



**RICHLAND COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

WWW.RCSD.NET (803) 576-3000

LEON LOTT, SHERIFF



REGION THREE NEWSLETTER

6429 Bishop Avenue Columbia, SC 29203 (803) 576-2215

HAPPY LABOR DAY!!!!!!

SHERIFF RECEIVES MASTER'S DEGREE FROM LANDER



On Friday, August 12, 2016 Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott accomplished two years of work, satisf

ying all the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Emergency Management from Lander University, in Greenwood South Carolina.

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott actually began taking classes one year prior to the historic flood of October 2015; the Sheriff was just about half way through when, "the Thousand Year Flood" struck Richland County. This was a horrific time in the County as the Sheriff was at the forefront with other first responders in the search and rescue to search and recovery efforts. The flood impacted our citizens and public safety tremendously; the ironic timing of the Flood impacted him personally, in his studies and in his leadership of the largest law enforcement agency in South Carolina.

The Sheriff looks at public safety in a holistic way, not just as a cop. He is constantly looking for ways to keep citizens safe during major crisis, and or issues such as natural disasters, and acts of terrorism that may occur. The Sheriff wants to minimize how disasters impact citizens and to reduce the loss of life. Having a master's degree in Emergency Management provides the Sheriff with

additional critical thinking skills when disaster strikes; and in preparing for it. The Sheriff knows that time is of the essence when it comes to responding to both natural and man-made disasters. The Sheriff understands and recognizes this, and continues to work to be proactive and improve how the department responds to critical incidents in our County. The Sheriff's goal is to remain on the side of preparedness to help assist the citizens he serves wherever, and whenever needed.

As we approach the anniversary of that historic flood, the Sheriff reminds us to be vigilant by staying prepared and following simple tips of having our families and businesses prepared could mean the difference in survival or becoming a victim. The Sheriff asks all citizens to go to our website where a link to what you can do to be prepared @ www.rcsd.net. You can also contact our Incident Management Team at sheriff@rcsd.net or our Community Action Team at 803-309-5070 to receive free safety and preparedness information or to request additional services.

Sheriff Leon Lott is committed to continuing to work with public safety at the Federal, State and Local levels to ensure the Richland County Sheriff's Department is prepared for whatever challenges will face our communities.



RCSD MISSION STATEMENT

It is our mission as trusted public servants, to prevent crime and the fear of crime by providing excellence in law enforcement services, accountability and connections with communities

VISION:

Enriching community trust through high standards of excellence

VALUES

A passion for service, integrity, accountability and professionalism

REGION 3 COMMAND STAFF



Capt. McManus



Lt. Gaither

SEPTEMBER 2016

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WISH COMES TRUE



Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott shares the story of County employee Whitney Lykes and her husband James, who is currently training at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy to become a Richland County Sheriff's Deputy.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that not only does Whitney handle her day to day duties as an administrator, but her work continues when she arrives home. Whitney changes her role from administrator to mom as she nurses her daughter. Two weeks after giving birth, doctors informed Whitney that she possesses a disease called Hemoglobin D, and Alpha Thalassemia Trait; which is

an unusual blood disease. Whitney's husband, James, carries the Sickle Cell trait; this combination from both parents has formed a rare Sickle Cell disease that has been passed on to their daughter Haylee. Sadly, this disease has hindered Haylee's happiness and childhood lifestyle. She is now 9 years of age and often wonders why she cannot play as much as her friends. Due to her illness, Haylee is not able to participate in normal physical activities as the majority of children do, and she must be closely monitored at all times, because if Haylee begins to look pale it is a sign that something is wrong and immediate action needs to be taken.

However, doctors discovered Haylee's disease early and with proper treatment and regular doctor visits, Haylee could one day live a mostly normal life. Whitney shared her story on Facebook and discovered a friend whose daughter suffers from the same kind of Sickle Cell disease. This friend suggested that she contact the Make A Wish Foundation to give Haylee some much needed joy although temporary relief from the suffering she endures daily. The Make A Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps assist children who are suffering from various illnesses to make a dream of theirs come true. Whitney completed the necessary paper work and a representative met with Whitney and her family. Haylee was approved for her wish and her family is extremely grateful to be able to take their daughter on the trip that otherwise they could not afford; to be able to take her mind off her pain, have fun, laugh and put a smile on her face. Haylee's wish included her entire family so that they could all enjoy the Make A Wish Foundation's gift together; she chose Walt Disney World in Orlando Florida.

Whitney is a part time employee with the department and struggles financially with mounting medical bills. This wish from Make A Wish Foundation for Haylee will give her much needed laughter and smiles to lift her spirits. Mom is however hopeful that with continued treatment and support her daughter's dreams of becoming a Zoologist may become a reality.

For anyone who would like to support any of these organizations to help a child's dream come true contact the Make a Wish Foundation at www.worldwish.org or help with research to find a cure for Sickle Cell contact the James R. Clark Sickle Cell Foundation at (803) 765-9916 or office@jamesrclarksicklecell.org this is an organization that optimizes the social, psychological, and the well-being of individuals with sickle cell disease and to decrease the incidence of sickle cell disease through genetic screening, counseling, and education.



