

The "CAT"

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By: Lee Hawkins, Neighborhood Crime Watch Chairman

Welcome to spring, hope all are enjoying the bulbs and shrubs that are now in bloom. As a reminder, we are asking block captains to get their neighborhood involved in the annual Yarmouth Cleanup Day coming up on Saturday April 22. Join us at town hall starting at 8:00 AM for registration. You need to pre-register for an area that includes your neighborhood, beaches, parks, and other areas. Click [here](#) for more information and the link to register.

We will also be holding our semi-annual Yarmouth Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting on Thursday, May 18 at 2:00 PM at the Yarmouth Senior Center. Chief Lennon will provide us on updates at YPD, and we will review some changes to the Crime Watch program. This meeting is open to the public. If you aren't yet a crime watch member, come to find out more about the program. We will send out an invitation as we get closer to the date, hope to see you there.

ROAD USERS LAW

Source: YPD

Did You Know?

On April 1st, The Vulnerable Road Users Laws came into effect.

Here is some good information to help you become familiar with the law.

<https://www.massbike.org/new-massachusetts-vulnerable...>

<https://assets.nationbuilder.com/.../H5103 - Parchment>



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Vulnerable Road Users Law

On April 1st, a new law went into effect in Massachusetts designed to increase road safety and reduce traffic fatalities.

When passing a vulnerable user, drivers shall pass at a safe distance of not less than 4 feet and at a "reasonable and proper speed." Vulnerable road users include:

- Pedestrians and Cyclists
- Roadside Workers
- People using Wheelchairs and Personal Mobility Devices
- Skateboards, Scooters, Roller Skates, In-Line Skates
- Motorized Bicycles and Scooters
- Horses and Horse Draw Carriages
- Farming Tractors and Equipment

Additionally, the legislation adds a new requirement for use of rear red lights at night. This means, that when riding at night bicyclists should have **both** a front and rear light.

YARMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH (SAAM)

Source: YPD Facebook



Start By Believing Day (SBB Day) is the first Wednesday of every April.

April also begins the 22nd annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).

SBB is a public awareness campaign launched by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) in 2011. It was created to end the cycle of silence and change the way society responds to sexual assault. The campaign focuses specifically on changing the response to survivors of sexual assault by expressing belief and support, rather than doubt, shame, or blame.

On this day, we gather to end the silence and change the way we respond to sexual assault. We, at Yarmouth Police Department Start by Believing.

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Source: YPD Facebook

April is Autism Acceptance Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness, understanding what autism is and learning to accept people in our community living with autism.

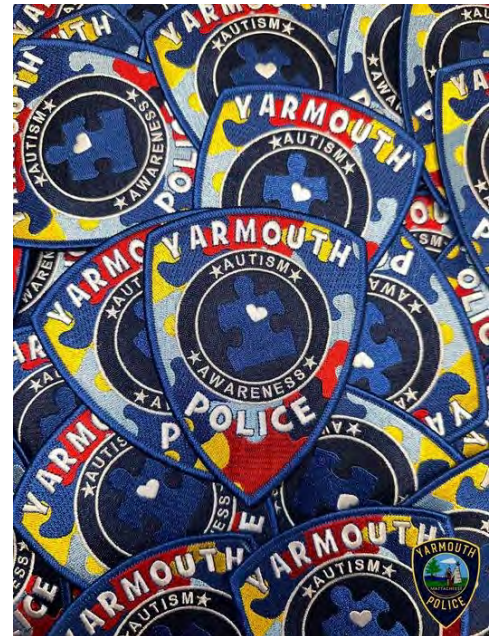
Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships and self-regulation and is different for everyone. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is often referred to as a "spectrum condition" that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

We have the Autism patches in this photo available for purchase for \$10 each at the Yarmouth Police Department Records Division during business hours.

The Records window is open on Mondays 1PM - 4PM and Tuesday through Friday 9AM - Noon.

We accept cash, check, Venmo or PayPal.

Patches can also be purchased by emailing ngiammarco@yarmouth.ma.us with "Theme Patch" in the subject line. Any shipped patches will incur an additional shipping fee.



HANDS FREE WHILE DRIVING


Source: YPD Facebook

Phone down, eyes up! Drive safely

HANDS-FREE WHILE DRIVING IT'S THE LAW.



**FINES UP
TO \$500**

EOPSS  massDOT  rmv 

A message from the Office of Grants and Research

Massachusetts law prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using **any** electronic device, including mobile telephones, unless the device is used in hands-free mode.

The "hands-free" law is effective as of February 23, 2020.

Penalty for violating the hands-free law

- 1st offense – \$100 fine.
- 2nd offense – \$250 fine, plus mandatory completion of a distracted driving educational program.
- 3rd and subsequent offenses – \$500 fine, plus insurance surcharge and mandatory completion of distracted driving educational program.

What does this mean for me?

Drivers who are 18 and over

- Can only use electronic devices and mobile phones in hands-free mode and are **only permitted** to touch devices to activate hands-free mode.
- **Not permitted** to hold or support any electronic device/phone.
- **Cannot** touch phone except to activate the hands-free mode and can only enable when the device is installed or properly mounted to the windshield, dashboard, or center console in a manner that does not impede the operation of the motor vehicle.
- **Not allowed** to touch device for texting, emailing, apps, video, or internet use.
- Activation of GPS navigation **is permitted** when the device is installed or properly mounted.
- Handheld use **is allowed only** if the vehicle is both stationary and not located in a public travel lane or a bicycle lane, but is **not allowed** at red lights or stop signs.
- Voice to text and communication to electronic devices **is legal only** when device is properly mounted; use of headphone (one ear) is permitted.

