

Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

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Community Turns Out for Tree Lighting



Approximately 1,000 people helped kick off the holiday season at the City of Lawndale's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Lawndale Civic Center Plaza on November 28. The event included the following attractions: snow sled run, trackless train rides, stage entertainment, a guest appearance from Santa Claus, and the ceremonial lighting of the Angel Tree.

The Hands-Free Device Every Driver Needs

By Rob McCarthy

No Texting, No Selfies, No Exceptions

A stricter version of California's hands-free driving law is coming in 2017, making it illegal for a driver to hold a cell phone for any reason or to look away at a mobile device. While it's well understood that talking or texting while driving is a no-no, smartphone features and apps like Google maps that didn't exist when the original law was written created unanticipated loopholes.

Sacramento lawmakers have been playing catchup since 2008 when cell phone use while driving was first banned. Unlike the early generations of talk-and-text phones, smartphones are handheld computers that store and play music, stream videos and Netflix shows, snap and edit pictures, follow friends on social media, and run apps with driving directions, maps and traffic reports.

The technology embedded in smartphones makes it easier to find a nearby restaurant or a parking place, and harder to tune them out when drivers should be watching the road. Distracted driving is a national problem--and mobile phones, tablets and other communication devices are blamed for a spike in traffic collisions and pedestrian injuries and deaths throughout the country.

Reducing the number of crashes involving vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists is tops on state and federal government to-do lists next year. While individual responsibility and self-control by drivers are key to the success of the traffic safety campaign, an inexpensive device sold at stores and gas stations could be the difference between a ticket and a safe driving record.

A cell phone can be used legally as long as it's mounted to the windshield or dashboard and the driver swipes the screen of the phone or device, under the change in law. Getting caught holding a cell phone, a Blackberry or any messaging device after January 1 can result in a citation. A first offense of the hands-off law is \$20, with an increase to \$50 for repeat

violations.

The phone holders sell for between \$6 and \$30, and attach to the front windshield or hang from the air vents, according to a Google search. Department stores and online retailers list them on their websites in car accessories. Some manufacturers call their product a phone cradle.

Assemblyman Bill Quirk (D-Hayward) said he wrote the bill to bring the hands-free driving law up to speed with technology. He announced the signing of his bill into law in September, and cited statistics from the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Highway Patrol about the high numbers of citations issued to drivers whom officers observed writing, reading or sending texts or talking on a wireless phone while driving.

In 2015, the Highway Patrol issued more than 13,000 citations for violating the ban on writing, sending or reading text-based communications while driving, and 78,000 citations for using a wireless telephone while driving.

"Technology has improved so rapidly, and our cell phones are more capable of much more than just calls and text messages. Smartphones have an abundance of available features that demand a driver's attention, leading to very dangerous driving behavior. However, such activities are not clearly prohibited by law," Quirk said.

The Governor signed Quirk's bill in September, prompting the Northern California lawmaker to say "the accidents, injuries and deaths associated with this form of distracted driving are completely preventable. ... This bill will save lives."

A Fresno appellate court in 2014 ruled that using a mapping app on a smartphone did not violate the state's ban on driving while using a cell phone. A Fresno man who was cited after an officer saw him checking his phone argued successfully that the existing law was vague on the issue of using electronic maps, either on a phone or a GPS device. If a paper is okay under the law, why not an electronic one, the defendant argued.

Police departments insisted, despite the appellate court decision exception to the law for Google and Apple maps, they could issue citations for distracted driving under a different section of the California vehicle code. The Fresno appeals court limited its decision to the cell phone driving law and did not expand its ruling to protect all electronic maps.

Earlier this year, the Automobile Club of America (AAA) revealed that 87 percent of drivers admitted taking unnecessary risks behind the wheel, including driving while distracted. Other risk behaviors drivers said they were guilty of included driving impaired or drowsy, speeding, running red traffic lights, and not wearing a seatbelt. "There is a culture of indifference for far too many drivers when it comes to road safety," said Peter Kissinger, President and CEO of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Two-thirds of motorists told the AAA they had talked on a cell phone while driving in the past month, while nearly one-third said they do it regularly. Another 42 percent said they had read a text message while driving in the same time period, while 32 percent of drivers said they typed or sent a text while in the car.

Those revelations prompted a Southern California AAA spokesman to characterize the attitude about phones and texting as "do as I say, not as I do" even though drivers know better.

Many drivers admit to engaging in the same dangerous behaviors they criticize as unacceptable and life-threatening, said Anita Lorz Villagrana, the Community Programs & Traffic Safety manager.

It's estimated that distracted driving causes 3,000 deaths per year in the United States, and the actual number is believed to be even higher. Drivers who take their eyes off the road for more than two seconds can double their risk of being in a crash, researchers warn. Play it safe this year and give phone holders as holiday gifts to family, teens and friends. They'll be glad, and ready for the new year because you did. •

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
66°/48°



Saturday
Sunny
68°/50°



Sunday
Sunny
68°/51°



PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Wowser Schnauzers



Clay

We are looking for volunteers to help with our pet adoption fairs, which are held every Saturday at the Petco located at 537 N. Pacific Coast Highway Redondo Beach from noon-3: 30 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering and can commit to at least one Saturday a month, please contact us at info@msfr.org. You can also visit all of our Miniature Schnauzers & Friends rescues at the adoption fair or check out our website, www.msfr.org. If you have any questions about a particular dog's availability, you can email us at info@msfr.org. Schnauzers! Bet you can't adopt just one!

"Independence Day was no picnic for me! Those fireworks were ear-shattering, so I took off running to find somewhere to hide. Then I got lost and ended up as a stray in a shelter. My name is **Clay** and I'm a 15-pound, one-year old male Miniature Schnauzer/Jack Russell mix. I was such a matted mess that no one was the least bit interested in me. The compassionate shelter volunteers took pity on me and decided to clean me up. Voila! Under that hot mess was a cute, sweet little guy with huge, dark eyes and a glistening white coat! I'm a friendly, happy go-lucky kind of guy that likes to play and gets along great with other dogs. I was a bit needy when I first got to my foster home, but it didn't take long to build my confidence and fit right in."

If you are interested in Clay, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

"They call me **Corky** and I'm a six-year old female purebred Miniature Schnauzer. Just like my friend Russell, I was confiscated with

eight other dogs and we all ended up at an LA County shelter. Most of the other dogs were adopted, but Russell and I were pretty repugnant. In addition to being a stinky, matted mess, my eyes were all crusted over due to an untreated dry eye condition, and my teeth were so bad that even I didn't want to be around me. The rescue folks, who by the way are very savvy, suspected that I had bladder stones and they were right! One procedure took care of the stones, the neutering and a dental, which resulted in the removal of 15 teeth. Looking good and feeling even better than I look...but I will have to remain on Rx dog food to prevent reoccurring stones. I'm just a bit of a gal, only 12 pounds, but I get along great with other dogs and I'm very affectionate. I'm cute as a button with my natural plume of a tail and I know you'll love having me as part of your family."

If you're interested in Corky, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

"Hello! My name is **Slater** and I'm a very cute two-year old male "Schnoodle" (Schnauzer/Poodle mix). I was rescued from an LA County shelter where I was called a stray. Shelters can be pretty intimidating to a little youngster like me, so it's no surprise that when I was first rescued I was terribly frightened and very skittish. Actually, I was a bit of a basket case. I had some very special one-on-one training and am happy to say that I've gotten over some of my fear



Corky



Slater

issues. I'm continuing on that path and am doing much better with strangers. That said, I think I would do best in a home without small children and with someone who has a little dog experience because I could really benefit from a confident owner. My friends all think I'm a really great guy because I'm very loyal, funny and 16 pounds of affection. I get along great with other dogs, I absolutely love to go for walks and did I mention I'm cute as a button?"

