

## Community Connection

Holiday Edition 2005

Volume 22 Edition 4



### A Word from the Sheriff Seasons Greetings



As the holidays and the New Year move quickly onto the immediate horizon, we at the Pima County Sheriff's Department are delighted to send readers an early gift, this Holiday Edition of *Community Connection*, to make your lives safer and more secure. Once again, I believe we have come up with an interesting mix of timely tips and reliable reminders.

Among the tips aimed at sustaining a season of good cheer, the checklist of ideas regarding your personal well being should be "must" reading. This issue also contains a "scam alert" for potential victims. Be aware of criminals hoping for an easy windfall before the holidays. There is also a rundown of common-sense measures to be taken to ensure you do not invite crime home for the holidays.

Reminders that are worthy of repeating in this Holiday Edition are topped by "drive safe, drive sober and drive buckled up." Others range from a warning that practitioners of "Identity Theft" are more than willing to spoil our celebrations, to a plea to refrain from celebrating New Year's Eve by shooting firearms into the air- a foolhardy, unlawful and often fatal mistake.

Calendar year 2005 - our Department's 140th anniversary - has been so positive thus far that we are eager to end it on a high note. The second year of our five-year schedule to establish a state-of-the-art regional public safety voice and data communications network has met its goals, and a new Web site - [www.bonds.pima.gov/Wireless/Wireless.htm](http://www.bonds.pima.gov/Wireless/Wireless.htm) - has been created for residents to chart the progress.

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*Si usted es interesado en la material recipiente de la prevención del crimen en el español, contacta por favor la Unidad de Recursos de Comunidad en 741-4615.*



## A Word from the Sheriff (continued from page 1)

Our arrests of three students at Catalina Foothills High School has resulted in the recent, community-wide capture of 19 adult suspects involved in a major heroin ring that was broken after a two-year investigation. We have intensified our rural coverage by opening a much-needed substation in the Picture Rocks area and by increasing our enforcement efforts in Catalina City. Despite the fact that our staffing is still short, we will end the year with a crime rate that is half the rate of the City of Tucson.

I am proud to be a part of the nationally respected Pima County Sheriff's Department and, after recently attending the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sheriff's Awards Banquet, I am even prouder because so many of our professionals continue to perform with true dedication for the betterment of their community.

On behalf of our entire Department, I would like to wish you and your families a joyous holiday season. With your participation and commitment to safety, we look forward to protecting the public throughout 2006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence W. Dupnik".

Clarence W. Dupnik,  
Sheriff of Pima County

You Drink & You Drive, You Lose.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department would like to remind the public that before you pick up your keys and head out the door for your holiday destinations, please remember these very important safety rules while on the roads: **Drive safe, Drive sober and Drive buckled up.**

Drunk driving crashes are preventable, yet they still are the most frequently committed violent crime in America. The holiday period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve is one of the busiest on the nation's roads, with a high incidence of alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

About 45 percent of all fatalities during the Christmas and New Year holiday periods involved drivers that were impaired.

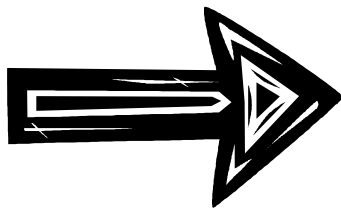
Deputies in the Traffic, Motorcycle and DUI Enforcement squads will be conducting saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints. These deputies will be taking a "Zero Tolerance" approach to enforcement. We encourage anyone planning on drinking alcohol to be responsible and designate a sober driver.

Don't be a statistic. Start the holidays safely by remembering **You Drink & You Drive, You Lose.**





**DON'T  
LET  
THIS  
HAPPEN  
TO  
YOU!**



## HOLIDAY IDENTITY THEFT REMINDER

Identity Theft continues to be a growing problem, and the holidays are no exception. While you are getting in the holiday spirit by buying gifts and going on vacation, criminals are preparing to ruin your good credit by stealing your identity. Here are some tips on how to prevent it from happening to you:

- Photocopy all credit cards and account information and keep the copy in a safe place in the event your cards are lost or stolen. Immediately report lost or stolen credit cards or thefts.
- Carefully review your account statements for any unauthorized purchases.
- Do not use your social security number on checks or drivers' licenses.
- Never give out personal information (credit card number, social security number, birth date, mother's maiden name) over the phone or Internet, unless you have initiated the contact and are familiar with the organization.
- Place all outgoing mail in secure mail drops, and make sure to check your mail every day.
- Contact the U.S. Postal Service for information on how to secure your mailbox at home.