Drivers who are under 18

- **Are not allowed to use any electronic devices.** All phone use while driving **is illegal**, including use in hands-free mode.

Operators may use a cell phone to call 911 to report an emergency. If possible, safely pull over and stop before calling 911.

For more information, please visit
[Mass.Gov/Handsfree](https://www.mass.gov/handsfree)



FIVE TOP SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF IN 2023

Source: AARP, Patrick J. Kiger

Scammers have proved ingenious when it comes to updating traditional criminal operations such as the romance scam or the Ponzi scheme with new twists to make them more convincing and effective. And like the rest of society, scammers are increasingly going online.

“Most con artists have taken a digital-first approach to scamming,” says Josh Planos, vice president of communications and public relations for the Better Business Bureau (BBB). He notes that the vast majority of today’s scams originate through a digital on-ramp, such as social media or email.

Here are some emerging scams that anti-fraud experts are tracking in 2023, along with tips on how to thwart the crooks.

1. Cryptocurrency-romance scam

Crooks combine crypto scams with old-fashioned romance scams, posing as internet love interests so they can cajole their targets into downloading an app and investing in fake crypto accounts. “They claim that they’re even putting some of their own money into your fund,” explains former Federal Trade Commission official Steve Baker. While the app displays data that seems to show your wealth growing, criminals are just taking your money.

How to stay safe: Carefully scrutinize any investment opportunity, even if you think you’re a sophisticated investor. “People think it’s not going to happen to them, but it is happening to many, which is why you have to keep your guard up,”

2. Payday loan scam

Criminals exploit the inflation squeezing workers by offering fake payday loans that they claim will help people settle their bills. Loan applicants are told they’ll need to prepay a fee. The money goes into the crooks’ pockets, and the applicant gets nothing.

How to stay safe: Be wary of anyone who asks you to pay any sort of loan fee with a gift card or some other nontraceable form of payment.

3. One-time password (OTP) bot scam

Credit reporting company Experian warns that scammers utilize bots — automated programs — to deceive people into sharing the two-factor authentication codes sent to them via text or email from financial institutions (or from companies such as Amazon). The bot will make a robocall or send a text that appears to come from a bank, asking you to authorize a charge, then it asks you to enter the authentication code you’ve just been sent if the transaction isn’t yours. It’s actually the bot that’s trying to log into your bank account, and it wants the code that the bank sent to you as a precaution, so it can get in.

How to stay safe: Never share authentication codes, or provide other information, in response to an unsolicited phone call or text.

4. Check washing scam

Though other payment modes are replacing them, checks are still used often enough for scammers to exploit. One trick is “check washing,” in which crooks steal checks from mailboxes and bathe them in household chemicals to erase the original name and dollar amount, leaving blank spaces they can fill in. It’s possible to convert a \$25 check to one for thousands of dollars.

How to stay safe: The U.S. Postal Inspection Service recommends depositing your outgoing mail in blue collection boxes before the day’s last pickup, so it doesn’t sit for as long. At home, avoid leaving mail in your own mailbox overnight, and have your mail held by the post office or picked up by a friend or neighbor if you’re going to be away.

5. Free-gift QR code scam

This is a variation on a basic QR code scam that the FBI warned about: Scammers put fake codes over real ones to exploit the convenience of the barcodes people scan into their phones to see restaurant menus or make payments. Experian’s Bruemmer says scammers may call and say they’re going to send a QR code to your phone, so you can receive a free \$100 gift card. In reality, the QR code may take you to a malicious website.

How to stay safe: If you receive a QR code out of the blue, contact the person or company that supposedly sent it, to make sure it is for real. Use a phone number you know is authentic.

SPRING WORDSEARCH

T L E M W O N S S S A R G L A
G C Y C L A M E N S A L I L P
G N G R O W T H R L L L L R S
O Y I I D L S A R A I E S N N
L A L N K A I E B E R R O H E
F M L O A N F E S G M I P W W
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ALLERGIES

APRIL

BASEBALL

BEES

CROCUSES

CYCLAMENS

DAFFODILS

DANDELIONS

EASTER

EQUINOX

FLOWERS

FROGS

GOLF

GRASS

GREEN

GROWTH

IRISES

LILIES

MARCH

MAY

NEW LEAVES

PLANTING

RAIN

RENEWAL

ROBINS

SEASON

SNOWMELT

SOFTBALL

SPRING BREAK

SPRING CLEANING

TULIPS

WARMER

WET



SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
Cookies with the Chief	Love April 474 Station Ave.	April 20, 2023	10:00 AM
Yarmouth Clean Up Day	Yarmouth Town Hall	April 22, 2023 Rain Date: April 23 rd	8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration 9:30 - 11:00 AM Clean Up
Yarmouth Town Meeting	Mattacheese Middle School	April 25, 2023	6:00 PM
Coffee with a Cop	Heatherwood	May 8, 2023	10:00 AM
NCW Meeting	YPD	May 10, 2023	10:00 AM
Semi-Annual NCW Meeting	Yarmouth Senior Center	May 18, 2023	2:00 PM

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SHARE THE CAT

Block captains are requested to ensure that their members get a copy of the CAT. You can email them a copy or sign them up for a subscription. Block captains will get a copy automatically and do not need to subscribe.



The CAT is a newsletter from the Yarmouth Police Community Advisory Team (YPCAT) relating to happenings in the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program and the community.

Do you have an article you would like to see published in the CAT, or an idea for us to include? If so, contact us at cat@yncw.org.

Interested in learning more about, or joining Yarmouth Neighborhood Crime Watch—Visit our web site www.yncw.org . Here you can find out if you are in a current block, and learn more about the program and how to start your own block. You can also contact us at info@yncw.org.