

Sull-E Newsletter



A message from Kathy Smith

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to you and your family! Wherever the holidays take you, please drive safely. This week, I'm including some information about the safe ride home program and tips for avoiding holiday scams.

Seasons greetings,

Kathy

www.facebook.com/sullydistrict

| www.twitter.com/sullysupervisor



Animal Shelter Corner



Looking for a workout partner who is also a champion cuddler? Donny is your man. This great-looking pup loves long walks, and will happily keep up with the running crowd. Donny is living in a foster home while he waits on his new family, and his foster mom notes that he is fully housebroken and plays with his own toys. Donny is buddies with the other dog in the foster home, and has met many other dogs through pack walks and play dates; he's been great with every dog he's met.

Donny is a very social dog, eager to meet new people and enjoy lots of pets and treats. The only thing bigger than this guy's head is his heart; in a roomful of people, he moves from person to person, leaning in for pets so everyone feels loved and included. He's a great fan of road trips, and he rides quietly in the back of the car, either gazing out the window or resting his head on the back of the seat looking adorable and earning scratches from the car's other occupants. Donny has a huge fan club of shelter volunteers and fosters, and once you meet him you'll understand why. To learn more and set up a meeting, email animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Safe Rides Home from Fairfax County Police

Washington Regional Alcohol Program's 2016 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am nightly from Friday, December 16 through Sunday, January 1, 2017. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30.00 fare), please call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). AT&T customers may dial #WRAP from their wireless phones. Please refer to the SoberRide

information listed below for important details concerning this program. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service

The program ends at 6:00 am, Sunday, January 1, 2017.

Important note: All requests for SoberRide service must be called to and dispatched from 1-800-200-8294. Do not call a taxi company directly for SoberRide service as the ride will not be covered under this program.

General SoberRide Information

WRAP's SoberRide , called one of the nation's most successful free cab ride programs for would-be impaired drivers, has helped to ensure greater Washington, DC residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays. Since 1991, WRAP has dispatched over 65,385 safe rides home. Currently, SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and Halloween.

WRAP's SoberRide provides a free cab ride home up to a \$30 fare.

Callers are financially responsible for anything over \$30.

You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. All calls must originate in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; the Cities of Rockville, Bowie, College Park, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt and Takoma Park in Maryland; the District of Columbia; Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Eastern Loudoun Counties in Virginia; and the Cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park in Virginia.

You cannot reserve a SoberRide or schedule a pickup in advance. To receive a ride, you must call 1-800-200-8294 (TAXI) during the program hours. A SoberRide call operator will direct your request to the correct participating cab company.

Participating Taxi Companies:

Alexandria Yellow Cab (Alexandria)

Barwood, Inc. (Montgomery County)

Fairfax Yellow Cab (Fairfax County)

Loudoun Yellow Cab (Eastern Loudoun County)

Northern Virginia Checker (Prince William County)

Red Top Cab Company (Arlington County)

Silver Cab of Prince George's County (Prince George's County)

Yellow Cab of District of Columbia (District of Columbia)

Yellow Cab of Prince William County (Prince William County)

When waiting for a SoberRide, please watch for a cab from the participating taxi company in the area from which you are calling.

Watch out for Holiday Scams

Below are just some scams to be aware of during the holiday season:

Fake holiday jobs: Most of these are work-from-home jobs. If a bogus employer asks for money up front or your Social Security number, you could be a potential scam victim.

Fake charities: Never give money to any charity without checking them out first. Whether they come to your door or approach you in the mall parking lot, ask for credentials and information and tell them you'll consider it later. The Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs maintains a list of registered charities (1-800-552-9963).

Check scams: This usually involves cashier's checks. Someone who wants to buy your merchandise will offer to pay more than your asking price, on the condition that you return the difference. Weeks later, you find out from your bank that the check was a fake, and you're now without your money and your merchandise.

Counterfeit merchandise: Street vendors may sell fake watches, purses and other items that appear to be high-end, name-brand merchandise.

Fake vacation rentals: This involves advertising property that the advertiser doesn't own.

Non-delivery of merchandise bought online: Self - explanatory. Make sure you check out the website from which you are buying the merchandise or check out the company.

E-mail scams: These start with an e-mail that invites you to do something or looks like a directive from your bank. They could also tout fake lotteries or other fake contests, and fake charities.

Phishing scams: In these scams, e-mails that appear to come from a legitimate company contain a link that send you to a website where you're asked to enter personal information. The site, run by a scammer, is designed to look like that of a legitimate business.

Items-off-of-a-truck scams: Yahoo.com explains this as a roving gang of scammers masquerading as delivery men. They pull a truck up in a parking lot, then say that they can sell you something cheap, like speakers or electronics, implying that it's stolen. At best, the goods will be low-quality knockoffs. At worst, you could be receiving stolen goods.

Limited quantities: An online scam in which a merchant offers supposedly great products at unbeatable price, but when you place your order you're told they have a limited number, and to get the deal, you have to buy several of the items.

Bait and switch: An old and still effective scam. You buy one thing, but receive quite another.

Gift card scams: Gift card tampering involves scammers, with special software, who find validated cards with money on them and then spend the money before the unsuspecting victim has a chance to try to spend it.

NEED ADVICE? Contact Us!

Office: 703-222-8435 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday)

Fax: 703-653-1310

Email: consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov
