

Carmichael Times

Headline News

Coppers, Choppers and Hot K-9s

Sheriff Scott Jones Hosts Unity in the Community Picnic

By Susan Maxwell Skinner / Carmichael Times (<http://www.carmichaeltimes.com/>)

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Buddies in law. Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones (above center) joined his department's mascot Sergeant McGruff to welcome kids and parents to a barbecue at Gibbons Park. A helicopter landing and take-off was a star turn. Photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - A helicopter landing and displays by police canines thrilled throngs at a "Unity in the Community" picnic last weekend. More than 250 guests enjoyed this outreach from the Sacramento Sheriff's Department.

Complimentary barbecue lunches, bounce houses and face painting were available at the Gibbons Park, (Carmichael) event. Many children received free bicycle safety helmets.

Visitors also got the lowdown on finger printing techniques and learned about law enforcement careers. SWAT teams were among the 50 uniformed officers and volunteers who shared family time with the public.

Accompanied by his two young sons, County Sheriff Scott Jones hosted activities that will soon be repeated at other communities in the County's unincorporated area.

While high ranking officers sweated to grill hundreds of hot dogs, K-9 Unit dogs were an even hotter attraction. Padded-out deputies demonstrated how daunting German shepherds Asko and Eko can be when duty calls. Handlers Sergeant Donna Cox and Deputy Anthony Jenkins showed how the snarling hounds could be halted on a dime by a single command. Children learned that the toothy law-keepers were also pussycats when off duty.

"The day was tremendously successful," said Sergeant Dean Pai of the Sheriff's Carmichael Service Center. "It was the Sheriff's way of humanizing his Department; showing people we want to be good neighbors. His officers are regular people who do regular stuff with their own families."

Learn more about Sacramento Sheriff's Department at www.sacsheriff.com



Chief Deputy Erik Maness (left) and Captain Phil Brelje grill free burgers and hot dogs for more than 250 guests.