



"When you're on patrol you want to be systematically unsystematic," Haines says. "You never want to follow the same route twice."

Haines says volunteers look for anything out of the ordinary. If they spot an open garage door, they let the homeowner know. At night, they patrol business parking lots.

"We want to develop community relationships," he says. "We want the people to know that we're here, and we're here to help them."

Biava drives through the Bashas' grocery store parking lot, looking for people who seem out of place — dressed shabbily or walking diagonally in the parking lot, scoping out cars.

The men say they haven't seen much "action" since they began in October. But they recall instances where they've caught sight of unusual activity: the man they spotted urinating on the roadway, and the woman who drove into a pack of javelinas, killing all three.

The volunteers say they also have witnessed thefts and reported them to dispatchers. Once, a driver was seen stealing a coin machine from a local carwash. Deputies arrived too late.

The volunteers are equipped with a radar gun to gauge speeders, but by law, can't issue traffic tickets. When noting speeding or other driving violations, they write down the offender's license plate number.

Become a volunteer

Any Gold Canyon resident interested in becoming a Citizens on Patrol volunteer should contact Pinal County Sheriff's Cpl. Stormee Wallace at (520) 866-5112 or

stormee.wallace@co.pinal.az.us.

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