Important Numbers

9-1-1: Emergencies

576-3000: Sheriff's Department

576-2215: Region 3

Capt. Scott McManus - 576-2218

Lt. Steve Gaither - 576-2225

Sgt. W. Medlin- 576-2217

Sgt. A. McLendon- 576-2221

Sgt. Ellis Pearson - 576-2215

REGION 3

NEWS

BEWARE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DATING SITES

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott is warning citizens to be careful when using social media dating sites such as Tinder, POF (Plenty of Fish), and others for safety reasons.



Sheriff Leon Lott stated that the Richland County Sheriff's Department is investigating several incidents of "catfishing" associated with strong armed robberies. The Sheriff stated that catfishing is when internet predators fabricate themselves online using fake identities, for the purpose of tricking people into relationships, financial scams, robberies, and sexual assaults.

Sheriff Leon Lott asks that you use caution when you use any dating website or apps. The Sheriff offers the following tips:

- *Never leave your drink unattended*
 - *Keep your purse, wallet, phone, and personal items with you*
 - *Watch the photo's that you post that may have revealing information in them; location, school, neighborhood*
 - *Check your privacy settings on ALL of your social media platforms*
 - *Consider having a private account for family and friends*
 - *Be careful when accessing your account from a public or shared computer*
 - *Be wary of opening up email attachments from someone you have only just met*
 - *Ensure that you keep your internet security software up to date*
 - *Money requests are a red light*
 - *Report unacceptable or suspicious behavior*
- Sheriff Leon Lott is asking that if you or someone you know may have been a victim to please come forward. It doesn't matter how long ago it may have happened, what's important is that we get you the proper care and guidance. Remember if you have any information about this crime or the identity of any suspects we urge you to call 576-3000, or email or text your anonymous tip to 1-800-CrimeSC.
- *Do not give out your personal information*
 - *Do not meet anyone outside of a public location, make sure that there are plenty of people around*
 - *Take your time when you talk about yourself, do not give out your life-story the first time you chat – plenty of time for that later*
 - *Tell a friend, better yet if and when you feel comfortable enough to meet, take a friend with you*

SHERIFF ASKS... ARE YOU PREPARED?

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that as we near the anniversary of the historic flood of 2015; which reminds us to be prepared both while on the road, and at home. The Sheriff stated that hurricane season is here and even though we haven't been hit by any storms yet he wants to remind everyone that you have to take the time to be prepared.

The Sheriff is providing two lists (one for your vehicle and one for your family) of things you need that will help assist when disaster strikes. Please take the time to prepare for a natural disaster which could mean the difference between survival or becoming a victim.

First responders may not always be able to get it to you in a timely manner, so having enough supplies to last for a two to three day period is imperative. The Sheriff recommends that you have the following items on hand in the event of a natural disaster:

- One gallon of water per person per day (3 days worth)
- Food – At least three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dusk math to help filter contaminate air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench and/or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Prescription meds, glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet Food and extra water for your pet
- Cash and change
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Emergency reference material such as first aid book.
- Sleeping bag with warm blanket for each person.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeve shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing depending on a season
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, it can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, or other activities for children



FIRST AID KIT

- Two pairs of latex or other sterile gloves if you are allergic to latex
- Sterile dressing to stop bleeding
- Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes
- Antibiotic ointment
- Burn ointment
- Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes
- Eye wash solution to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant
- Thermometer
- Prescription medications you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers. You should periodically rotate medicines to account for expiration dates
- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies.
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant



FOR THE BABY

- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Medications
- Moist towelettes or baby wipes
- Diaper or rash ointments



Sheriff Leon Lott also states that we should all have a plan in place, so meet with your family and discuss what to do in the event of an emergency. Decide the responsibilities for each member of the family or household. The Sheriff adds that proper planning saves lives! If you need more information about putting together your "Go Kits" please call our Community Action Team at 803-309-5070.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

DON'T LET FLIM FLAM ARTISTS STEAL YOUR MONEY

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott stated that on Monday, August 9, 2016 Richland County Sheriff's Department investigators responded to take a report of fraud.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 the victim, who resides in Cayce, South Carolina, received a call from a suspect informing her that she failed to appear in Federal Court, and owed two payments of \$495.00 apiece. The victim was advised that the transaction would take place at the Richland County Sheriff's Department; the Sheriff stated that no deputy would ever call nor tell a victim to report to the Sheriff's Department to pay a fine. The Sheriff added that the suspect told the victim to pay the fine with Green Dot cards, in this case the victim felt that this was a scam and immediately called law enforcement and met with Cayce Police, and investigators from the Richland County Sheriff's Department.



The Sheriff stated that on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 the victim and Richland County Sheriff's Department investigators met at CVS, 500 Knox Abbott Drive in an attempt to capture the suspects. The Sheriff stated that the suspects called the victim and told her get the Green Dot cards and give them the code numbers from those cards, this would enable the thieves to steal the money from the card (the victim never purchased the cards). Investigators asked the victim to get the suspects to come meet her at the CVS – the suspects became agitated and after several attempts the investigator joined in on the conversation and identified himself, the scammers immediately hung up.

