice on a call they hadn't been to, but I had.

Starting this profession on your own does not mean you are actually on your own. By embracing independence, upholding responsibility, cultivating leadership, adapting to dynamic environments, and continuing their development, officers can navigate this transition successfully and thrive in their roles.

## Welcome Our New Officers



On February 8th, Police Officers Joshua Samuel, Trey Giuffre, and Cody Naranjo graduated from the Police Academy. They are pictured at left with Deputy Chief Angel Leos and Sergeant Jeff Cardita.

Officer Malcom Buckner came to the CGPD from the Phoenix PD.



Please help us welcome them to the force.

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Brave Police Officers and Their Families

Dear Police Officers and Families,

In the midst of our busy lives, it's essential to pause and express our deepest gratitude to the brave men and women who selflessly serve and protect our communities. Today, we want to take a moment to let you know that you are remembered and appreciated.

To our dedicated police officers, your unwavering commitment to upholding the law and ensuring the safety of our neighborhoods does not go unnoticed. Your courage and resilience in the face of challenges inspire us all. We recognize the sacrifices you make daily to maintain the peace, and we are grateful for your tireless efforts.

Equally, to the families who stand by our officers, offering support and understanding, your role is invaluable. We understand that the commitment to law enforcement extends beyond the individual officer to the entire family. Your strength and sacrifice are appreciated more than words can convey.

During these times of uncertainty, your service shines as a beacon of hope and security. We want you to know that your dedication is not taken for granted, and we are thankful for the sacrifices you make to ensure the well-being of our communities.

Please take a moment to reflect on the positive impact you have on the lives of those you serve and protect. You are the backbone of our society, and your efforts are instrumental in creating a safer and more harmonious world for us all.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your service and commitment.

With sincere appreciation,

Dr. Paul Ellis, Chaplain

## Public Safety Day

Public Safety Day is almost here! Join us on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Paul Mason Sports Complex for a day of Police engagement and family fun! Each year, First Responders from all over Pinal County bring their coolest vehicles, tactical equipment, K9's, and swag to the biggest Public Safety event of the year! There will be several raffles and food trucks on site. Be sure to grab your event booth passport, get each square stamped, and return it to our On-Line Reporting booth for a chance to win your own home security/surveillance system sponsored by Lorrie Carter with State Farm Insurance!



★★★  
Saturday April 6, 2024  
10am-2pm

# Public Safety Day

Paul Mason Sports Complex

## Women in Policing – Officer Chelsi Ruiz



**Officer Ruiz**

In the field of law enforcement, the presence of women within police forces is not only a matter of diversity, but a strategic imperative. Recruiting women in policing is crucial for several reasons. First, it fosters diversity within police departments, bringing a range of perspectives and experiences to the force. This diversity can enhance problem-solving abilities, increase community trust, and improve overall decision-making processes.

Additionally, women in policing can serve as positive role models for young girls and women in the community. By seeing women excelling in law enforcement roles, it can inspire others to consider careers in policing, thereby increasing the pool of talented individuals entering the field.

However, recruiting women in policing comes with its challenges. Issues such as breaking stereotypes and misconceptions about the role of women in law enforcement, addressing concerns about work-life balance and physical requirements can deter women from pursuing or staying in law enforcement careers. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including targeted recruitment strategies, mentorship, and sharing real life experiences. With the right approach, these challenges can be overcome.

As women police officers, we have been working to encourage more women to join our ranks and hope to achieve that goal. We have dedicated ourselves to help with the recruitment process of women applicants through mentorship during and after the hiring process. We have shared our experiences and struggles we have endured during our career as women in the police field. We hope to continue to inspire more women and look forward to working with future applicants.

In conclusion, it is imperative that efforts continue to be made to attract, retain, and support women in policing for the betterment of law enforcement and society as a whole.

**Officers Ruiz and Mejia**



## Preparing for the Police Academy – POPAT

Physical fitness is crucial in police work as it directly impacts an officer's ability to perform duties effectively, respond swiftly to emergencies, and handle physically demanding situations. Maintaining fitness reduces the risk of injuries, enhances resilience to stress, and fosters a positive image of professionalism. Overall, prioritizing physical fitness is essential for officers to uphold high standards of service, protect themselves and others, and build trust within the community.

The Peace Officer Physical Aptitude Test (POPAT) is administered to cadets during the Police Academy and is also required for peace officer applicants applying for waivers of the Basic Peace Officer Course. For academy cadets, the POPAT will normally be administered during the fourth to sixth weeks of training. It shall also be administered prior to the conclusion of the physical conditioning program and/or the cadet's successful graduation from the academy.

