

Rim Country

LIVING

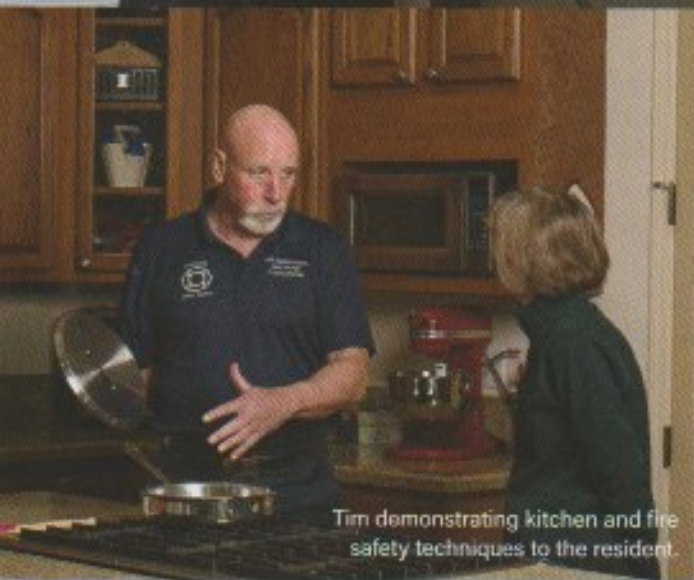


**KEEPING OUR
RESIDENTS SAFE**

PAYSON GUARDIANS
Tim Gallagher & Officer Keven Rush



Officer Rush discussing the new virtual blockwatch capability that the Payson Police Dept. has.



Tim demonstrating kitchen and fire safety techniques to the resident.

KEEPING OUR RESIDENTS SAFE



PAYSON GUARDIANS Tim Gallagher & Officer Keven Rush



As with many things, it all began with an idea. Former firefighter Tim Gallagher was volunteering at the Payson Police Department and during his interview with Police Chief Tischer, Tim was asked if he had experience with Block Watch. "I told him I did," says Tim, "and he asked me if I could help get a Block Watch program up and running. I later met with Chief Tischer and Fire Chief Staub and that was when Chief Staub said there was grant money available for health literacy efforts in the community." From there, the Community Risk Reduction program was born - expanding the scope of the program to include safety and security for residents in and around their homes. The program debuted in mid-2022, with Tim Gallagher and Police Officer Keven

Rush offering free in-home risk assessments and speaking at every possible opportunity to spread the word.

"The idea came from a childhood experience when I was a third grader," says Tim. "The fire truck and firemen showed up at our house to conduct a safety inspection of our gas furnace. They were the nicest, most respectful, and considerate men. Bigger than life. I was in awe."

It's not surprising that Tim grew up and fulfilled his dream of becoming a firefighter. He retired in 1998 from the Phoenix Fire Department. Married to Chris for 32 years, the couple moved to Texas in 2000, returning to Arizona a couple years ago. Another

childhood dream of Tim's? To live in Payson. "I got here as soon as I could," winks Tim. Tim and Chris enjoy staying home. After earning a degree in History from Morehead State, Chris spent her career as a flight attendant. Following his Phoenix Fire Department retirement, Tim traveled all over teaching fire, rescue, Hazmat, EMS and emergency management classes. "We've done all the travelling," Tim states. "Home is where we want to be."

Keven Rush is the son of Harold and Barbara Rush, longtime residents of Payson. A 1988 graduate of Payson High School, Keven went on to earn his college degree from New Mexico State University. Over the years, Keven has lived and worked here in Payson, as well as Las Cruces, New Mexico. It was during his most recent move back that he joined the Payson Police Department. He is currently the Payson High School resource officer. Last August, Keven was named the Law Related Education Officer of the Year by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education.

Keven is not married, but happily with his girlfriend of several years, Melissa. The couple was re-introduced when set up on a date by a mutual friend. "She is absolutely my best friend and compadre," smiles Keven. He and Melissa enjoy horseback riding, paddle boarding on Willow Springs Lake and trips to Rocky Point.

Keven has four sons. The two oldest are married and living Las Cruces, NM. Kaleb owns a roofing company and enjoys grilling and smoking meat on the weekends. "He's the one I call anytime I want to try something new on the grill," says Keven. Son Josh drives trucks, loves to fish, and keeps busy raising Keven's three grandchildren. 25-year-old Cohen lives in the Phoenix area and is pursuing a degree in Architectural Technologies. He's an active volunteer, working with the homeless. At 11 years of age, Dawson is the youngest and lives



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New Year

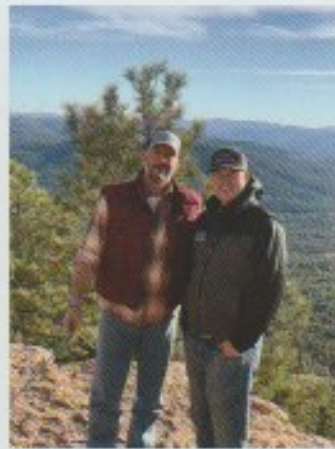


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with his mom and stepdad in Michigan. Dawson visits on breaks, and Keven travels to see him as well. "Not being with him is the toughest part of my life these days," admits Keven. Recently, Keven flew up for a weekend to take Dawson out for his first round of golf.

Tim and Chris have three furry family members. Their two cats are actually 16-year-old twins. But Tim will admit he has a favorite – an 11-year-old flat coat retriever. "Sadie is a rescue dog that actually rescued us," he smiles. Keven readily claims his girlfriend's animal menagerie as his. "There are two horses named Dash and Honey. One Labrador retriever named Abby. Six chickens and one duck," Keven says.

Having a former firefighter and a police officer performing risk assessments at local homes is the perfect pairing, especially with Tim and Keven. The two clearly get along and at this point, they can finish each other's sentences. "These assessments are a great opportunity to point out and discuss important issues about homeowners' personal health, safety and security in and around their home," states Tim. Keven nods, "We always find there are a few things that a resident never even thought of before that could be a problem. We often hear, 'we have looked at that every day for the last ten years and never thought twice about it.'"

These in-home assessments are completely free and are not code enforcement inspections or anything for residents to be concerned about. Tim and Keven are at your home for one reason only: To pass along their knowledge and expertise to help you learn more about health, safety and security. "We want our local residents to take a more active role in helping themselves," points out Tim. And these assessments provide you with all the information so you can do just that.

Keven and Tim clearly enjoy conducting assessments. "We get to engage with community members," smiles Keven. "And, at every residence we have visited, the homeowners have been very thankful for our assistance in sharing our experience as first responders and providing them suggestions on how to improve the quality of their lives," adds Tim.

Learn more about Home Health & Safety for Rim Country area Residents

- Health related issues
- Home Health and Safety Assessment Checklist
- Home Safety and Security Assessment Checklist
- Kitchen and Fire Safety
- How to be a good witness
- Payson Community Resources
- And more!

Call to schedule your FREE In-Home Assessment today!

Payson Guardians

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