

CACTUS PARK COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENT SCHEDULE

PNP New Member Training

Offered every other month, next training is:
09/16/06 7:45 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.
4420 N. 51st Ave
Community Center
Call (602) 534-8106 for information

Cactus Park PNP Meeting

Information Line: (602)534-8106
Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month (**No meeting in December**)
Next meeting is August 10, 2006 at 3435 W Pinnacle Peak Rd. at 7p.m.

Cactus Park Community Alliance

08/23/06 at 6:45 p.m.
2001 W. Wahalla Ln.
Deer Valley Community Center
Information Line: (602) 534-2424 ext.9099

Block Watch Advisory Board

08/22/06 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
1102 W. Adams St.
PLEA Office
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

TERRY GODDARD INTRODUCES INTERNET PROGRAM TO FIGHT AUTO THEFT

(Phoenix, Ariz. - July 20, 2006) Is there an abandoned or suspicious car in your neighborhood? Thinking of buying a used car and want to make sure it isn't stolen?

Attorney General Terry Goddard today announced a new Internet service that enables citizens to type into their computers a license plate number or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to find out immediately if a car has been stolen.

Citizens can access the service at www.theftaz.azag.gov . In addition to computers, cell phones that have Internet access can also be used to check a vehicles status.

This service can multiply by many thousands the number of eyes looking for stolen cars and help reduce auto theft in Arizona, Goddard said. Citizens now have an easy way to assist law enforcement. This Internet program quickly determines if a vehicle has been reported stolen, and if it has, directs them to contact the appropriate police agency.

For the past several years, Arizona has ranked among the top five states with the highest number of car thefts in the country. In 2004, the most recent year with complete data, Arizona ranked No. 4 in the nation for the number of vehicle thefts and was second only to Nevada in the vehicle theft rate per 100,000 residents.

A vehicle theft occurs about every 10 minutes in Arizona. The states highly mobile population and its proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border have contributed significantly to its high theft rate. Sport utility vehicles and large pickup trucks are often targeted for use in drug or human smuggling.

Through the use of this technology, we welcome the help of citizens in combating the vehicle theft problem in Arizona, said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The auto theft Web site works like this: Once citizens access the page, they are asked to enter either a vehicles license plate number or VIN. When they click on Submit Search, a report will come back within seconds stating whether the car has been reported stolen. No other information about the vehicle, such as the owner's name, is provided.

If the car has been reported stolen, the consumer is directed to the right police agency. Citizens are asked to call the responsible police department and notify them when a stolen vehicle is located. Stolen vehicle data will be updated twice daily in the system. The new Web site can be especially helpful for neighborhood block watch groups and security guards.

The auto theft system also stands to benefit Mexican law enforcement agencies. Instead of having to take several steps to identify stolen U.S. vehicles in Mexico, they will be able to learn instantly whether a vehicle has been reported stolen in Arizona.

Arizona becomes only the second state in the country with an Internet service that can be used by citizens to determine if a vehicle has been stolen. Florida has a similar system in operation.

The auto theft page can also be accessed through links on the Web sites of the Attorney Generals Office (www.azag.gov), the Department of Public Safety (www.azdps.gov) and the Arizona Auto Theft Authority (www.aata.state.az.us)

"The Arizona Auto Theft Authority is pleased to support and partner with the Arizona Attorney General's Office to promote this Web site as another tool available to Arizona residents to protect themselves from possible consumer fraud when purchasing a used vehicle and as a mechanism for notifying law enforcement of suspicious and/or stolen vehicles, said Enrique Cantu, Director of the Arizona Auto Theft Authority.

“Phishing” for Victims

By CAO Karen Freund

The Valley is being targeted by “Phishing” scammers. These are people who will “bait” you by either mailing you an official looking letter or leaving a phone message about some irregularity with your bank account. Once you receive this call or letter, your panic and anger allows them to take advantage of you. They will ask you to verify your account number, your social security number, and/or your date of birth. In your urgency to clear up the matter, you will give them this information. Now they have “caught the fish” and have what they need to access your account, open a credit card account, or otherwise steal your identity.

The problem with this scheme is it is very effective. Most major banks will call you when they notice something irregular with your account. The number the schemers leave you will be answered in an official manner making you think you are calling a legitimate operation. Do not be fooled. If you receive one of these calls, look the phone number up for the bank on one of your statements or in the phone book. If this is an actual bank call, they will already have your information and will not require you to give it to them over the phone. If this is a “phishing” scheme, call the actual bank and make them aware of what happened. Additionally, you can report the fraud to the Arizona Telemarketing Task Force 602-650-3333 or 1-800-279-8300. Be sure to also contact the Attorney Generals Office at www.azag.org and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at www.ftc.gov.

Never give your personal information over the phone or Internet until you are satisfied they are making a legitimate request. Don't allow yourself to become a victim!!