

Stay Connected

The CGPD Community Forum



Casa Grande Police Department – 373 East Val Vista Boulevard – (520) 421-8700

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A New Year's Message — Chief Mark McCrory

As we begin a new year, I want to reflect on the last. 2023 brought much growth within our agency. New Police Officers, civilians, and volunteers began their journey with our agency. Of course, we also saw a few of our veterans retire.

We instituted new programs, such as TRULEO, an AI software that automatically reviews and analyzes body camera videos to help automate supervision, facilitate coaching, and promote police professionalism. We achieved full certification through the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. We hosted three Citizen Police Academies, two City Leadership Academies, three community safety seminars titled Refuse To Be A Victim, and five Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) classes. We began our marketing campaign to fill 10 Police Officer positions granted to us via the U.S. Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services program.



We have prioritized community engagement and trust-building. Our officers actively participate in local events, collaborate with residents, and address shared concerns, fostering strong relationships within our community.

Education is a cornerstone of their approach. They provide resources on crime prevention, safety measures, and outreach programs, empowering individuals to play an active role in their safety.

Recognizing societal issues contributing to crime, such as mental health challenges and substance abuse, we collaborate with social services, healthcare providers, and community organizations to develop holistic approaches to address these underlying problems. Investment in community programs is pivotal for redirecting youth energy away from crime and fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the next generation.

CGPD ensures transparency in operations, fair policies, and holds officers accountable for their actions. Continuous training on cultural sensitivity equips officers to better serve the diverse communities in Casa Grande.

Overall, the Casa Grande Police Department is committed to creating a cohesive community where trust and cooperation between law enforcement and residents are tangible realities, ensuring a safer and healthier environment for everyone. We look forward to continuing our service to the Casa Grande community!

CGPD Contacts

Emergency	911 (Area Code is 520)
Administration	421-8721
Animal Control	426-9300
Chaplain	421-8711 x6700
Crime Prevention	421-8711 x6760
Graffiti Abatement	518-5518
Community Service Officers	421-8700 Option 7
Public Info Officer	421-8711 x6760
Records	421-8711 x6651
Silent Witness	836-2100
Towing/Impound	421-8711 x6061
Volunteer Services	518-5518

Welcome Our New Officers



Police recruits Jacob Bonsall, James Gomez, and Richard Vassell graduated the Tucson Police Academy on November 2nd and are currently in Phase 2 of their field training.

Pictured Left to Right are Sgt. Jeff Cardita, Training Academy Class Officer Andrew Wilcox, graduate Jacob Bonsall, Chief Mark McCrory, graduate Richard Vassell, Deputy Chief Angel Leos, graduate James Gomez, and Deputy Chief Brian Ramirez.

A Fresh Page — Dr Paul D. Ellis, CGPD Senior Chaplain

I don't know about you, but I love a new notebook filled with fresh, clean, white, blank pages. The possibility for writing on those pages is endless. As we start out a new year, each one of us has been given a brand-new notebook, so to speak, with fresh clean pages, to write the next chapter of our lives. It doesn't matter what mistakes we made last year, it doesn't matter what struggles and hurts we faced, it doesn't even matter what successes we had last year, -- we have brand new pages to begin to write a new chapter!

The Bible encourages us with these words, "Forgetting those things which are behind and pressing on toward the goal for which God has called me".



When driving, if we are always looking back in the rear-view mirror, we will find ourselves in the ditch or in a collision with an oncoming vehicle! It may be that we are looking back because there is unforgiveness we are holding on to, -- looking back at failures we or others have had. -- Whatever it is that is causing you to look back -- you will not go forward until you turn your head around and look forward.

I want to encourage you as we enter this new year of 2024, to leave the past behind -- and start a new year filled with promise, joy, and vision for the future! Leave the weight and baggage of the past behind. This is a NEW YEAR – a brand new page! -- Let's start off in the right direction – and write a beautiful new chapter!

Dr Paul Ellis, Chaplain

Truleo — Deputy Chief Brian Ramirez

I am excited to announce a significant advancement in our approach to reviewing body-worn camera (BWC) footage. Starting in January 2024, our police department will implement Truleo, an artificial intelligence (AI) review and analytics platform, to comprehensively analyze 100% of our BWC footage. Recognizing the importance of video reviews in the decision to deploy cameras, we, at CGPD, identified an opportunity for improvement.

