

AHWATUKEE-FOOTHILLS Crime Prevention Taskforce Community Update

Volume VI Issue 1

Summer 2001

Fire Services Increase in Ahwatukee Foothills

In an effort to reduce response times and increase public safety, several changes have been made in fire services for the community.

Among the most recent additions are a full-time ambulance and ladder truck that are now permanently located at Fire Station #38 at the Warner-Elliott Loop. With these increased services, firefighters can respond more quickly to emergencies because they no longer need to borrow resources from other parts of Phoenix or surrounding cities.

At Councilman Stanton's request, the City Council approved funds in the 2001-2002 budget to accelerate the hiring of firefighters for a new station to be located at 40th Street and Chandler Boulevard. The station is currently being designed and is scheduled to open in September 2001. ♦



Councilman Greg Stanton

Recap of April 10, 2001 Meeting

False Alarm Reduction Program Update

Sergeant Burke Roberts of the Phoenix Police, Mary Conant and Lisa Liddy of The Printed Page have designed a poster and a handout targeting the reduction of false alarm calls. The posters will be available for local businesses to display in their windows. The handouts will be given to Block Watch participants and to new homeowners through (hopefully) a partnership with local area realtors.

Also, through a new community outreach program, our area Patrol Officers will conduct a FREE Alarm System Inspection for you. If you or someone you know has an alarm system, please take advantage of this great opportunity to increase your education and to have your equipment checked.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved with these two programs, call Barney at 602-534-2892.

Watch Your Car Program

Sergeant George Brennan of the Phoenix Police spoke to the attendees about this exciting program aimed at reducing car thefts. The program is voluntary, whereby vehicle owners enroll their vehicles with the

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Coordinator's Corner

Hello, everyone! It's been a while since our last issue, so let's catch up. Peggy Schaefer and I have been very busy working on personal projects, and working "behind-the-scenes" on the new Taskforce website and with community issues such as the location for the new temporary Police Facility and the realization of a permanent Police facility. We also were involved in promoting the recent City of Phoenix Bond program.

We are proud to announce that on Wednesday, June 27, 2001, Ahwatukee was officially named as the location of one of the three permanent Neighborhood Police Stations to be built from the Phoenix Bond Program. The Phoenix City Council voted unanimously to approve the Police Department's recommendations. We have been working towards this day for SEVEN long years! Thank you to all the Taskforce members and other residents, who came to our meetings, wrote letters, made phone calls, supported our fundraisers, and volunteered your time for our many projects; your support has made all the difference. Thank you to our past city councilman, Sal DiCiccio and our Police Department for working with citizens to come up with

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Don't Buy That Card Just Yet...

Our very own Community Action Officer Robert Barnhart, better known as "Barney," has decided to stay on for another two years! He had planned to retire this past January (2001), but will now be with us until January 2004 due to a new Police department offering D.R.O.P. (Deferred Retirement Opportunity Program)! Hooray for Ahwatukee-Foothills! ♦

Recap of April 10 Meeting

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Arizona Automobile Theft Authority. The vehicle is then entered into the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) database and participants receive decals for their front and rear windows. By displaying the decals, vehicle owners convey to law enforcement officials that their vehicle is not usually in use between the hours of 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM, when the majority of auto thefts occur.

If a Police Officer witnesses the vehicle in operation between these hours, they have the right to stop the vehicle and verify its operation by the rightful owner.

Enrolling in the Watch Your Car program is free and easy! Simply contact the AATA by calling toll-free, 1-888-NO-THIEF or 1-888-668-4433 to receive an enrollment form. The vehicle owner then mails the completed form to the AATA at:

3737 North 7th Street, Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85014

The AATA will enroll the vehicle and mail the decals to the registered owner.

You can also enroll over the internet by going to www.aata.state.az.us

Go to this website for information on this program, as well as other fantastic information, such as how to protect yourself from purchasing a stolen vehicle.

(above info provided by The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority – AATA) ♦

Watch Your Car Program



Arizona Automobile Theft Authority

www.aata.state.az.us

Spotlight on Safety

Making Police Reports

Please call Crime Stop for non-emergency reports at 602-262-6151 or 911 for emergencies. Do not come to the Ahwatukee Foothills Police station to make a report. This facility is not staffed with officers to take reports – they are all out on the street responding to calls, except at shift change. If you need general information, please call Officer Barnhart at 602-534-2892 or make an appointment to talk with him in person. Don't feel singled out just because you are in Ahwatukee – all police facilities are set up the same way. All dispatching of officers is done from a central location via radio and none are stationed in a police facility to take reports. Persons seated at the desk inside the office work for either the Red Cross or the Parks and Recreation Department and have nothing to do with the Police Department.

