

Bilingual volunteers can help victims

The Washington County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program is seeking Spanish-speaking bilingual volunteers to provide emotional and informational support to victims of crime. The Victim Assistance Program has over 500 contacts each year with crime

victims who speak only Spanish. Volunteer opportunities include court accompaniment, case status notification and assistance with referrals and resources for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, robbery, identity theft and more.

The spring training for new volunteers will be held May 1-4. Call Carrie at 503-846-8671 for more information and an application. Call now to join the Washington County District Attorney's Office's crime victim advocate team!

Hazardous waste events planned

Welcome your car back into the garage and take household hazardous waste to a safe resting place at one of Metro's free household hazardous waste collection events.

The next events are scheduled for April 13-14 at Century High School, 2000 SW Century

Blvd., Hillsboro, and April 20-21 at Intel Ronler Acres Campus, 2501 NW 229th Ave., Hillsboro. The time is 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information including a list of hazardous items, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

Pet microchip event on April 7

In an effort to spare hundreds of lost pets and their owners the possible heartbreak of never seeing each other again, Washington County Animal Services and Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter will hold an "Every Day is Pet Tag Day" event on Saturday, April 7.

During this event, the animal shelter will offer pet identification microchip implants for only \$20, and rabies and health vaccinations to prevent distemper and parvovirus in dogs, or feline distemper and upper respiratory diseases in cats, at just \$10 each.

The event is from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. under the big tent at the Washington County Fairplex, 873 NE 34th Avenue in Hillsboro.

"Our shelter is joining other animal organizations throughout the nation to promote Every Day is Pet Tag Day," said Animal Services manager Gary Hendel. This is an awareness

campaign on the importance of tagging pets.

"We want to make sure that dogs wear current licenses and have microchips, and that cats wear identification tags and also have microchips, so that they can be reunited with their owners if they get lost. Without a dog license or microchip, a lost pet could remain in the animal shelter for days while our staff tries to locate the pet's owner. Our goal is to get these pets back home where they belong," Hendel added.

Last year the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter received over 5,000 lost pets. This could be dramatically improved if all pets wore identification.

Owners need to bring dogs on leashes and cats in carriers. In order to receive a microchip, a dog must have a valid dog license. Licenses will also be available for purchase at the event. For more information, call 503-846-7041.

New focus for fifth annual Faith Forum

Focus on Homelessness will be the topic of the fifth annual Community Faith Forum of the Inter-Religious Action Network of Washington County. The forum will include two keynote presenters, a break-out session and light breakfast and lunch.

The forum will be held on Wednesday, April 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Souther Classrooms and Auditorium at 9205 SW Barnes Rd. Portland. Parking is free.

Keynote speakers will include the Rev. Chuck Currie, interim minister at Parkrose Community United Church of Christ in Portland and long-time housing advocate, and Sydney Sherwood, Executive Director of the Good Neighbor Center in

Tigard.

Participants will also attend one of three interactive break-out sessions where they will have the opportunity to explore local programs and discuss ways to engage their faith community around homeless in Washington County. Breakout session topics include Food, Children & Youth, and Affordable Housing. Chair Tom Brian from the Washington County Board of Commissioners will provide opening remarks.

The 2007 Community Faith Forum is sponsored by Providence Health System, Tuahly Healthcare and Central Bethany Development. Additional sponsors include the Community Housing Fund and the Washington County Housing Advocacy Group.

The Inter-Religious Action Network, created in 2002, invites people from all faith communities to come together to build respect for our diversity and to provide leadership for the improvement of life in Washington County. The Network helps connect faith leaders with the efforts of individuals and local community leaders.

Everyone is invited to the Community Faith Forum. To register, send your name and contact information, along with the \$20 registration fee, to: The Inter-Religious Action Network, c/o Vision Action Network, 3700 SW Murray Blvd, Suite 190, Beaverton, OR 97005. Make checks payable to Vision Action Network or call 503-846-5792.

Happy Easter, April 8

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