



The Herald-Times

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Tool helps reunite owners with their furry friends



The microchip station, located outside Bloomington Animal Shelter on the west side of the shelter at 3410 S. Walnut St., allows people to check for microchips in animals. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BLOOMINGTON ANIMAL SHELTER

Microchip scanner lets people locate owners of lost dogs, cats any time

Carol Kugler The Herald-Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

Anyone who finds an unknown dog or cat wandering in their yard or along the street can now use the self-service microchip station at the Bloomington Animal Shelter to potentially find its owner. The station, located outside on the west side of the shelter at 3410 S. Walnut St., allows people to check for microchips in animals when the shelter isn't open, explained Emily Herr, outreach and behavior coordinator.

Anyone using the station will find directions in English and Spanish on how to run the scanner along the animal. If a chip is found, it will beep and give the microchip number. If no chip is found, the scanner will say "no chip detected." Instructions on how to use the microchip number to locate the owner is also on the sign.

Herr said the station has already been

used. She knows because of social media posts from people suggesting they use the station.

How to chip your animal

Anyone who wants to have a pet microchipped can set up an appointment to have it done at the animal shelter, Herr said. It costs \$15 per animal and takes 20



to 30 minutes to fill out the forms and complete the process.

People who come to the shelter to pick up their pets that were transported to the shelter often ask to have their animals microchipped before they leave, Herr said.

All animals ready for adoption at the

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MONROE COUNTY

West Nile Virus found in mosquito sample

Carol Kugler

The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

West Nile Virus has been found in a sample group of mosquitoes recently collected by the Monroe County Health Department during its mosquito surveillance program. It's the first time the virus has been detected in the county this year.

"Mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk," said Michael Kuzemka, environmental health director at Monroe County Health Department in a news release. "Any size container holding water, even the size of a bottle cap, could be a breeding area for mosquitoes on your property. Keeping yards mowed will help reduce the mosquito population."

After a person is bitten by a mosquito, it can take three to 15 days for symptoms to appear. Most people who are infected with West Nile Virus have either no or mild symptoms. Those can include fever, headache, body aches or rash. But 1 in about 150 people who are infected will have more severe symptoms. People who are older than age 50 are at higher risk, according to health officials.

Anyone who develops the following symptoms should see a doctor immediately:

- high fever
- severe headache
- neck stiffness
- muscle weakness or paralysis
- nausea or vomiting
- sore joints
- confusion

How to prevent mosquito breeding

The Monroe County Health Department

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Indiana DUI enforcement ramps up through Labor Day period

Dave DeMille

The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Bloomington-area law enforcement agencies will increase patrols and conduct sobriety checkpoints through early September as part of the national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign.

The effort is being coordinated by the Monroe County Traffic Safety Partnership, according to a community announcement. Supported by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the campaign will run through Sept. 7 and includes overtime enforcement funded through the Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program, known as CHIRP.

Under the initiative, officers across Indiana will focus on identifying and stop-

ping drivers suspected of operating vehicles while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

"Our officers are seeing the consequences of impaired driving far too often," said Bloomington Police Department Sergeant Garrett Mitchell. "As we enter the final weeks of summer, we're asking every driver to make responsible decisions. A sober ride isn't just the safest option — it's the choice that saves lives."

Impaired driving remains a concern

Preliminary data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System shows nearly 23% of Indiana traffic fatalities in 2025 involved alcohol, while more than 41% involved drug impairment.

"Impaired driving continues to be one of the most serious threats on our roadways, and we're focused on reducing these tragedies through education and

enforcement," said Douglas Huntsinger, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. "This year's Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign reminds everyone that impaired driving is preventable. When you choose a sober ride, you're helping protect your community and ensuring everyone makes it home safely."

Indiana law prohibits driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher. Drivers also can be arrested at lower BAC levels if an officer determines they are impaired.

Safety officials encourage planning ahead

Traffic safety officials encourage residents to make transportation plans before consuming alcohol and to avoid allowing impaired individuals to drive.

The announcement also urges hosts to ensure guests have a sober way home and asks residents to call 911 if they observe a suspected impaired driver. Officials noted that wearing a seat belt remains one of the most effective protections in a crash involving an impaired motorist.

The enforcement effort is administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute using federal traffic safety funds provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

More information about impaired driving is available at nhtsa.gov.

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