

# Community Partnership Connection



## Raising Awareness About Child Abuse and Neglect

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize the role each person plays in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families. Washoe County Sheriff Michael Haley asks that residents take this opportunity to reflect on the important impact child abuse prevention has on the overall health of the region.

“Child abuse prevention is the most fundamental form of crime prevention,” Sheriff Haley said. “One of our top priorities in public safety is to protect kids. This includes helping to ensure that they are not placed in situations that may lead to long-term problems.”

Child abuse produces serious emotional harm and can leave lasting physical and mental scars on its victims. Abused children can develop a damaged sense of self, which in turn impacts their ability to develop and maintain healthy relationships, and function normally at home, school and work. Child abuse and neglect fall into four main categories: physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and endangerment, and sexual abuse.

Statistics show that no community is immune. It crosses all racial, economic, and cultural lines. It is committed by both men and women, and sometimes even by young people themselves. Sadly, often the abuser is a parent, family member, or someone with regular access to the child.

“We need to focus on protecting children from abuse,” Sheriff Haley said. “There is no acceptable reason for injuring a child and there are many ways to avert situations that lead to child abuse.”

Strengthening family bonds and enriching the lives of children are important steps towards child abuse prevention. Parents are urged to take time each day to build strong relationships with their children through conversations, and the sharing of daily tasks and activities. Be willing to listen. Know where children are and who they are with at all times. Proactively address day to day stress factors that, if



allowed to fester, could increase the risk of abuse and neglect. These include unemployment, divorce, family crisis, financial problems, substance abuse, untreated mental illness, poor parenting skills, and low self-esteem.

For more information about how to prevent and report child abuse and neglect, contact the CAN-Prevent Task Force hotline at 1-800-992-5757 or visit [canpreventnv.org](http://canpreventnv.org).

## Prescription Drug Roundup April 27th

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, local and federal agencies will once again partner together to sponsor the Prescription Drug Roundup event for Washoe County. The Prescription Drug Roundup is one way that we can raise awareness of the growing problem of prescription drug abuse, provide information and resources to the public, and reduce the availability of prescription drugs that can be abused.

Medications can be dropped off at the Roundup event with no questions asked. Please bring medications in their original containers if possible, and feel free to mark out the patient's name. Those dropping off medications will also receive educational materials, as well as a free MedSafe locking medicine cabinet (limited supply available) to safely store their medications in the future. In addition, volunteers from Northern Nevada HOPES will be collecting residential sharps, and providing information to the community about proper syringe disposal. To date, the Roundups in our area have collected a total of over 850,000 prescription pills.

### Roundup Locations on April 27<sup>th</sup>: 10:00am – 2:00pm:

**Walgreens 10370 N. McCarran Blvd.**

**Save Mart 565 East Prater Way**

**Walmart 4855 Kietzke Lane**

**Walmart 5065 Pyramid Way**

**Raley's 18144 Wedge Pkwy**

**Raley's 930 Tahoe Blvd, Incline**

**Scolari's 8165 S. Virginia Street**

**Smith's 750 S. Meadows Pkwy**



For those not able to make it to the Roundup event, permanent prescription drug drop boxes are available at local police facilities. These drop boxes can accept prescription pills, but do not accept liquids or needles (these items can be brought to the Roundup on the 27<sup>th</sup>). The drop boxes are available during regular business hours at the following locations:

- Washoe County Sheriff's Office – 911 Parr Blvd., Reno
- Reno Police Department – 455 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Reno
- Sparks Police Department – 1701 East Prater Way, Sparks

denim day  
april 24th  
2013



The Sheriff's Office along with the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence, and AlertID are asking community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement by wearing jeans on April 24<sup>th</sup> as a visible means of raising awareness regarding misconceptions that surround sexual assault.

### Why Denim Day?

A symbolic gesture – an Italian court overturned a rape conviction due to the judges not believing that the victim had not consented to sexual contact since, in their opinion, her jeans were so tight the perpetrator could not have gotten them off without her assistance. Sounds outrageous, yet in Italy, and all over the world, women and men who are victims of sexual assault continue to be disbelieved and accused of causing the assault due to their behavior... or fashion sense.



