

## Vacant homes and properties can be a neighborhood nuisance, including:

- Parties by teens and young adults that include alcohol and other drugs
- Fires
- Vagrants and trespassing
- Excessive weeds and vegetation
- Mosquitoes breeding in derelict pools
- Criminal damage of vacant homes (including graffiti, burglary, damage to property, etc.)
- Reduced neighborhood security and morale

## Safer Neighborhoods Project Partners



Casa Grande Alliance



City of Casa Grande



Pinal County Environmental Health Services



Yost Realty Group

## Things you can do

- **Start a Neighborhood Block Watch**  
Talk to your neighbors and become the “eyes and ears” of your neighborhood. Get to know each other and work together. Contact the Casa Grande Police Department’s Crime Prevention Officer for assistance on starting YOUR Block Watch.
- **Monitor and report criminal activity**  
Use the CGPD Drug Activity Form [www.casagrandeaz.gov](http://www.casagrandeaz.gov) Police Forms link
- **Witness a crime in progress?**  
Call 911 to report a crime *in progress* or the Casa Grande Police Department at 520-421-8700 to report one which *already occurred*.
- **Monitor home sales on your street**  
When you see a ‘for sale’ or ‘foreclosure’ sign on a property, make a note of the Realtor or Management Company. Ask your neighbors who is managing the property. If there are future problems on that property, you will have a contact person.

## Safer Neighborhoods Project Description

The Safer Neighborhoods Project is a collaboration among City, County and private organizations. Our goal is to provide information to the citizens of Casa Grande that will help reduce the negative impact of vacant or abandoned properties on neighborhoods. Working together, we endeavor to create a safer community.

## Casa Grande Alliance

*Partnering for a safe and Drug-free community*



The Casa Grande Alliance is a 35 member anti-drug coalition that was formed in 1989. Our vision is to be a catalyst for developing a healthy community. **Our mission is to create partnerships and work together for the prevention of substance abuse and violence among youth and adults.**

Funding for our projects comes from government grants and private tax-deductible donations to our non-profit corporation CGA, Inc. Our projects include:

- Diversion and education for youth cited for underage drinking
- Providing alcohol and drug abuse education and awareness to individuals, families, schools, employers, and the community
- Serving as a treatment resource and support center for families and individuals
- Mentoring coalitions across Pinal County
- Creating safer, drug-free neighborhoods

ONDCP Drug Free Communities grantee SPI 2445

## Vacant homes in YOUR neighborhood?



## Information & Resource Guide

Safer Neighborhoods

*A Collaborative Project*

**Casa Grande Alliance**

*Partnering for a safe and drug-free community*

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## Who can help ? ...

### Green pool ?



Depressed housing markets and foreclosures have resulted in increased numbers of neglected and abandoned swimming pools in Pinal County. “Green Pools” and other basins/ponds that store water are potential breeding sites for mosquitoes capable of carrying and transmitting West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases.

#### **HOW THE COUNTY CAN HELP**

Report green pools to the Pinal County Environmental Health Services at 520-866-6200 or toll free at 866-287-0209 ext. 6200. Provide the following information: street address, is property vacant or occupied, realtor sign name. Abandoned pools will be treated with a product effective for 150 days.

[www.pinalcountyz.gov/departments/environmentalhealthwestnilevirus](http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/departments/environmentalhealthwestnilevirus)

### Overgrown weeds ?



Overgrowth of vegetation or accumulation of debris is unsightly and also presents a fire hazard putting neighboring homes in jeopardy. They can also harbor vermin and other pests and pose a public health hazard. This blight has a tendency to depreciate the value of surrounding properties. Owners are responsible for keeping vegetation trimmed to a height of no more than 24 inches and yards free of debris.

#### **HOW THE CITY CAN HELP**

Responding to a neighbor’s complaint, Code Inspectors will attempt to locate the owner or responsible party and request abatement. If no person is found, the City can have the blight removed (property cleaned) and assess a lien on the property to recoup their costs. You can view the codes and fill out an online form at the City website Planning & Development/Code Enforcement page or by calling 421-8600 .

[www.casagrandeaz.gov](http://www.casagrandeaz.gov)

### Crime and graffiti ?



The most common crimes committed in vacant homes include:

- Vandalism, criminal damage, graffiti
- Trespassing
- Vagrants seeking shelter
- Parties involving alcohol & drugs

Graffiti or tagging is a crime; it is vandalism. When not removed promptly, neighborhoods look uncared for and crime problems tend to increase. Homeless persons taking shelter in vacant properties present health and fire risks. Vacant homes are increasingly sites for illegal drug use and underage drinking, placing youth at great risk.

#### **HOW THE CITY CAN HELP**

If you witness any of these crimes in progress, call 911, or CGPD at 520-421-8700 for crimes already committed. Visit the Police Dept. website for forms to report graffiti or drug activity (Police Forms link).

[www.casagrandeaz.gov](http://www.casagrandeaz.gov)

### Realtor questions ?



Many vacant properties are owned by a bank or an out-of-town landlord and are often managed by a Realtor or Realty Management Company who may be responsible for maintaining the property while vacant. The Management Company may serve as the owner’s representative for problem resolution.

#### **HOW REALTORS CAN HELP**

If you see a ‘for sale’ or ‘foreclosure’ sign on a property, make a note of the contact information for future use if problems arise at that location. If you or someone you know is having trouble making their mortgage payments or owe more than the property is worth, you have options! Abandoning your home is your least productive option! Contact a Certified Distressed Property Expert Realtor for help or visit the websites below.

[www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov](http://www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov)  
[www.CasaGrandeShortSales.com](http://www.CasaGrandeShortSales.com)  
<http://www.wparonline.com>

*Western Pinal Realtors Association*