**For more information on protecting yourself from identity theft, contact the Federal Trade Commission at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft/](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/).**

## SCAM ALERT!

A citizen called the Pima County Sheriff's Department to report that she had been the victim of a fraud. She told deputies she had been contacted in writing by the United Kingdom National Lottery Service. The Lottery Service told the victim that she had won the lottery and actually sent the victim a physical check in the amount of \$1,300.00. The Lottery Service informed the victim that in order for her to cash the check; she would first have to submit monies in the amount of \$905.00 to them. (RED FLAG!) The victim sent a wire in the amount of \$905.00 via Western Union to Toronto, Canada. (2nd RED FLAG!) The victim later found out that the \$1,300.00 check was fraudulent. The victim lost the \$905.00, plus the wire fee of \$79.00.

**Be cautious of international lottery scams. Remember, you must purchase a ticket in order to win. Be extra suspicious of having to give money up front in order to receive your "winnings." Always call 9-1-1 if you have been the victim of a fraud.**



**Do the holidays have you jumping through hoops?**

**Don't let CRIME complicate matters!**

**Try our Holiday Personal Safety & Security Tips.**

**Don't shop 'til you drop.**

- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Park in a well-lighted area, close the windows, and lock the car.
- Don't leave packages and boxes visible through car windows. Lock them in the trunk or take them directly home.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash. Pay with checks or credit cards whenever possible.
- Don't get overburdened with packages; always keep one hand free.
- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling loosely. Put your wallet in your front pocket or in an inside coat pocket.
- Teach children to stay in one place and to shout out your first and last name if they get separated.

**When shopping online, use common sense to protect against fraud or ID theft.**

- Familiarize yourself with the rules and policies of online stores and auction sites.
- Only shop with companies you know, and make sure that the site complies with industry security standards.
- Keep your personal information private, and keep your password secure. Do not respond to requests for your password or credit card information unless you initiate the transaction.

**Don't make your office a target for crooks looking for extra holiday cash.**

- Lock gifts purchased during lunch in a safe place.
- Always keep your keys and wallet with you. Secure purses, wallets, or other valuables in a locked drawer or cabinet.
- Don't be embarrassed to challenge unfamiliar faces in the office.
- Don't announce that you are leaving town during the holidays. Don't offer information about co-workers' plans to callers.

## Make sure you don't invite crime home for the holidays.



- Never display gifts where they can be seen through windows or doors.
- Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. Ask for identification and call their main office to verify employment.
- It's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door to door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification and how the funds will be used. Or, seek out a charitable organization you trust and respect.
- The holidays are a good time to update or start an inventory of your home.
- Take photos or make videos of items and list descriptions and serial numbers.
- Having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.

## When you travel, be sure to take common sense along.

- Always lock doors and windows when you leave, even for a few minutes.
- Stop all mail and suspend all deliveries, or arrange for a trusted neighbor to take in your mail, newspapers, and other deliveries.
- Use timer lights to make your house look occupied.
- Stay alert. Pay attention to people and activities around you.
- Don't leave packages, luggage, cameras, or purses in the car where they can be seen.
- Use credit cards or traveler's checks instead of cash.
- Put valuables in the hotel safe, or hide them in a secure place.
- Always lock balcony doors.

*From our family to yours...*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

# The Pima County Sheriff's Department

## New Years Safety

*Imagine your daughter, son, spouse or other loved one being seriously injured by a stray bullet randomly fired into the air and entering your residence upon its descent. You've heard the saying, "What goes up must come down." This axiom is always true of bullets fired in the air with nowhere to go but down. Those bullets are fully capable of penetrating buildings and killing people.*

On December 31, 1995, eleven (11) year old Richard Ulloa was standing in the back yard of his Phoenix home when a stray bullet fell from the sky, piercing his skull, killing him instantly.