## Sheriff Dispatchers Honored with Red Cross Real Hero Award

Sheriff Communications Specialists Heather McCrary and Jeanette Martinez show the Real Hero Award along with a commendation from Senator Harry Reid that honored our entire dispatch staff for their service to the community. The awards were presented during last month's 10th Annual Real Heroes Breakfast at the Atlantis Casino where the Washoe County Dispatch Center employees/dispatchers were among those recognized for their role in making our community a safer place.

"They are all heroes, unsung and quite often forgotten when it comes to acknowledging their dedicated service in the emergency services realm," an article about the award ceremony said.

Communication Specialists/Dispatchers were also acknowledged April 14 through 20, which had been designated as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week 2013.

## Pet Microchip Clinics in May

Regional Animal Services will offer the following mobile free microchipping clinics in May.

**Tuesday May 7, 12 noon – 4:00 p.m.:** Scolari's parking lot, 1300 Disc Dr, Sparks

**Saturday May 18, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.:** Walk for Animals at the Sparks Marina, Sparks

**Tuesday May 21, 12 noon – 4:00 p.m.:** Washoe County Senior Services, 1155 East 9th St, Reno

These clinics are part of a year-long campaign by Regional Animal Services to provide free microchips for all Washoe County pet owners. To help reach that goal, Animal Services has scheduled a series of mobile microchip clinics on a regular basis throughout the year. Funding for the microchips used in the mobile clinics is provided by Maddie's Fund®.

Pet owners are asked to bring their dogs properly leashed and their cats in appropriate cat carriers.

Through January of 2014, free microchips will also be available from Regional Animal Services located at 2825-A Longley Lane. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

For information about Regional Animal Services' free microchipping campaign, visit [WashoeAnimals.com](http://WashoeAnimals.com).



**"Joining Forces"** is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement program that promotes statewide enforcement in the areas of: DUI, seat belt, distracted driving, and speed and pedestrian safety, and is made possible by grant funding received from the Nevada Department of Public Safety/Office of Traffic Safety. The Sheriff's Office issued 196 speeding citations, 14 cell phone/other distracted driving citations, and 24 citations for drivers' license related violations. Other notable violations included 24 motor vehicle registration citations, 22 vehicle equipment citations, 8 seat belt citations, 42 citations for failure to show proof of insurance, one citation for driver failing to yield the right of way, 7 driving through red light citations. Other various citations and written warnings totaled 59.

## Washoe County Sheriff's Office- Community Relations

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***Dedicated Service in  
Partnership with our  
Community***



## Sheriff's Office Reminds Residents about County Ordinances Governing Target Shooting in Congested Areas

With increased citizen concern regarding target shooting in congested areas, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office would like to remind residents of county ordinances governing discharge of firearms in congested areas. Washoe County Code 50.094 to 50.154 states that it is unlawful to discharge:

- any gun, pistol, or rifle, with the exception of shotguns, air rifles, or BB guns, within 5000 feet of an occupied dwelling.
- Shotguns, air rifles, or BB guns within 1000 feet of an occupied dwelling.
- a firearm from, upon, over or across any federal or state highway or any county road or highway.
- a firearm within a Nevada State Park, unless otherwise designated by the Administrator.
- Within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, it is prohibited to discharge a firearm in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or across or on a National Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in a manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge, or into or within any cave.

If shooters follow those parameters; they are generally allowed to shoot in any area not designated as a "no shooting" or "congested area." It is important to reiterate three key points:

- A "congested area" is a geographic location where discharge of any firearm is prohibited. Because congested areas are generally densely populated, it has a high risk of personal injury.
- A "restricted congested area" is a location where residents must be a minimum of 1000 feet from any occupied dwelling. In restricted congested areas, residents are allowed to discharge shotguns, air rifles and BB guns. A person is not allowed to discharge any gun, pistol, rifle or any other firearm in this area.
- A "non congested area" is a location where residents must be 5000 feet away from an occupied dwelling. In these areas they may shoot guns, pistols, rifles, shotguns, air rifles, BB guns, or any other firearms.

Recreational shooters are encouraged to practice safe shooting in established and lawfully authorized and licensed rifle ranges, gun clubs or shooting gallery's.

If citizens have concerns about activity that may be illegal, or dangerous, they should immediately call the Sheriff's Office at 785-WCSO (9276).

For more information, residents can refer to the Sheriff's Office website: [www.washoesheriff.com](http://www.washoesheriff.com), where they can click on the Congested Area Map. The link will provide them with the Washoe County Code, Chapter 50, and a live map highlighting restricted areas.