If you are interested in Slater, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

"If a petite, adorable, one-year old female Shih Tzu/Terrier mix is your idea of the perfect companion, look no further. I'm **Brandy** and I'm your gal! One evening when I was out for a little socializing, I was hit by a car and taken to a City of LA shelter. Since I didn't have any information on me, I was considered a stray. The only injury I sustained from my unfortunate encounter with that car was a fractured pelvis. Thankfully I didn't require surgery, but five weeks of cage rest was my penance for venturing out. The MSFR Vet has examined me and, after taking another set of x-rays, I'm happy to say I received a clean bill of health. I'm a playful little gal, weighing in at about seven pounds, who gets along well with other dogs. Well, if truth be told, I do exhibit some food guarding when other dogs get too close to my bowl. I'm working on housebreaking and will need a bit more, but I am crate-trained. I'm sure once you see what a precious little cutie I am, you won't be able to resist taking me home."

If you are interested in Brandy, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

*Saving one animal won't
change the world, but
the world will surely change
for that animal.*



Brandy

Santa's Sleigh Touring Lawndale

Get ready for Santa when he comes through your neighborhood! St. Nick's visits began November 29 and he'll make his way through the various neighborhoods beginning at 6 p.m. each evening. Here are his remaining routes:

Thursday, December 1: 4035 W. 160th; 4149 W. 160th; 4301 W. 160th; 4228 W. 161st; 4152 W. 161st; 4040 W. 161st; 4031 W. 162nd; 4121 W. 162nd; 16217 Freeman; 4138 W. 163rd; 4028 W. 163rd; 4033 W. 164th; 4123 W. 164th; 4110 W. 165th; 4030 W. 165th; 4041 W. 166th; 4032 W. 167th; 4025 W. 168th.

Friday, December 2: 4330 W. 163rd; 4305 W. 164th; 4230 W. 165th; 4301 W. 166th; 4332 W.167th; 4166 W. 167th; 4137 W. 168th; 4311 W. 168th; 4304 W. 168th; 4166 W. 169th; 4121 W. 170th; 4319 W. 171st; 4316 W. 170th.

Monday, December 5: 4455 W. 163rd; 4565 W. 163rd; 4548 W. 164th; 4517 W. 165th; 4548 W. 166th; 4521 W. 167th; William Green School parking lot on 168th; 4531 W. 170th; 4558 W. 171st;

4537 W. 172nd; 4572 W. 173rd.

Tuesday, December 6: 4729 W. 173rd; 4728 W. 172nd; 4725 W. 171st; 4718 W. 170th; 4725 W. 169th; 4720 W. 168th; 4751 W. 167th; 4720 W. 166th; 4757 W. 165th; 4744 W. 164th; 4721 W. 163rd . ROUTE 7 – Wednesday, December 7 4509 W. 162nd; 4611 W. 162nd; 4733 W. 162nd; 4722 W. 161st; 4562 W. 161st; 4535 W. 160th; 4717 W. 160th; 4732 W. 159th; 4600 W. 159th.

Thursday, December 8: 15311 Grevillea; 15629 Grevillea; 15626 Mansel; 15420 Mansel; Jane Adams School parking lot on 153rd; 15409 Firmona; 4507 W. 156th; 15336 Condon; 15224 Condon; 15118 Condon. ROUTE 9 – Friday, December 9 14507 Burin; 14807 Burin; 14927 Burin; 15008 Grevillea; 14806 Grevillea; 14500 Grevillea; 14509 Mansel; 14801 Mansel; 15009 Mansel; 15002 Kingsdale; 14806 Kingsdale; 14510 Kingsdale; 14509 Firmona; 14717 Firmona; 14916 Condon; 14808 Condon; 14706 Condon. •

Happy Tails

Congratulations to Banks, now called **Brooklyn**, and his new family. Brooklyn is our Riverside shelter rescue from mid-October who stole the hearts of his new mom and 10-year-old human brother. Our volunteer, Dolores, met them at the dog park and referred them to us after comparing notes

on Miniature Schnauzers. They came to our pet adoptions, met Brooklyn and the rest is history. In addition to his 10-year-old two-legged brother, Brooklyn also has a one-year old, four-legged brother named Beau. Sounds like they'll be living an adventure-filled life and we wish them much happiness.

