

# Community Partnership Connection

Volume 6, Issue 11



## WCSO "No Shave" November Champions Men's Health

Washoe County Sheriff's Office staff gave their support to local men battling prostate cancer by putting away their razors and growing facial hair during the month of November. During the Sheriff's Office first ever "No Shave November," Sheriff Allen authorized all staff to grow facial hair outside the normal Sheriff's Office standards for the month in exchange for a \$20 donation to the Renown Health Foundation. The women were invited to participate as well. Adhesive mustaches are allowed, and encouraged, in exchange for a \$20 donation.

"The response has been enormous and the enthusiasm overwhelming," Sheriff Allen said. "I'm proud to say that staff has raised over four thousand dollars to support the Renown Health Foundation in their mission." At the end of November, all proceeds will be donated to the Renown Health Foundation to provide financial assistance to men who are currently being treated for prostate cancer.

The program was such a success that Sheriff Allen decided to extend the "No Shave November" facial hair policy for an additional four months in the winter in support of other causes such as Shop with the Sheriff," "Christmas on the Corridor," COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors), the Special Olympics "Polar Plunge"," and Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.

Based on the turn out so far, Washoe County residents should be prepared to see a great deal more facial hair on the faces of Deputies and other staff members during the next three months! Click [HERE](#) to see more photos.





# Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

As the excitement of the holiday shopping season builds, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office reminds residents to stay focused on personal safety. 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. 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 strangers approaching you for any reason. The holiday season is notorious for "con-artists" who may attempt to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- 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.
- Expect an increase in pedestrian traffic and be aware of people walking in parking lots and on the streets, especially in low light and dark conditions.
- Consider high vehicle traffic areas as potential bottlenecks in your travels and use caution in those areas to avoid accidents.
- Never be in such a hurry for a deal that your driving endangers the lives of others. Slow down, stay alert, and be patient and consider the kindness of the season when dealing with other shoppers and drivers on the road.

The growing popularity of online shopping makes this an important time for shoppers to increase their awareness of the risks. "Great savings can often be obtained by shopping online," Sergeant Dennis Carry of the Washoe County Sheriff's Cyber Crimes Unit said. "But even when we take every precaution, the reality is we have no control over who holds that data on the other end." Sergeant Carry said that there is often no way for a consumer to know if data will be breached by a hacker once it is held in cyberspace. He offered the following cyber safety tips to help residents shop smart and stay safe online:

- Read your credit card statements and bank statements as soon as you get them to make sure there are no unauthorized charges. If there is a discrepancy, report it immediately.
- Always type a website address yourself or access it through trusted search engines.
- Never click on an email link, taking you to a purchase site. The link may take you to a fraudulent site.
- Don't allow online sites to maintain your credit card information. Although it's convenient, this is risky.
- When having items shipped to your residence, make sure they are taken inside timely, preventing thieves from taking them or realizing nobody is home and potentially leaving yourself exposed to a burglary.
- Whenever possible, use a credit card instead of debit card or check. Credit cards have an additional level of consumer protection in the event of a fraudulent purchase or disputed transactions.
- If it just looks too good to be true, it probably is.

More safety tips are available from the Sheriff's Office by visiting our WCSO [Facebook](#) page, installing the free WCSO app from the appropriate app store for your device, following the WCSO on [Twitter](#) or visiting the Staying Safe page at [Washoesheriff.com](http://Washoesheriff.com).

## Rolling into the Season of Giving...



The Sheriff's Office recently donated 72 bikes to the Reno Sparks Kiwanis Bike Program. Over the last few years, various divisions have collected and stored dozens of unclaimed bicycles in all shapes and sizes. Staff recently gathered the bikes in hopes they will find a new home this holiday season for a deserving child to "go places!"

## Dressed for Success

The WCSO and Catholic Charities hosted a surprise lunch for a special group of people this month. Clients from the Crossroads program were recognized and honored by law enforcement for the positive changes and challenges they have overcome on "Dress for Success" day. Crossroads is a hybrid transitional housing program which provides supported living, necessary resources and wrap around services to men and women transitioning out of homelessness, addiction and/or managing mental illness. They received lunch hosted by Sheriff Allen and executive staff and were gifted complimentary suits and clothing from Men's Warehouse of Reno and Catholic charities.



**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  
[washoesheriff.com](http://washoesheriff.com)

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



*Dedicated Service in  
Partnership with our  
Community*

Follow us on...

WCSO Apple or Android App



## Social Media Highlights on @ WashoeSheriff

1. **New Academy Graduates!:** For the 43 men and women who have spent the last several months preparing to become our region's newest peace officers, it's now time to celebrate! Click [HERE](#)



2. **Sharing the Season:** Sheriff's Office executive staff and County Manager John Slaughter took time out of their busy schedule on Thanksgiving Day to share the season of giving and thanks with others. Click [HERE](#)



3. **Arrival of RAVEN 4:** Join us as we welcome the arrival of the new RAVEN 4 to Washoe County where it will begin the transformation to a new role as a valuable community asset for law enforcement, Search and Rescue, and firefighting. To view the video, click [HERE](#)