

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Prescott Police Department - Issue 1, 2024



2024 BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM

The Prescott Police Department is proud to partner with our community through the Neighborhood Watch Program to help prevent crime and educate residents on how they can be actively involved in reducing crime and crime opportunities in their neighborhoods.

For more information, or to take steps to start a program in your neighborhood, please contact the Prescott Police Department's Community Relations & Crime Prevention at 928-777-1900 ext 5611 or email caleigh.hill@prescott-az.gov.

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

The Prescott Police Department invites community members to get an inside look at how the department operates by attending our Citizen's Academy.

Participants will experience many aspects of the Police Department including learning about the hiring process to become a Police Officer, how police recruits are trained at the academy, visiting Prescott Regional Communication Center, view demonstrations of K9 and SWAT operations, DUI/Traffic Enforcement, Investigations, and Community Services functions. Participants will have an opportunity to actively participate in a role-playing in our high tech video training system, which tests the judgement and reactions of those assuming the role of a Police Officer.

Spring Academy starts April 9th and the Fall Academy will start in September. If you are interested in attending the academy please register at <https://bit.ly/PPDCA> or contact Crime Prevention at 928-777-1900 ext 5611. Seats are first come first serve and a waiting list for the fall session will start once the spring class is full.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- PUSD SPRING BREAK: MARCH 10TH - 16TH
- PRESCOTT POLICE CITIZEN'S ACADEMY: STARTING APRIL 9TH

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SPRING BREAK SAFETY

Spring break will be here before you know it. Here are a few tips to keep your residence and valuables secure so you can enjoy your vacation without any worries. Don't forget to unplug all electronics, place a light or two on automatic timers and turn down your thermostat to save on your energy bill!



LOCK IT UP

Make sure all doors and windows are locked. Ensure all alarms are set before leaving and notify your alarm company.



MAIL TIME

Suspend your mail or newspaper deliveries. Have a family member or neighbor pick up any forgotten packages that may arrive to avoid them from being stolen.



DONT ANNOUNCE

Avoid announcing on social media the length of any details about your trip. Delay posting pictures to avoid giving prowlers your exact updated location.



TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

Ask your neighbor to keep an eye on your home. Never place a hidden key outside in a known or obvious location.



SECURE VALUABLES

Secure all valuables and firearms in the home. Do not leave valuables in sight, including in your vehicles parked outside of your garage.



DUI TASK FORCE

We would like to wish you a fun and safe St. Patrick's Day, however, be sure not to test your luck!

Through grant funding made possible by the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, the Prescott Police Department will be participating in the Tri-City DUI task force.

Don't get yourself into a pinch! Please drive sober, designate a driver, or call a ride to stay safe.

CONNECT WITH US

Stay connected with us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on media releases, community events, presentations, fundraisers and much more!



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MEET YOUR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Your Prescott Police Department has two School Resource Officers (SROs) assigned to our local schools. SRO Lovan reports to Mile High Middle School (left) and SRO Holmes reports to Prescott High School (right). These assignments require a special temperament, patience, common sense, tactical knowledge, and sound decision-making. Not every officer is cut out for SRO work and this assignment can be one of the most challenging in police work.

Each officer is unique and offers different insights, experiences, and personality into his assignment which is a great benefit for the school, district, students, and parents. Both officers are committed to doing their best to promote safety, security, relationships, and teamwork on campus. They both value time spent on mentoring and problem solving to better their environments.



Both SROs display a genuine passion for community engagement and dedicate their free time to coaching youth sports and spending time with their families.

When asked about what each was most proud of as their schools SRO; SRO Holmes replied, "I am most proud of the teamwork amongst the administration and staff in general and being able to be part of a team that truly cares about the kids that attend our school." SRO Lovan's response was: "The thing that makes me most proud is seeing kids that I've talked with early in the year change their behaviors and become more involved with their school work and sports."

Our department takes great pride in the exemplary dedication and hard work shown by these two officers as they tirelessly serve the families in our community.

K9S BRING SMILES TO THE CLASSROOM

Our K9 Unit took a break from working the streets and paid a visit to American Lutheran School. We are not sure who loved it more.... the students or Benny & Cooper.

Thank you to Sergeant Shapiro, Officer Million and Officer Alltop for taking time out of your busy schedule to spend some time with the community!



