# Community Partnership Connection



### Washoe County Sheriff's Office App now available for iPhones and iPads

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office now has an App for iPhone and iPad to help increase public access to commonly used services such as online crime reporting, graffiti abatement and inmate searches.

The App is available for free from the Apple App Store. "The Sheriff's Office has a history of incorporating cutting edge technology and innovative thinking to increase efficiencies, improve service levels and strengthen the partnership between our agency and the community we serve," Undersheriff Todd Vinger said. "We are taking the next step."

Undersheriff Vinger said the Sheriff's Office assigned in-house Information Technology staff to design and build the App as a benefit to an ever-growing percentage of the populace

now using iPhones and iPads to access information. Vinger said that a version of the App for Android users is currently in the works.

"The Sheriff's Office believes it's an important part of our mission to make use of all available tools and technology that strengthen the information flow with the public and increase access to services," Undersheriff Vinger said.

The initial edition of the Sheriff's Office App provides access to some of the Office's most frequently used public services, including online crime reporting, graffiti abatement, inmate searches, contact information, and Sheriff's Office contact information.

Residents may also receive information about keeping their families and neighborhoods safer by following the Sheriff's Office on Twitter at: <a href="mailto:ownsended



# RAS reminds residents to keep their pets safe on the Fourth of July



As public fireworks displays begin thundering on the Fourth of July, the phones start ringing at Regional Animal Services. Every year, Animal Services sees a sharp increase in stray dog calls during the 24-hour period around July 4 and 5 as dogs attempt to flee from the noisy fireworks.

"Fourth of July fireworks are no fun for dogs." Regional Animal Services Director Barry Brode said. "Some will go to extreme measures, such as jumping through open windows, in their effort to escape the noise. Once out, these dogs may wander many miles from home, or hide themselves under decks or sheds for days. This includes cats as well!"

To help keep pets home and safe over the Fourth of July holiday, Regional Animal Services offers the following tips:

- Before the fireworks start, bring and keep your dog inside
- Keep windows and doors closed
- Take steps to lower outside noise such as leaving a radio, television, fan, or air conditioner on
- If you know your dog does experience extreme anxieties to loud noises, it may be worthwhile to contact your veterinarian to see what recommendations they have
- If you're going to a firework display, the best way for everyone to get the most enjoyment is to leave your pets at home

Regional Animal Services staff also encourages pet owners to make sure their pets have identification tags and are microchipped just in case they do get lost. This will expedite getting pets and their families reunited. "Our goal is to help all members of your family enjoy a happy and safe Fourth of July celebration," Brode said.

## **Looking for a Rewarding Career?**



The Washoe County Sheriff's Office is currently holding a recruitment drive for **Deputy Sheriff Recruit** and **Lateral POST certified Deputy Sheriff** applicants.

This drive is a great opportunity for men and women who are looking to pursue a career in law enforcement. Qualified applicants will enter a regional law enforcement academy scheduled to begin in January of 2014. Recruits will receive pay while attending the academy.

## The application deadline for this recruitment is Friday, July 19, 2013.

Applicants must be at least 21-years-old, a United States citizen, and have a high school diploma or the equivalent. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing the highest quality police service and protection to our residents and visitors of Washoe County. The Office looks for applicants who understand problem solving and critical thinking, are disciplined, good communicators and want to make a difference through service to their community. For detailed information about these positions, and links to online applications, go to:

#### www.Washoesheriff.com/jobs

Persons with questions may contact HR Analyst Julie Paholke with the Sheriff's Office at (775) 328-6383 or <a href="mailto:jpaholke@washoecounty.us">jpaholke@washoecounty.us</a>, or they may contact the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Background Unit at (775) 328-3352.

#### For These Cat Owners, Microchips Made all the Difference in the World

Microchips are making a world of difference in the lives of cat owners from across the west. In the last month, Regional Animal Services staff was involved in two incredible cat stories. Both ended with happy reunions thanks to microchips.

The first involved an orange tabby named Scout. Scout was an inside/outside cat who disappeared from his home over two-and-a-half years ago. The cat was found and brought into Animal Services at the end of May. Scout has a microchip, and now Scout is home again with a surprised, but very happy owner.

The second story involves a California toddler and his black cat Salem. Six months ago, Salem disappeared from his home in Citrus Heights. How the cat got over the mountains to south Reno is anyone's guess, but he did.

A concerned citizen found Salem wandering in the Double Diamond area and brought him into Animal Services. Fortunately, Salem has a microchip which made it easy for Animal Services staff to locate his young owner. Mother and son made the drive to Reno for the joyous reunion, and Salem went home.

"These are the kinds of stories that inspired us to launch our year-long free microchipping campaign," Regional Animal Services Director Barry Brode said. "The campaign began in February with the goal of microchipping 5,000 pets in twelve months. The response has been so successful that we expect to exceed that goal in the first six months."

So far, the majority of free microchips have gone to the dogs.

"We want the dogs to keep coming, but are also committed to having more cat owners take advantage of this opportunity," Brode said. "We hope your pet never becomes lost, but if it does, we want to do everything we can to ensure your story ends with a happy reunion like Salem's and Scout's."

#### **Free Microchip Information**

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

A special week dedicated just for cat owners is planned for July 22 through 26, 2013. For more information, visit WashoeAnimals.com.



Photo Above: Regional Animal Services Director Barry Brode holds Salem shortly before the cat was reunited with his young owner from California. After missing for six months, the cat was found a state away, but was returned safely home thanks to his microchip.

#### Washoe County Sheriff's Office-Community Relations

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# Find us on the Web: washoesheriff.com



Dedicated Service in Partnership with our Community

## **Get Along Little Doggies!**

There were more interesting things being driven besides cars from Spectrum to Parr Boulevard during the Reno Rodeo. Sheriff's Patrol lent a helping hand to over 50 cowboys and cowgirls as they made their way toward the Livestock Events Center as part of the Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive.







#### **BEWARE OF RANSOMWARE!**

There is a new virus in town. The Sheriff's Office has received reports in Washoe County of a new kind of computer malware virus called Ransomware that freezes their computer and accuses the victim of committing heinous crimes such as distributing child porn (see picture at right).

In each case, the accusation appears on a pop-up screen while the virus simultaneously disables the computer. The message often shows the user's IP address and city, and sometimes recent websites visited by the victim. The most alarming version activates the victim's webcam, takes his or her picture, and displays it on the warning. Links often come from people the user is acquainted with and whose email account has been hijacked.

The FBI does not collect fines, so be cautious of unusual pop-ups "It seems very realistic to the victims," said Washoe County Sheriff's Office Detective Greg Sawyer. "This type of fraud employs scare tactics to get you to pay the hefty 'fine.'" The victim is then offered an option to pay the fine within 72 hours, and the charges will be dropped and the computer will be restored. The message is fake, of course — and even those who pay the "fine" still have a hacked computer that will not unlock.



#### How can you protect against Ransomware?

Despite its threatening nature, Ransomware is still a type of malware. We recommend the same tips to help keep any malware out of your computer:

- Install and use an up-to-date antivirus solution
- Make sure your software is up-to-date to the latest secure versions
- Don't click on unknown links, even if they come from a trusted source. C lick the "X" box in the upper right corner to close the pop-up or restart the computer if that is not possible. Clicking "OK" can install the malware.