

# Neighborhood News

EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | April 2018

## Quick Tip:

Vandalism and Criminal Mischief incidents increase during the summer months. It pays to take additional precautions to protect your property. Remember the following: Keep your garage doors closed when not at home. Keep low-wattage porch and patio lights on all night, or install motion lighting. Do not leave bikes, tools, building materials, etc. out in the open unattended.



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## Citizen Volunteers Patrol our Streets and Neighborhoods

To offset the increasing demands and growth in unincorporated El Paso County, the Sheriff's Office and El Paso County citizens benefited from the service of 385 active volunteers. Every volunteer provides the Sheriff's Office, and the community, with invaluable time and devotion to service. Included in the numerous volunteer opportunities within the Sheriff's Office is the Sheriff's Citizen Patrol (SCP) which was created in 2009 to provide additional visibility in the community and assist patrol deputies with tasks that do not necessarily require resolution by a sworn peace officer. To date, the Sheriff's Office currently has 11 members who have been trained and certified to provide this service.

It is important to note, these volunteers will not respond to or investigate criminal activity; however, they do engage in other activities associated with patrol functions. In other words, they will respond to calls for service which generally involve quality of life issues that do not require specialized training and certification of a Deputy Sheriff.

Sheriff's Citizen Patrol (SCP) volunteers perform duties involving motorist assists, traffic control at accident scenes or

construction zones, abandoned vehicles, cold case criminal reporting, speed monitoring at schools and other "trouble" spots (deployment of the portable speed trailer), drive by visual checks of residential and business alarms, parking complaints, and vacation checks.

The training is a two-phase process: one training academy and then 40 hours of field training. During the training academy, the classroom training includes, but is not limited to, Law Enforcement Ethics, Colorado Revised Statutes, Radio communications, traffic direction and speed monitoring, Personal Safety, Crime Prevention, and Community-Oriented Policing. Furthermore, SCP's have the option of attending the annual Sheriff's Citizen's Academy, which familiarizes citizens with the Sheriff's Office organization and the various functions of the Office's divisions and departments. Additionally, the Citizen's Academy is also offered annually to all El Paso County citizens. Numbers are limited so if you are interested in this unique opportunity, please visit the El Paso County Sheriff's Office website for future 2018 training dates and learn more about the application process.

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The second phase is field training which consists of 20 hours of patrol time which involves riding with a Sheriff's Office Deputy while on patrol and 20 hours of training with a certified Sheriff's Citizens Patrol training volunteer. During the first twenty-hour phase, the SCP will walk away with a better understanding of the daily patrol requirements and challenges a deputy experiences during his or her patrol shift. While on shift with the deputy, the SCP will also have the opportunity to practice what they have learned during the academic/classroom portion of the academy in a more practical, hands on setting. An example of this practical application might be the response to a traffic accident. While under the supervision of a deputy, the Citizen Patrol volunteer might have the opportunity to provide traffic control as the accident is being investigated.

The second 20-hour phase is spent with a certified Sheriff's Citizen Patrol Training volunteer. During this phase, the SCP becomes familiar with the specific tasks he or she will be conducting on a daily shift. One of many important roles the SCP plays is working with the Crime Prevention Coordinator and Community Relations Deputies in support of the Neighborhood Watch sign program and community relations initiatives. Per the 2017 Sheriff's Office Annual Report, our SCP volunteers in 2017 replaced every Neighborhood Watch sign in El Paso County. In the past, these signs have included the current Sheriff's name, requiring replacement as often as a new Sheriff was elected. The new signs that were installed in 2017 do not include a name, so they can remain useful regardless of the Sheriff's name and as long as the sign remains in good order. This initiative was a huge undertaking and could not have been completed by deputies due to their daily patrol demands.

Citizen Patrol volunteers operate marked Sheriff Office vehicles that are readily identified as Citizen Patrol vehicles and are similar to Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles. SCP's wear identifiable uniforms, as well. The uniform consists of a blue and black polo type shirt with "Citizens Patrol" markings on the front and back and black pants. Citizen's Patrol volunteers are not armed, nor do they wear the same safety and personal protection equipment worn by sworn deputies.

