

Community Partnership Connection



Holiday Shopping – Safety Refresher!



Black Friday and Cyber Monday hailed the start of a very busy holiday shopping season, and we want to ensure that your holidays remain merry and bright! Here are some tips to keep in mind before heading out to the stores:

- First and foremost, stay alert. Do not get so caught up in the shopping frenzy that you lose awareness of your surroundings. Report suspicious activity to law enforcement or store security. (Continued...)

Holiday Shopping – Safety Refresher! (Continued...)

- Avoid shopping alone; there is added safety when shopping with a companion.
- Always lock vehicles and keep valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk or locked compartment.
- Before sunrise and after sunset, park and walk in well-lit areas.
- Stay alert to your surroundings. Take time to look around for possible suspicious persons, vehicles, and/or situations.
- When in crowded places, be alert for potential thieves. Don't overload yourself with packages. Maintain visibility and mobility to avoid potential threats.
- Be wary of unsolicited phone calls. The holiday season is notorious for con-artists who use this "season of giving" to take advantage of your kindness.
- When possible, avoid carrying large amount of cash and valuables, and avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- When using the new "chip" credit cards, make sure they have not been left in the card reader before leaving the checkout counter.
- Keep close track of all your personal belongings and never leave them unattended.
- Keep a record of all your credit card numbers in a secure place at home.
- When shopping with children, keep a close eye on them at all times. Consider coaching them to go to a store clerk or security guard if they become separated and be sure they know their first and last name so they can advise someone who they are.
- Give children a contact phone number that they can carry on their person in case they do become lost.

Introducing New Chief Deputy Susan Schilling

Sheriff Chuck Allen announced today the appointment of Susan Schilling, formerly a Deputy Chief with the Nevada Highway Patrol, as the Sheriff's Office new Chief Deputy of Administration effective November 30, 2015.

"Susan brings a wealth of law enforcement experience and related degrees to this position and is a respected leader in our northern Nevada law enforcement region," Sheriff Allen said. "I have the utmost respect and trust in Susan's abilities to serve in this position and am extremely confident that she will be a wonderful addition to the Sheriff's Office family."

As Chief Deputy of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Administrative Bureau, Schilling will have operational command of the Office's Administrative Services (Records and Civil), the Regional Public Safety Training Center, Training Division, Research and Development, Backgrounds, Community Relations, Dispatch and Fleet Services. "Sheriff Allen has offered me an exciting leadership opportunity," Chief Deputy Schilling said. "I have been blessed with a dynamic and productive career to date and hope that the experience gained will prove to benefit the Washoe County Sheriff's Office as well as the community we serve."

Chief Deputy Schilling has been employed by the State of Nevada for more than 23 years. She began her law enforcement career in Las Vegas in 1998 as a Parole and Probation Officer. In 2005, she was promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to the Nevada Highway Patrol. She became the first female promoted to the rank of Major/Deputy Chief on April 15, 2014 and was assigned as the Northern Command Deputy Chief.

Chief Deputy Schilling earned a Master of Science in Performance Improvement with Distinction from Grantham University and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She also graduated from Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and holds an Executive Certificate from the Nevada P.O.S.T.

Chief Deputy Schilling will replace current Administrative Bureau Chief Deputy Russ Pedersen who will become the new Chief Deputy of the Detention Bureau, replacing Chief Deputy Anthony Miranda. Chief Deputy Miranda will be retiring in January after serving more than 28 years with the agency.



As temperatures drop, vehicle thefts go up

December, January and February are statistically the worst months for vehicle thefts in Washoe County according to a four-year analysis done by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Based on this analysis, the Sheriff's Office predicts an increase in vehicle thefts in the coming months unless steps are taken by the public to help reverse this trend.

The Sheriff's Office and Nevada Division of Insurance remind auto owners that there are steps they can take to help protect themselves from becoming victims of auto theft during the winter months.

The Sheriff's Office believes that the increase in motor vehicle thefts during periods of colder temperatures is primarily due to the number of vehicles that are left unattended while warming up. Auto thieves are aware of this practice and look for opportunities to take advantage of it.

Vehicle owners can help take away this opportunity by never leaving their vehicles unattended while the vehicle is running.

The Sheriff's Office and Nevada Division of Insurance also remind vehicle owners that this is a good time to make sure they have an insurance policy that covers this type of vehicle theft. According to the Nevada Division of Insurance, many drivers are not aware that their auto insurance policy may not cover vehicle theft or damage to the vehicle caused by wind, fire, flood, a falling object, or vandalism. Comprehensive coverage can help protect consumers from incidents other than those caused by a collision. Comprehensive coverage is optional; however, it may be required by a lender when there is a loan on the car.

Nevada's Division of Insurance provides an auto insurance guide that includes more information on comprehensive coverage. The auto guide and other information about insurance is available on the Division website at <http://doi.nv.gov/Consumers/Automobile-Insurance/> by clicking on the "guide to auto insurance rates." Consumers interested in comprehensive coverage should contact their insurance agent or company.

More safety tips are available from the Sheriff's Office by:

- Visiting the WCSO on Facebook
- Installing the free WCSO app from the appropriate app store for your device
- Following the Sheriff's Office on Twitter at: @washoesheriff
- Visiting the Staying Safe page at Washoesheriff.com



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

911 E. Parr Boulevard
Reno Nevada 89512
P: 775.785.6228
F: 775.785.6244

Email us at
[sheriffcommunityrelations@
washoecounty.us](mailto:sheriffcommunityrelations@washoecounty.us)

Find us on the Web at
washoesherriff.com

Follow us on Twitter at
[@washoesherriff](https://twitter.com/washoesherriff)



*Dedicated Service in
Partnership with our
Community*

Follow us on...

WCOS Apple or Android App



**Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's
Association presents \$40,000 check to Walmart
for this year's "Shop with the Sheriff"**



*L to R: Santa and Mrs. (Bob & Sandy Gailor), Sheriff Chuck Allen,
Tim Davis-Wal Mart GM, Pat Dolan-President WCHDSA*

The Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association and Sheriff Chuck Allen were joined by Santa and Mrs. Claus to present a \$40,000 check to the South Reno Walmart Superstore on Monday morning to fund this year's *Shop with the Sheriff* event. "Over the years, the Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association has generously donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to support this event," Sheriff Allen said. "This check presentation is our opportunity to publicly thank the Association for helping to make Christmas dreams come true for thousands of local children." Children are pre-selected through local social services agencies. Each child is partnered with a member of the Honorary Association or a volunteer from the Sheriff's Office and taken on a store-wide shopping spree where they are allowed to spend up to \$200 on clothes and toys for themselves as well as for members of their family.

**Sheriff's Office sees increase in calls
concerning telephone tax scams**

The Sheriff's Office has seen an extreme spike in calls this month regarding telephone scams in which aggressive and threatening criminals impersonate IRS agents. Because public awareness is one of the most important keys to preventing this type of scam, the Sheriff's Office reminds residents to stay alert. Click [HERE](#) for information provided by the Internal Revenue Service which will help identify fraudulent calls. The Sheriff's Office urges residents to share this information with family, friends, associates and co-workers.