



## BICYCLISTS

With the warmer weather, we are seeing a lot more bicyclist on the roadways. Here are some of the Michigan laws regarding to bicyclists riding on the roadway.

***1. If riding your bike below the posted speed limit, a cyclist is required to ride as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the road. (MCL 257.660a) However, this statute recognizes five (5) exceptions:***

- a. When passing another bicycle or a vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
- b. When preparing to turn left.
- c. When conditions make the right hand edge of the roadway unsafe or unreasonably unsafe for bicycle users, including, but not limited to: Surface hazards (i.e., ruts in the pavement or potholes).
- d. When operating a bicycle in a lane in which traffic is turning right, but the cyclist intends to proceed straight through the intersection
- e. When riding on a one-way highway or street that has two (2) or more lanes. In this situation, the cyclist may also ride as close to the left curb or edge of the roadway as practicable.

***2. Cyclists must not ride more than two (2) bicycles abreast. (MCL 257.660b)***

***3. A cyclist is required to use hand signals (MCL 257.648)***

***4. Lights and reflectors are required when riding at night one-half hour after sunset, or one-half hour before sunrise.***

- a. A white light which is visible from five hundred (500) feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear which is visible from all distances from one hundred (100) feet to six hundred (600) feet when directly in front of lawful low beam headlights. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet may be used in addition to the red reflector. [MCL 257.662(1)]

***5. A cyclist may not ride on a limited access highway. (MCL 257.679a)***

***6. Helmets and cellphones***

a. There is no law that requires Michigan cyclists to wear helmets, prevents them from talking on cell phones or listening to music while riding. However, it is obviously safe practice to wear a helmet, avoid cell phone use and listening to headphones while riding a bicycle.

Our office strongly encourages the use of helmets for all riders!

These are just a few of the laws that deputies are asked questions about every year. You can find more laws at: [www.lmb.org](http://www.lmb.org)



#### FARM EQUIPMENT

This is the time of year where we also see an increase of tractors and farming equipment traveling on the roadways. Motorists, please be cautious and patient when driving your vehicle around them. Remember that the majority of Clinton County is zoned agriculturally; sometimes it is hard to wait that extra minute to be able to pass them but remember to please do so safely in a passing zone! They have as much right to the road as other vehicles.



#### OFF ROAD VEHICLES (ORV)



Off Road Vehicles (ORV) are NOT to be operated on Michigan roads, streets or highways maintained for year round automobile travel. This includes the shoulder and the right-of-way. If the ORV is registered by the Secretary of State (SOS), they can be operated on the roadway. Please refer to Michigan off road vehicle laws at: [https://www.offroad-ed.com/assets/pdf/handbook/mi\\_handbook\\_entire.pdf](https://www.offroad-ed.com/assets/pdf/handbook/mi_handbook_entire.pdf)

Clinton County does not have any local ordinances that allow for ORV travel/operation on public roadways.



TAX FRAUD

The Sheriff's Office has received complaints about tax fraud. Suspects will use a person's social security number to file taxes in another person's name. If this happens to you, please contact the IRS and report it to your local police department. Also, remember that the IRS will NOT contact you by phone. If someone calls saying they are from the IRS and there are "red flags", it is more than likely a scam, report it.



IRS SCAM

If you receive telephone calls from people claiming that they are from the IRS and that the resident owes the IRS large amounts of money otherwise there will be a lawsuit filed against

them or they will go to jail. The IRS won't ask you to wire money, pay with a prepaid debit card, or share your credit card information over the phone. Please refer to Clinton County Michigan Sheriff's Office Facebook page for more information.



## LOTTERY FRAUDS

Be aware that if you receive a letter, UPS or FedEx package in the mail that contains a check for a large amount of money, stating that you won a foreign lottery, such as the Jamaican Lottery or the Mega Jackpot, this is a SCAM!! The letter will ask you to cash the check and send back the majority of the money, with you keeping a small portion. The checks come back as fraudulent from the bank and now the person who cashed them is responsible for paying that money back to the bank. If you receive anything like this in the mail, contact your local police department.

## BOATER'S SAFETY



The Marine Patrol Division of the Clinton County Sheriff's Office will be conducting Boater's Safety Courses during the month of April. The Boater's Safety Course is designed to teach safe boating skills, basic water safety and rescue, legal issues, and other marine safety concerns. Students who complete the course and pass the final examination will receive a Department of Natural Resources Boater Safety Certificate.

Contact the Clinton County Sheriff's Office at [boat@clinton-county.org](mailto:boat@clinton-county.org) to register for a class. Please include class date, name, age and telephone number for each person wanting to attend.

Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited. There is no fee for the class. You must be present for the entire class period to be able to take the exam and receive your certificate. Students will need to bring a sack lunch.

## **CLASSES OFFERED**

**April 16, 2016 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**  
**Dewitt Area Fire Station**  
**911 W. Main**  
**Dewitt, MI 48820**

**April 30, 2016 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**  
**Clinton County Sheriff's Office**  
**1347 E. Townsend Road**  
**St. Johns, MI 48879**

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**



### **VICTIM SUPPORT TEAM FLOWER SALE**

The Clinton County Victim Support Team hosts an annual flower sale in St Johns which usually takes place prior to Mother's Day. Please visit the Clinton County, Michigan Facebook page to see updated postings on the event's date, time and location.



