



MAX MEYERS LAW

SPOKE & WHEEL



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Pedestrians can be

INVISIBLE

during winter in Washington

WINTER IN WASHINGTON means short sunlight during the days. In December we often feel like we go to work in the dark and leave work in the dark. Commuting to and from work in the dark as a pedestrian is much more dangerous. And as typical winter weather in Seattle turns rainy and windy we find our commutes home more congested and full of obstacles. Many of us try to find ways around traffic or use back roads to cut down on our commute time.

As motorists, we must remember we will likely encounter more pedestrians on these back roads. The other night I was driving a back road home to avoid traffic and a pedestrian was walking along the side of the road. I did not see him until I was right next to him. I have also seen people trying to cross in the middle of the road instead of crossing at a crosswalk at night. These people were virtually invisible to me until I was right on them with my car.

Obviously as motorists we must do our part to be conscious of pedestrians, but pedestrians can also take measures to keep themselves safe during the darker hours of the day. Here are **10 Basic Pedestrian Safety Tips** we recommend. These tips are highly recommended if you are walking when it is dark out, but we also encourage you to practice these same tips when it is light out.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #1: Cross at Crosswalks
Crossing at a crosswalk is one of the most basic safety precautions you can take while

walking. During school hours, crosswalks will typically be stationed with crossing guards, increasing pedestrian safety. Crossing at a crosswalk will also make you more visible to motorists.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #2: Wear Bright Colors
Speaking of visibility, wearing bright colors or reflective clothing when walking will increase your chances of being seen by passing motorists. Pink, yellow, orange, or green are all easy to spot, especially if daylight is scarce. At the very least, avoid dark colors like black, dark blue, and others that might be more difficult to see, especially at night.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #3: Look Both Ways Every Time
Before crossing a street, it is important to look both ways for oncoming cars. Look left, right, and then left again. Additionally, beware of parked cars, as a parked car may reverse or pull out of the parking spot without much warning.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #4: Put Away the Distractions
In today's world, technology is something nearly everyone always has at hand. While talking on the phone, texting, or listening to music while walking may be tempting, walking while distracted is extremely dangerous. When walking, put the phone or mp3 player away. Awareness of surroundings while walking is a critical part of pedestrian safety.

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Pedestrians can be INVISIBLE during Winter in Washington

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Pedestrian Safety Tip #5: Hold Children's Hands When Crossing

If you're walking with children, holding their hands while crossing the street can help keep them safe. Never allow children to run while around vehicles, or to cross a street without adult supervision.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #6: Use a Flashlight at Night

In addition to wearing bright colors to increase your visibility, using a flashlight or other light sources in the evening hours can help drivers see you. A flashlight can also help you to see uneven surfaces or cracks in the road or sidewalk, which can reduce your risk of tripping and falling.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #7: Utilize a Safe Route to School

Consider pedestrian safety for kids who walk to school too. A safe route to school can be a great way to encourage walking and pedestrian safety for children. Creating a safe route increases awareness when children walk in groups, and can reduce traffic congestion - and therefore pedestrian risks - in the area.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #8: Make Eye Contact with Drivers

Whenever you're crossing a street, make sure that drivers see you. One of the best ways to make sure that a driver sees you is to make eye contact with the driver before crossing the street.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #9: Walk on the Sidewalk

Whenever possible, pedestrians should walk on the sidewalk. If a sidewalk is not available, always walk as close to the edge of the road as possible, and walk towards on-coming traffic rather than with your back to traffic. Walking towards traffic increases your awareness of vehicles as well as your visibility to drivers.

Pedestrian Safety Tip #10: Beware of the Effects of Alcohol While Walking

While you should never drink and drive, walking while intoxicated can also be dangerous. Pedestrian safety data from 2012 published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reveals that of all pedestrians killed in accidents in 2012, 36 percent had a blood alcohol content level of .08 or higher. If you're intoxicated, call a sober friend or a cab.

DECEMBER

EVENTS CALENDAR

December 1 - 3 | FESTIVAL OF TREES

View 21 designer trees in the lobby and driveway of the Fairmont Olympic Hotel during the annual Festival of Trees charity event.

See schedule at www.seattlefestivaloftrees.com for gala, family celebration, and teddy bear suite. Free to view.

December 1 - 23 | ISSAQUAH REINDEER FESTIVAL

Visit Cougar Mountain Zoo when it's decorated like the North Pole to welcome Santa with his reindeer and sleigh during the Issaquah Reindeer Festival. Visit cougarmountainzoo.org for more information.

December 3 - 23 | CHRISTMAS SHIP FESTIVAL

Ride onboard with the choir or listen from shore at a bonfire during the Christmas Ship Festival on Lake Washington & Puget Sound. Visit www.argosycruises.com to see the schedule.

December 5 - 7, 12 - 14, 19 - 21 | LEAVENWORTH CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

Enjoy Christmas lights twinkling on snow, roasted chestnuts, sleigh rides, and caroling at the annual Leavenworth Christmas Lighting.

December 5 | THE 28TH ANNUAL GREAT FIGGY PUDDING CAROLING COMPETITION

Hear 40 caroling teams sing outside Westlake Center and then vote for your favorite. To register or find out more information go to www.pikemarketseniorcenter.org/-figgy-pudding.

