

AHWATUKEE-FOOTHILLS Crime Prevention Taskforce Community Update

Volume V Issue 1

Summer 2000

Introducing... Councilman Greg Stanton

Congratulations on your recent Block Watch Award! There were numerous applicants this year and the selection of awardees was especially tough. Nonetheless, I am not surprised the Ahwatukee Crime Prevention Taskforce was selected, as it is a leader in fighting for safe schools, neighborhoods and streets.

As your new Councilperson, let me quickly introduce myself. On Feb. 23, I was appointed by the Phoenix City council to replace Sal DiCiccio, who resigned to run for Congress. I have been active in District 6 for many years, including serving on the Ahwatukee Foothills village planning committee. I have also participated in numerous other community activities, including the Phoenix Citizen's Police Academy, Valley Leadership, and Maricopa County Bar Association Committee on Children. Additionally, I volunteer my time for Valley Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, where I am a big brother mentor for Desmond, a 12 year-old sixth grader.

I am proud of the public safety infrastructure improvements for Ahwatukee Foothills in this year's city budget, including hiring additional police officers, purchasing radar trailers and tracking boxes to address neighborhood speeding concerns, and a new ladder company for the fire department. Additionally, I worked hard for increased library hours—Ironwood library will be open until 9 p.m. on school nights and we also provided additional hours and resources for senior programs.

Finally, as a neighborhood advocate, I am proud of my strong support from neighborhood leaders. I am eager to meet with all neighborhood groups to learn additional ways I can support improved quality of life in our community. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 602.262.7491 or e-mail at gstanton@ci.phoenix.az.us. Thanks. ♦

Greg Stanton



Councilman Greg Stanton

Next Quarterly Block Watch Leader Meeting

Attend our next Quarterly Block Watch Leader meeting, Tuesday, July 11th at 7 pm at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center, 5001 E. Cheyenne, just down the street from the Ahwatukee Post Office on 51st Street. This meeting will be co-sponsored by the Taskforce and Councilman Greg Stanton, who will be speaking about the upcoming bond committees, bond election, and new arrangements for a permanent police facility. ♦

Speaking of Police Facilities...

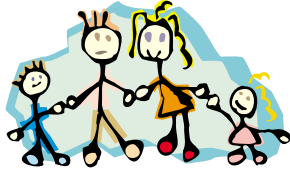
Since our community's police force has more than outgrown its current facility, the city is providing us with modular units that will be installed at 4110 E. Chandler Blvd. Our Area Manager, Lt. Germaine Barnes hopes to be in the new accommodations by the fall, and we all hope further that the Ahwatukee-Foothills Police will be in a *permanent* facility within two to three years, pending the vote on the upcoming bond election. This will be discussed at the 7/11 meeting. Be there! For further information, contact Officer Barnhart at 602.534.2892 or Peggy Schaefer at peggy@afinfo.org. ♦

Spotlight on Safety

Personal Safety Rules For Children

Family rules

Establishing a system of “family rules” about personal safety can be a good way to teach children to distinguish between safe and non-safe situations. Many families already have rules about bedtime, TV watching, chores, etc. By adopting rules about personal safety, parents can teach good habits through reinforcement and repetition without generating excessive fear. The following are suggestions for personal safety rules that can be incorporated into a family routine.



Inside Rules

- ▲ Kids should know their complete home address, telephone number including area code and parent’s first and last names.
- ▲ If kids are old enough to answer the phone, they should know how to call police 9-1-1. Practice with the receiver button taped down.
- ▲ Kids should be taught never to reveal personal (their name, school, age, etc.) or family information over the phone unless permission has been given by the parent.
- ▲ If kids are home alone and answer a phone call for the absent parent, they should say “he/she can’t come to the phone right now,” and take a message or tell the caller to try later—don’t make excuses, they sound phony.
- ▲ It’s OK not to answer the phone, or to work out a code (ring twice, hang up and call again) so a parent can check on a child that is home alone.
- ▲ Kids are old enough to answer the door when they are old enough to check on the identity of the person at the door without opening it.
- ▲ Kids should help their parents make sure doors that should be locked are locked.

