

CITIZENS ON WATCH

Volume 1, Issue 7

February 2013

Goodyear Police Department partners with Litchfield Elementary School District to "beef up" Police **Presence**

Goodyear Police Department in partnership with the Litchfield Elementary School District has adopted an innovative approach to Community Policing. Recently, a new police sub-station pilot program was established at Mabel Padgett Elementary School in an effort to increase police presence and visibility on the school campus. "With the increase in school violence nation-wide, it only makes sense to take a proactive approach to increase police visibility on school campuses," said Police Chief Jerry Geier. "Officers will be using the Mabel Padgett Elementary School sub-station to make calls and write reports during their shift. In addition, this is a great opportunity for officers to interact with students in a positive manner," said Chief Geier. Mabel Padgett Principal Gina De Coste brought the idea to the Goodyear Police Department who welcomed partnership. "The safety of our school children is a priority for both the school district as well as the Goodyear police department," said Principal De Coste.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

FEB 16TH 8AM-12PM **TALE OF TWO CITIES PARADE**

IMS MARATHON FEB 17™

SPRING TRAINING FEB 22

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1. Police Partner with Schools
- 2. Drug Collection a Success
- 3. K-9 Receives Vest
- 4. Bank Robber Apprehended
- 5. Situational Awareness

Goodyear Police Department Prescription Drug Disposal Program A Huge Success!

Goodyear Police Department recently implemented a Prescription Drug Disposal Program in which the public may drop off expired, unused or unwanted prescription medicines at the Police Administrative Building at 175 N. 145th Avenue. Since the inception of this program in November, 2012, 75 boxes (85 pounds) of prescription medications have been deposited into the drop box. "We knew there was a need in the community for this program, but had no idea just how popular it would be. We are now looking for a second drop off location in the City of Goodyear in order to accommodate the huge demand," said Police Chief Jerry Geier.

Police K-9 Unit to Receive Vest Donation

Goodyear Police Department's K-9 Unit will receive a donation of a ballistic vest from the Sahuaro State Kennel Club on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013. This vest is used during high risk deployments and provides the same level of protection as the vests that the handlers wear. This particular vest is also designed to convert to a harness, which allows the dog to be lifted or lowered if necessary. Goodyear K-9s are responsible for building searches, area searches, tracking, narcotics and explosives detection, as well as handler protection. In addition, Goodyear has one dog that specializes in SWAT operations. In order to be considered for a K-9 position with the Goodyear unit, officers must be with the department for at least 2 years and successfully complete the selection process. Once selected, handler and dog go through an 8-10 week in-house academy prior to being deployed full time. This donated K-9 vest is valued at \$2,500. Currently, there are 4 dog teams; this will be the second dog in the Goodyear Police unit to receive a vest. Previous dogs have had the vests and all have been donated.

Goodyear Police Apprehend Bank **Robbery Suspect**

At approx. 11:11am, January 30th, a 9-1-1 call came into the Goodyear Police Department dispatch center. A teller at Wells Fargo Bank, located at 13470 W. Van Buren, reported a bank robbery in progress. The witness reported that a female approx. 30 years of age, stated she was wearing an explosive device on her body. It was reported that the suspect then fled the scene in a white mini-van. That vehicle was later stopped by police and the suspect was arrested and remains in custody. Although the special assistance unit robot was used to search the vehicle, no explosives were found.

Situational Awareness: How Everyday Citizens Can Help Make a Nation Safe

First and foremost, it needs to be noted that being aware of your surroundings and identifying potential threats and dangerous situations is more of a mindset than a hard skill. Because of this, situational awareness is not something so complex and difficult that only highly trained government agents or specialized corporate security counter surveillance teams can practice it. Indeed, situational awareness can be exercised by anyone with the will and the discipline to do so.

An important element of adopting the mindset required to practice situational awareness is to first recognize that threats exist. Ignorance or denial of a threat -- or completely tuning out one's surroundings while in a public place -- makes a person's chances of quickly recognizing the threat and avoiding it slim to none. This is why apathy, denial and complacency can be (and often are) deadly. A second important element is understanding the need to take responsibility for one's own security. The resources of all governments are finite and the authorities simply cannot be everywhere and cannot stop every criminal act. The same principle applies to private security at businesses or other institutions, such as places of worship. Therefore, people need to look out for themselves and their neighbors.

Another important facet of this mindset is learning to trust your "gut" or intuition. Many times a person's subconscious can notice subtle signs of danger that the conscious mind has difficulty quantifying or articulating. Many people who are victimized frequently experience such feelings of danger prior to an incident but choose to ignore them. People who heed such perceptions are seldom caught off guard.

Clearly, few of us are living in the type of intense threat environment currently found in places like Mogadishu, Juarez or Kandahar. Nonetheless, average citizens all over the world face many different kinds of threats from a variety of criminal actors on a daily basis, from common thieves and assailants to militants planning terrorist attacks. Situational awareness can and does help individuals protect themselves in any environment. When practiced corporately, it can also prevent terrorist acts intended to shock and destabilize an entire society

The Goodyear Community Services Unit teaches many of these principles to the community. An active block watch is a key ingredient in having a safer neighborhood. The economy is beginning to respond in a positive direction and communities throughout the valley are beginning to grow. Now is a great time to learn more about your neighbors and how simple interaction can prevent you from becoming a victim. The Community Services Unit is available to meet with your neighborhood during the day or evenings. Please contact them for additional information.

Read more: Situational Awareness: How Everyday Citizens Can Help Make a Nation Safe | Stratfor

"Situational Awareness: How Everyday Citizens Can Help Make a Nation Safe is republished with permission of Stratfor."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What am I required to do for a name or address changes

A: Notify the Motor Vehicle Department within ten days. You may notify the department of an address change by telephone, in writing, in person, or an approved electronic device and a name change in person or writing. You can also go to https://servicearizona.com

Q: What is the speed limit for school crossing zones?

A: A Vehicle shall not proceed at a speed of more than 15 MPH between the portable signs on the roadway indicating that there shall be no passing, that school is in session and that the driver shall stop when children are in the crosswalk.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Can you get a ticket for having a cracked windshield?

A: Yes, ARS 28-957.01 states must have an adequate windshield. Cracked windshields are dangerous and the safety feature can be degraded.

Q: When do I have to drive with my lights on?

A: At any time from sunset to sunrise and at any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible person and vehicle on the highway at a distance of five hundred feet ahead.

Q: What are your responsibilities if you strike an unattended vehicle?

A: Stop and either locate the vehicle owner or in a conspicuous place leave a written note providing the name and address of the driver and the owner of the vehicle.