Sheriff's Citizen Patrol volunteers donate their time and effort to help make your community safer. Listed below are some critical statistics listed in the 2017 El Paso County Sheriff's Office Annual Report which reference the Citizen Patrol Unit:

- 1,670 Volunteer Hours = \$84,568.00 in salary savings
- 1,033 – Removal of tagged vehicles
- 209 – Tagged abandoned vehicles
- 164 – Traffic control functions
- 46 – Impounded vehicles
- 28 – Motorist assists

For more information regarding the Sheriff's Citizen Patrol or other volunteer opportunities offered by the Sheriff's Office, please visit our website at [www.epcsheriffsoffice.com](http://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com) under the **Community** tab.

## Neighborhood Watch

A neighborhood watch system is easy to establish, simply by getting to know your neighbors within your neighborhood. In a Neighborhood Watch community, neighbors keep watch on each other's homes and are encouraged to report any suspicious activity to either the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Coordinator or the El Paso County Sheriff's Office dispatch center. As one of the most successful community/law enforcement partnerships in the United States, this program aids law enforcement by creating a closer sense of community among citizens and furthermore builds a strong relationship with Sheriff's Office deputies. Neighbors who know each other become the Sheriff's Office "eyes and ears" within that community and develop an awareness of unusual circumstances and suspicious behaviors.

To learn more about the program, please contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator at 719-520-7151 to schedule a meeting or go to [www.epcsheriffsoffice.com](http://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com) under the **Community** tab for further details.



## Interested in learning more about the Sheriff's Office?

Are you interested in learning more about what the Sheriff's Office has to offer residents of Unincorporated El Paso County? Request a representative from one of our numerous units to come and speak with your group.

To participate please go to [www.epcsheriffsoffice.com](http://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com) and under **Community** select **Speakers Bureau** and submit the Speaker Request

## Going on Vacation?

Going on vacation can sometimes be stressful. Let us help you relax a bit. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office provides a service that when deputies or Citizen's Patrol volunteers are available, will conduct directed patrol checks at properties for you while you are away.

To participate please go to [www.epcsheriffsoffice.com](http://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com) and under **Services** select **Vacation Check Request Form**.

## Upcoming Events

### Coffee with a Cop Events:

- Friday, April 20, 2018, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Hotel Elegante located at 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.
- Saturday, May 19, 2018, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at R&R Coffee and Café located at 11424 Black Forest Road, Black Forest, CO 80908.
- Friday, June 15, 2018, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the new Sarge's Grill located at 5853 Palmer Park Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Join Sheriff Elder, CSPD Chief Carey and local law enforcement officers for an informal and friendly conversation. This is a great time to speak with these folks on issues or concerns that might be on your mind.

### Victim Rights Week Events:

- April 9, 2018 - 10:00am to 10:30am **Watch Local Police Chiefs And Sheriff Elder Compete In A Fun Run** Starting In Front Of The Pioneer Museum at 215 S Tejon Street Colorado Springs, 80903
- April 11, 2018 - 5:00pm to 7:00pm **Presentations On Mindfulness And Community Safety** at Colorado Springs Police Department Community Room at 705 S Nevada Ave Colorado Springs, 80903
- April 13, 2018 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm **Ice Cream Social With Free Massages, Therapy Dogs, And More!** Colorado Springs Police Department Community Room 705 S Nevada Ave Colorado Springs, 80903
- April 21, 2018 - 9:00am to 12:00pm **5k Fun Run And 1 Mile Walk** At North Monument Valley Park, By Fontanero. Online Registration Is With Active.com Until April 20, 2018 Or Limited Race Day Registration 30 Minutes Prior.

## Crime Prevention

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office is committed to helping our citizens keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime, the fear of crime and neighborhood decay. Working collaboratively with other local law enforcement officials, the Sheriff's Office assists to establish networking systems, provide educational materials, programs, training and safety tutorials to promote pro-active crime prevention in our community. Through an active Community Oriented Policing philosophy, we believe that individual citizens should be empowered to work with law enforcement to help keep themselves safe. Many programs we offer will provide tools that you can use to learn crime prevention strategies, engage other community members, and coordinate with local law enforcement to aid in crime prevention.