Outside Rules

- ▲ Establish a system of accountability. Learn the full names of your kid’s friends, their parent’s names, addresses and phone numbers. Check to verify the

accuracy if you get the information from your kids. When your child is at a friend’s home, who else is present? Parents? Older kids? Other neighbors? No one?

- ▲ Know your child’s routes to and from school, play and errands. Insist they stick to the same route—no shortcuts! If you have to look for them, you will know where to begin.
- ▲ Kids should be taught never to go anywhere with anyone without parental permission. This includes getting permission a second time if plans change and calling to check before going from one friend’s home to another location.
- ▲ Kids should never play in isolated areas of parks or playgrounds, and should avoid public restrooms, building sites and dark or lonely streets.
- ▲ Teach kids alternatives; if they are bothered or followed on the playground, walking to a friend’s home, school or store, where do they go? Walk these common routes with your child and look for choices. Can they go back into the school, in a store or business (kids are reluctant to enter a strange store or business unless you give them permission,) into a fire station or approach someone doing yardwork?
- ▲ Knocking on the door of a stranger is a last resort. If they have no other choice they should look for a house with a light on (at night) or toys in the yard if possible and ask the homeowner to “please call the police, someone is bothering me,” but not to go inside the house.
- ▲ Kids best defenses are their voices and their legs. Teach them to run away from someone who is bothering them while yelling to attract as much attention as is possible.
- ▲ Teach kids not to approach cars that stop to ask for help. Most legitimate adults would not ask a young child for directions anyway. If the car follows them or the driver gets out they should run away and yell.



Continued on page 3

Spotlight on Safety

Speeding Program

In case you haven't already noticed, the presence of traffic officers has increased dramatically in the past month due to a crackdown by the officers assigned to the Ahwatukee-Foothills. Due to the growing problem of traffic collisions, enforcement efforts have now focused on speed and an increasing disregard for traffic signals and signs. The officers aren't doing this to increase their "coffers," but to make the community safer. In fact, the station is being inundated by grateful residents saying "Thank You!" for the stepped-up enforcement.

The traffic enforcement program will consist of:

- ▲ Public awareness, education and safety campaign
- ▲ Speed radar enforcement on high accident location streets and red light enforcement on intersections
- ▲ Traffic engineering changes to specific locations identified as problems

During 1999, there were 532 non-injury collisions, 324 injury collisions and 4 fatalities just in the Ahwatukee-Foothills area. The cost for vehicle repair, injuries and time lost from work is in the millions. Serious injuries and fatalities begin at about 35 Miles Per Hour.

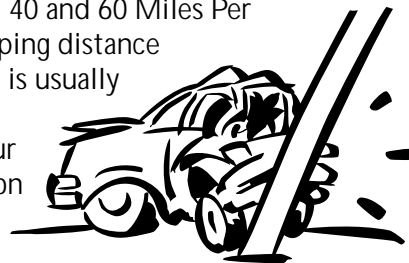


At 40 Miles Per Hour, your vehicle is traveling 59 feet per second. Normal reaction time is 1.5 seconds, so your vehicle travels 88 feet *before* you have a chance to apply your brakes. The average stopping distance from 40 MPH is 76 feet. Reaction time plus stopping distance from 40 MPH is 164 feet. (for comparison, the average left turn lane at an intersection is 150 feet)

At 50 Miles Per Hour, your vehicle is traveling 74 feet per second. Normal reaction time is 1.5 seconds, so your vehicle travels 110 feet *before* you have a chance to apply your brakes. The average stopping distance from 50 MPH is 119 feet. Reaction time plus stopping distance from 50 MPH is 229 feet.

At 60 Miles Per Hour, your vehicle is traveling 88 feet per second. Normal reaction time is 1.5 seconds, so your vehicle travels 132 feet before you have a chance to apply your brakes. The average stopping distance from 60 MPH is 171 feet. Reaction time plus stopping distance from 60 MPH is 304 feet. (for comparison, the distance from end zone to end zone on a football field is 300 feet)

The difference between 40 and 60 Miles Per Hour results in the stopping distance being **DOUBLED!** This is usually the difference between being able to control your vehicle to avoid a collision and becoming involved in a serious collision. ❖



Our Ahwatukee-Foothills Police Officers ask everyone to slow down, obey all traffic signals and signs, wear seat belts at all times, and use child restraints. They really do care about our safety.

