

Munford Crime Prevention Newsletter ● February, 2024

Community Survey

The Community Survey is available at tiptonconstables.org
The purpose of the Community Survey is to gather the thoughts and opinions of the members of our community. These are presented to our government officials to inform them of the needs in our community. If you haven't taken the community survey, please consider taking it at: tiptonconstables.org/survey

Results of the survey will be presented here in the crime prevention newsletter. You can sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter at tiptonconstables.org

Driver's Safety Tip: Distracted Driving

Did you know that distracted driving isn't just texting?

Distracted driving kills an average of 3,328 per year nationwide. 421,000 injuries occur!



Distracted Driving is any activity that diverts a person's attention away from the task of driving.

- Text messaging is the most dangerous because it requires visual, manual and cognitive attention
- Sending a text message takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds
- 4.6 seconds is the equivalent of driving blind at 55 mph for the length of a football field
- The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers is under age 20
- In that group, 11% of drivers who died in a crash were reportedly distracted at the time of the crash

Even talking hands free on the phone is a dangerous distraction. Vision is the most important sense for safe driving. Yet, drivers talking on phones, including those using hands-free phones, have a tendency to "look at" but not "see" objects.



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Points of Interest

- Happy Valentine's Day, it's Heart Awareness Month.
- Online romance? Never give money to a person you have not personally met. Learn about the scams here!
- Does your church need some help with church security? We've got free help!
- Love your car with crime prevention tips—whether on the road, in the shop, or at home.

Stealing Your Heart This Valentine's Day



Heart Awareness Month

Did you know that February is American Heart Awareness Month?

According to the American Heart Association, Heart disease is the leading cause of death of men and women in the United States.

To keep your heart healthy and lower your risk for heart disease, consider making some healthy choices like:

- Being more active
- Eating healthy food
- Using spices to season your food instead of salt
- Learn CPR so you can help others.
- Have a discussion with your medical provider about other steps you can take to improve your heart health.

For more information, visit the American Heart Association website at: heart.org

While Valentine's Day is filled with love and romance, it's also a prime opportunity for scammers trying to steal your money or personal information. Lonely hearts can be easy targets for fraud artists looking to take advantage. Protect your finances and identity by watching out for these common Valentine's Day scams:

- **Romance Scams**—Lonely people actively looking for love online are vulnerable to romance scammers. These criminals create fake profiles on dating sites/apps to build trust and emotional attachment with their victims. They then make up hard-luck stories to trick people into sending money, only to disappear with the cash after draining bank accounts.
- **Floral Delivery Issues**—When ordering flowers online for a loved one, be wary of rogue sites with too-good-to-be-true deals. They may be phishing schemes attempting to steal your personal info and payment data. Only order from reputable, secured vendors you know to be legitimate. Watch out for typos squatters with URLs very similar to real florists.
- **Cupid Malware**—Beware of unexpected greeting card emails with heart icon attachments claiming to be from a romantic admirer or secret crush. These can contain harmful malware that infects your devices and steals passwords and data when opened. Never click on suspicious links or downloads from unfamiliar senders.
- **Romantic Getaway Scams**—Con artists take advantage of couples seeking last-minute romantic getaways by advertising phony vacation rental properties that don't exist or that they don't have authority to rent out. They'll request wire transfers for rental deposits and fees, then disappear with the money. Always verify ownership before paying.
- **Valentine's e-Card Shams**—Those free e-card offers on social media claiming to be from a secret admirer could be attempts to steal logins and other private details. Legitimate companies rarely ask for personal info to send e-greetings.
- **Charity Shams**—Criminals solicit Valentine's Day donations to bogus causes involving kids, veterans, etc. Always verify the organization is legitimate and avoids high-pressure tactics or cash demands. Never give out personal details or payment methods to unsolicited callers or emailers.

Don't let fraudsters and thieves ruin your romantic Valentine's Day. Be extra cautious about sharing personal information and opening attachments, especially from unknown sources. A little vigilance can protect your heart and your wallet from scams.

If the crime is in progress, call 911.

Showing Some Car Love? Prevent Vehicle Crimes

While February may be the month of love, for many vehicle owners it's also the time to show their car or truck a little TLC after the rough winter weather. As you take your ride in for service or maintenance this month, keep in mind these tips to prevent potential vehicle-related crimes:

At the Repair Shop

- Always remove valuables and personal items from your vehicle when dropping it off, even if it seems minor. Hide electronics, bags, and glovebox contents out of sight or take them with you.
- Be cautious about leaving spare keys or valet key with the shop. Untrustworthy employees could make copies.
- Request your mechanic secures the car with a locking garage or storage area when left overnight.
- Don't leave the registration/title inside. Thieves could sell the car if they get the title.

On the Road

- Show your car some love by keeping it well-maintained to avoid breakdowns in isolated areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings in parking lots or garages and park in well-lit areas close to entrances. Always lock doors and keep valuables out of sight.
- If your car does break down, pull over to a safe area and call for roadside service rather than waiting alone.
- Never leave it running unattended to warm up.
- Keep a charged phone, reflectors, and basic repair tools/spare tire in your vehicle for emergencies.

At Home

- Don't leave your car unlocked and running to warm up, as it's an easy target for theft. Use a remote starter if you have one.
- If doing work on your own vehicle, lock up tools, supplies and parts when finished to avoid theft from your garage.
- Install motion sensor lights to deter potential thieves lurking around your driveway or parking area.

By taking a few simple precautions, you can get that auto TLC while also preventing crimes like vehicle theft, break-ins, and carjackings. An ounce of prevention shows your car love by keeping it safe and secure.

Are you concerned about church safety?

Our Tennessee Constable for Munford is offering FREE church safety & security classes for our local church leaders. Please influence them to visit tiptonconstables.org for class schedules and offerings to make sure our community is prepared.

February Crime Prevention Tips

- Fortify your home's entry points. Make sure all doors and windows have secure locks and use dowel rods in sliding doors and windows for extra security.
 - Be wary of Valentine's Day scams. Don't open email attachments, click links, or give personal/financial information to anyone claiming to be a secret admirer.
 - Avoid isolated ATM machines. Only use well-lit ATMs at banks during business hours if possible to deter crimes like skimming and robberies, etc. over Spring Break.
- Staying vigilant during the winter months when crime rates tend to rise can help protect you, your home, vehicle, and loved ones.

Core Values

Integrity

Service before self

Excellence

Compassion



What's a Constable?

Constables operate as individually elected officers at no cost to the citizens or governments of the county. Constables supply their vehicles, fuel, and equipment. They stand ready to aid or assist all citizens and/or agencies within the county. The Tennessee Constable is a non salaried office!

The mission of the Constable's Office is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Tipton County by working collaboratively with area law enforcement, General Sessions court, and our community to prevent crime, enforce the law, increase mobility and target violent offenders for prosecution.

They supplement the county Sheriff's Office and local Police Departments. Constables are also at the disposal of the various fire departments, EMS units, and rescue squads as well as any state or federal agency which might have use of their services.

Tipton County Constables

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sent to your email every
month?**

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