- **FOR EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1**
- El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch (Non-emergency crime reporting): **390-5555**
- EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information): **520-7111**
- EPSO Traffic Hotline (for reporting problem areas or traffic violations): **520-7192**
- EPSO Tip Line (for reporting suspicious activity or the location of wanted persons): **520-7777**

## Crime Prevention Tips

### Child Safety:

- Advise your children to never give out personal information to strangers and to tell you immediately if somebody asks.
- Educate your children on the importance of knowing how and when to use 911.
- Any time a situation has made a child uncomfortable they should tell a parent immediately.

### Home:

- Place a metal or wooden rod in the track of sliding glass doors/windows.
- Have sufficient lighting at all household entrances.
- Do not hide keys; have a trusted person keep a spare.
- If you install a security system, make sure you are aware of the company's response policy.

### Vehicle Safety:

- Keep your car in good working condition.
- ALWAYS lock your car door even if you are only away from the vehicle for a few minutes.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Check the back seat when entering your vehicle.
- Remove all weapons from your unoccupied vehicle.

### Personal Safety:

- When walking, stay in well-lit areas; avoid bushes, alleys, unmarked trails, etc.
- Walk in groups or pairs, if possible.
- Be aware of your surroundings; look around to see if there are other people in the area.
- If something or someone doesn't seem right, "See something, Say something".

### Register for the El Paso-Teller County Emergency Notification System (or Reverse 911).

This system is used to advise residents of any situation that threatens harm to life and/or property or is deemed dangerous by officials. This could be man-made disasters, crime, pandemics and hazardous materials incidents, missing persons, evacuation notifications, neighborhood emergencies and similar important issues. To register for this service or for more information go to <http://www.elpasoteller911.org>.

Schedule the Crime Prevention Coordinator to come to your residence and conduct a CPTED evaluation (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). This evaluation takes about 30 minutes and a few of the items looked at are lights, locks, landscape, and security areas. This evaluation will give you "options to consider" to make your residence more secure.

**Help us help you by choosing not to become a victim of crime and making it tough for criminals to commit their crimes. Always remember to report criminal activity or suspicious behavior promptly. For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator: 520-7151**

# Crimes in Your Neighborhood

## Highlights From *March*

### District 1

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 0  
 Burglaries – 2  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 0  
 Thefts – 2  
 Criminal Mischief – 4

### District 2

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 1  
 Burglaries – 1  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 0  
 Thefts – 0  
 Criminal Mischief – 0

### District 3

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 5  
 Burglaries – 6  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 13  
 Thefts – 5  
 Criminal Mischief – 8

### District 4

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 1  
 Burglaries – 4  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 3  
 Thefts – 20  
 Criminal Mischief – 2

### District 5

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 1  
 Burglaries – 5  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 2  
 Thefts – 14  
 Criminal Mischief – 8

### District 6

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 1  
 Burglaries – 1  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 1  
 Thefts – 11  
 Criminal Mischief – 5

