

Phoenix Police Department – Meeting at North Ranch Elementary School –

February 26, 2010 7:00-9:00 PM

Visiting specialists: Prosecution Specialist Maria Uhing, Attorney Nathan Watts, Prosecution Specialist Jacob Steinbach, Officer Sgt. Santos Robles (602) 534-1745, Community Prosecutor Will Gonzalez, Prosecutor Liz Sugges, and Officer Gonzalez.

Advice and Tips to keep safe, and lower your risks for burglaries:

Keep your car locked and cleaned out of all items, especially of all valuables. Keep a copy of your registration and insurance on your person, not in your car. OR, keep copies in your car that have your address info removed or blacked out.

The house burglary rate is actually the same rate as last year. There are more car thefts in this area than last year. Since this is a large zip code range, the information posted on internet for this zip code may show an inflated number, but this neighborhood is a safe one, and has a relatively low rate of crime.

Call Crime Stop if you see anything in your neighborhood that looks suspicious or not normal. That number is (602)262-6151. Keep it in your phone directory (cell also). OR call 911.

Desert Horizon Precinct: (602) 495-5006

Graffiti Hotline: (602)262-7327

Barking Dog Hotline: (602)262-6466

Speeding Complaint Line: (602) 534-7733

Neighborhood Services (unsightly conditions): (602)262-7844

Our area is Area 62. Our neighboring Areas are 61 and 63. You can see your area on the website grid.

Our area is from: Bell to Greenway from 56th to 64th.

The Drug Complaint Line for Area 62 is (602) 534 -1893. For surrounding Area 63 use (602)534-1895 and for Area 61 use (602)534-7119.

Please use our website to check crimes on the grid system in your area.

The Website is: www.cityofphoenix.org/POLICE/

For Identity Theft Prevention, Burglary Prevention, and Vacation Security:

www.cityofphoenix.org/POLICE/preven1.html

For information on Block Watch and Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol:

www.cityofphoenix.org/POLICE/compro1.html

For Interactive Crime Statistics: www.cityofphoenix.org/APPINTRO/crimesta.html

Arizona Attorney General Crime Website: www.crimefreeze.com

Identity Theft Websites: State of Arizona: www.endIDtheft.com

Federal Government: www.ftc.gov/idtheft

Auto Theft Prevention Website: www.azwatchyourcar.com

Residential Burglaries are most frequently targeted at mid-day and mid-week, usually Tuesdays through Thursdays. There is no “crime wave” happening now. The street officers take a report and give it to the detectives who then work on the case. They will work it up to find clues and similarities against other related crimes in the area to try to solve the crime.

What can we do to prevent burglaries in our neighborhoods? This area has a very low amount of Block Watch groups. ***Block Watch groups are a very effective way to prevent crime in your neighborhood***. It is a good idea to assemble a group and become active in it. Cruise your neighboring streets and get to know the homes, people, cars, and normal happenings around you.

Lock your windows. Use the small twist locks that fit over the window inside. You can get them at Home Depot for very low cost, and they are very effective.

Get to know your neighbors and speak with them often. Change your daily schedules somewhat so you do not have an obvious pattern of when you come and go. Communicate with neighbors about your where-bouts and any strange happenings in the area.

Property crimes are increasing all over the metro area of Phoenix. The economy is perhaps driving this. Crime in your area will happen; it is just a matter of when. So, we all need to prepare for it better. This is why Block Watch groups are helpful, as long as they are active.

Crimes are usually committed by people who live in your own area. Often they are teens, or other opportunists. Vehicle break-ins usually happen at night, and homes are broken into usually in the daytime. Don't open your door for anyone. If you do not know the person, ***yell*** from inside for them to “Go Away”. At least then they know you are home, and are not interested. They will go next door.

Make your car “off limits”. Make sure it is empty of all contents, especially valuables. Arm it, lock it in the garage at night, and lock it up inside the garage. Never leave keys in it. Lock your garage doors, and bolt them. Shut the power off to the garage door when not in use.

Lighting is one of the cheapest and most effective ways to keep your home safe from burglary. Keep the lights ON in the front and back of your home all night long. Get key-locks with bolts that are on the more expensive end of pricing. Use metal doors, and have better bolts. They work best. Doors that are

made of wood that have windows in them or side panels of windows are easy targets because the glass can easily be broken and access is then easily made inside.

Get your house armed with a house alarm. Make sure the alarm is very loud. It also needs to have “glass breakage protection”, and it’s a good idea to also have motion detection inside.

