

## **CACTUS PARK PRECINCT NEWSLETTER AND EVENT SCHEDULE**

### **PNP New Member Training**

Offered every other month, next training is:  
December 6, 2008 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.  
FOP Lodge #2  
12851 N 19<sup>th</sup> 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**)  
Location to be announced

### **Cactus Park Community Alliance**

November 26, 2008 at 6:45 p.m.  
No meeting  
Information Line: (602) 534-2424 ext.9099

### **Block Watch Advisory Board**

November 25, 2008 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.  
Location to be announced  
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](http://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](mailto:blight@phoenix.gov).

**Quick Graffiti Reference**  
**Entered by CAO Karen Freund**

E-mail: [graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov](mailto: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.....	<a href="mailto:graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov">graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov</a>
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

**HOLIDAY PRECAUTIONS**  
**By CAO Karen Freund**

It's hard to believe that once again the holiday season is upon us. It's time to plan holiday parties and dinners, go shopping, put up the Christmas decorations, bake cookies, visit with friends and family, and find your car was broken into and all the Christmas presents taken...whoops, sorry about that, but someone has to do a reality check.

Even though this should be a time of giving, we really don't want to be giving our things away to criminals. However this is, in effect, exactly what we're doing every time we leave possessions in our cars, leave our cars and homes unlocked, leave our garage doors open, our purses unattended in the shopping cart, forget to shred documents with personal information, etc., etc. We must not allow ourselves to become victims. We must be aware of our surroundings at all times. Remember to have your keys ready when you walk up to your car in the parking lot. The time you spend fumbling around in your purse looking for your keys, distracts you long enough to give the bad guy time to run up, grab your purse, and your keys, jump into your car and take off.

While out shopping, once you've made your purchases and you're on your way to the next store, make sure your packages are in the trunk or out of view. You make it too tempting for someone walking by to break out your car window and take your items. You do the same thing when you leave your garage door open, making it easy for someone to walk off with your tools, lawn equipment, the purse or wallet you left in the unlocked car, or even the car itself with the keys still in it.

Times are tough, the economy's bad, and the holidays are right around the corner. Some people, not necessarily your typical criminals, are going to feel pressured to do things they wouldn't normally do. They are going to commit a property crime, a crime of convenience, and you will make it too easy for them by not taking precautions. Please enjoy the holiday season but remember, be aware of your surroundings, keep your house locked, your garage door closed, your car locked with nothing that appears to be of value in sight, and know your neighbors! If you'd like to start a Block Watch on your street and have me come out to talk further on these topics with you and your neighbors, please call 602-534-8136 or email at [Karen.Freund@Phoenix.gov](mailto:Karen.Freund@Phoenix.gov).

## **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!