



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Too much phishing going on

Many of us receive 10 or more spam (or robo) calls per day between our home phones and our cell phones.

Sometimes we're prepared for who's calling if caller ID is active.

However, I have learned that if I don't know the number, it's best to hang up. If it's a valid phone number, don't worry, they will leave a message or call back another time.

However, all too often, we answer the call. Somehow, telemarketers seem to know they're talking to one of us senior citizens.

Those are kind of scary! As a rule, seniors tend to be more polite than the current generation.

And, sad to say, we can be pushovers for anything that promises to give us money or, at least, save us money.

But beware!

As wary as I am, I almost got taken in one day last week. An early morning call came from Texas.

There was urgency in the gentleman's voice as he told me my modem is getting only half the speed it should. Therefore, I was eligible for an upgrade.

I asked the man what company he represented, and he gave me the name of my carrier. I asked the cost and was told "nothing."

Then he began asking questions I thought he should have known if he's representing my vendor (red flag raises).

I rapidly hung up on him and called my carrier.

I must have answered too many questions, as he called

six times that day. So far, there have been no repercussions. I must have hung up in time.

The bottom line: the carrier told me they will never call to tell me my router (or anything else) is outdated. She stressed that I would call them if I suspected something were outdated or weak or whatever. Hopefully, lesson learned.

Am I the only one? Heavens no! I researched these types of calls and the most popular ones come from people claiming to be an Internal Revenue Service official and those who answer are threatened to pay a supposed debt.

Caralynn Lippo, an editor at *The Business Insider*, wrote about the most popular scams and robocalls people fall for.

First was the grandparent scam, which some of us may have learned about firsthand. It preys on seniors by using their love for their grandchildren.

Another popular scam is "Congratulations, you've won a free cruise and you just need to provide your credit card number to accept it."

Fraudsters will even take advantage of national disasters, she wrote. You can verify a charity by checking them out with a service like the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance or Charity Navigator.

There's not much you or I can do to avoid them other than remaining vigilant and skeptical when answering an unexpected call.

2022 brings new police officers, new laws

Spotlight on the City

by Matt Workman



Spring is here and summer is right around the corner! With all of the "April showers," we should have an abundance of "May flowers" blooming!

Some changes have come to the Warrenton Police Department since my article in September.

Officer Christina Trujillo graduated from the Basic Police Academy in Salem on March 17.

On March 21 we hired Officer Kevin Alvarez, our newest officer. Officer Alvarez is scheduled to attend the Basic Academy in August.

Both currently are in the field training program, working with field training officers, and it will be a little time before they are on solo patrol.

We also have a new Dodge Durango patrol vehicle on the streets with a new graphics package.

You can see photos of both officers and the Durango on the WPD Facebook page.

Since my September ar-

ticle, some new bills/laws went into effect that you may or may not know about. I thought I would cover a couple of them for you.

- House Bill 3125 was created, in part, to address the terrible situation in which people were finding out that their loved ones were in a serious traffic incident through the media, social media, etc. before law enforcement could notify them.

The bill allows Oregon drivers and ID holders to designate up to two people as "Emergency Contacts" in case you are involved in an accident or incident and cannot communicate for yourself.

- HB 2498 enhances safety for Oregonians who are deaf or hard of hearing by creating an option to add notification to their driver's license and vehicle registration card.

This was done to build trust and cooperation between deaf or hard-of-hearing drivers and law enforcement.

I regularly get questions from citizens about traffic laws or the legality of specific driving actions.

One of the most common questions is "Is it legal to drive in a bicycle lane?"

The basic answer is "No" under ORS 811.435. There are exceptions for "entering or leaving an alley, private road or driveway," "required in the course of official duty" (police, fire, medical, utilities, etc.), or "Making a turn."

"Making a turn" comes up the most, as many people ask if they can go around a vehicle stopped for the traffic signal at Highway 101 and Ensign Lane and make a right-turn even though there is a bicycle lane painted there. For the most part, yes you can.

Of course, that's with the caveat that you *must yield* to all bicycles in the bicycle lane before making such a turn *and* you must stop for the red traffic signal, only making the right turn when it is safe to do so, and yielding to all traffic that has a green signal.

If you have similar questions, please let me know and I will definitely get you an answer and maybe even address them in a future article or on the WPD Facebook page.

Matt Workman is police chief for the city of Warrenton. He can be reached at policechief@ci.warrenton.or.us or 503-861-2235.

Senior meals

THURSDAY, MAY 26

- Cucumber salad
- Pork ribs
- Macaroni and cheese
- Broccoli
- Key lime pie

Warrenton's eat-in senior meal program organized by Warrenton Senior Citizens Inc. is at noon on Thursdays at Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St.

Suggested donation is \$6. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. for socializing and coffee.

Special columns in The Columbia Press

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