



Commentary
by:
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Public Safety

*Councilmember – Mesquite District
City of Peoria*

Most residents believe that one of the greatest factors of a well-built city is a strong public safety force. I completely agree. I take pride in the fact that the City of Peoria is serious about equipping the Police and Fire Departments with every resource necessary to protect and serve our communities.

In keeping with this philosophy, those of you relaxing at Lake Pleasant may have noticed a new vessel on the water. The City of Peoria received grant funding to purchase a Lake Pleasant Emergency, Medical, Fire, and Rescue Watercraft.

The new boat comes equipped with modern response systems, which allows it to travel in shallow water and quickly get those in need on board. In addition, our watercraft will meet the highest emission standards, providing the least environmental impact on the lake and surrounding areas. This boat is a great addition to our Fire Department and will allow Peoria Firefighters the opportunity to respond to and resolve emergency situations on the water as quickly as possible.

Outside of the water, our Police Chief is making sure that the Police remain connected with residents of all ages through Community Policing. With this initiative, the Police work proactively with the community, equipping residents with the tools necessary to be the eyes and ears of their neighborhoods. Covering topics such as ways to avoid becoming a victim and how to spot scams gives citizens a working partnership with their Police Department.

The proof is in the statistics. Typically, a troubled economy brings about additional crime. However, crimes in Peoria have decreased 8.5%, compared with 2011. This figure represents a 4.3% decrease in property crimes and an 8.7% decrease in violent crimes. These are impressive numbers, reflecting a safe community. This wouldn't be possible without a well-connected police force.

To keep updated about what is happening in your city, register for the Mesquite District electronic news alerts by visiting www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite. Contact Councilmember Cathy Carlat at Mesquite@peoriaaz.gov or by calling 623-773-7306.