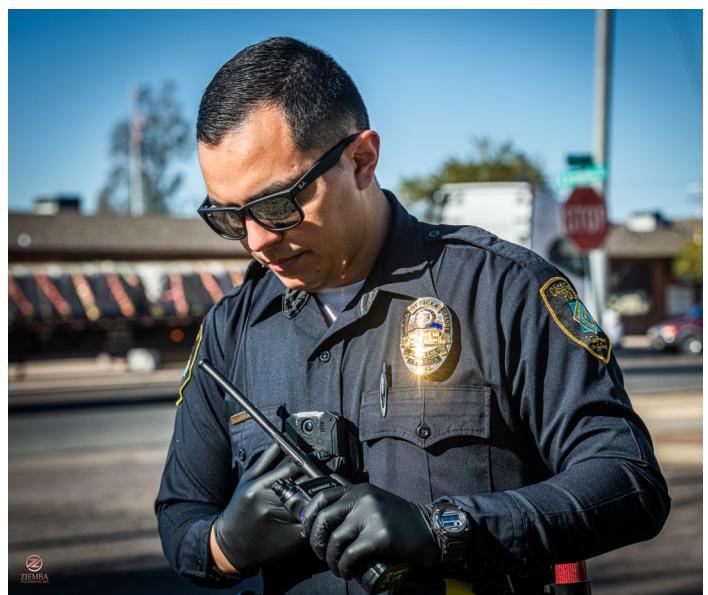


Presently, supervisors review approximately 2% of camera footage, just slightly above the 1% national average. These reviews are key in promoting transparency, accountability, and refining our practices. The footage serves as a crucial tool in investigations, aiding us in accurately reconstructing incidents and resolving disputes arising from encounters.

Since October 2021, when we adopted body-worn cameras, we have recorded over 154,345 videos. While this volume underscores the task to review each video, our department has established policies governing when videos are assessed. Currently, supervisors randomly review five selected videos per week using Axon's web-based video management system. However, this method only captures a small percentage of the great work our officers perform.

Truleo is set to address this gap by analyzing officer language, categorizing events, and determining the professionalism of the interaction. It identifies words or phrases associated with uses of force, pursuits, arrests, noncompliance, formality, explanations, gratitude, insults, threats, directed profanity, and more. Importantly, Truleo extends this analysis to citizens interacting with officers. The platform then tags and labels areas of interest, facilitating supervisors' efficiency by directing them to critical points in the video.

To further enhance our understanding of Truleo's impact, we will collaborate with Arizona State University in a research project evaluating its use within our department. For more information on Truleo, please visit their website at: <https://www.truleo.co/>.



K9 Trials — Officer Thomas Scheurn

The ALECA (American Law Enforcement Canine Association) Canine Trials is an important event that showcases the incredible skills and abilities of law enforcement dogs and their handlers. As an officer committed to keeping our community safe, I, Officer Scheurn, had the honor of participating in this highly competitive event alongside my dedicated canine partner, Deutz.



Months of intense training and preparation led up to the trials. Deutz and I devoted countless hours to perfecting our obedience, agility, and scent detection skills. We worked hard to build a strong bond based on trust and understanding, while also addressing various challenges and obstacles. Together, we aimed to achieve our best performance.

With determination and focus, Deutz and I entered the ALECA Canine Trials. Competing against other skilled teams, we showcased our abilities in scent detection, tactical obedience, and area searches. Deutz demonstrated unwavering concentration, following my commands with little problems. We approached each trial with precision and efficiency, fueled by our hard work, dedication, and desire to compete with the competition.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we did not place in the competition. Initially disappointed, we soon realized that winning was not the only measure of success in the ALECA Canine Trials. The event served as an opportunity for law enforcement officers and their canine partners to demonstrate their skills, learn from one another, and build camaraderie.

