

# The Crime Fighter

Oro Valley Police Department

February 2010

**Let's Get Prepared for:**

## **NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK (NCPW) (March 7-13, 2010)**



NCPW is an annual consumer protection event sponsored by the Federal Trade Commission ([www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)) that encourages individuals across the country to take full advantage of their consumer rights. This year's theme – **Dollars & Sense: Rated “A” for All Ages – highlights the importance of using good consumer sense at every stage of life** – from grade school to retirement. For that reason, the NCPW website features a page for kids and parents and highlights websites, games and videos that teach kids practical lessons about the role of business and government in everyday life. For the first time ever the NCPW site features a blog that will enable consumers and consumer advocates to share resources, tips and outreach ideas.

For more information, contact Nicole Vincent, Consumer Education Specialist, Federal Trade Commission, (202) 326-2372 or e-mail [nvincent@ftc.gov](mailto:nvincent@ftc.gov).

OVPD Crime Prevention Officers are conducting an **“Identity Theft Presentation”** in conjunction with National Consumer Protection Week on **Thursday, March 11, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** in the **Oro Valley Council Chambers, 11000 N. La Canada Dr.** This is a town

wide event and we hope you all will join us for this very informative talk. Come learn how criminals can get your information and what they do with it. Learn what you can do to keep your identification from getting into the wrong hands. Arizona is the number one state for identity theft and we aim to change that.

### **Top 10 States for ID Theft**

- 1. Arizona**
- 2. California**
- 3. Florida**
- 4. Texas**
- 5. Nevada**
- 6. New York**
- 7. Georgia**
- 8. Illinois**
- 9. New Mexico**
- 10. Colorado**

See [www.idtheftcenter.org](http://www.idtheftcenter.org) for more information about identity theft.

Below is an excerpt from an article that was published in the Arizona Daily Star newspaper on January 24, 2010 entitled:

### ***“Unthinkable ID Thieves: Mom & Dad”***

*The most insidious form of identity theft is when parents with bad credit hijack their child's personal data to obtain credit cards, loans or utility service. Such crimes, which appear to be on the rise in Tucson, are seldom reported to law enforcement. They often do not become known until years later, when victims come of age and apply for student loans or car loans. That is when they learn those who were supposed to love them most have ruined their financial reputations. The financial abuse, which can leave similar emotional scars as child molestation, puts kids in the painful position of having to report their parents to police in order to clean up their credit.*

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## Town Code, Article 18-4-1 FEEDING ANIMALS

OVPD Crime Prevention Officers have received numerous complaints of predator animals entering populated areas and/or attacking pets. One of the reasons these animals may enter residential property is to find food. They are attracted to pet food leftovers, bird feeders and other edible materials that might be present. The Arizona Game and Fish Department recommends citizens pick up pet food dishes immediately after feeding, refrain from using bird feeders and keep patio/yard areas free of pet waste and other materials that attract wild animals.

**Also, please remember that it is unlawful to feed and/or provide drink for non-domesticated animals.** See the following description of Town Code 18-4-1 which governs feeding predatory animals. Violation of Article 18-4-1 is a Civil Infraction punishable by a monetary fine.



### **ARTICLE 18-4-1**

No person shall feed and/or provide drink at any time for one (1) or more non-domesticated mammalian predators including, but not limited to, coyotes, raccoons, foxes, javelinas, skunks and opossums. This article shall not apply under the following circumstances:

- A. Where the person is the owner of such non-domesticated predator and

such predator is kept under a valid certificate or permit issued by the State of Arizona.

- B. Where the person provides food and/or drink for a trapped, injured or un-weaned non-domesticated predator between the time the Pima Animal Care Center is notified and such predator is picked up by the Pima Animal Care Center.

**Arizona Game and Fish classifies wildlife behavior as Acceptable and Unacceptable.**

### **ACCEPTABLE behavior examples:**

- The animal retreats at the sight of a human.
- The animal stays put while humans show no aggression.
- The animal shows signs of curiosity while humans show no aggression.
- The animal crouches, twitches its tail and stares directly into the person's eyes, immediately followed by retreating or showing no further aggression.