The POPAT consists of 5 segments. Each segment of the POPAT is administered at a separate test station. All tests are timed. Except for the 500-Yard Run, each test is administered twice and the time for the fastest trial is used as the cadet's score.

### 1. 99-YARD OBSTACLE COURSE

Run a 99-yard obstacle course consisting of several sharp turns, a number of curb height obstacles, and a 34-inch-high obstacle that must be vaulted.



### 2. BODY DRAG

Lift and drag a 165-pound, lifelike dummy 32 feet.



### 3. CHAIN-LINK FENCE

Run five yards to a six-foot, chain-link fence, climb over fence, continue running another 25 yards.

### 4. SOLID FENCE CLIMB

Run five yards to a six-foot solid fence, climb over fence, continue running another 25 yards.



### 5. 500-YARD RUN

Run 500 yards (equivalent to one lap plus 60 yards of a standard running track).



One of the many keys to success when embarking on a career in law enforcement is to begin in good physical condition, with a plan to improve to excellent physical condition. Practicing this test will prepare you for that challenge. To learn more about joining the Casa Grande Police Department, visit [www.governmentjobs.com/careers/casagrandeaz](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/casagrandeaz).

## Graffiti — Volunteer Coordinator Wendy Lloyd



**Graffiti? or Criminal Damage?** The legal definition found in the Arizona Revised Statutes for Criminal Damage is: *A person commits criminal damage by recklessly drawing or inscribing a message, slogan, sign or symbol that is made on any public or private building, structure or surface, except the ground, and that is made without permission of the owner.*

(Source: ARS 13-1602A5)

**Who is responsible for removing graffiti?** According to the Casa Grande City Codes: *No owner or occupant of a building or structure within the City shall permit graffiti on the building or structure, or fail to eradicate graffiti from the building or structure, within ten business days of owner/occupant's receipt of notice of the existence of graffiti.*

(Source: Casa Grande City Code 8.32.030)

**How do we fight graffiti? - REPORT IT!** You can report graffiti in several ways:

1. Use the [SeeClickFix](#) app. You can download the app to your smart phone and use it to report graffiti, potholes, street light outages, etc.
2. Go to the City of Casa Grande website, click the Report a Concern icon, and submit a request. <https://casagrandeaz.gov/262/How-to-Report-an-Issue>
3. Call the Graffiti Abatement Coordinator for the Casa Grande Police Department, Wendy Lloyd, at 520-518-5518 and provide the location of the graffiti.



Report a Concern

## Citizen Police Academy

Several times a year, the Casa Grande Police Department hosts a Citizen Police Academy. Classes are held at the Public Safety Facility, located at 373 East Val Vista Boulevard, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for six weeks. Each session covers different aspects of the Police Department, such as Animal Control, Investigations, Patrol, K9, Records, and Property. The topics are presented by officers, command staff, or civilian employees from the various divisions, giving attendees the opportunity to learn from and interact with these specialists. A tour of the Police Facility is included.

We value our partnership with the Casa Grande community and this Academy provides a great opportunity to strengthen and nurture that relationship. It also lets citizens learn about great ways to volunteer with us. The Casa Grande Police Department Volunteer Unit is comprised of over 100 citizens from our community. These Volunteers assist us in our daily operations in areas such as office and clerical, fleet management, traffic control and community outreach, just to name a few.

If you are interested in attending the Academy or volunteering, please contact Wendy Lloyd at the Casa Grande Police Department at 520-518-5518.

## Casa Grande Police Department Honor Guard: Honoring Tradition, Serving Community

In every community, there are those who stand as symbols of honor, respect, and dedication. For Casa Grande, Arizona, one such emblem of unwavering commitment is the Casa Grande Police Department Honor Guard. With their distinguished presence and solemn duties, this elite group exemplifies the highest standards of service and reverence within our city.



### A Legacy of Honor:

Established with the mission to represent the Casa Grande Police Department with dignity and respect, the Honor Guard unit upholds a rich tradition deeply rooted in law enforcement history. Comprised of members who demonstrate exceptional professionalism and discipline, the unit pays homage to fallen officers, honors veterans, and represents the department at various community events.



### Paying Tribute:

One of the most solemn duties of the Casa Grande Police Department Honor Guard is paying tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. With precision and reverence, they perform ceremonial duties at memorial services, ensuring that fallen officers are honored with the utmost respect and dignity. Their presence offers solace to grieving families and serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made to protect and serve our community.

