

2015 Citizen Safety Forum Offers Free Crime Prevention Education

Valley residents will have an opportunity to learn important crime prevention information at the 2015 Citizen Safety Forum presented by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. This half-day event is free to the public and provides a series of educational sessions on a range of crime prevention topics including how to steer clear of fraud artists, avoiding counterfeit drugs, and staying safe in risky situations. Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery will also give a keynote address at the Forum and answer questions from participants.



The 2015 Citizen Safety Forum will be offered at locations in the east and west valley on the following dates:

Monday April 6, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Grace Bible Church

19280 N. 99th Ave.

Sun City, AZ 85353

Thursday, April 9, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Crescent Crown Distribution

1640 W. Broadway Rd.

Mesa, AZ 85202

A complimentary breakfast will be served to participants who register for the 2015 Citizen Safety Forum at maricopacountyattorney.org/CSF. "Our goal is to provide residents with the information they need to avoid becoming a victim of a crime," said County Attorney Bill Montgomery. "I encourage everyone to take advantage of the free education and information presented at the Citizen Safety Forum and to share what they learn with their friends, families and neighbors."

For more information, contact the MCAO Community Affairs Office at 602.506.7621.

LEND YOUR EYES AND EARS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

You can help police solve crimes in your community if you're willing to "BOLO" (Be On the Look Out). An easy way to do this is to register at BOLOCop.com, a web-based communication program that will send you alerts from law enforcement agencies seeking the public's help on a range of public safety issues, including locating missing persons, identifying probation violation offenders, and recovering stolen property. The service also distributes information about crime trends that may be impacting your neighborhood.



Created in 2012 by Gilbert Police Crime Prevention Officer Vickie Owen and website developer Steven Mueller, BOLO Cop is used by hundreds of federal and state law enforcement officials to distribute critical police information in a variety of ways to individuals and businesses. The site will soon add a national registry known as the "Silver Directory" which allows members of the public to add information about a loved one suffering from dementia which can be used by police to find the individual's home should they be found or if they need to activate a Silver Alert.

BOLO Cop had its origins in a fax-based service started by Peggy and Paul Secaur in 1990. After Paul received a business fax that helped him and police apprehend a purse thief in the building he worked in, Paul and Peggy got the idea for Fax Net 1 and started sharing faxes with neighboring businesses about crimes in the area. Within weeks of launching the service, police were able to catch a bank robber, break up a counterfeit ring, locate an elderly man suffering from dementia and divert an attempted rapist.

Paul and Peggy were featured in the April 2013 issue of our newsletter. Their idea lives on in BOLO Cop.