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SLAM THE SCAM



Tax season is upon us, so that means scammer season is in full swing as well. Scammers continue to impersonate government or company employees in an attempt to obtain your personal information or money. They may say there's a problem or promise a prize. These criminals will apply pressure for you to act immediately and insist that you pay in a hard to trace manner, such as a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash.

How to avoid a scam:

- Remain calm and talk to someone you trust.
- Hang up or ignore the message. **DO NOT** click on links or attachments in your emails or text messages.
- Protect your personal information. Be skeptical of a contact that you didn't initiate. Never provide your full social security number or bank account numbers.

Remember:

- You are in control of the conversation. Don't let them intimidate you or scare you. **Just hang up the phone.**
- Government agencies won't call, email, or text you and ask for money or personal information. Only a scammer will do that.

2023 FRAUD REPORTS

- False Pretenses/Swindle Scams: 186
- Credit Card/ATM Fraud: 38
- Impersonation Fraud: 35
- Identity Theft: 1
- Hacking/Computer Invasion: 3



? Buying a gift card to pay someone?

! **STOP. It's a scam!**

! Gift cards are for gifts.



Do NOT use a gift card to pay: the IRS or Social Security, tech support, a family member in trouble, ransom or to avoid arrest or deportation, a member of the military, or to keep your utilities on.

Report gift card scams at: **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**

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DISPATCH

PRESCOTT REGIONAL



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

2023 Phone Calls

Total Calls Processed: 178,000

911 Calls: 53,140

Non-Emergency Calls: 122,196

Text to 911: 2,664

Average call length: 122.33 Seconds

2023 Dispatched Calls

Total Calls Dispatched: 87,170

Police Calls: 35,519

Fire Calls: 26,445

EMS Calls: 25,206



Your Prescott Regional Communications Center (PRCC) now integrated texting into its 9-1-1 answering system, allowing residents in need of emergency services to reach a dispatcher via text when calling is not an option.

Traditional 9-1-1 voice calls are still preferred since they are the most effective way for dispatchers to gather information and field emergency calls. Text to 9-1-1 helps those who are unable to speak due to an emergency, or for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled.

Here's how it works:

- If a citizen needs help but is unable to speak, or they cannot do so safely they can text 9-1-1 using their mobile phone.
- To initiate a text to 911, all you have to do is enter 911 in the "To" field and enter the location and nature of the emergency in the text field.
- It is important to know the limitations to the system, such as: **KNOW AND PROVIDE YOUR LOCATION!** The most important piece of information is to provide your location, followed by what is happening.
- You can't text 9-1-1 with a non-activated phone.
- A text from an internet messaging program will not work for 911.
- The preferred language for text is English due to limited translation services.



On behalf of PRCC, we are proud to be able to provide this service to our community.



AS ALWAYS WE WILL BE HERE IF YOU NEED US
PRESCOTT POLICE DISPATCH (928) 445-3131

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ANIMAL CONTROL

Hello, Prescott! Who is ready for spring?

Springtime is just around the corner along with an array of baby animals. Please remember, as you start to enjoy outdoor activities and our beautiful trails, be aware of our young wildlife.

Soon you may see young raptors who are growing and learning to use their wings, also known as fledglings. They will spend a lot of time perched on the edge of their nest or higher branches of the trees. Oftentimes with big wind gusts they can find themselves on the ground. As tempting as it may be to help them, it is important to leave them alone as this is a part of their learning process. If you find a fledgling on a road or a path, they will often try to act scary and open their wings and make noise to try to intimidate you because they cannot fly away on their own yet. If you pick it up and remove it from the area the baby may not have a great future. What you may not see is that their parents will still be close by and continue to feed the fledgling until it can make its way to safety.



We also have young mammals in the area that could find their way on trails or hide in plain sight, fawns are notorious for this. Animal control often receives phone calls regarding injured fawns however, the fawn is tucked away in hiding while the mom is foraging for food. Baby skunks and baby raccoons spend their time trying to keep up with mom and may become separated for a short time while they find a resting spot. It's important to keep an eye out for these little trail hazards. If you are concerned about abandoned baby wildlife, please let them be and contact Arizona Game and Fish (623-236-7201) or Prescott Police Animal Control (928-445-3131). We will do what we can to ensure the best decisions are made for the youngsters and get them to safety.

Happy Spring,

Animal Control Officer Hamer