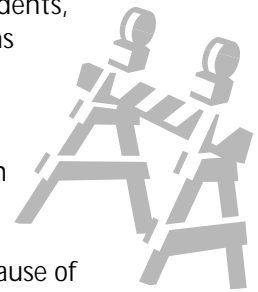
DO make a report on any crime that occurs and don't delay making the report. Police resources cannot be used to solve problems if we don't know about them. If you are a victim of a crime, report it to us as soon as you can. Many calls are handled over the telephone when you call Crime Stop. Officers are assigned to a telephone room to call back citizens to take reports. On some incidents, an officer will be sent to your home or business to take the report. ♦

Traffic Detours

There are times when traffic accidents, fires or other emergency situations require us to temporarily close or restrict traffic on a street. When these situations occur, please use PATIENCE and help us deal with the congestion. You cannot cut through a business parking lot to avoid the congestion – either because of an emergency situation or at any other time.

If you are using a business parking lot, you need to be a customer of the business.

When these situations occur, please understand that the normal traffic patterns have been changed and some roads may be temporarily closed. Please don't hold up traffic and ask officers directing traffic if you can go through the closed area – the answer is NO and you will have to be patient and find another way to your destination. We hear many times, "but officer, I HAVE to go that way." There are many other ways to get to your destination. ♦



News You Can Use

Change Of Address

When you move or change your name, Arizona requires that you notify the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) within 10 days of the new address or name. This is printed on the back of all Arizona driver licenses. There are three ways to notify them of this change. First, stop by any MVD office and fill out a change of address form. Second, call 255-0106, select Option 3. Third, write a letter to MVD listing your driver license number, name and license plate numbers for all vehicles you own. Whichever method you choose, it is recommended that you place a small label on the back of your driver license listing the new address so if it is found, we can get it back to you promptly. You may get a new driver license if you wish, but are not required to do so.

This requirement is important to you. It allows MVD to send registration renewals to your current address (they are not forwarded.) It also assists us in notifying your family should you ever be unconscious in a traffic collision, biking/hiking accident, etc. If we know where your current address is, we can send an officer or call so that your family members can be with you in a timely manner. This could have important benefits if you have medical conditions that emergency personnel should know. ♦

Vehicle Registration/Driver Licenses

How long do I have to get license plates and a drivers license after I move here?

Arizona has no grace period for either of these items. If you own, lease or rent a dwelling (house, apartment, etc.), are employed or put children in school, you are a resident and need Arizona vehicle registration and an Arizona drivers license. Both may be obtained in Chandler at 50 South Beck Avenue. Take Chandler Boulevard east across I-10, turn right on Beck Avenue. The facility is about 1 ½ blocks south of Chandler Boulevard. Take an Arizona proof of insurance card, your vehicle ownership documents and personal identification with you along with a checkbook or cash. Vehicle registration fees are based on vehicle value. Call 255-0106 and select Option 2 for further information.

But my out-of-state license plates don't expire until next year. Can't I just drive with them until they expire?

No, they are not valid in Arizona once you become an Arizona resident as described above. It's kind of like trying to use a Mervyn's credit card in a Sears store. ♦

Fireworks

It is illegal to possess, store, explode, etc. any fireworks (including sparklers) in Phoenix unless the user has a valid permit from the Fire Department. ♦

Selling Vehicles

Can I sell my vehicle on a dirt corner lot?

No. Phoenix City Code prohibits the selling of vehicles on any dirt lot—unless you own both the lot and the vehicle. Arizona traffic codes also prohibit the parking of any vehicle on any street or roadway for the purpose of sale. This includes the street in front of your house. Most commercial paved areas are posted for customer parking only and they can have your vehicle towed if you park it there for sale. The best place to sell it is an advertisement—you'll find it cheaper than a citation or towing bill. ♦

Laws Relating to Minors

What are parental responsibilities?

Parents are financially responsible for damage caused by their children up to \$10,000.

What are the hours for curfew in Phoenix?

- ▲ Age 15 and under – 10 PM to 5 AM every day
- ▲ Age 16 and 17 – Midnight to 5 AM

Juveniles are required to be at home during these hours unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult having custody or supervision of the juvenile or if the juvenile is on an emergency errand or legitimate business with their parent's consent. ♦

Go-Peds/Dirt Bikes/ATC's

Where can go-peds be ridden?

In the street, but they must obey traffic laws pertaining to stop signs, riding on the correct side of the street, etc. They cannot be ridden on a sidewalk.

Where can a dirt bike or ATC be ridden?

Unless the vehicle is "street legal" [registered, lights, mirrors, etc.], it cannot be ridden on the street. These vehicles cannot be ridden on any dirt lot within the City of Phoenix at any time for any purpose. Yes, this severely limits where these can be operated. It is best to check with other surrounding cities to find out what their local laws are regarding these types of vehicles before you ride them in that city. Remember, the Gila Indian Reservation has strict trespassing ordinances governing their property. ♦

Order Of Protection

Where can I get an Order of Protection?

These are available from any court in Arizona. This includes a municipal court, Justice Court or Superior Court. They do not have to be obtained from the court with jurisdiction over the area, so you can go to the Phoenix, Tempe, Chandler,

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Community in Action

2001 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 20th, from noon to five p.m. 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.

This year, neighborhoods in each squad area are being asked if they would host one main GAIN event in their community, separate from any individual events being held within neighborhoods. Police resources such as Helicopter, K-9 unit, dignitaries, etc. would be present at the "main events" city-wide, instead of running from event-to-event on GAIN day. Police resources would be available to more people if you have a larger event.

If you would like some assistance in further developing your neighborhood group or planning a Block Watch or GAIN event, please call Officer Barnhart at 602.534.2892. ❖

Next Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly Block Watch Leader meeting is set for Tuesday, July 10th at 7 p.m. at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center, 5001 E. Cheyenne Drive (just down from Ahwatukee Post Office). On the agenda will be a discussion regarding this October's GAIN (Getting Arizona Involved in their Neighborhoods) event. Plan to attend! ❖

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Gilbert municipal courts as well as the Justice Courts. These are all listed in the telephone book white pages up front in the blue section. Justice Courts and Superior Court are under the Maricopa County section.

Once the order has been obtained, it must be served on the other party before it is valid. You may use a process server or a police officer. There is a charge for service of these documents.

Domestic Disputes

When domestic disputes occur, they should be reported if violence is involved or injuries occur. If you have an Order of Protection in place, report all violations so that we can document them to assist you in resolving the situation.

Civil Disputes

Please call us before the situation escalates into violence, threats, etc. Many of these situations can be resolved if all the parties can have a discussion of the issues. We will stand by to ensure that there are no threats or physical violence while the parties discuss the issues. There may not be a resolution, but at least all the parties will be given an opportunity to have their say and listen to the other perspectives. Then the parties can choose to seek redress through a court or other civil means if they choose. ❖

Coordinator's Corner

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creative solutions to our community's problems. Also, thank you to our current city councilman, Greg Stanton, for "picking up the ball mid-game and running with it" in terms of his support of our group and our community's drive for a permanent Police Facility.

This is by no means the end of our drive; there are still decisions to be made with regards to where the station will be located, and if the time frame for completion can be stepped up from the year 2004. Peggy and I are planning to stay involved with this process, and to continue to promote Block Watch and Taskforce membership at community events. We are exploring co-hosting a community G.A.I.N. Family Fun Festival in October with the Phoenix Parks and Rec. and Police Departments that would provide a free day of fun and games for the whole family. Please continue to get involved whenever and wherever you can; come to the meetings, volunteer your time for events, cultivate Block Watch with your neighbors. By staying involved each of us truly can make a difference for our community. ❖

Mary Conant

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- ▲ International Minute Press of Ahwatukee
Printing
- ▲ Wells Fargo Bank
Checking Account
- ▲ Ahwatukee Recreation Center
Meeting Location Sponsor

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 the National Registered Sex Offender Internet Site at www.azsexoffender.com ♦

Grant Funding

Once again, the Taskforce has been awarded grant funding from the City of Phoenix Prop 301 Neighborhood Block Watch Grant program. This year's grant, starting in July of 2001 and totaling \$7300, will be used for such items as newsletter publication, neighborhood JDO program, office supplies, etc. ♦

Life Sentence

A Program on Making Better Choices

The goal of Life Sentence is to educate youth, parents, and the public of the devastating effects of violence. In the presentation on "Choices", the founders, Debbie Parnham and Loretta Winn, share their stories in a very graphic and powerful way. They bring reality to the youth of today in a way they can understand, from a mother's heart.

Debbie's son, Brent, was shot in a senseless drive-by shooting. He lived 7 days after the attack and died on December 12, 1992.

Loretta's son, Ryan, was murdered on July 4, 1995. He was in a fist fight and the other teen had a gun!

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▲ Topics of Discussion | ▲ Violence |
| ▲ Drugs & Alcohol | ▲ Anger Management |
| ▲ Sexual Abuse | ▲ Weapons |
| ▲ Forgiveness | ▲ Hope |
| ▲ Inner Peace | ▲ A New Sense of Self-Control |
| ▲ Making Better Choices | ▲ Victim's Rights |

For more information or to make a donation, contact lifesentence@qwest.net or visit www.lifesentence.org. ♦

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 ♦

New Static Cling Decals Available

Barney now has a revised version of the static cling decals available for you and your neighbors. The decals list our website address and phone numbers to CRIMESTOP, Graffiti Busters (phone and cellular numbers), Silent Witness, as well as our Ahwatukee- Foothills Community Action Line.

Stop by and get your supply! ♦

**Ahwatukee-Foothills
Crime Prevention
Taskforce**

911

Emergencies
(including graffiti in progress)

602-262-6151

CRIMESTOP
(for police non-emergencies)

602-534-2892

Community Action Line,
Ahwatukee Station
(for general police and city information)

602-495-7014

Graffiti Busters Hotline
(to report location of graffiti)
or #OFF (#633)
for Cellular Phone Users

602-261-8600

Silent Witness

www.afinfo.org

Be Alert!

It seems like summer just got here, but school will be starting up before we know it.



School Zones

School zones are *always* 15 MPH while the signs are out. The 15 MPH starts at the first sign you approach. There is also no passing in a school zone. Passing is different in a school zone than on a regular street. If your bumper goes beyond the bumper of the vehicle next to you in a school zone, you have passed the vehicle. The slowest vehicle in the school zone sets the pace (unfortunately.) The reason for this is driver visibility to the left and right and nobody wants you to miss a child coming off of the sidewalk.

If the crosswalk is occupied by anybody, you must stop and remain stopped until the pedestrian reaches the opposite sidewalk. Once your vehicle goes beyond the crosswalk, you may resume your speed – you don't have to wait until you get near the sign for the traffic in the opposite direction.

School Buses

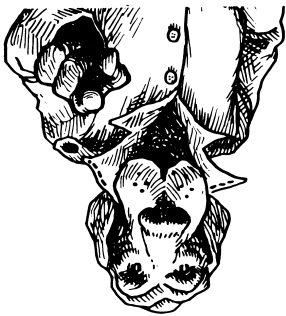
When a school bus is stopped with the "STOP" sign extended (with or without the flashing lights on the Stop sign) and flashing red lights on top, all traffic **IN BOTH DIRECTIONS** must stop until the sign is retracted. This includes traffic on a roadway with a planted median. ♦

Updates for E-mail

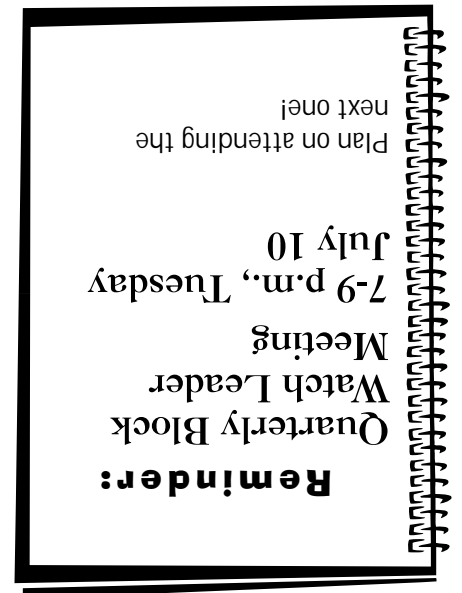
Get in touch, stay in touch, keep informed. Send your email address to Peggy Schaefer at peggy@afinfo.org. Also let Peggy know of crime information and concerns taking place in your neighborhood that you would like others to be aware of (such as scams, break-ins, suspicious vehicles in the area, etc.) We'll pass the info around to other on-line taskforce members. ♦

Check out our Website!

Check us out at www.afinfo.org. Take a look at the links... ♦



In Partnership with the Phoenix Police Department



4747 East Elliot Road, Suite 29-408, Phoenix, Arizona 85044

**Ahwatukee-Foothills
Crime Prevention Taskforce**

