

# The Latest PATROL NEWS



## SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE EVENTS

- Are you interested in learning about internet security and scams? The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office will be here to give you all the information to be safe when you are online.
  - Date: Wednesday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Time: 10am-noon
  - Location: CLC Lecture Hall
- What can the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority (AFMA) help you with? Join the AFMA as they discuss the lock box program, home safety surveys, and fire safety.
  - Date: Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Time: 10am-noon
  - Location: CLC Lecture Hall

## PATROL POINTERS

- When entering and exiting the automatic gates on San Tan Blvd. and Michigan Ave., please approach slowly and be careful. These gates have moving parts.
- A Very Important Reminder: It is the responsibility of the homeowner to obtain authorization via an Architectural Modification Application Permit prior to making any exterior alteration to your property.

We require these permits to maintain a cohesive neighborhood aesthetic. Permits provide a permanent record of work performed and inspections conducted on the project which can enhance the value of a home when selling.

Architectural Modification Applications are available in the Administration Building or on our website at [www.cottonwoodpaloverde.com](http://www.cottonwoodpaloverde.com) under the Forms & Guides tab.

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Pedestrians need to be highly visible in the dark. Too many people wear dark clothing on dark nights and especially in the early morning hours just prior to sunrise. Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking near vehicle traffic. Carry a flashlight when walking in the dark. Without sidewalks in Sun Lakes, walk facing traffic on the edge of the road, as far from the travel lane as possible.

Motorists need to be vigilant, and pedestrians need to be vigilant of motorists. Motorists have more responsibility under the law when operating a motor vehicle on roads, pedestrians have more at stake. Be careful. Safety is everyone's job.

## **REMINDERS**

Welcome back to all those who left during our long hot summer months for that cooler weather and are now returning to enjoy the gorgeous weather and our amenities. With a large community, it's crucial for everyone to practice caution and prioritize safety. Be mindful of your surroundings and report suspicious activity and always look out for others.

In Arizona, when walking on a road without a sidewalk, always walk facing traffic and when riding a bicycle, you should always ride with the flow of traffic. Pedestrians need to be highly visible in the dark. Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking near vehicle traffic. Motorists need to be vigilant of pedestrians, and pedestrians need to be vigilant of motorists. Motorists have more responsibility under the law when operating a motor vehicle on roads, pedestrians have more at stake. Be careful, safety is everyone's job.

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## **SCAMMERS**

Protect yourself always from scams. Scammers continue to get more and more sophisticated in their attempts to get your money or personal details. Be on alert and protect yourself from being scammed by following these important tips: Know who you're dealing with. Do not open suspicious texts, pop-up windows or click on links or attachments in emails – delete them. Don't respond to phone calls about your computer, like asking for remote access – hang up. Keep personal details secure. Keep your mobile devices and computers secure. Choose your passwords carefully. Check your privacy & security settings on social media. Beware of any request for your details or money and be careful when shopping online. Remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

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## **SOLICITORS**

The Cottonwood/Palo Verde Patrol is a firm believer in never opening your door to someone you do not know. When it comes to solicitors, it's better to be safe than sorry. Say, "no thank you," and walk back into your house and close and lock your door. A conversation only encourages a solicitor. Call 911 if a solicitor or any stranger is aggressive or ask to enter your home. Please call the Cottonwood/Palo Verde 24-7 mobile patrol at 480-895-9277 to report any solicitation activity within our communities.

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## **BE A RESPONSIBLE DRIVER**

The maximum legal speed limit on a residential street is 25 mph (unless posted otherwise). Drive 25 mph or less and give yourself more time to react to the unexpected, you may be driving faster than you should. Don't be a speeder, be a leader. Be alert and don't take chances, even on short trips.

Golf Carts are classified as motor vehicles and Arizona law allows the carts to legally drive on the side of auto traffic. Driving in the automobile traffic lane at less than the normal speed of traffic can cause traffic backups and frustrate motorists. Please move over as close as practical to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway to allow vehicles proceeding in the same direction, to pass to the left of your golf cart at a safe distance.

Prioritize safety over speed for a secure and responsible driving experience. Safely share the streets throughout our communities with other motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

## **ADDITIONAL LEVEL OF SECURITY IN COTTONWOOD/PALO VERDE**

With the full support of HOA #2, the Sun Lakes Rangers will continue to provide safety patrols in the Cottonwood and Palo Verde communities. Both the Patrol and the Rangers share the goal to provide an effective and efficient Safety Patrol service to our residents and guests. The Patrol and Rangers remain in constant radio contact should an event occur involving law enforcement and are available to back each up if necessary.

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### **CRIME AWARENESS**

Want to know more in-depth information about what is going on in our Sun Lakes communities? Why is it important to be aware of crime, crime trends and patterns in our community? By understanding the types of crimes that are preventable in our area, residents can take appropriate precautions and be vigilant.

Check out a few of these popular listed crime watch resources for safer neighborhoods: [www.SpotCrime.com](http://www.SpotCrime.com), [www.Crimegrade.org](http://www.Crimegrade.org), and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department website at [www.mcso.org/i-want-to/browse-crime-map](http://www.mcso.org/i-want-to/browse-crime-map).