### Community Engagement:

Beyond their ceremonial responsibilities, the Honor Guard unit actively engages with the community, fostering positive relationships and building trust. They participate in parades, public events, and school programs, serving as ambassadors for the Casa Grande Police Department. Through their outreach efforts, they strive to connect with residents, inspire future generations, and promote a safer, more cohesive community.

### Get Involved:

If you're interested in supporting the Casa Grande Police Department Honor Guard or learning more about their impactful work, consider reaching out to the department or attending one of their public events. Your support and appreciation help to uphold the legacy of honor and service that defines our community.

The Casa Grande Police Department Honor Guard stands as a beacon of honor, respect, and dedication within our community. Through their solemn duties and unwavering commitment, they honor the legacy of fallen officers, engage with the community, and inspire us all to strive for excellence. Let us continue to support and recognize their invaluable contributions to the safety and well-being of Casa Grande.



## A Message from the Chaplain — Dr. Paul Ellis, Senior Chaplain



Are you in control of your actions? My reaction to the challenges I face may cause problems for myself and others.

My father has often said “It is not what happens to you, but how you react to it. You cannot control what others do, but you can control your reaction.”

It echoes the sentiment that our power lies in our response to the challenges and actions of others. By focusing on what we can control—our reactions—we empower ourselves to navigate life with resilience and composure.

### Life's Unpredictable Waves

Life is a vast ocean of events, waves of circumstance ebb and flow.

Some we summon, others arrive unbidden,

Yet amidst this ceaseless motion, our vessel remains our own.

We cannot command the wind, nor dictate the sea's design,

Others may stir the waters, but the helm is solely thine.

In the heart of the tempest, in the calm, and the strife,  
it is not the waves that define us, but the set of our sails through life.

For we are the masters of our ship, the captains of our soul,

Not in the silence of the sea, but in how we take our role.

So let the gales come forth, let the torrents rise and fall,

We'll navigate the storms of life, steadfast, through it all.

Remember, it's not the storm that matters, but how we sail through it.

### Dr. Paul Ellis, DMin, CCISM

President Elect, International Conference of Police Chaplains

## Don't Let Thieves Say “See Ya” in Your Kia — Officer Chris Mendez

Vehicle theft is a growing concern in the United States, with 727,829 vehicles stolen in 2022, according to the FBI. In 2023, Casa Grande reported 58 Kias and 43 Hyundais stolen. Kia has seen a nearly 70% increase in thefts from 2020 to 2023. Popular models like the Sorento and Sportage are among the top 10 most stolen vehicles. The vulnerability lies in the ignition system, easily bypassed by thieves in seconds. Kia and Hyundai owners should take precautions like parking in well-lit areas, using steering wheel locks, and installing GPS tracking devices. Taking these precautions can significantly reduce the risk of vehicles being stolen.

Kia and Hyundai are addressing the issue with software updates and new anti-theft technologies. They're also collaborating with law enforcement. By staying informed about recalls and updates, owners can enhance security. Vigilance and cooperation between owners, manufacturers, and law enforcement are crucial in combating vehicle theft.



# STRONGER UNITED

CASA GRANDE POLICE



Are you ready for a challenging career in Law Enforcement? Do you want to serve our community and safeguard our citizens?

Apply today!



\$50K+ during academy.

Full-Time annual salary range -  
\$59,199 - \$81,602



Caring  
Courageous  
Honest  
Accountable

Applicants must complete the Front Line National exam at [Casagrandeaz.gov/human-resources](http://Casagrandeaz.gov/human-resources).

PINAL COUNTY RESIDENTS  
EXAM COSTS WAIVED.





City of  
Casa Grande

# 2023-2024 Employee Benefits

## Benefits

### Cigna Medical\* (w/ Pharmacy) ([www.mycigna.com](http://www.mycigna.com))

- Base
  - EO: \$0.00, ES: \$120.17, EC: \$98.32, EF: \$240.33
- Buy-Up
  - EO: \$17.57, ES: \$157.06, EC: \$131.71, EF: \$296.57
- High Deductible w/ HSA
  - EO: \$0.00, ES: \$100.34, EC: \$82.10, EF: \$200.68
  - City contributes \$50 per pay period to HSA

### Cigna Dental\* (PPO: [www.mycigna.com](http://www.mycigna.com)) (HMO: [www.mycigna.com](http://www.mycigna.com))

- PPO - EO: \$0.00, ES: \$5.13, EC: \$8.17, EF: \$14.32
- HMO - EO: \$0.00, ES: \$2.75, EC: \$4.38, EF: \$7.67

### Cigna Vision\* ([www.mycigna.com](http://www.mycigna.com))

- EO: \$0.00, ES: \$1.17, EC: \$1.19, EF: \$2.59

### MDLIVE Virtual Care (Urgent Care/Primary Care Physician)

- Connect with doctors 24/7 via your computer/smart device.

