

Munford Crime Prevention Newsletter • March, 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 Safety Tips: Watching for Kids on Bikes

- Slow down and be extra cautious in residential neighborhoods and school zones where kids may be riding bikes.
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways, alleys, or between parked cars where your visibility may be limited.
- Avoid distractions like eating, drinking, talking on the phone, or fiddling with the radio/music so you can focus fully on driving.
- Don't underestimate kids' unpredictable behavior - they may suddenly swerve, turn, or ride into the street without looking.
- Double check for children on bikes when backing up or turning at intersections and driveways.
- Leave plenty of space when passing bike riders, giving at least three feet of clearance.
- Look underneath parked cars and obey speed limits - kids could dart out into the street unexpectedly.
- Be vigilant in areas near parks, schools, ice cream shops, and other kid-friendly spots.
- Don't honk your horn or rev your engine to Alert kids - it could startle them and cause unpredictable movements.
- Check your mirrors and blind spots carefully before changing lanes or merging.
- When exiting a driveway or pulling out from a parking space, look both ways for approaching bikes.
- Set a good example by driving cautiously and following all traffic laws when kids are present.

Taking extra precautions and being hyper-aware of kids on bikes is crucial for drivers. An ounce of prevention can avoid terrible tragedies.



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Points of Interest

- Driver safety tips will keep both you and kids on bikes safe.
- Inside there are bike safety tips for adults to protect their ride and themselves.
- Bike safety tips are included to keep kids safe.
- In the market for a new kid's bike? We've got a list of practical tips to help you make the purchase.

Adult Bike Smart: Protect Yourself and Your Ride



IRS Scams are on the rise

With tax return season in full swing, IRS scams have been on the rise. If you have received a suspicious phone call, please remember these tips to avoid being victimized this tax season.

The IRS will not...

- Make contact with you by phone, text, email, or social media
- Call you and demand immediate payment.
- Require you to pay your taxes a certain way.
- Ask for your personal information or threaten to have you arrested, deport you, if you do not pay immediately.
- Require you to purchase any kind of gift card (iTunes, Amazon, etc) to pay your taxes.
- Leave pre-recorded, urgent, or threatening messages on an answering system.

With warmer weather here, more people are dusting off their bikes and hitting the roads and trails. Bicycling is a great way to stay active, reduce your carbon footprint, and save money. However, bicyclists also face risks of theft, accidents, and even assault. Follow these smart tips to bike safely and prevent potential crimes:

- **Lock It Right**—Never leave your bike unlocked, even for a few minutes. Invest in a quality U-lock and secure it properly by running the lock through the frame and rear wheel. For extra security, add a cable or chain lock to secure the front wheel. Avoid locking your bike to anything that is easy to cut or unscrew.
- **Be Seen**—Wear bright, reflective clothing to increase your visibility to drivers, especially at night. Use front and rear bike lights when riding in the dark. Follow all traffic laws and signals, and ride predictably.
- **Choose Safe Routes**—Plan your route ahead of time to avoid isolated areas, heavy traffic, construction zones, or routes known for bike thefts. Stick to well-lit streets and paths that are heavily traveled. Ride confidently and keep your head up to stay aware of your surroundings.
- **Leave It at Home**—Bikes are among the most commonly stolen items. Help prevent theft by leaving your bike at home when you're not riding it. If you need to lock it up away from home, choose a secure, well-lit location. Position it in view of security cameras if possible.
- **Register and Record**—Register your bike's serial number with campus or local police in case it's stolen. Take a photo of your bike and record the make, model, and any distinguishing features to aid in identification if needed.
- **Ditch the Headphones**—While biking, avoid wearing headphones that could prevent you from hearing cars, people, or potential threats around you. Stay completely aware and alert to your surroundings.
- **Be Prepared**—Carry a basic repair kit, cell phone, and any other essentials in case of mechanical issues or emergencies. Program emergency contact numbers into your phone before riding.
- **Report Suspicious Activity**—If you see people behaving suspiciously or tampering with bikes, notify the proper authorities immediately. Be ready to provide detailed descriptions.

Bike smart by taking precautions to keep your ride secure and protect yourself while cycling. With preparation and awareness, bicyclists can "spoke" the language of crime prevention.

If the crime is in progress, call 911.

Bike Safety Tips for Kids

As the weather gets nicer, more kids are out riding bikes. It's a fun way to get exercise and fresh air, but it's important for kids to learn bicycle safety from an early age. With the recent time zone change, it's tempting for kids to stay out later. Recently, I was patrolling a residential area at night. When I turned a corner, I discovered a 3 year old on a tricycle in the middle of the road. The kid and bike didn't even rise up to the bumper on the patrol car. That's the motivation behind this month's newsletter. Follow these tips to keep your children safe while biking:

- **Get Properly**—Fitted Make sure your child has a bike that fits them correctly. They should be able to sit on the seat with their feet flat on the ground. The crossbar should be a few inches below their crotch when straddling the top tube.
- **Buckle Up**—Kids should get in the habit of always wearing a properly fitted bike helmet. Look for one that is light-weight, well-ventilated, and meets current safety standards. Make sure the helmet sits level on their head and doesn't move around.
- **Learn the Rules of the Road**—Teach kids to ride on the right side of the street or trail, in the same direction as traffic. Stop at all stop signs and obey traffic signals just like cars. Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- **Be Bright at Night**—If riding at dusk or after dark, equip bikes with reflectors and lights so they'll be visible to drivers. Kids should wear light colors or reflective gear.
- **Practice Riding Skills**—Set up a safety course in your driveway or neighborhood to allow kids to practice starting, stopping, turning, avoiding obstacles, and looking over their shoulders before changing lanes.
- **Set a Good Example**—Kids learn best through observing others. When you ride together, follow all safety rules and model responsible behavior. Habits formed early tend to stick around.
- **Start Off-Road**—For beginner bike riders, consider starting kids off riding on sidewalks, bike paths, or parks until their skills improve enough for road riding. Gradually introduce more challenging areas.
- **Make a Safety Contract**—Outline bike safety rules like where and when they can ride, and go over consequences for not following those rules. Have them repeat rules back to ensure understanding.

Remember, bikes are meant to be fun! But learning bike safety at a young age will ensure kids stay safe cyclists for life. Lead by example and reinforce good habits.

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.

Buying a kid's bike

- Get the right size. Don't buy a bike they'll grow into. Kids should be able to sit on the seat and touch the ground flat-footed on both sides.
- Choose an appropriate bike style for their age/skill. Stick with coaster (pedal) brakes, wider tires, and lower seats for young beginners.
- Consider weight. Light-weight bikes are easier for kids to maneuver and control. Avoid heavy steel frames.
- Pick quality over cuteness. Fun designs are great, but prioritize sturdy construction and good brakes over character themes.
- Buy new helmets too. Never use hand-me-down helmets, which may be expired, damaged, or lack current safety certifications.
- Adjust properly before first ride. Ensure the seat, handlebars, and brakes are adjusted for their size.
- Set a budget, but don't skimp on safety. You get what you pay for with kids' bikes. Invest in quality for longevity.

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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