Community Partnership Connection



Sheriff's Office asks Residents to Help in Fight against Graffiti







Scrawls of graffiti are popping up everywhere; showing up on street signs, parks, highway overpasses, marking even the most pristine of landmarks. Graffiti vandalism is now one of the public's foremost quality of life concerns. Aside from being unsightly, it creates a negative perception of safety, reduces property value, and our citizens and municipalities bear the considerable financial costs involved in removing it.

"If we allow current graffiti trends to continue, we set a new accepted norm," Undersheriff Todd Vinger said. Undersheriff Vinger invited local agencies to take part in a strategic planning session on July 26th to assess resources, and develop an action plan to move forward. The prominent message that came out of the planning session involved engaging residents, neighborhoods, businesses and

schools to help in efforts to wipe out graffiti. "The Sheriff's Office and its partners cannot do it alone," said U/S Vinger. "We need community support to help wipe out graffiti."

The strategic planning session identified three action items, calling for stronger enforcement, expanding the abatement program, and community education and engagement. Of the three action items, U/S Vinger emphasized the importance of widespread community awareness and involvement as key to the success of any anti-graffiti movement.

"Only a community working together can make a difference," Vinger said. "If you accept it, you promote it. All it takes is one person, one group, one unified effort to break the cycle and turn the tide."

Volunteer for Graffiti Clean-Up Day on October 8th: donate paint, brushes or gloves or volunteer to help cleanup from 10am to 2pm. Call 328-3361 for more information.

Visit the Washoe Sheriff website at www.washoesheriff.com and click on "graffiti" for more comprehensive information on graffiti in Washoe County and instructions on how to report graffiti.

Contact the Sheriff's Anti-Graffiti Coordinator Deputy Robert Cook at 325-6466 to establish a community group or learn how you can assist with anti-graffiti efforts.

Reminding Residents of Congested Area Ordinances during Hunting Season

With hunting season upon us, and 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 B-B guns, within 5000 feet of an occupied dwelling.
- Shotguns, air rifles, or B-B 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.

Residents are encouraged to practice safe shooting in established and lawfully authorized and licensed rifle ranges, gun clubs or shooting galleries.

If citizens have concerns about activity that may be illegal, or dangerous, they should immediately call the Sheriff's Office at 832-WCSO (9276).

For more information, residents can refer to the Sheriff's Office website: washoesheriff.com and 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.

New Nevada Cell Phone and Texting Laws in Effect October 1st

The new Nevada law makes it illegal to text or talk on a handheld cell phone while driving. Although the law is due to become effective on Jan. 1, 2012; law enforcement throughout Nevada will begin issuing warnings starting October 1st.



Edible Pedal 100

The Sheriff's team rode in this year's Edible Pedal 100 event September 18th, traveling (50) miles from historic Bowers Mansion in Washoe Valley to the town of Genoa.

Proceeds from this event supported Urban Roots, a garden classroom program based in Reno that assists public and private schools in creating and maintaining edible school gardens. Other beneficiaries included Virginia Palmer E.S. and Rotary Youth Exchange and Leadership.



(L to R: Bob Harmon, Deputy Kim Vandersyde, Captain Russ Pedersen and Deputy Corey Solferino Missing: Deputies Nora Turner and Rob Russo)

October is Cyber Awareness Month!





Photo courtesy of Adviction.com

We shop on it, keep in touch with our families and friends on it, our children learn on it...the internet is an unlimited source of information, resources and enjoyment. But not everyone on the internet is looking out for your best interests.

Since 2001, National Cyber Security Awareness Month was implemented as a nationally recognized campaign created to encourage computer users to protect themselves against cyber-crimes.

Each day, throughout the month of October, the Sheriff's Office will reach out to residents with 31 cyber tips and best practices to keep your family cyber-educated, cyber-smart and cyber-assured.

The Sheriff's Office will provide cyber-tips each day on **Twitter** along with **AlertID**, who will feature them on alerts.

Did you miss a tip? Not to worry, next month's newsletter will feature all thirty-one.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office-Community Relations

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Dedicated Service in Partnership with our Community

And the Award Goes to...



Sgt. Kim Meyer who received the Kristine Nagy-Johnson Award given by the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Task Force (CAN Prevent). Recognition Awards are presented in honor of those who are leaders and advocate for the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Nevada.

Sgt. Meyer was recognized as "an exemplary individual who, without the need for personal gain or recognition, has shown exceptional and outstanding interest, concern, and assistance personally and professionally, in the area of prevention or treatment of child abuse and neglect."



The Sheriff's Office who received 2nd Place in the "Novelty Entry"

Category presented by Reno Rodeo for the 2011 Parade

A personal note from Sheriff Mike Haley...

As an Organization, our collective hearts go out to the families and friends whose lives have been affected by the tragic event at the Reno Air Races on September 16th.

I'd like to thank the over 150 staff and volunteers from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office whose selfless, tireless and committed service during the event demonstrated their personal dedication and loyalty to this wonderful community we serve.