### **UNACCEPTABLE behavior examples:**

- The animal displays unprovoked aggression.
- The animal exhibits forms of predatory behavior towards humans.
- Intentionally approaching close to a human after the animal knows the human has seen it, even if the human did not have to take evasive or aggressive action to drive the animal off.

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- The animal continues to disturb, raid, or investigate humans or high-human-use areas.
- A mountain lion that is seen near a school or other areas where children are congregated, especially during hours when children are present.
- A mountain lion that is not cornered but refuses to retreat when objects are thrown at it.
- A mountain lion spending more than one (1) day in a residential area (neighborhood yards) and is eating pet food or pets.
- The animal aggressively approaches a human, or fails to retreat when a human takes aggressive actions.
- Intentionally approaching a human at close range that requires the human to take some evasive or aggressive action to avoid attack.

**NOTE:** Not every wildlife-human interaction will easily fit into one of the two behavior patterns listed. In some instances, humans may unintentionally provoke unacceptable animal behavior by:

- Immediately running away (especially children) triggering the chase instinct.
- Remaining at a location that does not allow the animal an escape route.
- Approaching an animal that is feeding, or is with its young.

If you have experienced one of the unacceptable behaviors and/or would like

more information, please contact Arizona Game and Fish Department at (520) 628-5376.

## More Suggestions on Prevention and Safety from Wildlife



Arizona Game and Fish staff also reported javelinas and coyotes can be a safety concern when walking alone or with a pet. They have been known to be very aggressive and have attacked people and dogs. So when walking, try carrying something that makes noise, like an aluminum can filled with coins. If you see an animal near you, shake the can to scare them off then walk in the other direction. Again, **DO NOT RUN** as they will chase people and pets alike.

### Some Useful Products to Consider

Scarecrow Motion Activated Sprinkler: can be placed in back yard and detects any motion from animals and emits a harmless blast of water spray as well as making a noise that will scare the animal away. It can be sensitive to wind and motion from trees and plants, but is adjustable. It can be purchased for approximately \$45.

Snake Away Powder: This is an all natural powder, EPA approved, that contains sulfur and other ingredients not well liked by snakes. This product can be placed along the outside wall and bottom of gates regularly. It's not very expensive.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DISPOSE-A-MED ORO VALLEY

#### New Location:

Target - 1<sup>st</sup> & Oracle

#### Upcoming dates:

March 20, 2010

April 17, 2010

May 15, 2010

#### Drop Off Time:

10 am to 2 pm

*"Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinets  
and Protect Our Youth"*



Help make our community safe, healthy and drug free. Medications should never be flushed down the toilet or thrown in the trash. Bring your unused medications for proper disposal. We will accept pills, liquids, needles and syringes. Medication bottles will be donated to the Pima Animal Care Center.

### Town Wide VIN Etching Event



Help Prevent Auto Theft!!

**When: Saturday, May 8, 2010**

**Time: 8 a.m. to 12 noon**

**Where: Wingate Hotel**

**11075 N. Oracle Rd.**

**Registration required for this event.**

**To reserve a spot, call the OVPD**

**Community Resource Unit at**

**229-5084 or 229-5085**

**Space is limited.**

VIN Etching is the process of permanently etching your vehicle's 17-digit vehicle identification number on each piece of glass window on the vehicle.

Etching your vehicle's VIN serves as a permanent fingerprint of your vehicle. It is considered an effective deterrent against auto theft.

VIN Etching in no way damages the vehicle's windows. It takes approximately ten minutes to etch your vehicle. The vehicle owner must be present and show proof of ownership.

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## "It's Shred It Time"



### Shred-A-Thon

**Date:** Saturday, April 10, 2010  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Place:** Wal-Mart OV Marketplace

Prevent identity theft by shredding unwanted documents that contain your personal information. The first two boxes per person will be shredded free and each additional box will be \$10 per box.

The size of the box is described as any box you can carry.



Get rid of all those unwanted documents after you finish filing your income taxes!!

## Digital Child Identification



This Program provides parents with a "Bio-Doc" that contains digital fingerprints, digital photograph, and personal descriptors of your child, all printed on a card stock paper for easy access.

This will provide Law Enforcement with vital information about your child in case of a kidnapping or other emergency.

Your child's information is not stored in any police database. All information is deleted instantly after printing.