Sheriff Leon Lott continues to ask citizens to remain vigilant as these criminals are out to steal your hard earned money. The Sheriff reminds you that no law enforcement agency will ask you for money for any fines you may owe; we will not call your home and threaten you with jail time for outstanding warrants if you don't pay. Always hang up and call your local law enforcement agency if you receive such calls. The Sheriff is asking for assistance in locating suspects who may be connected to these scams; to receive up to \$1000 for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible, please call, email or text your anonymous tip to 1-800-CrimeSC.

CRIMINALS TARGET ONE THOUSAND 2015 VEHICLES

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott stated that between January 1, 2016 and August 9, 2016 criminals have targeted over 1215 cars for theft from motor vehicles. The Sheriff added that during the same time period 64 of those cars were identified as Dodge Chargers.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that a manufacturing defect allows criminals to manipulate the locks on the Chargers, giving access to criminals who want to steal your belongings. The Sheriff stated that if you own a Dodge Charger to please take heed to the tips below and to notify the manufacture. The Richland County Sheriff's Department's Motor Vehicle Theft Unit would like to alert citizens who may own one of these, or any other vehicle to be vigilant in order to keep your vehicle safe from thieves:

- *Never leave anything of value in plain view or inside your vehicle (i.e. electronics, purses, money, shopping bags, etc.) --- keep it safe, keep it hidden, and keep it locked*
- *Before your get to your destination (i.e. mall, grocery store, shopping center, etc.) store your pocketbook, bags, or other items in the trunk as criminals could be watching you*
- *When storing items inside your vehicle, be mindful of your surroundings so that no one can see where you are placing your belongings*
- *Park your vehicle in a well-lit location*
- *Always remember to lock your doors when exiting your vehicle, make sure that all windows are completely rolled up*
- *Report any suspicious person(s) in the neighborhood*
- *Never leave your vehicle running, even if you will only be gone for a minute*
- *Never leave the registration or title in your vehicle*
- *Install an anti-theft device or system on your vehicle as an extra deterrent*
- *Never leave your garage door opener inside your vehicle, especially if your car is parked in front of your house*
- *Never leave a gun in your vehicle*

The Sheriff continues to remind citizens to take heed to the listed safety tips and that if anyone has any information regarding these or any other crime to please call the Sheriff's Department at 576-3000 or text your anonymous tip to 1-800-CrimeSC.



Community Meeting Schedule

COMMUNITY	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
BELVEDERE	TBA	TBA	TBA
BOOKERT HEIGHTS	09/08	1625 HEYWARD BROCKINGTON	7:00 PM
BYRNESWOOD	N/A	HYATT PARK GYM	7:00 PM
CAPITAL HEIGHTS/BAYBERRY MEWS	N/A	TBA	6:30 PM
CEDAR CREEK	N/A	CEDAR CREEK COM. CNTR.	7:30 PM
COLLEGE PLACE	09/12	CHURCH COLA COLLEGE CAMPUS	7:00 PM
COLONIAL HEIGHT	09/13	3600 COLONIAL DR.	TBA
DENNY TERRACE	09/13	DENNY TERR. COMM. CENT.	6:30 PM
FAIRLAWN	09/15	FAIRLAWN COM.CNTR.	7:00 PM
FOREST HEIGHTS	09/15	MEETING CENTER BLUERIDGE TERR.	6:30 PM
GOLDEN ACRES	09/19	1901 JONES ST.	7:00 PM
HASTING POINT	09/15	MEADOWLAKE PARK	TBA
HIGHLAND FOREST	09/12	OMEGA HOUSE ON WILMETT.	7:00 PM
HOLLYWOOD HILLS/STARKS TERR.	09/12	DENNIS CHAPEL ON BERTHA	7:00 PM
HYATT PARK	TBA	PRINT BLDG MONTICELLO/ N.MAIN	7:00 PM
JASMINE PLACE	TBA	JASMINE PLACE SUBDIVISION (MODEL HOME)	7:00 PM
LAKE ELIZABETH	TBA	TBA	TBA
LINCOLNSHIRE/ROCK GATE	09/15	CRANE CREEK REC. CNTR.	7:00 PM
MEADOWLAKES	09/27	MEADOWLAKE PARK	7:00 PM
MOSLEY HILLS	TBA	BAYVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH	7:00 PM
NORTH 21 TERRACE	09/05	BELMONT CHURCH MASON RD.	TBA
NORTHWOOD HILLS	09/04		7:00 PM
PROVIDENCE PLANTATION	TBA	TBA	TBA
RIDGEWOOD/BARONY	09/15	HOLLOWAY HOUSE RIDGEWOOD	7:00 PM
STATE PARK	N/A	MEADOWLAKE PARK	6:30 PM
SUMMERHILLS	TBA	SUMMERHILL PARK	TBA
TWIN EAGLES	TBA	LIBRARY ON PARKLANE RD.	7:00 PM
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS	09/05	PROVIDENCE NE HOSPITAL	7:00 PM
WILLOWLAKES/HILLENDALE APTS.	TBA	ALCORN MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY	TBA