

Crime-Free Housing Aids City & Residents

Lease addendum program keeps criminals out of rentals

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The Apache Junction Police Department and rental communities within the city are working together to keep the area crime free.

So far three mobile home parks and 10 apartments are participating in the Crime Free Multi/Mobile-Housing Program, a service that was created by a police officer in Mesa in 1992.

"It's now an international program," said Suzanne Strong, community resource coordinator, Apache Junction Police Department.

"The essence of the program is to coordinate prop-

erty managers/owners with police departments so that we can kind of work together to keep criminals out of the rental properties. That means the owner/manager has to do a little more screening before they just let anybody move in—or they should. We don't require that they do background checks or anything."

The police department does require that they use a crime-free lease addendum, which states that if renters commit any crimes they will be evicted.

"I check the calls for service each day that I come to work and find out if we have responded to that property," Strong said. "If it's some-



Suzanne Strong

thing in which one of their tenants had been arrested or something that the manager needs to know about, I will contact the manager and let them know.

"We do provide reports to the manager at no cost for eviction purposes, if they need it."

Strong said there are three phases to the program:

- Phase one is an eight-hour training for owners/managers of the rental community.

"Last November we had one here in which the founder of the program from Mesa came out and did the class. We only require it once every two years," Strong said. "If they're already a member, they can go for four hours and renew their certification."

- Phase two is an inspec-

tion of the premises to assess physical security and general appearance. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards are used to set the minimum-security requirements.

"The police department can't really support a property that is unsafe," Strong said. "We can't support it if they don't want to fix it up or if it just looks unsafe. That includes the lighting, if there's not sufficient lighting, or if the property has overgrown weeds and things like that. If the spaces aren't marked properly for emergency personnel. There's quite a few things that we suggest if they're not done that they do in order to become certified."

- Phase three is a meeting of the residents, organized by the management. The AJPD will conduct a Safety Social, explaining details of the Crime Free Program as well as general safety principles and crime prevention.

"This is usually if there's 20 or more units," Strong said. "It can be coffee and donuts or it can be potluck or whatever they want to do. We like to get them all together so we can explain what the program is and why the managers/owners are doing the program. In

essence, it's for the benefit of the tenants that already live there."

Strong said she sends out quarterly statistics to the owners/managers that list the different types of calls that are made from or about the residences.

"I send out stats quarterly so that they know if we've been there 10 times in three months or something like that," Strong said. "Sometimes they're just barking dog calls or something like that."

Strong said usually she forwards nuisance calls, such as juvenile disturbances or parties in the middle of the night.

"The other benefit of the program is managers/owners do have a contact here at the police department if there seems to be a problem in the park, especially if they have people coming in during the night," Strong said. "I think that it's beneficial not only to them, but to us as well."

McDonald's Asks For New Sign

Golden arches taller than permitted

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

McDonald's Corp. is requesting permission from the City to install a monument sign that is larger than allowed by City code.

City Assistant Planner Todd Kennedy said the sign code limit is 12 feet tall and the restaurant is asking for one that is 20 feet tall at its 2383 W. Apache Trail location.

"They're asking for a monument sign consisting of a wall base that's made of aluminum with the golden arches on top," Kennedy said.

The Apache Junction Planning and Zoning Commission heard the case during its work session on Tuesday, July 14. A public hearing about the item is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, in City Council Chambers, 300 E. Superstition Blvd.

"During the work session, Planning and Zoning (commissioners) were open to the idea of working with the applicant, like alternative designs or maybe having two monument signs—one on Apache Trail, one on Delaware—that would be conforming to code," Kennedy said.

He said McDonald's is wishing for a bigger sign for visibility purposes.

McDonald's served the city since 1982 before going up in flames Tuesday, November 11, 2008. Construction crews began rebuilding the restaurant the last week of June. David Martinelli, marketing supervisor for the McDonald's Rocky Mountain Region, said he expects the restaurant to be finished in late October,



The proposed sign—courtesy of the City of Apache Junction.

early November. It will have a Play Place for children.

The structure fire was discovered by two employees who were inside McDonald's. Apache Junction Fire District (AJFD) Public Information Officer David Montgomery, who also serves as the fire marshal, said after the employees called 9-1-1, they were able to exit the building safely.

The AJFD arrived on scene at 3:13 a.m. Fourteen units and more than 30 firefighters fought the blaze until 4 a.m.

Montgomery said the AJFD received an additional four engines, two ladder trucks, three battalion chiefs, a command van, a utility truck, a rehab unit, two safety officers and two investigators due to the fire being upgraded to a first alarm.

The original McDonald's sign, which was deconstructed, was 30 to 35 feet tall. The restaurant company is trying to compromise with the city by building a sign that is shorter than the original sign, but taller than the code, Kennedy said.

Letters to the Editor continued from page A-4

400 Dependency cases. Officers work days and nights on school campuses, in judicial offices and in your town.

The challenges they face are tremendous, yet they continue to make a difference. These officers are active in their communities by creating links between the justice system, community leaders and organization and the public for offenders who need help re-integrating into their neighborhoods.

They are professionals who constantly acquire knowledge of what motivates offenders and apply that knowledge in the most effective way possible. The work they do has become multifaceted and goes well beyond supervision and surveillance of offenders - it has expanded to include working with victims and community in a much more involved capacity. All of this is done in an effort to ensure the highest level of public safety.

These professionals are a true Force for Positive Change in their communities and deliver on their promise to enhance public safety and help restore juvenile and adult offenders to lead productive lives with these pillars:

Monitoring behavior, Fearless pursuit of helping people make positive life changes, Results-driven management, Specialization, Technological innovation, Accountability

Community corrections professionals face real dangers in their jobs and are often asked to risk their own safety to make sure that others are kept safe from crime.

During this week, please help us honor and recognize the work these professionals do each and every day of the year.

Diane L. McGinnis, Director
Pinal County Adult Probation
Todd D. Zweig, Chief Adult Probation Officer



At left, Diane L. McGinnis with Todd D. Zweig.

A little help, please

I am trying to locate Marlene Eberhardt (aka Marlene Lopez) who lived at 1680 N. Desert View, Apache Junction, AZ 85220. Christmas cards and letters have been returned unopened and I have not been able to get any information as to her whereabouts or how she is.

Can you help me locate her or someone who will tell me what's going on? Perhaps she has passed away. We knew each other years ago when we were young and have kept in touch all these years through letters and cards.

Anyone who wants to contact me may do so by writing to me or calling.

Mrs. June Smith, 23365 N. Summit Drive
Shady Hill, Barrington, IL 60010-1841
Phone: (847) 381-5296

from Kollenborn, A-4

er cow at bay, you then branded, castrated, dehorned and completed other necessary chores.

The cattle drovers and cattle barons of the Superstition Mountain area have long since disappeared. The great herds that once grazed the region under the brand of the Clemens Cattle Company and others have also since vanished. At the peak of the Clemens operation more than 12,000 head of cattle grazed the eastern fringe of the wilderness. These huge herds overgrazed and destroyed much of the range. Through the use of careful range management techniques much of the old range is returning to its original state. There are many controversies associated with grazing and non-grazing within the wilderness. Some range managers believe grazing helps to reduce wildfires while other believed, without wildfires the soil becomes infertile. This controversy continues among range managers today.

What distinguished a cowboy from other working men during this period? Cowboys generally dressed a bit different than other workers because they worked outdoors most of the time. Large brimmed hats were common. Levi trousers, and heavy denim or cotton shirts, and of course pointed toed high top boots with extended heels were popular with cowboys. Cowboys often carried a rope, folding knife, bandana, chaps, and sometimes a Winchester rifle or Colt revolver.

Life was not easy on the open range, but it did have its rewards. Those old range riders may not have frequented churches very often, but they were close to their God and the work of his mighty hand. A cowboy's sense of freedom

and free spirit was unequalled anywhere else in the country. Cowboys rode through life uninterrupted by the complexities of urban society. They generally didn't lay awake at night listening to sirens, bells and the noise of modern traffic. Their nights were filled with silence occasionally interrupted by the lonesome call of a coyote or other sounds of night. The cowboy recognized the value of sitting astride his horse and traveling with the wind in his face.

Hollywood has immortalized the free spirit of the American cowboy, therefore helping preserve some of the ideals of our freedom. These old time cowboys and their horses were true icons of freedom and they definitely have a place in the history of the Superstition Wilderness Area and Americana. Hollywood certainly captured the persona of the American cowboy and his spirit and spread it across America.

The large cattle ranches of the Superstition Wilderness have long since vanished from the Arizona scene. Conservation methods did not destroy them. The high cost of operation, limited grazing and strict controls on public grazing lands have reduced the productivity of these once large cattle empires to almost nothing. Feeder pens are slowly replacing the range beef of the past. Today only a few isolated ranches survive, symbolic of a time forgotten by many. Today men like Billy Martin Jr., George Martin, Frank Herron and Chuck Backus try to hang on to the tradition of cattle ranching in the Superstition Mountain region. These cattlemen and cowboys are certainly a part of the history of the Superstition Wilderness and our American heritage.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Supervisors of Pinal County, Arizona, that a public hearing will be held at 9:30, a.m., on the 29th day of July, 2009, in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Administration Building A, 31 North Pinal Street, Florence, Arizona, to consider a petition filed pursuant to A.R.S. §28-6701 and Pinal County Disposition Ordinance requesting abandonment or extinguishment of the following road, right-of-way or easement.

A portion of East 28th Avenue, 100 feet wide, commencing at South Starr Road and proceeding westerly for approximately 560.82 feet to the point of termination (also known as South Acacia Road), located within Supervisory District #2, Section 34 Township 1 North, Range 8 East, of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona. More particularly described as follows:

The South 50.00 feet of the following described property:
The Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 1 North, Range 8 East, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian;

Except the East 50.00 feet thereof; and
Except the West 50.00 feet thereof;

and;
The North 50.00 feet of the following described property:
The Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 1 North, Range 8 East, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian;

Except the East 50.00 feet thereof; and
Except the West 50.00 feet thereof.

All persons interested may attend and will be given an opportunity to be heard.

DATED this 7th day of July, 2009

PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By Sheri Cluff

Sheri Cluff, Clerk of the Board

Publication dates: July 20 and July 27, 2009

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