On December 31, 1996, a man was spraying bullets up into the air during a New Year's Eve celebration near his home in Phoenix. As he was bringing the gun down, the last round fired and struck his girlfriend in the chest, killing her.

On January 1, 1997, a 30-year old pregnant woman was sleeping in her Tucson home. At approximately midnight, a stray round fired from somewhere outside found its way through the wall of her home and hit the woman in the abdomen. She was transported to a hospital where she underwent surgery to remove the bullet. Both she and the baby were saved.

On June 6, 1999, a 14-year old girl (Shannon Smith) was fatally struck by a stray bullet in the Phoenix area. Shannon was in her backyard, talking on the phone with a friend, when a bullet fell from the sky. This senseless act of randomly firing shots into the air, as a celebratory act, caused an unfortunate death for the Smith family. "Shannon's Law" was passed in July 2000 by the Arizona Legislature, which makes discharging a firearm within or into the limits of any municipality a class 6 felony in Arizona.

Offenders can receive up to two (2) years in prison and pay a \$100,000 fine if convicted.

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, bullets shot into the air can climb to two (2) miles. The bullets can then fall at a rate of 300 to 700 feet per second. Studies have shown that the force of a bullet traveling at 100 feet per second can penetrate skin and 200 feet per second can penetrate bone.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department would like to remind everyone to think before they act. Don't let a bad decision affect the rest of your life.

## HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## Upcoming Events

Dec. 3, 2005 - Free Kids Fingerprinting!  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Wells Fargo Bank, 6270 N. Oracle Rd.

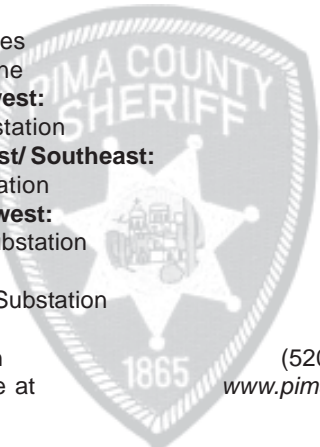
## Pima County Districts and Contacts

All Emergencies	911
Information Line	741-4600
<b>North/ Northwest:</b>	
Foothills Substation	547-6311
<b>East/ Northeast/ Southeast:</b>	
Rincon Substation	295-4500
<b>South/ Southwest:</b>	
San Xavier Substation	295-5959
<b>Green Valley:</b>	
Green Valley Substation	547-6711
<b>Ajo:</b>	
Ajo Substation	(520)387-7621
Visit us on-line at	<a href="http://www.pimasheriff.org">www.pimasheriff.org</a>

## Public Safety Information

Governor's Office of Highway Safety  
Mother's Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.)  
National Crime Prevention Council  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
National Safety Council

[www.azgohs.state.az.us](http://www.azgohs.state.az.us)  
[www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)  
[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)  
[www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)



**COMMUNITY CONNECTION**  
A COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING PUBLICATION

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Help me, McGruff . . .  
**TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
CRIME™**

## THE PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY CONNECTION

### **"Ask the Sheriff"**

**How can I stay safe when in a parking lot?**

Be aware of your surroundings.

During hours of darkness, park and walk in lighted areas when possible.

When returning to your vehicle, carry your keys in your hand and be ready to unlock the door as quickly as possible.

As you approach your vehicle, scan the area, glance underneath the vehicle, and take a quick look inside before entering.

Once inside your vehicle, lock the doors and drive away!



Or write to:

**"Ask the Sheriff"**

C/O PCSD Community Resources Unit  
1750 E. Benson Highway  
Tucson, AZ 85714

*The Community Connection is a community service publication of the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Its purpose is to promote the exchange of ideas, information, and news related to crime prevention, safety and other concerns of the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the community at large. Address all questions, comments, and story ideas to:*

*Community Connection, Pima County Sheriff's Department, 1750 E. Benson Highway, Tucson, AZ 85714.*

*E-mail address: [pcsd@pimasheriff.net](mailto:pcsd@pimasheriff.net) or our Web Page: [www.pimasheriff.org](http://www.pimasheriff.org)*

*Please pass a copy of the Community Connection on to a friend, or call our Community Resources staff at 741-4615 to be included on our mailing list.*