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### TOUCH A TRUCK EVENT



Mark your calendars for May 14, 2016. The 14th Annual Springtime Community Festival will be held at the CCRESA Building at 1013 S US 27 in St. Johns. This even will host multiple vendor booths, free kids crafts and a Touch A Truck event in the parking lot where children of all ages will be able to see first responders and their vehicles. The show runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Booths are available inside and outside. Applications are available at [www.clintoncountychamber.org/events](http://www.clintoncountychamber.org/events) or call 989-224-7248 with any questions.



### VACATIONS AND TRAVELING

Here are some home safety tips that you can do before leaving on vacation.

- Leave lights on a timer
- Have someone mow your lawn in the summertime or plow your driveway in the wintertime to make it appear as if someone is home
- Stop your mail through the post office
- Let your neighbors know you are leaving so they can keep watch on your residence as well
- Double check all windows and doors to ensure they are locked before leaving
- Hide and lock away all valuables
- Be careful what you post on social media sites! Your social media feeds may be monitored by criminals waiting for their chance to strike and break in to your home. Post pictures and status updates after your return from vacation.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

If you would like to set up a neighborhood watch group in your area, please contact Deputy Barber at the Clinton County Sheriff's Office at [barbert@clinton-county.org](mailto:barbert@clinton-county.org) or call 989-227-6576.

CodeRED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION, CLINTON COUNTY



Clinton County has a system called CodeRED that is used to send important emergency information to the county's residents. If an emergency message is sent out, it will tell you:

- What happened and where
- What actions you should take, if any
- Where to get more information

If you have a landline phone, you are already in the CodeRED system. You could also receive emergency messages on your mobile device through text or email. Register at [www.clinton-county.org/codeRED](http://www.clinton-county.org/codeRED). CodeRED is NOT used to send severe weather warning.



#### FACEBOOK PAGE

#### CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Clinton County Sheriff's Office now has a Facebook page! It is constantly updated with the latest information regarding traffic crashes, crime, updates, etc. To view and follow the page, search for Clinton County Michigan Sheriff's Office.

#### CLINTON COUNTY

Clinton County has a Facebook page as well. This Facebook page contains county wide information as well as neighborhood watch information. To find the Facebook page, type in Clinton County, Michigan, in the search box.



## TWITTER

The Clinton County Sheriff's Office also has a Twitter Account. Use Twitter to be up to date on active events occurring in the county. Search Twitter under the username: ccso\_mi.



## T.E.A.M.

The Clinton County Sheriff's Office is excited to implement a new program in to the schools in Clinton County. The T.E.A.M. (Teaching, Educating and Mentoring) School Liaison Program was developed by the Michigan State Police in 1998, along with the help of public and private school curriculum experts. This program is created to follow the Michigan Model for Health. The goal of this program is to unite educators, students and law enforcement to work together to create and build healthy relationships.

The Clinton County Sheriff's Office along with other police agencies in the county feel that it is important to have a police presence in the schools and to keep a positive line of communication open with our youth. Look for this program in your school!

## KEEP ME SAFE EVENT

The program also offers low income Clinton County residents free car/booster seats and replacement of damaged or recalled car seats. Below is a list of guidelines:

- Must reside in Clinton County

- Children or infants using the car seat must be present during the installation to ensure a proper fit
- Seats should be installed in the vehicle in which the children regularly travel.

Please call Jackie at 989-227-3334 for more information.

## PROTECT MY CHILD



The State of Michigan provides a Michigan Child Protection Registry that is a free service that gives you the choice to protect your family's emails, mobile phone numbers, instant messenger ID's, and faxes from adult-oriented messages such as: Pornography, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and gambling. This free service is fast and secure and only takes three steps to help protect your household.

1. Visit [www.ProtectMiChild.com](http://www.ProtectMiChild.com)
2. Click the "Register Now" button
3. Register your family's information



OK2SAY

Another program that is offered for students is called OK2SAY. This program allows students to confidentially call, text, email, or send a message via mobile app or via the OK2SAY website to report potential harm or criminal activity directed at students or others. This includes reporting bullying. A tip can be submitted 24hours a day, 7 days a week. The tip is first sent to and fielded by the Michigan State Police Headquarters and then forwarded to the appropriate responding agency. More information about this program can be found at [www.mi.gov/ok2say](http://www.mi.gov/ok2say)

DO1THING

**do**  **thing.com**

**SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY**

Do 1 Thing is a free, 12-month program that makes it easy to prepare yourself, your family, and your community for emergencies or disasters. Being prepared for disasters and emergencies can seem like a big job however, with Do 1 Thing, you can take small steps that make a big difference in an emergency. To learn more information go to [www.do1thing.com](http://www.do1thing.com)

Remember to stay safe!

Deputy Tracy Barber

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator