



# COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown District

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## Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Sexual assault affects 1 out of 6 American women. That means 17.7 million American women have been victims of attempted or completed sexual assault. Although women are the main victims of this crime, about 3% of American men have experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault. That's 2.78 million men who have been victims of sexual assault or rape. (Based on crimes reported.)

It is estimated that nearly 60% of rapes/sexual assaults are not reported to the police.

Did you know that victims of sexual assault are:

- 3 times more likely to suffer from depression.
- 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
- 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol.
- 26 times more likely to abuse drugs.
- 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide.

Two out of every three rapes were committed by someone known to the victim. 50% of the rape/sexual assault incidents were reported to have occurred within one mile of the victim's home or at their home. 43% were reported to have occurred between 6:00pm and midnight.

Scottsdale Police Crisis Intervention Specialist, Kelly Wills has developed a 3-sided table-topper which is available free to businesses who are interested in partnering with the police department to combat sexual assault and increase awareness.

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## From The Desk Of Commander Johnny Cervantes

It didn't take long for criminals to come up with new IRS scams to cash in on the government's stimulus package that includes tax refunds to boost the economy. Even before Congress signed off on the proposal, tax scammers were phoning people, asking for their bank details so the IRS could supposedly deposit refunds directly into their accounts. Criminals lure their unsuspecting victims by suggesting this will mean a faster than expected refund, and they sometimes warn that if you don't give the information immediately, you could lose your refund. This IRS scam enables con artists to get bank account and Social Security numbers, as well as credit and debit card details that they then use for identity theft.

In fact, the Internal Revenue Service never asks for taxpayers' personal information over the phone or in emails. That's not how the IRS does business.

It is easy to avoid tax scams if you remember a few simple rules:

The only genuine IRS website is [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). If any link takes you to a page that isn't on this site, then you are not visiting the IRS website. The only emails the IRS sends out concern general newsletters, events, and such. The IRS never asks for financial information or discusses anything related to individual tax accounts by email.

The IRS never asks for PIN numbers, passwords or other confidential information for any reason or by any method – not even face-to-face. Tax refunds are claimed through filing an annual tax return, not a separate application form.

[jcervantes@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:jcervantes@scottsdaleaz.gov)  
480-312-2567

The message contained on the table-topper is related to victims AND offenders and focuses on alcohol related sexual assaults. One side of the table-topper is as follows:



### Scottsdale Police Advisory

**Q: How can I prevent myself from being a victim of rape?**

- **Watch your drinks at all times**
- **Do not accept drinks from other people**
- **Open containers yourself**
- **Keep your drink with you at all times, even when you go to the bathroom**
- **Do not share drinks**
- **Have a designated driver**

**FACT: Often times the victims of rape have been unknowingly drugged.**

Although the above message is specific to alcohol related businesses, the overall message is relative to all. The messages contained on this table-topper are valuable for local application as well as for when traveling.

To assist with awareness and to help combat sexual assault and rape, please partner with us and request table-toppers for your business. To receive your free table toppers and to join us in spreading the word, please call Kelly Wills (Scottsdale Police Crisis and Intervention Service, "PCIS") at 480-312-6372 or at [kwills@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:kwills@scottsdaleaz.gov). To reach the Downtown District Crime Prevention Unit call Officer Craig Abernethy at 480-312-2594, [cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov) or Police Aid Randee Short at 480-312-2074, [rshort@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:rshort@scottsdaleaz.gov).

## Free Security Surveys

Remember that the Scottsdale Police Crime Prevention Unit provides free security surveys for your home or business. A crime prevention officer can come to your location to check your place for security breaches. Call today to schedule your free security survey with the Crime Prevention Officer in your area.

District 1: (McKellips – Osborn)  
Officer Jennifer Wattier 480-312-0275

District 2: (Osborn to McDonald)  
Officer Craig Abernethy 480-312-2594

District 3: (McDonald to Cactus)  
Officer Kory Sneed 480-312-5696

District 4: (Cactus to the City's north boundary)  
Officer Jason Glenn 480-312-8802



## Calendar of Events

1. April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009: 5-9pm

### Take Back the Night

ASU, Palo Verde Beach

Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center will have a table at this event.

2. April 26-May 2, 2009

### National Crime Victims' Rights Week

3. April 29, 2009: 9:00am

### Victims Rights Week 2009 Distinguished Service

**Awards Presentation**, Victims Rose Garden, Arizona

Attorney General's Office, 1275 W. Washington St,

Phoenix. **RSVP by April 20<sup>th</sup>: [RENU.SAPRA@AZAG.GOV](mailto:RENU.SAPRA@AZAG.GOV)**

4. May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009: 8:00-1030 (or until the trucks are full)

### Free Shredding Event

at 11256 N. 128<sup>th</sup> St

Scottsdale AZ (Mountainside Middle School). We will

have two shredding trucks both of which have a 10,000 lb

capacity. Up to four boxes shredded free. Times: 8:00-

10:30 or until the shredding trucks are full (whichever

comes first.) Questions? Contact Terri Terlazzo at 480-312-

8292 or [terlazzo@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:terlazzo@scottsdaleaz.gov).

## The Scottsdale Police Department



Visit our website at [www.Scottsdalepd.com](http://www.Scottsdalepd.com).