

Garage Sale Gal

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



Perp can't outrun pink signs

Lynda Hammond

It was 70 degrees and clear in the city... a chamber of commerce morning. Ofc. Mark Rees of the Mesa PD was headed home after pulling a long night shift. Rees was always on the job. That's the way it is for a cop. Ever vigilant. He was just turning onto the street that led home when he saw it. A clear violation of Mesa ordinance 8-6-3-M. Then he saw another... and another. For Ofc. Rees they were like bread crumbs leading him right to the perp.

Kevin Nunn knew it was going to be a good day. Just as soon as he could get these signs hung, folks would come to his garage sale, buy his stuff and just maybe he could fit his second car in the garage. He was hanging his 11th sign of the morning when he saw the flashing lights.

The officer approached. "I finally got him. I've caught up with the person who's been hanging all these pink signs," Ofc. Rees told Kevin. "You've got to be kidding," Kevin told the officer.

"No", the officer explained. It's illegal to put up signs on city property. Kevin was taping the bright pink signs to light poles. Ofc. Rees admits while Kevin wasn't causing a traffic hazard, others sometimes do. "Where we get into great danger is when people cover street signs. I see people cover up yield signs with their garage sale signs and that can cause an accident."

So they continued discussing the sign ordinance when an idea popped into the "perp's" head. He asked the officer to join him in playing a joke on his wife. As it turns out, Ofc. Rees is a good sport and he was off the clock so he was all for it. Kevin asked the officer to stop by the sale and give his wife a bit of a fright regarding those pink signs of hers.

But you see when I saw the officer pull up, I simply thought--'oh, good, a story for my column'. That's right, Kevin is my husband. Those pink signs--mine, the sale-- mine.

So, while folks shopped at my sale (and wondered what all the fuss was about) I learned more than I wanted to about the prohibition of posting garage sale signs.

Posting garage sale signs in HOAs or on city property

1/HOA: No signs allowed on common area signs, trash cans, walls or other property.

2/Mesa: No signs allowed on city structures, such as signs and poles.

3/Signs might be allowed if you place a box on the ground, as long as it doesn't block a walkway, driveway, sign or any other structure. But it's always a good idea to check with your HOA first.

Ofc. Rees gives warnings to violators (I know from experience). Meantime, make sure you get the word out about your sale in a way that won't have you seeing flashing lights in your rearview mirror----place your ad through on line web sites such as GarageSaleGal.com or in the Republic.



(PHOTO BY LYNDA HAMMOND): “But officer!” Kevin Nunn explains his reasoning behind hanging so many pink garage sale signs. His wife, (me) says pink is her favorite color! No, but seriously, Ofc. Mark Rees of the Mesa Police Department caught Kevin hanging signs for my recent sale. He stopped by my sale, after his shift, to chat about the sign ordinance.

MY FAVORITE FIND

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.

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