



COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown District

Vol. 71 July 2010, Scottsdale Police Department District II 3700 N. 75th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85251 (480) 312-2594



Distraction Thefts

Summer is here, vacations are planned and thieves are looking for their next target. Should you cancel your vacation? While we wouldn't recommend that, we would suggest that you always be alert and aware of your surroundings, especially when you are not familiar with an area or location where you may be vacationing. We wanted to point out some signs of a distraction theft and some simple steps you can take to prevent them.

Most distraction thieves are friendly, may even be very polite and take advantage of your willingness to help. These are people who may ask you for directions, loose change, or may feign illness or a medical condition to distract you. They may "accidentally" spill something on you and then assist you in cleaning the spill while their associate removes your property. Some of them are quiet and smooth enough that you may not even realize they have victimized while you are on the phone or sending a text message.

Other Signs:

- Individuals who appear to be strangers but are signaling to each other.
- Individuals at a special event that appear to be paying more attention to the crowd than the event.
- Individuals loitering in areas where tourists frequently visit.
- Individuals loitering around escalators or stairways, using them several times in a short period of time.
- Individuals carrying coats, sweaters, or scarves especially in warm weather.

(Continued on page 2)



From The Desk Of Commander Johnny Cervantes

Hello Community Members,

Starting this month (July), we are trying a new type of community outreach. On July 13th and July 27th you are invited to participate in "Community Rides" with police employees. Participants must provide their own bicycles and must be at Chaparral Park (parking lot just north of Chaparral –east of lake) by 5:00 am. Yes, these are early morning community rides.

Please remember that safety is our first priority. Helmets are necessary components of bike riding. Please bring your helmet and a water bottle. Please be ready to ride at 5:00am.

The pace of the community rides will be dependant on the abilities of the participants. Each ride will consist of about an hour bike ride. We will start each ride at Chaparral Park and then head either north or south on the bike path, within the greenbelt.

Adults and children are welcome.

The purpose of this type of outreach is to present police to the public in a friendly environment. Police will be talking to riders about crime prevention strategies including steps that individuals can take to make themselves and their neighborhoods safer.

Commander Johnny Cervantes
(480) 312-2567

jcervantes@scottsdaleaz.gov

(Continued from page 1)

- Individuals who while walking through a train, bus or airport and stop next to a sleeping person.
- Individuals examining purses or wallets in an unfamiliar manner.

Techniques to Prevent Victimization:

- Use purses or handbags that have a zipper and a securable flap, and carry the flap next to your body.
- Consider not carrying a purse at all, but a wallet in your front pants pocket – NEVER in a back pocket.
- Don't carry a lot of money at one time and consider carrying only one credit card to be used for most if not all purchases.
- Be aware of loud arguments or commotions in crowded areas. They may be staged to distract.
- If someone you don't know asks you for directions be aware that it may be a distraction, and hold your purse or personal belongings close to your body.
- Be aware if a stranger directs you to a foreign substance (such as spilled food) on your clothing. Ignore them and keep walking.
- Always be on guard while conducting business at an ATM. Be aware if a stranger claims you dropped money. Again it may be a distraction.
- If a stranger is crowding you, assertively tell them to step back. Keep your personal space big, and don't allow strangers into it.
- If you know you may be encountering a crowd, take precautionary steps to keep your personal items close to your body, preferable to a minimum and in a front pocket.
- If you are the victim of a distraction burglary (especially if you recognize it quickly) immediately call it out to alert others around you.
- Report crimes as well as suspicious behavior and/or activity to the police.

Have fun on your vacation while being alert and aware of your surroundings, as well as your personal belongings. Don't create distractions that may make you an easy target for a distraction thief.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Craig Abernethy at 480-312-2594, email: cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District 2 Police Randee Short at 480-312-2074, email: rshort@scottsdaleaz.gov.



Don't Let This Happen To You...

Monsoon season is approaching, and we just wanted to send a reminder to please use caution if you happen to get caught driving in a storm. Please obey all traffic control devices, and do not enter roadways or driveways where water has collected. Fast moving washes can be dangerous and even deadly. The person driving this car was able to get out safely and was subsequently cited. *Please* always buckle up and drive carefully. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Fashion Square Mall C.O.P Opening Day

July 10th, 12pm-2pm – Fashion Square Mall

Visit the police and see the Dodge Charger police car (inside) at Fashion Square Mall for the opening day of the C.O.P. (Community Outreach Platform). Police will be there to visit and answer questions. Get your picture taken as you pretend to drive the police car. Near Barney's (NE side of mall.)

Community Bike Rides with Police

July 13 and July 27th – 5am start time on both dates.

Get out your bicycle and join the Scottsdale PD employees at Chaparral Park to ride the wonderful greenbelt. Police employees will be on hand to discuss crime prevention strategies and more. Please have a helmet and water bottle. Contact Officer Abernethy at 480-312-2594, for more information.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817