

# CRIME FIGHTER

The Safety Newsletter of the Oro Valley Police Department

Third Quarter 2014

## Inside This Issue

**Taking Time to Educate Grandparents About Child Passenger Safety 2**

**Pet Waste ..... 3**

**Digital Child ID ..... 3**

**Water Safety Tips..... 4**

**Solicitor Permits..... 6**

**Ask and Answer ..... 7**

**Contact Information ..... 8**

## Summer Safety Tips

Posted on June 12 by CrimePreventionTips.org

Here are some summer safety tips to make the time you spend outdoors safe and enjoyable.

### Be Observant In Public

When you load the family into the car and head out to a fun filled destination, always keep in mind that criminals may be sharing your day with you. By following a few simple outdoor safety tips you can do everything possible to avoid being victimized by predators who might be watching. Law breakers are always on the lookout for an easy target, so make sure you don't give them one.

Always lock your doors and roll up the windows when you leave your car. Car thieves regularly patrol parking lots and try door handles to see if they will open. They are hoping for an unlocked vehicle that they can get into quickly and take anything that was left inside. You should always store valuable items in the trunk, so that a criminal does not see them and become tempted to break in.

While enjoying your day, keep a close eye on your entire family . . . and everyone around you. Look for strangers who seem to be watching you or getting too close. They may be trying to determine if you have something they can take. Protect your loved ones and personal items carefully, and make sure no predator has a chance to steal from you.

### Summer Safety At Home

All summer long people are outdoors working on projects like lawn care, hosting barbecues or relaxing by a pool. It can be easy to forget to close a door or window, but if they are left open it creates an easy opportunity for a burglar. Garage doors, in particular, are regularly used by criminals to gain access to a home during the warmer months. People go outside to do yard work and forget to close the garage door. Criminals may steal items from the garage itself, which usually contains tools and other valuable belongings, or use it as an easy way to get into your home. Once inside, the law breaker can grab an armful of things quickly, and run off without ever being noticed.

Some criminals will work together during the summer months. One will come to your door and distract you, while the other sneaks into your garage, back yard or home to take whatever they can grab. Be wary of anyone who approaches your front door and don't let them take up too much of your time. Every year thousands of burglaries occur all over the United States. Teach your family how to guard themselves and their property and do what you can to ensure a safe and happy summer for everyone.



www.ovpd.org

# Taking Time to Educate Grandparents About Child Passenger Safety



Researchers often provide us with information that may help us influence the caregiver at our fitting stations or check up events to modify some of their behaviors in protecting their children. This is an example of how we can apply what is learned during research to our curbside communication with families especially grandparents.

In a recent study, "Grandparents and Child Passenger Safety", published in the *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, researchers wanted to compare child passenger safety (CPS) practices of grandparents versus parents and determine grandparents'

opinions on car safety seats, barriers to use, and ways to transport grandchildren safely. A total of 1758 parents transporting 2713 children, and 284 grandparents transporting 391 grandchildren were included in the study.

While most drivers were buckled up and used car seats, almost 25% of parents and grandparents chose the incorrect seat to transport the child, and greater than 68% had at least one harness-related error. Grandparents were more likely to have looser lower anchor straps or seat belts and have children younger than thirteen years in the front seat.

The focus group of grandparents had a favorable attitude toward child safety seats. They acknowledged the need for their grandchildren to ride buckled up but believed that car seats were hard to use. They also may have had physical barriers (e.g. arthritis, back pain, mobility, decreased strength, and vision problems) to installing and using car seats.

Both grandparents and parents were equally likely to choose and use appropriate child safety seats. Compared to parents, grandparents were more likely to travel with their grandchildren in car seats installed with looser harnesses or an installed CSS with looser seat belt or lower anchors. Grandparents were more likely to have a child younger than thirteen years in the front seat. The use of community resources such as permanent fitting stations could help grandparents improve a grandchild's travel safety.

Source: Grandparents and child passenger safety. O'Neil J, Bull MJ, Slaven JE, Talty JL. *Accid. Anal. Prev.* 2012; 49C: 354-359.

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft, Myers, FL)

## **ARS 28-907 in a nutshell:**

- Effective August 2, 2012, all children under 8 and 4'9" are required to be secured in a child restraint.
- The seat must meet appropriate height and weight specifications for the child.
- Every child from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt.
- Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat.

**The Community Resource Unit Officers are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and can assist you with properly installing your infant/child car seats.**

**Call 229-5080 for an appointment.**

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# Pet Waste

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## Pet Waste & Stormwater Pollution

Dog poop left on streets, pavements, yards, driveways, or along the sides of roads does not magically disappear or fertilize the ground. Improperly disposed animal feces can be picked up by stormwater runoff and carried into storm drains or nearby washes. Storm drains do not connect to sanitary sewer systems and treatment facilities, so pet waste can be the cause of significant stormwater pollution and present health risks to adults, children and other pets.

## Dangers of Pet Waste If Handled Improperly

Pet wastes are a nuisance in both our neighborhoods and desert environment. They also present serious health risks. Pets and children playing in yards or parks where pets defecate are at risk for infections from disease-causing viruses, bacteria, and parasites found in pet waste. Diseases and parasites that can be passed from pet waste to humans include:

Campylobacteriosis – a bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.

Salmonellosis – the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans by other animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Toxocariasis – roundworms usually transmitted from dogs to humans, often without noticeable symptoms, but may cause vision loss, a rash, fever, or cough.

Oro Valley Town Code 18-3-4 Dog Waste Removal: It is a civil infraction for the owner or you.



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## Digital Child Identification

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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 and saved to a CD for your file. Or if you would like, bring in a USB drive to save your information.

