

Villa Monterey 6
Scottsdale Police Department (SPD) Crime Prevention Presentation 1/10/23

Due to recent incidents in our neighborhood, the Board invited Scottsdale Police Department Officer Evan Polasky to give us an update on crime in our area and provide crime prevention tips for our homes. About 40 residents from ours and adjacent communities attended the presentation.

Below is a summary from the presentation. Please read the following to familiarize yourself with how the Scottsdale Police Department is working for our safety and what you, as a homeowner, can do to keep yourself and others safe in our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Scottsdale PD Non-Emergency Number: (480) 312-5000**

IS SCOTTSDALE STILL A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE?

The short answer is Yes! Officer Polasky and his assistant, Officer Reyes, began their presentation by assuring us that our area is not dangerous. According to the FBI, who studies cities of similar demographics, Scottsdale is #3 in the country for safety.

For the past two months in the Crime Prevention area of 73rd Street and Hayden and Jackrabbit and Camelback

- 25 homes found with broken windows
- Two unoccupied homes burglarized
- Two occupied homes burglarized
- One home was found to have bad elements. It's now on undercover watch.

WHAT ARE THE POLICE DOING ABOUT CRIME IN THE AREA?

Operation Blue Dish is a program started by SPD last July. Patrol cars are watching neighborhoods for odd behavior. Examples: Someone walking around at odd hours or seeming to be paying too much attention to homes. There are also unmarked cars parked around the neighborhoods. You will not know they are unmarked, but they are fully equipped to observe the area. So far, the police have made 48 contacts and 21 arrests.

As with many police departments around the nation, SDPD is understaffed. Normally, there are 400+ sworn officers and now they have about 380. **They ask our help to be the eyes and ears of the community.** If you see something strange, or out of the ordinary please call it in immediately. Don't assume anything. They will be happy to investigate. Remember...If you see something...say something!!! Call 911 if it's an emergency. Otherwise call the non emergency line at (480) 312-5000.

WHAT DOES SPD KNOW ABOUT THE CRIMES IN THE AREA?

Broken windows have been reported in our community and adjacent communities So far, there have been no signs of bullets or shots heard. Objects found at vandalized homes include ball bearings, white glass marbles, bb's, and spark plugs. Small spark plugs are usually thrown because they are glass. They are quieter when hitting the glass and make a bigger hole. So far, double paned glass has withstood the hits and the second panes are not breaking. It doesn't seem that high powered weapons are being used. Possibly, vandals are using slingshots and/or throwing the objects. Most of the homes with broken windows have been targeted in the

evening or overnight. The purpose of the vandalism seems to be to find out if anyone is home, alarms are set, etc.

Repair broken windows as soon as possible! Unrepaired windows may indicate a home is vacant and the house is an easy target for theft.

Meth, Fentanyl is a major drug problem occurring in neighborhoods adjacent to ours.

Recently, one arrest uncovered millions of fentanyl pills. Another recent arrest took 735# of meth off the streets. Fentanyl is being made in China in uncontrolled labs and brought across the Mexican border for distribution. Thankfully, no firearms have been found.

Fentanyl is a little blue pill but is also distributed in what are called "Skittles". Skittles are made to look like the candy that children and adults enjoy. They can be made in multiple colors. Fentanyl is so dangerous that a tiny amount can kill you. **Fentanyl on the ground would be of special concern to homeowners walking their dogs.** Police handle fentanyl with masks and gloves. If you see something suspicious, call the SDPD and they will come to check it out.

DON'T TOUCH IT!!!

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PROPERTY?

Lighting

- Replace burned out outdoor lighting immediately
- Install motion sensor lights for your backyard. (For example: bright LED lights found at Costco, Home Depot, Ace Hardware)

Landscape Maintenance

- Maintain yards (front and back) and trim overgrown bushes that can hide criminals and help facilitate a break in
- Plant cactus under your windows

Security Cameras

- Install doorbell cameras (For example: Ring, Blink, Simply Safe)
- Install cameras on the front of your home facing public areas
- Register your camera with the SPD. They may contact you to see your footage. Click [here](#) to register your camera.

Other Forms of Home Security

- When you leave your home at night, set alarms, leave lights on, lock all doors and windows.
- Always keep your doors locked, even when you are home.
- Use light timers in the house and have a radio on a timer.
- When gone for extended periods of time, it is wise not to use drop down shades in your carports. Drop down shades can hide criminal activity.
- Clean dust-off car covers. Allowing dust to accumulate on car covers is a clear sign that a homeowner is not home.
- To discourage vandals breaking into cars, keep cars locked with nothing visible for stealing on the seats.

Vacation Watch Program: This is super handy, did you know that if you call the SPD to report when you are on vacation, they will drive by and keep an eye on your property? Click [here](#) to make the request.