

## **CARFIT COMING TO CLINTON**

When you drive, how far from the steering wheel should your chest be? How far above the steering wheel should your line of sight be? What part of your foot should touch the brake or accelerator? Do you think any of these matters to your driving safety? The correct answer is, YES THEY DO MATTER!

Drivers sitting closer than ten inches to steering wheel run a greater risk of serious injury in a collision. Poor foot positioning on the brake or accelerator, such as reaching with your toes to push the pedals, leads to leg fatigue, which slows reaction times. The effects of aging slow our reactions times enough, we don't need to compound the problem with poor posture!

If you want to make sure you're doing all you can to be a safe driver, take advantage of CarFit. We're offering this program for older drivers to improve their driving. Carfit is an educational program created in 2005, designed to help older drivers find out how well they "fit" their automobile. The goal of the program is to get drivers properly fitted in their cars, increasing their safety and the safety of others on the roads. AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association collaborated with the American Society on Aging to develop this program.

Seniors vs. Crime, working with the Iowa Dept of Transportation and Genesis Health Group, will offer this program July 30, 2014, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Church of the Open Door, 816 13<sup>th</sup> Ave North, Clinton, Iowa. All you need to do is show up in your vehicle. CarFit technicians will spend about twenty minutes with you in your car, assessing of how you sit, check your seat belt placement, your mirrors, and other safety areas. This isn't a driving test, only a check to get you better fitted for driving.

To make an appointment during these hours, call Genesis Health Group at 563-421-1480, ask for Laura. If you call after business hours, leave a message and someone will call back.

## **SCAM TRENDS**

## **SPOOFED PHONE CALLS**

This week I received two calls from residents who reported they learned someone used their phone numbers to disguise their own telemarketing calls. One of these callers, Lori Fiorenzi of Gateway Monogram, told me several folks called her to say they received calls from the Branstad campaign, which appeared to originate from her business phone. The caller wanted to ask political survey questions. This trick is called "spoofing". Technology exists which allows some callers to disguise their number, and substitute another number. This can make it look like you are getting a call from a local number, when in fact the caller can be anywhere in the world. The scammers using this trick hope to lower your suspicion level by making it appear the incoming call is local.

The second caller, whose number got hijacked or spoofed, said the scammers using her number wanted to lower credit card rates.

What can you do about this if it happens to you? Really not much. Check with your phone provider to see if they can offer any protection. I encourage you to report it to me or another law enforcement agency.

## **FARM SERVICE AGENCY DISASTER ASSISTANCE SCAM**

The USDA Farm Service Agency reports someone calling their customers, posing as a Farm Service representative in Washington DC. The caller claims the customer is owed disaster assistance money, and needs a bank account number or credit card number, so they transfer funds to that account. This is a scam, of course. We will probably hear more of this, with recent flooding and storm damage leading to disaster declarations for some areas nearby. Never give out personal financial information to someone who calls out of the blue.

You can reach me by calling Seniors vs. Crime, 563-242-9211 extension 4433, or by email at [randymeier@gapa911.us](mailto:randymeier@gapa911.us). Call me with your concerns or complaints on scams, frauds, cheating and chiseling. Most of what I learn, I hear about from you.

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