Personal Safety Rules...

Continued from page 2

Bad Guy Rules

- ▲ Teach kids that "bad guys" can be anyone; society teaches kids that bad guys are always ugly, mean and scary, and look like monsters. Bad guys are almost always portrayed as strangers.
- ▲ Remember, a stranger is someone who is not known by the child. A friend of parents, a friend of the child's friend or a neighbor can be a stranger. And a stranger can be a good or a bad guy.
- ▲ Some bad guys act nice, friendly and attractive. Some bad guys play tricks on kids. Typical bad guy tricks include bribes (money, toys, games, or promises to those things) lies (your mother told me to pick you up at school), requests for help (my puppy ran away, can you help me find him?) or threats (if you don't come with me, I'll hurt your mom).
- ▲ Teach kids that a bad guy is someone who asks them to violate family rules, e.g. someone who says that the kid doesn't need permission to accompany them. ❖

This came from literature distributed by the Phoenix Police Department's Sex Crimes Unit.

Community in Action

A Quiz To Make Us Think

The following is something to make us stop and think.

Take this quiz:

- ▲ Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
- ▲ Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
- ▲ Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
- ▲ Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize.
- ▲ Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
- ▲ Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

- ▲ List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
- ▲ Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
- ▲ Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
- ▲ Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
- ▲ Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.
- ▲ Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier?

The lesson?

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They're the ones who care. ♦

False Alarm Program

During 1999, police officers responded to 3,581 alarm calls in the Ahwatukee-Foothills area. Each call is usually dispatched with two officers for a total of 7,162 units responding to these calls. At an average cost of \$85 per call, this amounts to \$303,790 spent during just the past year on alarm calls. The real problem is that 99.8% of those were false alarms and preventable. Those resources could be spent on burglary-theft and violent crime reduction.



The police efforts to reduce this problem will consist of personal visits to each location to inspect the alarm system and talk with the owner about proper use and maintenance. They will do this free of charge and also offer to train employees of businesses on the proper use of an alarm system and how to identify problems. For example, homeowners are surprised when they find out that something like a Mylar balloon can set off a motion detector and that batteries should be changed annually in the main unit. They should also know that their alarm company is required to come out and inspect alarms when more than two alarms per year can be traced to the equipment.

For further information about this program, contact Officer Barnhart or Sgt. Burke Roberts at the station, 602.534.6194. ♦

2000 G.A.I.N. Night

G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods—our version of National Night Out) has been set for Saturday, October 21st, 2000. The Phoenix Police Department invites all Block Watch groups to participate in this year's G.A.I.N. event to make this the best one ever. If you would like some assistance in further developing your neighborhood group, please call Officer Barnhart at 602.534.2892. ♦

Community in Action

Graffiti Problems??

Our Taskforce still has Graffiti X solvent for any neighborhood experiencing graffiti problems. It's best to tackle graffiti as soon as it's spotted. If you are in need of solvent, please contact Officer Barnhart at 602.534.2892. Be sure to read the directions, and we recommend that you use rubber gloves and LOTS of old rags or paper towels, as the solvent causes the graffiti paint to dissolve rapidly and generously. For further questions about Graffiti X, call Peggy Schaefer at peggy@afinfo.org. ❖

Registered Sex Offender Info

Concerned about the safety of your children in your neighborhood? Looking for information on Registered Sex Offenders? Check out The National Registered Sex Offender Internet Site at www.azsexoffender.com ❖

Thank You—Thank You—Thank You

The Taskforce would like to extend sincere gratitude to The Ahwatukee Recreation Center for hosting our quarterly meetings now, and to Dominoes Pizza on the Warner-Elliot Loop at Equestrian for donating those delicious pizzas for our April Quarterly meeting. It's businesses like yours that make Ahwatukee-Foothills such a great place to live. ❖

Hip-Hip-Hooray for Officer Barney!

