



Paradise Valley Police Department **CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN**

December 2018

The Paradise Valley Police Department is providing this bulletin to keep residents informed on joint successes collaborating with our community.

OUR MISSION:

Provide high-quality police services to our community, reduce crime and the fear of crime, and by working with all citizens, to preserve life, protect property, promote individual responsibility and encourage community involvement.

Questions?

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Losing a Loved One

Written by Trudy Thompson Rice (V67) - Paradise Valley Police Volunteer

Edited by Steven McGhee (#194) - Paradise Valley Police Officer

His wife woke up and found him gone. He was last seen at 2:40 am. He simply vanished.

A Town of Paradise Valley resident was struggling with mental illness. His wife had noticed changes and she was working hard to keep him safe in their home until he could transition to a facility where he would be cared for around the clock.

She was exhausted from her 24-hour vigilance and his decline in mental health was breaking her heart. She knew he was at risk but felt she could hold on to their independence and time together for a little bit longer.

She had taken every precaution she knew to take.

However, that night, he managed to leave their home without the alarm activating. Had he disabled it? Had she forgotten to set it? It didn't

matter in hindsight. He was gone. She had done all the right things in her control and immediately called 9-1-1.

"Call us the minute you realize something is wrong," said Dispatcher Rebecca Knauer. "Don't wait. This is what we are here for. The worst case would be losing valuable time while you debate whether to call us. Every second counts."

An aid to the Paradise Valley Police Department is a service called Smart 911 which allows residents to create a user safety profile containing pertinent information an officer may need in an emergency; a photograph, vehicle description, medical history, and family pet information. The profile is activated when the resident calls 911.

Our 9-1-1 Dispatchers work from the Paradise Valley Police Station and can act very quickly to alert neighboring agencies with all available information.

The "ATL" or "attempt to locate" for a vulnerable adult or

child is a high-priority call.

As Paradise Valley Police Officers responded to the couple's residence and checked the surrounding area, both Phoenix and Scottsdale Police were alerted of the incident details.

What was he wearing? When was he last seen? Could his wife provide a photograph? Was he on foot or driving? Was he carrying a phone? Any video cameras covering the home's exits? Had he done this before? Is there any place he might go? Is he wearing a medical alert bracelet or other identification? Is he carrying his wallet?

As an officer asked his frantic wife these questions, other officers had started knocking on doors in the neighborhood, looking for anyone who might have seen her husband or have video coverage of the street. More officers and police volunteers fanned out from his home, looking for a man fitting his description. The 9-1-1 oper-

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Losing a Loved One

ator had broadcasted details as they were relayed from officers talking with his wife on scene to everyone on shift.

Officer Sara Plotnik who was assisting radioed the good news. She had found him. An hour after he had been reported missing, Officer Plotnik saw him standing alone in a field, staring off into the distance. He was safe!

“Town of Paradise Valley residents depend on their closely-knit community to help keep vulnerable adults safe, but losing a loved one like this can happen and does happen,” said Community Resource Officer Steven McGhee. “Luckily we had a happy ending but that is not always the case. Vulnerable adults are also susceptible to becoming victims because they get disoriented and must rely on the trust of a complete stranger.”

The Town’s YANA program is an ex-

ample of services that are knit together to keep our residents safe through trust.

YANA stands for You Are Not Alone and it was started in January of 2017 in the Town of Paradise Valley. It is designed for individuals who live alone, have limited local family contacts, and desire to have a daily wellness call. The call is automated and takes place at a specified time, and if the resident does not answer, the system calls additional times before an officer is dispatched to the YANA member’s house for a welfare check. The police have saved two lives since YANA started in Town.

The YANA program is free to all Town residents and is a real comfort to out of town relatives who worry about a family member who may be living alone. Our Police Volunteers even visit weekly with those

who want a visit. One town resident, a physician specializing in geriatrics, said “There is no substitute for human contact when you’re elderly, living alone and vulnerable. The YANA volunteers provide an incredibly valuable service to our neighbors and their families, who are sometimes across the country.”

Our Police Volunteers will have a table on YANA at our upcoming Public Safety Fair on Saturday, February 23rd from 10am-2pm. Several Public Safety Professionals will also be present to connect you to your local and statewide staff and services.

Save the date and spread the word. In doing so you could change someone's life!

This is a free public event for our community. It will include raffle entries, family fun entertainment, and lots of resources!



Take seconds now to save seconds later by creating a profile today at Smart911.com

Smart 911 is a free, secure, and private service built to enhance communication between the public and first responders.

Service helps ensure the right resources are dispatched to the right location, enabling our first responders to perform their duties safely and effectively.

You Are Not Alone (YANA) Program

You Are Not Alone (YANA) is a program in Paradise Valley that can save lives and help individuals who have limited mobility, have a disability or other circumstance who would benefit from having someone check on their welfare.



For more information visit:
ParadiseValleyPD.com
Select - "Police Services">
Select - "You Are Not Alone (YANA)"



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Dispatch Center: (480)948-7410
Emergency Calls: 911

-  ParadiseValleyPD.com
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Its easy to stay connected by joining our Constant Contact email list! Simply send your email address by text message. Text **PVPD** to 22828 to get started. Standard message and data rates may apply.