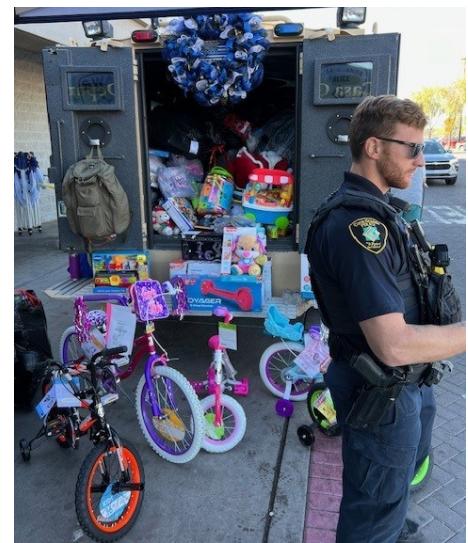
Participating in the trials allowed us to witness the impressive abilities of other teams, gain valuable insights, and grow as a unit. We learned that success is not solely defined by winning, but by the personal growth and development achieved through perseverance and commitment.



As a team, Deutz and I emerged from the ALECA Canine Trials with a renewed determination to improve. We will continue to train diligently, pushing ourselves to new limits, and striving for excellence in serving our community. We look forward to competing in 2024.



Blue Santa



The Casa Grande Public Safety Foundation hosted a very successful Blue Santa in December. A Christmas toy drive began with Stuff the Bearcat at Walmart, Angel Trees were set up throughout the community, and numerous donations were delivered to the Public Safety Facility. Over 500 children enjoyed time with Santa, hanging out with Police Officers, and received amazing gifts for Christmas! Thank you to all who participated. We look forward to Blue Santa 2024!

The Casa Grande Public Safety Foundation has supported Casa Grande Police Department Officers, civilian employees, and the community of Casa Grande since 1955. If you are interested in supporting the CGPSF, please visit CGPD headquarters to meet Foundation members!



Public Safety Day

Public Safety Day is almost here! Join us on Saturday, April 6th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Paul Mason Sports Park for a day of Police engagement and family fun! Each year, First Responders from all over Pinal County bring their coolest vehicles, tactical equipment, K9's, and swag to the biggest Public Safety event of the year! There will be several raffles and food trucks on site. Be sure to grab your event booth passport, get each square stamped, and return it to our On-Line Reporting booth for a chance to win your own home security/surveillance system sponsored by Lorrie Carter with State Farm Insurance!

For those interested in having a booth at this event, please contact Officer Anderson at Tanderson@casagrandeaz.gov or Wendy at Wlloyd@casagrandeaz.gov.



★★★
Saturday April 6, 2024
10am-2pm

Public Safety Day

Paul Mason Sports Complex

Back to School Safety: A Gentle Reminder for Parents and the Community

— Lieutenant Christopher Palmer

Dear Parents and Community Members,

As we bid farewell to the holiday season and usher in a brand-new year, it's that time when our children return to school, ready for a new semester of learning and growth. While the excitement is palpable, it's crucial for all of us to be mindful of safety concerns associated with the back-to-school transition. Here are some important reminders to ensure a safe and smooth return.

1. School Zone Safety:

Please be extra cautious when driving near school zones. Reduced speed limits are in place for the safety of our children. Ensure that you strictly adhere to these limits and remain vigilant for school buses and pedestrians.



2. Crosswalks and Drop-off Zones:

When dropping off or picking up your children, always use designated drop-off zones and crosswalks. Avoid double-parking or stopping in no-parking zones, as this can create congestion and compromise the safety of everyone in the area.

3. Stranger Danger Awareness:

Remind your children about the importance of Stranger Danger. Encourage them to be cautious when approached by unfamiliar individuals and emphasize the significance of reporting any suspicious activity to school authorities or a trusted adult.

4. Backpack Safety:

Ensure that your child's backpack is appropriately sized and not overloaded. A backpack should never weigh more than 10-20% of a child's body weight. Properly adjusted shoulder straps and wearing the backpack on both shoulders can help prevent strain and injury.

5. Cyber Safety:

With the prevalence of technology, remind your children about the importance of responsible online behavior. Encourage open communication about their online activities and the potential risks associated with sharing personal information.

Back to School Safety (Continued) — Lieutenant Christopher Palmer

6. Bullying Prevention:

Talk to your children about the importance of kindness and empathy. Encourage open communication about their experiences at school and address any signs of bullying promptly by contacting school authorities.

7. Emergency Preparedness:

Familiarize yourself with your school's emergency procedures. Knowing the protocols for various situations ensures that you can act swiftly in the event of an emergency.