December 6 - 20 | SANTA TRAIN

The Northwest Railway Museum runs a popular 20-minute Santa Train from North Bend to the Snoqualmie Depot for cookies and a visit with Santa Claus. December 6, 7, 13, 14, 19, & 20. Visit www.trainmuseum.org for more information.

December 14 & 24 | JINGLE BELL RUN/WALK

Dec. 14 - Wear a costume or tie on bells for the 5K Jingle Bell Run/Walk at Westlake Center, Seattle. Information can be found by going to www.kintera.org

Dec. 24 - Run or walk 3 miles at the Jingle Bell Run at Wright Park, Tacoma. Costume optional. Go to www.metroparkstacoma.org for more information.

December 1 - 31 | GARDEN D' LIGHTS

Enjoy zillions of colorful lights and displays at Garden d'Lights in Bellevue Botanical Garden. Go to www.gardendlights.org

Note: there may be a line on free nights, which are Dec. 1 - 4 and 8 - 11.

22nd Annual GINGERBREAD VILLAGE

THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE of the holidays is upon us and Christmas is fast approaching. Holiday time is often where we look for opportunities to do something that will create memories with family and friends. Each December Shelly and I like to make sure we take a day or an evening and do something just for us. Something that makes us stop and enjoy the holiday season and not get lost in the hustle and bustle.

Every year the Sheraton Seattle puts on an amazing display of gingerbread houses. The Sheraton's culinary team partners with local architecture firms to design and bake larger-than-life Gingerbread creations. The creations are not just Gingerbread and icing, the chefs go crazy using all kinds of snacks and treats, like pretzels, crackers, cereals, and all types of candies. This event is free and is a great opportunity to stop and take in some sights and sounds of the Seattle holiday season. Kids of all ages will be in awe of the displays.



Go Hawks!!

Last year many of the displays were based upon nursery rhymes. This year the displays will include "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem," "I'll Be Home For Christmas" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." The event is free to the public, with donations benefitting the JDRF Northwest Chapter. JDRF Northwest Chapter is committed to funding the world's best research to cure type 1 diabetes and its complications.

Here are some pictures of some of last year's creations. **We here at Max Meyers Law hope that you and your family have a wonderful, memory filled holiday season.**



Perfect FAMILY GIFT IDEA

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT that the whole family can enjoy? Something the family can do together and learn a new skill? How about learning how to juggle? We all have marveled at the performers who can juggle almost anything, including flaming torches or even chainsaws. Kids love to do things they perceive to be magic tricks. Juggling kits fit the bill perfectly!

For a small investment of a set of juggling balls and a free app download you can be juggling in no time. Shelly found "How to Juggle in 60 Seconds or Less" in the iTunes app store. The app will teach you the basic steps to learn how to juggle. Shelly downloaded the app and she was doing something that resembled juggling in no time!

There is even a Progress Tracker sheet that you can download to track your progress. There isn't an android version yet, but you can go to www.howtojuggleapp.com and find the videos on your computer. You will have to register as a user to get all the videos via computer.

There are 21 Free Juggling Trick Video Tutorials to help you learn and perfect juggling. Once you have mastered the art of juggling you can purchase advanced videos that will teach you harder tricks for just \$0.99 each, or you can purchase all 20 advanced videos for just \$9.99. A small price to pay for quality fun family time!

The app and website includes a link to places where you can buy different juggling items. You can register and sign up to be a member on the How to Juggle in 60 Seconds or Less website, www.howtojuggleapp.com. By signing up you get access to member only videos and more tips and tricks to become an avid juggler.

Try a new family activity that kids and adults are sure to enjoy. Shelly and I had a great time testing this out and attempting to juggle together! This app is a great way to get the whole family involved in an exercise that is fun and something you can do anywhere. You can even send a text to your friends through the app and challenge them to learn how to juggle.

Happy Holidays!!

Max & Shelly



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CRANBERRY WHITE CHIP OATMEAL COOKIES



- 1 ½ cups all-purpose or unbleached flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ cup crisp rice cereal
- ½ cup white vanilla chips
- ½ cup sweetened dried cranberries

- ½ cup rolled oats
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup sugar
- ¾ cup margarine or butter softened
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 egg

DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray cookie sheets with nonstick cooking spray. In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt and set aside.

In a large bowl, combine margarine, vanilla and egg, beat well. Add the flour mixture and mix until well blended. Add the rolled oats, vanilla chips, rice cereal, and cranberries. Stir just until combined.

Drop dough by rounded tablespoonful's onto sprayed cookie sheets.

Bake 9 to 12 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Cool 1 minute. Remove from cookie sheet.

SHELLY'S NOTE:

When I make these I omit the white sugar, you just may have to cook them a little longer. I find the cranberries, vanilla chips, and brown sugar make them sweet enough.

Also makes a great gift! Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt and spoon into 1 quart wide mouth canning jar. Add layers of cereal, chips, cranberries, brown sugar and sugar, pressing each layer firmly in place before adding next ingredient. Seal jar. Attach a copy of the Cranberry White Chip Oatmeal Cookies recipe.

