

CACTUS PARK PRECINCT NEWSLETTER AND EVENT SCHEDULE

PNP New Member Training

Offered every other month, next training is:
July 19, 2008 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.
FOP Lodge #2
12851 N 19th Avenue
Call (602) 495-0440 for information

Cactus Park PNP Meeting

Information Line: (602)534-0430
Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month (**No meeting in July or December**)
Next meeting is August 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m Location to be announced

Cactus Park Community Alliance

July 23, 2008 at 6:45 p.m.
3581 W. Northern
Manzanita Senior Center
Information Line: (602) 534-2424 ext.9099

Block Watch Advisory Board

July 22, 2008 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
1150 S. 7th Avenue
Hope VI
Information Line: (602) 534-2424 ext.4056

Check Blight Online **Entered by CAO Karen Freund**

Did you know that you can check the status of an open blight case online?
Just visit phoenix.gov/NSD and click on "Check on the Status of a Case." You can check by specific address or by street name.

Also, you can report blight conditions and problems while you are there or by sending an email to blight@phoenix.gov.

Quick Graffiti Reference
Entered by CAO Karen Freund

E-mail: graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov

Graffiti Busters 24-Hour Removal Hotline.....	602-495-7014
Cellular Phone Users dial FREE.....	#GONE (#4663)
Graffiti in progress.....	9-1-1
Send site locations using email.....	graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov
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
Retail (non-access to paints by juveniles).....	602-262-7844
Vandal Catching/Reward Program.....	602-262-7327

Off Road Vehicles
By Community Action Officer Karen Freund

Have you taken a drive up I-17 lately? Isn't it amazing how many new communities are being built in what used to be wide open desert? I am certain that more than just a few parents were excited when they bought homes in these areas, thinking they and their children would have a place to ride their off-road vehicles. Unfortunately, this type of activity is illegal.

Phoenix City Code 36-62 states that "no person shall operate a vehicle on or across any portion of a vacant lot other than on an established dust-proof driveway." This includes the desert, mountain preserve, and wash areas. (For further clarification, quads, golf carts, dirt bikes, etc. are considered motorized vehicles.) The fine for this code is \$127.00 per violation. There are also additional charges if the vehicle is unregistered (\$552.00), uninsured (\$462.00 - \$1362.00), and the driver is unlicensed (\$97.00). So far, we're up to a minimum total of \$1370.00, and we haven't even taken into consideration a day off from work for a court date or to accompany your child to court. There is also the possibility of criminal trespassing charges. Are you or your child driving across your own property, or does it belong to someone else? Would you want people driving across your property and causing damage?

Please keep in mind, as well, any one operating a vehicle on a city street, needs to be a licensed driver with the proper endorsements (i.e., motorcycle), vehicle registration, and insurance. In addition, in order to be "street legal", you are required to have eye protection, helmet (children), mirror, head lamp, tail light, etc.

So, please enjoy your new homes and the surrounding desert area, but enjoy it as a pedestrian and not on a motorized vehicle. If you are looking for a place to ride you will need to leave the city limits of Phoenix, which now extends up to just past New River Road.

SECURING YOUR HOME WHILE ON VACATION

By Community Action Officer Linda Johnston

Vacation time is here and our minds begin turning to trips to wonderful places. But wait – will you home be safe while you're off enjoying yourself somewhere else? Empty houses make tempting targets for bad guys. Here are a few suggestions to reduce your chances of being victimized by a burglar while you're on vacation:

- Put good lock on all doors and windows and make sure they're engaged before you leave.
- Have a neighbor keep an eye on the house. Leave your destination address and a phone number with them so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- DO NOT leave keys hidden anywhere outside of your home. Burglars know all the places to look.
- Stop all regular deliveries i.e., mail, newspapers, etc. or arrange to have them picked up each day.
- If you're going to be gone for an extended period of time, have someone take care of the yard so it keeps the "lived-in" look.
- Put timers on lights, TV's, and radios that will go on and off at varying times. This disguises the fact that no one's home.
- Turn the ringer off on your phone so a burglar lurking won't be alerted by an unanswered phone.
- Don't announce your absence on your answering machine message.
- Keep blinds and curtains in a normal position or have a neighbor go in to open & close them each day, if that's normal.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows and doors leading into the house from the garage. Have a neighbor occasionally park the car at your house in a visible location. If you leave vehicles parked outside while your gone, have someone move them every once in awhile, making it appear they are being used.
- Secure all storage sheds, attic entrances and gates.
- Call your local police precinct and ask for a patrol watch.

With a few extra precautions, you should be able to have a fun, relaxing vacation. So enjoy yourself this summer!