By working together as a community, we can create a safe and nurturing environment for our children to thrive. Let's make the remainder of the 2023/2024 school year a positive and enriching experience for every student. If you have any concerns or questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school or local authorities.

Wishing everyone a successful and safe return to the school routine!

Locking Up: Your Shield Against Burglary — Detective Brandon Garcia

Your safety is our priority, and as your local law enforcement agency, we are committed to ensuring the security of our community. Today, we want to emphasize a crucial aspect of safeguarding your homes and vehicles: locking up.

Burglaries can be distressing and disruptive. However, they are often preventable with simple precautions. The most fundamental step in protecting your property is ensuring that both your home and vehicles are securely locked at all times.

Securing Your Home:

Your home is your sanctuary, and a few measures can significantly reduce the risk of burglary:

1. **Lock All Entry Points:** Always lock doors and windows, even if you're at home. This basic step is a powerful deterrent to potential intruders.
2. **Install Quality Locks:** Invest in strong, high-quality locks for doors and windows. Deadbolts and smart locks are effective options to enhance security.
3. **Outdoor Lighting:** Well-lit exteriors discourage criminals. Install motion-sensor lights around your property to illuminate dark areas.
4. **Alarm Systems:** Consider installing a security system that includes alarms and surveillance cameras. Visible security measures can deter burglars.
5. **Neighbor Watch:** Get to know your neighbors and look out for each other. Inform a trusted neighbor when you're away so they can keep an eye on your home.

Locking Up (Continued) — Detective Brandon Garcia

Securing Your Vehicles:

Vehicles are valuable assets and can be targets for theft. Here's how to protect them:

- Lock Always:** Whether parked in your driveway or on the street, ensure your car is locked. Don't forget to close windows and sunroofs.
- Remove Valuables:** Never leave valuable items in plain sight. Store belongings in the trunk or take them with you to avoid attracting thieves.
- Park Smartly:** Park in well-lit and populated areas. If possible, use a garage or a secure parking facility.
- Use Anti-Theft Devices:** Consider using steering wheel locks, car alarms, or immobilizers to add an extra layer of security.

Why It Matters:

Preventing burglaries isn't just about protecting your belongings; it's about ensuring your peace of mind and safety. Burglaries can have a lasting impact, causing emotional distress and financial losses. By taking these proactive measures, you not only protect yourself but also contribute to a safer community.

Report Suspicious Activity:

Your vigilance is vital. If you notice anything unusual or suspicious in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to report it to the Police. Your prompt action could prevent a crime.

At the Casa Grande Police Department, we are here to support and assist you. Together, let's work towards a safer and more secure community by taking simple yet effective steps to keep our homes and vehicles locked and protected.



Remember, a locked door can be the strongest defense against burglary. Take the time to secure your home and vehicles—it's a small effort that yields significant protection. If we all work together to prioritize safety, we can make our community a safer place to live.



How to Connect With Us



www.facebook.com/cgpolice



www.twitter.com/casagrandepd

www.casagrandesilentwitness.com

Stay Connected!

Casa Grande PD Has a Mobile App!



- Send Tips to CGPD
- Catalog Your Personal Property
- View Crime Map & Safety Tips
- See CGPD's Most Wanted
- Access Social Media, Useful Links, and Press Releases
- View CGPD Phone and Email Directory



For questions or comments regarding this newsletter, contact:

Officer Thomas Anderson
Public Information Office
(520) 421-8711 Ext 6760
tanderson@casagrandeaz.gov

Casa Grande Police Department
373 East Val Vista Boulevard
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Upcoming Events

Follow the Casa Grande Police Department on Facebook and X/Twitter to learn about future events.

PUBLIC SAFETY DAY

Saturday, April 6th from 10 am to 2 pm at Paul Mason Sports Complex, 2525 N Pinal Avenue. See page 6 for more information.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

Please join us to learn about policing and our agency, from the inside perspective!

Our next academy will be held in late spring. Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 — 9 pm. The Academy is held at the Public Safety Facility at 373 East Val Vista Boulevard.

For more information or to sign up for the next class, contact our coordinator, Wendy Lloyd, at (520) 518-5518 or wlloyd@casagrandeaz.gov.