

City Talk Column for Aug. 28, 2024
Police Department
Stephanie Foley, police chief

Chief invites you to participate in two upcoming events

The Sedona Police Department is excited to invite the community to join two separate events that we are getting ready to host.

The first event is our Community Police Academy. This academy is a classroom type format in which every Tuesday night from 6 to 9 p.m. for eight-weeks the Police Department hosts community members to learn more about police operations in our beautiful city. This free program is open to the first 15 people to sign up and starts October 8, 2024 with the deadline to apply by September 22, 2024.

More specifically, individuals enrolled in the Community Police Academy will participate in discussions with members of the Sedona Police Department, learning about the numerous services and responsibilities. Some of the topics covered during the academy will include information on our motor traffic unit, K9 program including meeting Sam and K9 handler Officer Beers, use of force, crime scene investigation, dispatch operations and so much more. There will also be demonstrations and even a field trip to the firearms range.

The purpose of the Community Police Academy is to engage our community and bring deeper understanding about policing efforts in Sedona. And the benefits are not only to share information with the participants, but for our Police Department staff to connect with residents in a casual setting, so that we can take the opportunity for us all to come together, learn from each other and continue to build our sense of community. You can sign up and learn more at www.sedonaaz.gov/policeacademy.

The second event is our Community Outreach Event, formally known as National Night Out. The event will be on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Hub at 525 Posse Grounds Road next to the skatepark. It's a time where we can come together with our partners like the Yavapai and Coconino County Sheriff's Departments, the Sedona Fire District and other agencies and organizations that serve Sedona. Among all the exciting things to see, there will be an interactive crime scene activity and the ability to tour an engine from the Sedona Fire District. The Police Department will have demonstrations with our Special Weapon and Tactics (SWAT) team, of K9 Sam in action and of how we use drones with a Police Drone Operator.

We always look forward to building stronger bonds and trust with the community we are so proud to serve. So come out to the Community Outreach Event and meet the Sedona Police Department team members including our cadets, dispatchers, officers and volunteers. There will also be plenty of food, vendors, information, swag and much more. This event is for everyone, so please bring the kiddos too.

I look forward to these two events every year, as we are committed to engaging with the public and finding other ways to serve outside of our everyday line of police work. This is a great opportunity to connect with other employees within the department, other than just our patrol units you see on the streets, in a fun, relaxed setting.