**District 1**—Woodmoor/Canterbury, Gleneagle, Kings Deer, Club Villas, Palmer Lake, Monument

**District 2**—Black Forest, Wissler Ranch, Hawk Ridge

**District 3**—Cimarron Hills, Constitution Hills, Claremont Ranch, Park Vista & Sieferd

**District 4**—Woodmen Hills, Falcon, areas east of Meridian Road

**District 5**—Security, Fountain Valley, Colorado Centre, Clearview Estates, Southmoor

**District 6**—Widefield and Little Ranches area

**District 7**—Stratmoor Valley, Stratmoor Hills, B Street, Hwy 115

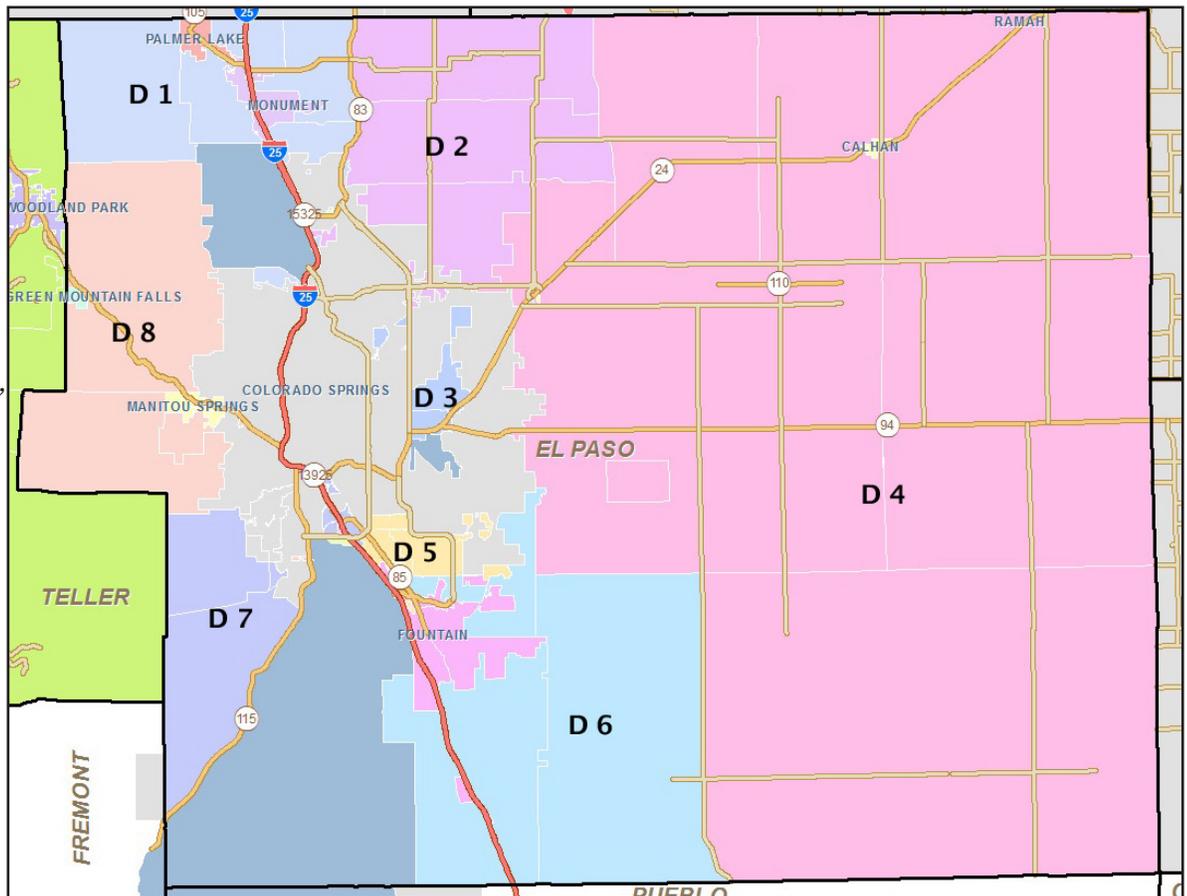
**District 8**—West Colorado Avenue, Ute Pass, Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, Rampart Range

### District 7

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 1  
 Burglaries – 7  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 3  
 Thefts – 7  
 Criminal Mischief – 3

### District 8

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT) – 1  
 Burglaries – 3  
 Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA) – 1  
 Thefts – 1  
 Criminal Mischief – 1



*The above statistics reflect the various assigned Sheriff's Office districts and furthermore illustrate a "snapshot" of what the Sheriff's Office is experiencing across El Paso County. The illustrated numbers show the number of case reports, not calls for service, the Sheriff's Office has taken. If you are interested in individual neighborhoods or areas, please contact Brent Ambuehl, El Paso County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Coordinator at (719) 520-7151 or email at [brentambuehl@elpasoco.com](mailto:brentambuehl@elpasoco.com) for more specific information.*