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### **CWPV POOL RULES & REMINDERS**

I realize we all want to show our grandkids a good time when they come to visit. We have a Children's Pool located at the West end of Cottonwood's tennis courts (7am-10pm). Only children under the age of 16 are permitted. Infants & toddlers must wear disposable diapers designed for swimming.

The Adult pools are open to children 10 and over from 12pm (noon) through 2pm ONLY. No one under the age of 10 is permitted in these pools or pool areas at any time. No one under the age of 19 is allowed in the Lap Pool or Jacuzzi.

There are no life guards on duty. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

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### **BARKING DOGS**

Barking dogs can present a serious problem in communities. Some people are very tolerant of dog barking, other people are sensitive to the disturbance. First step (attempt) to resolve a problem. Try speaking to your neighbor or leave a note – they might not be aware of the extent of their dog(s) barking and how it affects others. This may be difficult to do at first but communicating with the dog owner is usually the most effective way to resolve the problem. If you have been informed your dog is disturbing another person's peace, you need to take action. The best way to ensure success in the effort to curb inappropriate barking is to have the support of your neighbors. If step one does not restore order, you can call the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office to report a noise violation. You may also contact the CWPV Patrol for assistance and, an eventual resolution.

## **SIGNS ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

Before you make plans to advertise your vehicle, including golf carts, please read Board Policy Chapter 9-05 below to obtain important information and guidelines for the proper display of "for sale" signs on your homeowners property.

One (1) for sale, for rent, or for lease sign may be allowed on each house or lot within the subdivision, provided that such sign shall advertise **ONLY** the house or lot upon which it is placed. No for sale, rent, or lease signs shall be placed in residence window. Such signs shall be restricted in placement to the front of the house or lot only and shall not be placed on/or facing golf courses, greenbelts, or Association Common Areas parking lots.

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## **CONTRACTOR/COMMERCIAL SIGNS ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

These are signs which advertise products, goods, businesses or services and identifies a business either onsite or offsite from the location of the sign. Per Board Policy 9-05, these signs may be allowed on the homeowner's property only during construction and must be removed as soon as the purpose for which it is posted has been satisfied. Signs must be removed no later than 48 hours after the completion of a construction project.

For further important information and guidelines for the proper display of contractor signs on your property, please review the above-mentioned policy.

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## **PROTECT YOURSELF**

Property crimes in the State of Arizona like larceny-theft hits the top of the crime list, far outweighing any other crimes. Burglary, such as burglary to vehicle would be the next most prevalent crime. Help prevent car break-ins by keeping your vehicle tidy. Criminal thieves like to window shop. Avoid leaving anything visible in your vehicle, as anything from a purse, shopping bags, luggage or just about any other item that's visible from the outside, even if you think it is worthless, could be seen as valuable to a thief.

In addition, don't forget to lock your doors. Most vehicle break-ins and thefts are from unlocked vehicles. If the doors are locked, thieves will most likely move on to an easier target. Help prevent vehicle break-ins & vehicle thefts by utilizing prevention techniques. Don't let the bad guy win!

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## **HANDICAP PARKING**

Designated disabled parking places are set aside for individuals who have a specific medical condition that makes mobility difficult for them. These parking spots are positioned in key locations within the CWPV parking lots allowing for the most convenient parking for disabled individuals to access CWPV facilities with ease.

These spots should only be used when a disabled person is a driver or a passenger of that specific vehicle. Parking in a handicap parking space without a disability parking placard clearly visible or a handicap license plate is expressly prohibited.

## **PALO VERDE GATE ACCESS**

Why does GPS (Global Positioning System) give wrong directions? Bad satellite signals and signal interference are some of the most common glitches. Without a clear and strong signal, your device cannot accurately establish your location. So, why am I telling you this? GPS systems are hard to understand or hard to untangle, but if we get everyone who has one to the right gate, then we can avoid any unnecessary confusion, delays and most importantly, damage done to our gate arms or to drivers' vehicles. If you have a family member, guest, visitor, or a contractor scheduled to come to your house in Palo Verde, please advise them to report to the San Tan Gate at 10704 E. San Tan Blvd, east of Alma School Road to check in with the Gate Attendant. The Michigan Avenue Gate is only accessible by RFID windshield transmitters, which are only available to Palo Verde Homeowners or long-term renters (1 year or more). The Michigan Avenue Gate is not staffed, so please advise your visitors to only use the San Tan Gate upon arrival.

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## **HOA DOCUMENTS**

Do you remember receiving the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's) and other Homeowners' Association governing documents when you moved into the community? Do you know that they are especially important to you as the homeowner? Have you looked at these documents lately? If not, now is a great time to brush up on the do's and don'ts of your community. There is no time like the present to make sure you are in compliance. These important documents help to ensure that the Homeowners' Association can thrive and that Association members are treated fairly and equally. They also outline how the Association lives together and operates. Many home buyers are so busy moving into their homes, they do not take the time to read all the fine print. So, don't be left in the dark. It is your responsibility to check these Homeowners' Association documents today, which can be found on our website [www.cottonwoodpaloverde.com](http://www.cottonwoodpaloverde.com) under the 'Association Documents' tab.