



Happy Autumn to all! Welcome back to those who have been gone for the summer and thank you to those who braved the heat and logged hundreds of “Extra Code 9s” over the last several months. It is great fun to see everyone again, and I look forward to interacting with those of you who are still contemplating your return, and waiting for the last leaf to fall before heading west. Time seems to have flown in the Green Valley District this past year. There is much to look forward to as we head toward the end of 2011.

The Sheriff’s Auxiliary Volunteers of Green Valley are being recognized with a Unit Commendation at the Sheriff’s Department Annual Awards Banquet. Congratulations to each and every one of you who work, or have worked, for this amazing organization. Your efforts are the reason you are being recognized, and you are a large part of the reason that people in Green Valley feel safe and secure. I encourage anyone who is interested in attending to purchase a ticket when they go on sale later this month. The banquet will be held at the University Marriott in Tucson on December 9. More information about ticket sales will be forthcoming when it is available.

This summer has seen several of you involved in preventable vehicle collisions in either SAV or Sheriff’s Department vehicles. These incidents are not uncommon, but I would like to take a moment to remind you to always drive carefully and be aware of your surroundings. It is sometimes difficult to tell how close you are to fixed objects, especially when backing up. There are various things you can do to prevent such instances, such as avoiding backing up whenever possible. Since this cannot always be avoided, just be certain that you know what is around you so that when you maneuver a vehicle that may have line-of-sight issues, you are taking those things into consideration.

For those of you who have been paying attention the past eighteen months or so, you know that I expect a high degree of professionalism in the way we represent Sheriff Dupnik and the entire Pima County Sheriff’s Department. Every time you put on your uniform, or polo shirt with the star, you are representing more than a Corporation. You are representing every single Deputy Sheriff that works in this District, and by extension every single member of this Department. That reality is the same for anyone who chooses to put on a uniform and badge and work in the organization. With this representation comes a huge responsibility to honor the commitment that you took upon your graduation and to work toward achieving the high ideals for which the Department stands. You do not get to behave any way you want, as evidenced by rules stating you cannot purchase alcohol in uniform, among others. I bring this up because it is very important that each of us understand the responsibility that we bear when we put on the uniform and that we conduct ourselves accordingly. There is certainly room to have fun, but professionalism is not something that can be gained back once it has been lost and the perception with which people are left from one encounter with one member is something that can reflect back on the organization for many years to come.

In closing, I would like to welcome the newest recruit class that began on October 4. This class of approximately eighteen new members represents the future of your organization. Get to know them as you see them on breaks and welcome them into Green Valley SAV and the Sheriff’s Department. Remember what it was like to be the “new class.” Many thanks to all of you for continuing to make my experience in Green Valley extremely fun and productively challenging.