

Wash. County Sheriff's Office now recruiting new Reserve Deputies

Do you know someone who would make a great Reserve Deputy Sheriff? The Washington County Sheriff's Office is recruiting for men and women to join our volunteer ranks in these important positions.

Reserves are highly trained volunteers who assist regular deputies with their duties on patrol and in the jail; they also assist with many community events and special enforcement projects.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age by December 31, 2012, and be free of felony convictions. This is a lengthy and competitive selection process that includes written and physical tests, oral interviews, a background investigation, job shadows, and medical and psychological testing.

Once selected for the pro-

gram, reserve candidates must attend a 300- to 350-hour training academy that runs annually from January to June during weekday evenings and on some weekends. Much of the training is the same as we provide to regular deputy sheriffs, and it is provided to Jail and Patrol Reserves free of charge in exchange for their volunteer service. Following training, each reserve is expected to provide at least 20 hours of service monthly for patrol reserves, 15 hours for jail reserves.

Please encourage men and women of the highest integrity to apply by April 30, 2012. Visit our Patrol Reserve and Jail Reserve pages to apply online at <http://www.co.washington.or.us/Sheriff>.

Washington County works on homelessness

Banfield Charitable Trust has awarded Washington County's Project Homeless Connect a grant for \$6,292 to offer a free, day-long veterinary clinic for pet owners who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Since 2007, the Good Neighbor Center, a Tigard-based, non-profit homeless shelter, has applied for the funding to enable the veterinary clinic to operate at Washington County Project Homeless Connect (PHC).

Demand for the veterinary clinic has steadily grown each year with the worsening economy. The number of pets served has grown each year, and this year they hope to serve up to 75 pets.

What the clinic offers is preventive health care which can prolong and improve the lives of pets. Vaccinations provide protection against diseases for the homeless pet and for other pets with whom they come into contact. The provision of pre-

ventive health care makes pets' lives more comfortable, and can prevent the on-set of more acute health issues, providing for longer term health.

Project Homeless Connect has become a nationwide movement to increase access to services for the homeless and engage the community in finding a solution for homelessness. The mission of Project Homeless Connect is to bring communities together to create and promote tangible solutions that remedy the homelessness of their neighbors.

The Sixth Annual Washington County Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for Friday, January 27. The event is located at Sunrise Church in Hillsboro. Through this one-day, one-stop model, which includes a key leaders briefing, we aim to achieve the following goals:

- To engage the community to be a part of the effort to end homelessness,

- To connect Washington County homeless to needed services in a "one-stop" model,

- To connect volunteers to Washington County's homeless for this day of services as well as future opportunities to help people in need,

- To connect service providers with each other in order to serve the homeless in a new and different way,

- To demonstrate broad community support to those experiencing homelessness in Washington County, and to provide human connections to people who feel and are typically alienated.

Washington County Project Homeless Connect is organized by Sunrise Church in partnership with Vision Action Network, Hands On Greater Portland, Pacific University and numerous additional community partners.

For more information please go to www.phcwashco.org.

Winter driving tips not just for Columbia Co.

The Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission is reminding residents to be prepared for winter driving by offering the following safety tips:

1. Winter Readiness Kit. Making a winter preparedness kit is always wise when you know you are going to be out on the road, even for short trips. Here is a list of the items drivers should have with them: Bottle of water and some food (backpacking meals, food bars, etc), tire chains and ties, jumper cables, small tarp to kneel on and for many other uses during an emergency, space or wool blanket, flashlight, road flares, small shovel, gloves, first-aid kit, a sandbag or two full of sand, and a good book...

Other vehicle tips include making sure your vehicle is in good running order and the battery is good. Always keep the gas tank at least half full when traveling, and make sure someone knows where you are going. For more ideas on how to be prepared, google Winter Driving Kit on the internet.

2. Plan Your Trip. It is a good idea when you plan your trip to check out road conditions before your leave. One very handy website is Tripcheck.org.

3. Rain. Remember that rain can make roads slick by reducing tire friction in two ways – by mixing with oils on the road to form a slick solution, and/or the water can float (hydroplane) the tires off the road surface if the tire (vehicle) speed is great enough. This can occur at speeds as low as 35mph.

4. Frost. As the temperature drops to near freezing (32° F) roads can develop frost crystals, even though they appear to be bare and dry, so slow down and watch for sparkles from the ice crystals on the road and the road's shoulder. Again, If you see ice crystals, slow down.

5. Black Ice. Black ice can be extremely dangerous because you can't see it! When temperatures are near freezing, be cautious of any location on the road that appears wet (the pavement will appear

black). If you are driving in conditions where there might be black ice, do not make quick changes or jerking movements of the steering wheel, hitting the brakes, etc. Try to "glide" through the location making no quick movements.

6. Elevation. Typically, as you gain elevation the temperatures drop. Depending on other factors...

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Town Hall with State Senator Betsy Johnson in Banks

State Senator Betsy Johnson will hold a Town Hall meeting on Monday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Banks Elementary School cafeteria.

Subjects will include what to expect in the upcoming February Session, budget issues, and education. Also on hand will be Ben Cannon, Governor Kitzhaber's Education Policy Advisor.




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