Keep your car locked and cleaned out of all items, especially of all valuables. Keep a copy of your registration and insurance on your person, not in your car. OR, hide your copies, or keep copies in your car that have your address info removed or blacked out. Do not put the copies in the glove compartment. It is the most obvious place and burglars look for them there first. Keep your garage door opener on your person (in your purse or your pocket), **not** in your car where they can steal it and use it to break into your home. If you see something unusual, the police officers need you to be the eyes and ears for them, to give them valuable information. Be ready to give your telephone # to the police and be ready to give more additional information if a crime report is made. Jot down vehicle info such as license plate numbers, year, make, model, color of a car. Pay attention to people, cars, etc. that do NOT belong in the area, and report unusual events. Report them to Crime Stop.

Mail theft is very high right now. Opportunists are seeking mail so they can make identity thefts. Shred your mail or documents that have your name, address, credit card info, etc.

Tips To lower the interest in a break-ins: Break down large boxes (for appliances or large electronics) before putting them into the recycle bin for garbage removal. Inventory all your major appliances and electronic devices in your home. Take down all the serial numbers of all your electronic items and keep those numbers in a safe place (lock box at bank). Video tape each room to show the contents of each room. Stand in the center of each room and video tape it entirely. Keep the tape in the lockbox at the bank. Take photos of each individual piece of jewelry you own, and keep the copy of it in the safe box at the bank. Put a padlock on the outside electric power box of your home. Keep copies of all your credit cards (front and back) in the safe box at the bank. Move your garbage and recycle bins up away from the curb as quickly as you can after pick-up. This lets people know the home is occupied and cared for. Have a neighbor do it for you if you are away, or if you are at work all day.

More Tips: Look at the front of your house. Ask yourself: Are there any easy hiding places? Are there any dark areas or concealment areas? Keep trees and bushes well trimmed and low, so someone cannot hide in them. Fix areas that need more lighting, and leave lights on front and back all night long. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. Outside lights are the biggest deterrent to theft at night. Put them on timers so they automatically go on. Have lights on in your home. Use timers, and alternate them over time. Put locks on your gates. Use padlocks if you do not have bolts or keyed locks on them. This makes entering and exiting your property more difficult, and provides more layers of security. Are your front doors solid? Do you have solid bolts and good locks? Are your windows secured with locks? Make sure they are keyed on both sides. You may need another bolt above the lock if necessary. It is an inexpensive way to add layers of security to your home.

Teach your kids to NEVER open the door to anyone. Do you have a striker plate on your door? You should have 3-6 inch long screws to secure the doors effectively. Make sure the alarm has glass breakage coverage, and motion sensors.

Get a Fireproof Safe: Keep important documents in this safe, not necessarily valuables that should stay in a bank lock box.

Video cameras/ surveillance: If you decide to get video cameras, be sure to invest in equipment that has good resolution so that you can capture a good image. Otherwise it's a waste of your efforts.

Consider leaving music or TV on inside your home to make noise. This can help deter a burglar.

Know your teen's friends. Keep watch over their email and cell phone activity. Know their friend's friends. Often teens' friends are the violators of residential thefts, ID theft, car theft, etc.

Block Watch Information Sheet

Telephone Numbers

- Crime Stop: (602)262-6151
- Desert Horizon Precinct: (602)495-5006
- Graffiti Hotline: (602)262-7327
- Barking Dog Hotline: (602)262-6466
- Drug Complaint Lines
 - 63 area: (602)534-1895
 - 62 area: (602)534-1893
 - 61 area: (602)534-7119
- Speeding Complaint Line: (602)534-7733
- Neighborhood Services (unsightly conditions): (602)262-7844

Websites

- Phoenix Police Website: www.cityofphoenix.org/POLICE/
 - Information on Identity Theft, Burglary Prevention, and Vacation Security
www.cityofphoenix.org/POLICE/preven1.html
 - Information on Block Watch and Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol
www.cityofphoenix.org/POLICE/compro1.html
- Interactive Crime Statistics:
www.cityofphoenix.org/APPINTRO/crimesta.html
- Arizona Attorney General Crime Website: www.crimefreeaz.com
- Identity Theft Websites:
 - State of Arizona: www.endIDtheft.com
 - Federal Government: www.ftc.gov/idtheft
- Auto Theft Prevention Website: www.azwatchyourcar.com

Watch your car.com