\*All rates are employee's cost per 24 pay deductions.

### Sheakley Flexible Spending Accounts

- Pay for eligible medical, dental, vision, dependent care, and adoption assistance expenses with pre-tax dollars you contribute to your account.

### Short-Term Disability (STD)

- City pays for STD for all employees on the PTO plan.

### Long-Term Disability (LTD) (ASRS Members)

- Pays 66-2/3% of earnings after 6 months of disability.
- Mandatory contribution rate: 0.15%

### Life-Insurance (Paid by the City)

- Basic Term Life: 50% of employee's annual salary

### Additional Life & Disability Coverage

- Supplemental Life and Dependent Life can be purchased at group rates. All premiums paid by employee.

### Optional Supplements

- AFLAC, Colonial Life, LegalShield. All premiums paid by employee.

## Employee Assistance Program

### Jorgensen Brooks ([www.jorgensenbrooks.com/bgc-clinical-care](http://www.jorgensenbrooks.com/bgc-clinical-care))

- Counseling Sessions: 10 free per year for each employee and immediate family member in household.
- Available 24/7 for support, resources, and information on work/life solutions, dependent/elder care, college planning, wills, legal guidance, financial resources, funeral planning and more.

## Paid Time Off

### Holidays

- Nine (9) paid holidays per year
- One (1) floating holiday, use by December 31<sup>st</sup> annually

### Paid Time Off (PTO)

- All regular, full-time employees accrue PTO based on years of service.

### Guaranteed Sick Time (GST)

- All part-time non-benefited and seasonal employees shall earn 1 hour of GST for every 30 hours worked.

### Other Leaves: Military, Bereavement, Jury Duty

## Retirement

### Arizona State Retirement System ([ASRS](#))

- All full-time employees, not members of PSPRS.
- Mandatory participation. Employee/Employer Rate: 12.14%

### Public Safety Personnel Retirement System ([PSPRS](#))

- All full-time sworn Firefighters and Police Officers.
- Mandatory participation. Rate varies based on membership date.

### Deferred Compensation & Roth IRA ([MissionSquare Retirement](#))

- Save more for retirement with these optional programs.

## Education & Discounts

### Tuition Assistance Program

- Eligibility: At least one year of service with the City and not in an original probationary status, excludes PSPRS DROP program members. Subject to budget availability.

### The Employee Network Discounts ([Link](#))

- Discounts on theme park tickets, hotels, car rentals, home services, financial services and more.

Some student loans may qualify for the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. ([studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov))

## Well-Being Program

The Well-Being Program offers opportunities and supports employees in making healthy choices, contributing to work-life balance and building a healthy, productive work force. All benefit-eligible employees are encouraged to participate in various preventative screenings and fun challenges to improve your overall health and well-being.

## How to Connect With Us



[www.facebook.com/cgpolice](http://www.facebook.com/cgpolice)



[www.casagrandesilentwitness.com](http://www.casagrandesilentwitness.com)



[www.twitter.com/casagrandepd](http://www.twitter.com/casagrandepd)

### Stay Connected!

Casa Grande PD Has a Mobile App!



- Send Tips to CGPD
- Catalog Your Personal Property
- View Crime Map & Safety Tips
- See CGPD's Most Wanted
- Access Social Media, Useful Links, and Press Releases
- View CGPD Phone and Email Directory



For questions or comments regarding this newsletter, contact:

Officer Thomas Anderson  
Public Information Office  
(520) 421-8711 Ext 6760  
[tanderson@casagrandeaz.gov](mailto:tanderson@casagrandeaz.gov)

Casa Grande Police Department  
373 East Val Vista Boulevard  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

## Upcoming Events

Follow the Casa Grande Police Department on Facebook and X/Twitter to learn about future events.

**PUBLIC SAFETY DAY**  
Saturday, April 6th from 10 am to 2 pm at  
Paul Mason Sports Complex, 2525 N Pinal Avenue.

## CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

Please join us to learn about policing and our agency, from the inside perspective!

Our next academy will start April 16th. Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 — 9 pm for six weeks. The Academy is held at the Public Safety Facility at 373 East Val Vista Boulevard.

The deadline to sign up is April 9th.

For more information or to sign up for the next class, contact our coordinator, Wendy Lloyd, at (520) 518-5518 or [wlloyd@casagrandeaz.gov](mailto:wlloyd@casagrandeaz.gov).