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 – 6 p.m. Reservations are required and each session is limited to eight children.

Please call the Community Resource Unit at (520) 229-5085, to make an appointment.

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# Hit and Run Accidents

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Posted on September 27 by CrimePreventionTips.org

Unfortunately, hit and run accidents happen all too frequently. A Hit and run accident means that someone has either been the cause of, has been involved in accident and leaves the scene before identifying and/or insurance information has been collected. It is either a misdemeanor or a felony depending on the severity of the situation. If you are in any accident, be sure and get as much identifying information about the other driver as you can, as quickly as you can. A license plate number is always a good bet if you have a short window of time and can only get one thing. While most people will do the right thing, it is a good idea to be prepared in case you come across someone who doesn't.

If you are involved in a traffic accident and the other driver leaves the scene, and you haven't already gotten identifying information- here are some recommendations:

- Immediately try to see and remember or record the license plate number and description of the vehicle and the driver. You may only have a few seconds to do this.
- Try to notice where the damage is located on his or her vehicle.
- Call 911.
- Ask witnesses to remain or at least to leave their name and address and a written description of the suspect vehicle and driver and statement.

## **Be Cautious**

While it may good to look for the good in people as a general rule of thumb, there are times when it is good to be and stay cautious. For instance, be suspicious of drivers who do stop following the accident but ask you or offer you money not to call the police. This should alert you immediately that something is wrong. Again, if you haven't already done so, start recording license plate and other information. These drivers may decide to leave quickly. If someone does approach you in this fashion and you're initial "no" isn't acceptable to them and if you can, make sure you have their information and get away from them and call the police! There may be reasons they don't want you to call the police that go well beyond than worrying about things like rising insurance rates. If you cannot get away do what you can to placate them until you can contact the authorities so they don't get agitated by you telling them something they don't want to hear.



# Ask & Answer



**As a police officer, I get asked law enforcement questions almost everywhere I go. So here is your chance to send in your questions and I will publish them with an answer either from me or a fellow officer who is an expert in that field.**

Q: What is the noise ordinance in Oro Valley in relation to dogs?

A: Article 18-8: EXCESSIVE NOISE CAUSED BY ANIMALS OR BIRDS; VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES

It is a civil infraction for anyone to own, possess, harbor and/or control any animal or bird which frequently or for continuous duration howls, barks, meows, squawks or makes other sounds, if they are clearly audible sounds beyond the property line of the property on which they are conducted and they disturb the

public peace, quiet or comfort of the neighboring inhabitants.

Q: What is the process for filing a barking dog complaint?

A: The first step is to contact the police department for a barking dog/noise complaint. An officer will respond, park away from the house so they are not the source of the barking and listen for the noise or barking dog(s). They will then document their findings in a police report. They will attempt to contact the owner and will often leave a message indicating their findings and that there was a complaint, but this is not required. If this is an ongoing issue, the police department will keep record of the reports. Not until the reportee wants to be a victim, can the police department take any further steps toward stopping the problem. If the reportee chooses to be a victim, then there is a process including mediation which both parties have to be willing to participate in. If medication is not successful, then a prosecutor review will look at the case to determine if there are civil or criminal charges that are warranted.

Q: What is the leash law in Oro Valley?

A: 18-3-1 Dogs at Large Prohibited: Oro Valley's leash law requires a dog to be confined within the owner's property unless the animal is on a leash six feet or shorter, with a person on the other end. Tethering your pet is not permitted in Oro Valley.

Q: What is the law for picking up canine waste?

A: Section 6.04.030.E of the Pima County Code states that "...it shall be unlawful for the owner or person having custody of any dog to fail immediately to remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any solid waste deposited by such dog on public property or deposited on private property without the consent of the person in control of the property."

Oro Valley Town Code 18-3-4 Dog Waste Removal: It is a civil infraction for the owner or you.

# Mark Your Calendar

## Dispose-A-Med Oro Valley

August 16th 8 a.m. - noon  
December 6th 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Location: Target (First & Oracle)

## National Dispose-A-Med

October TBD  
Check [www.orovalleyaz.gov](http://www.orovalleyaz.gov) for date and time.

## Shred-A-Thon hosted by Oro Valley Community Foundation and OVPD

October 18th 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Location: Oro Valley Marketplace



**Oro Valley  
POLICE**  
[www.ovpd.org](http://www.ovpd.org)

## Contact Information

**OVPD Crime Prevention Unit**  
Northside Substation  
1171 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd., Suite 115  
Oro Valley, AZ 85755  
(520) 229-5080  
(520) 229-5090 fax

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Sgt. Amy Graham**  
(520) 229-5081  
[agraham@orovalleyaz.gov](mailto:agraham@orovalleyaz.gov)

**Ofc. Vivian Lopez**  
(520) 229-5085  
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**Ofc. Rick Rendon**  
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# History Behind the Fireworks Display of 4th of July



From Buzzle.com

Fireworks have always been an important part of celebrations and festivities across the world. Americans celebrate the 4th of July with great passion and fervor. Fireworks are an integral part of these celebrations too. The history behind the fireworks display of the 4th of July is pretty interesting.

The fireworks that are used on the occasion of 4th of July, are largely imported from China. In 2011, Americans imported fireworks worth \$233 million from China.

The Chinese started using fireworks during celebrations hundreds of years ago, in fact, as early as the 9th century. By the time the United States became an independent country, fireworks were already being widely used in celebrations in many places around the world. The United States became independent in the year 1776. However, fireworks were first used for Independence Day celebrations in the US only on the 4th of July, 1777.

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