

DOOR TO DOOR PEDDLERS – THE SEASON APPROACHES

On Tuesday, April 30th, I spoke to many readers of this column at the KROS/Mercy Plus 50 Fair at the Wild Rose Casino. Lots of folks asked questions, which seemed to fall in two categories:

- Phone calls
- Door to door sales and peddlers

I wrote fairly recently on phone calls, but it's been quite a few months since I mentioned door-to-door sales. And since that kind of bother seems to crop up about the same time as the dandelions, I guess it is time to refresh ourselves on what to avoid, and what to look for with peddlers.

The state, Clinton County, and most cities and towns in Clinton County regulate such door-to-door sales with laws and ordinances. It does not matter where you live in Clinton County, if you are visited by a peddler, they need to wear or show you a permit issued by the state, or county, or your city. The peddler ordinance for the city of Clinton requires each peddler to wear their permit on lanyard around their neck. The ordinance states, "The visible exhibition of the license shall serve as evidence of compliance with all requirements..." This means, if the peddler is not wearing their permit, they are breaking the law.

The city of Camanche requires peddlers to obtain permits from the state AND the city of Camanche. From what I've seen and heard, most peddlers in cities and towns sell cleaning products (usually really over-priced), or magazines. In rural areas, it's a little different. Those peddlers offer things like farm gates, meat, tools, or offer paving or roofing services.

Some peddlers, when asked to show their permits, will tell you, "the boss has them", or "we applied for them, and are waiting for your town to issue them." Well, that doesn't cut it. My advice to anyone approached by door-to-door salespeople is to immediately ask to see their permits. If they can't show them to you, it tells us they did not bother to follow local rules. With that in mind, why trust them any farther? End the conversation, shut the door, pick up your phone, and call the law enforcement agency responsible for your area.

If you do find yourself buying from a licensed peddler or solicitor, they must furnish you with a three notice of cancellation if they make a sale to you. The notice must be in writing, in very specific language, which tells you of your right to cancel the purchase. If the salesperson did not furnish the buyer with this document, it is a violation of state law, and should be reported to law enforcement.

SAFE DRIVING CLASS – LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

The response to our offering of a Safe Driving For Seniors class seems to be lagging. The class has room for many more to attend. Everyone I talked to who took this class before considered it very worthwhile. The class is scheduled for May 8 from 10 am-3pm at the Clinton Community College Technology Center at 1951 Manufacturing Drive in Clinton. A nice lunch will be provided. To register call 563-441-4100. The class numbers are 137751 for AARP members, costing \$15, and 13759 for non-AARP numbers, costing \$20.

You can contact me at Seniors vs. Crime at the Clinton County Sheriff's Office at 563-242-9211, ext. 4433, to report any scams, frauds, or exploiting of seniors. Most of what I learn, I learn from folks who call in to report these activities to me.

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