



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 4

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Students Beware!

When we think about identity fraud, we often think about our personal accounts, our parent's accounts or even our grandparent's accounts but what about our children's accounts. The 2010 Identity Fraud Survey Report (www.javelinstrategy.com) released by Javelin Strategy & Research found some interesting statistics for 2009. Bad news first, the number of identity fraud victims increased 12% to 11.1 million adults. Now for the good news, it appears with increased consumer awareness, and assistance provided by financial institutions and law enforcement, that businesses and consumers are taking more active roles to deal with it. The average fraud resolution time dropped 30% to 21 hours. There was also a drop in fraud costs per victim. Equally encouraging is nearly half of new victims filed police reports resulting in double the reported arrests, triple the prosecution and double the convictions.

Now you may be asking yourself, what about our teenagers and college aged children. Our young children are some of the most vulnerable to identity fraud. Children and young adults have new credit and often don't check personal accounts. According to the earlier report, Millennials (consumers aged 18 – 24 years old) take nearly twice as long to detect fraud compared to other age groups.

(Continued on page 2)



From The Desk Of Commander Bill Wilton

Beginning at the end of May and into June the Scottsdale Police Department will be participating in a national traffic safety initiative known as "Click-it-or-ticket." This effort will focus on the seatbelt and child restraint use of our motoring public. This is a program we take very seriously and will use education and enforcement to improve seatbelt and child restraint use in our community. Following are a few facts that support why we engage in this effort.

- In 2008, 70 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants 13 to 15 years old killed in traffic crashes were not buckled up.
- Among passenger vehicle occupants 25 to 34 who were killed in crashes, 66 percent were not buckled up.
- Men are less likely than women to buckle up. This is especially true of young men. In 2008, 66 percent of male drivers and 74 percent of male passengers 18 to 34 killed in passenger vehicles were NOT wearing their seat belts
- A proven benefit nationally — Seat belts, when used by passenger vehicle occupants 5 and older, saved an estimated 13,250 lives in 2008, more than 75,000 lives from 2004 through 2008, and 255,115 lives from 1975 through 2008

Even though belt use is the highest ever at 84%, one death is too many. Long after the program ends, we will continue to educate and enforce in an effort to further improve voluntary compliance. Be safe and buckle up.

Commander Bill Wilton
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Some of the reasons our young adults become targets are they have new credit and credit they do not monitor. Most students have blank credit. Students also have access to securing new credit. Walk around any college campus and you will see all the credit applications or representatives from credit card companies soliciting new applicants.

When it comes to computers, this generation of computer savvy people spend more time online than any other generation. Most of their banking is done online. They often think because they may not have a lot of money in their account that they are immune from identity fraud. A student who only has \$100 in their account and has it compromised could lead to devastating consequences. How would they buy food, school supplies or pay their phone bill. The list could go on and on.

Here are some tips for our college aged children and young adults to keep in mind:

- Keep doors locked and windows secured so others cannot access your dorm room and personal property.
- Do not leave personal information sitting out in the open for everyone to view or take.
- Shred all personal documents you do not need and secure those you do.
- Make sure secure websites are used when ordering items online
- Keep anti-virus software and firewalls current and up to date.
- Do not give out your student numbers, pin numbers or anything else that may lead to fraud.
- Use privacy settings on social networking sites. Do you really want everyone to know things about you?
- When using free Wi-Fi spots, do not access personal websites such as your banking information. Could someone be watching your key strokes?

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- Run credit checks yearly and if the child or young adult has not established credit, it should come back stating that. Go to www.annualcreditreport.com for a free copy.
- Do not share things on a cell phone that someone could use to steal your information.

If our young adults and college students take proactive steps, they can reduce the chances of identity fraud considerably.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Jason Glenn at 480-312-8802, email: jglenn@scottsdaleaz.gov , or District 4 Police Aide Shannon Ziemba at 480-312-8801, email: sziemba@scottsdaleaz.gov .

Upcoming Events

Mighty Mud Mania: Saturday, June 19th from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Chaparral Park located at 5401 N. Hayden Rd.

- Activities for 6 & younger include Mini Mud course, Mudville “mud” town for all tiny tots (1-6 year olds love this area), mini waterslide, and sand castle building!
- Activities for 7 – 17 year olds include the Original Mud Obstacle course, waterslides sandcastle building, water cannons, and mud pots to play in.
- Swim after your Mud activities for \$1 admission. Be sure to bring a CLEAN swimsuit and towel if you want to swim.

Call (480) 312-2704 for more information.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817