Community Action Officer Robert Barnhart, better known as "Barney," has delivered some fantastic news. He had planned to retire next January (2001), but has decided to stay on for another two years! Barney will now be with us until July 2003! Hooray for Ahwatukee-Foothills! ❖



Get Well, John!

We are sending get well wishes to John McComish, President of the Ahwatukee-Foothills Chamber of Commerce. John had bypass surgery on May 13th, and is on the mend. John, we wish you a full and speedy recovery! ❖

Quick Graffiti Reference

Graffiti Busters 24-Hour Removal Hotline
602.495.7014

Graffiti Busters email
grafbusr@ci.phoenix.az.us

Free paint for graffiti removal
602.495.0323

Tools for neighborhood clean-ups
602.495.0323

Need a paint sprayer? (training provided)
602.495.0323

Graffiti in progress
9.1.1

Retail (non-access to spray painting by juveniles/violations)
602.261.8416

Vandal catching/reward program
602.262.7327 ❖

Acknowledgments

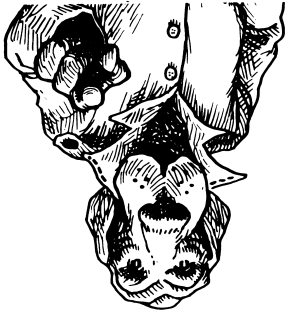
- ▲ Mary Conant
Taskforce Communications and Coordination
- ▲ Lisa Liddy, The Printed Page
Desktop Publishing and Editing
- ▲ Peggy Schaefer
Newsletter Editor, Feature Writing
- ▲ Peggy Schaefer, Nancy Hart-Manson
Communication Subcommittee
- ▲ Rene Rae
Illustration and Logo Design
- ▲ SRP
Block Watch Map Reproduction Costs
- ▲ Mail and More – 48th Street and Elliot
Donation of Post Office Box
- ▲ Ahwatukee Board of Management
Office Supplies, Copies and Postage
- ▲ International Minute Press of Ahwatukee
Printing
- ▲ Wells Fargo Bank
Checking Account
- ▲ Ahwatukee Recreation Center
Meeting Location Sponsor

Community E-mail Network

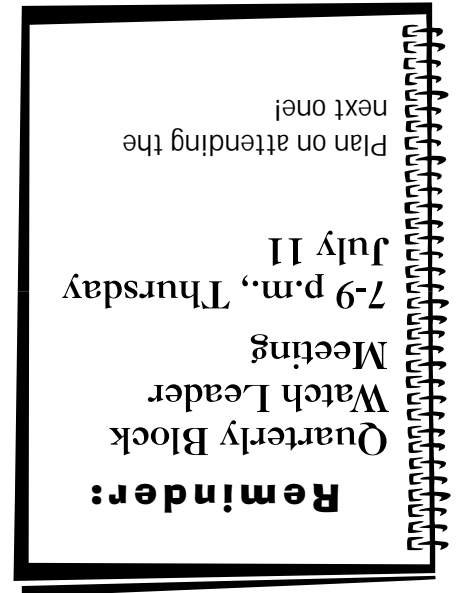
Announcing our community's push for an e-mail network—get on board

The Taskforce is in the process of implementing a new e-mail network with the Phoenix Police Department that will make it easier to access crime information for your own neighborhood with the click of a mouse. Over the next few months, we hope to have the system set up where you can log on to a specific site, find out your home's specific grid, and find out if any crimes have been reported in that area.

What we need from you is: your name, address, and e-mail address so we can put your information in our system to receive notifications from Lt. Barnes and our community officers. This takes "Block Watch" to a whole new dimension. All information submitted is strictly protected, and will not be passed on to any other sources. It would also help to advise us if you're already part of a current Block Watch or wish to start a new one. Perhaps your former Block Watch leader moved away and you're not sure what to do. Again, call Officer Barnhart at 602.534.2892 for information and send your e-mail information to conantfamily@prodigy.net, reference "Taskforce E-mail Network" in the subject line. ♦



In Partnership with the Phoenix Police Department



Ahwatukee-Foothills
Crime Prevention Taskforce



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