This program is provided free of charge on the second Wednesday of each month, excluding holidays, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Reservations are required and each session is limited to eight children.

The next session is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 10, 2010**. Please call Officer Hallberg at 229-5084 to reserve a spot.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY NETWORK

*Sharing Information Works!!*

## OVPD DARK HOUSE PROGRAM



*Are you going on vacation?*

*Leaving for the holidays?*

*Are you going to be gone and your home will be left unoccupied for more than seven days?*

The **DARK HOUSE PROGRAM** is for you and it is **FREE!**

As frequently as staffing allows, the Oro Valley Police Department and the Members of our Citizen Volunteer Assistants Program (C.V.A.P.) will check the exterior of your home for security and signs of suspicious activity.

If a problem is found, you or your contact person is notified immediately.



To sign up:

Call (520) 229-5080

or visit one of our stations located at:  
1171 East Rancho Vistoso Blvd. #115

11000 North La Cañada Drive



## **Police Activity**

The following statistics are provided to inform citizens of criminal activity occurring in your community. OVPD responded to the following calls for service from:

<b><u>Jan. 1, 2010 – Jan. 31, 2010</u></b>	
Calls for Service:	1,357
Burglaries:	7
Thefts:	32
Auto Thefts:	5
Assault:	12
Robbery:	0
DUI:	28
Liquor Laws:	4
Drug Offenses:	17
Homicides:	0
Residential Alarms:	56
Business Alarms:	28
K9 Searches:	26
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	48
First Aid Calls:	177
CVAP Dark House Checks:	413
Total Arrests:	162

## **HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP**



People often confuse High Fructose Corn Syrup with plain fructose.

### **Below is the Glossary of Sugars**

- o **Glucose**: A "simple" sugar naturally found in all foods that have carbohydrates. Starch (e.g., in potatoes, pasta) is many glucose molecules linked together.
- o **Fructose**: Another "simple" sugar, often called "fruit sugar" because it's the main type of natural sugar found in fruits (and honey).

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- Sucrose: A natural “complex” sugar that’s about half glucose and half fructose. It’s extracted from sugar cane and sugar beet plants and refined to make “table sugar.”
- Corn Syrup: syrup used mostly in baking that’s virtually all glucose.
- High Fructose Corn Syrup: First available in 1967 and used by commercial food manufacturers. It’s made by converting some of corn syrup’s glucose into fructose. HFCS is high in fructose only in relation to plain corn syrup; chemically, it’s very similar to sucrose: about 50/50 glucose and fructose.



## RECENT INCIDENTS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS

### Criminal Damage

Remember many incidents of criminal damage and or vandalism can be prevented by reporting suspicious activity/people to the police. Call 911 immediately if you see someone damaging property or engaging in “suspicious” activity, such as anyone loitering around schools, parks, homes, vehicles, secluded areas, etc. Be an active Neighborhood Watch Group!!

- A house and vehicle were egged for the third time causing \$430 in damages.
- Someone scratched the trunk area and jumped on the roof of the victim’s car causing \$1,000 in damages.
- Someone riding quads caused \$3,250 in damages to the hiking trail at Honeybee Canyon Park by running over desert plants, knocking rocks and boulders onto the trail and running over a fence.
- Someone broke two wire-reinforced windows with rocks causing \$300 damages. This is a recurring problem.
- Garage door found with 2” hole in it causing \$800 in damages.
- Two tires slashed on vehicle.
- Ground floor classroom window shattered at Copper Creek School, \$100 in damages.
- Someone shot the window of a residence and a cargo trailer in front of the home with a pellet gun, \$500 in damages.
- Neighbor reported hearing voices and banging coming from a residence that was supposed to be vacant. A side door to the garage and the inner door from the garage into the house had been forced open. Numerous footprints were found that matched the print on the external garage door that had been kicked in.
- Top of cactus sliced off. Another cacti south of the residence was cut in a similar way.
- Someone keyed victim’s vehicle. He believed that his wife’s ex-boyfriend caused the damage.

#### Information Provided by OVPD’s Crime Prevention Unit:

Sergeant Amy Sloane  
Officer Yolanda Hallberg  
Officer Jody Rammell