



WALT SHURDEN LAW

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A Simple Thing To Do For Yourself

By Walt Shurden

This month the pace of things just went into overdrive as summer ended and my children headed back to school. Unscheduled summer evenings of card games and Netflix have given way to homework and sports practice. The vacations and events we managed to experience this summer are now a matter of family history. And if we didn't plan something in advance, it did not happen.

Now is a good time for you and me to make next summer better. Writing down your goals works really well. I want to make good family memories. But if I don't write down my goals for next summer and start researching places, then chances are next summer won't be too memorable. Also, if I identify our vacation goals early I will be in a position to get the input of persons I meet from that region during the year. Fortunately, I meet people (like you) from all over the country who have moved to Florida or who are assisting a parent who lives in Florida. When asked about their home region, most people are flattered that you are interested in traveling to their state. They are generally happy to share some local knowledge. I benefit greatly from these conversations.

Writing down what you want to do brings energy to the task. No matter what your age, the process of writing down your goals engages your imagination and leads you towards action. Your goal could be to go see a special person, to visit a place, or make an improvement in your health. An idea that occupies your thinking will make its way into your conversations



and then you'll find yourself engaged in a productive dialogue about something that really matters to you.

So, what are your goals for next year? Write them down and keep them visible. I just made a note for my refrigerator that says "New York City".

Our Goal

To provide exceptional legal service to our clients.

School has Started



Now that school has started, we need to watch closely for children walking and bicycling.

The following are back to school suggestions from the National Safety Council:

Walkers:

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go

around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic

- In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas, children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks
- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians

Bicyclists:

On most roads, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as vehicles, but bikes can be hard to see. Children riding bikes create special problems for drivers because usually they are not able to properly determine traffic conditions. The most common cause of collision is a driver turning left in front of a bicyclist.

- When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist
- When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for the rider to pass
- If you're turning right and a bicyclist is approaching from behind on the right, let the rider go through the intersection first, and always use your turn signals



- Watch for bike riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling; children especially have a tendency to do this
- Be extra vigilant in school zones and residential neighborhoods
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars
- Check side mirrors before opening your door
- By exercising a little extra care and caution, drivers and children can co-exist safely in school zones.

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/back-to-school-safety-tips-for-drivers.aspx>

Fall Fun in Florida



On August 19th and 20th our employee, Jennifer Ake, and her family enjoyed festivities at the 23rd annual Harvest Grape Stomp at the Clermont winery location of Lakeridge Winery and Vineyards. Men, women, and children of all ages came to enjoy the fun. There was live music all day Saturday and Sunday, bouncy house play area, and food, not to mention the wine and cheese tasting AND of course, stomping the grapes. A portion of their \$3 admission fee will be donated to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties.

Lakeridge Winery and Vineyards officially opened in Clermont, Florida in 1989 headed by Gary Cox, as General Partner, with a small group of investors based out of Lafayette Vineyards in Tallahassee. They produce a variety of native wines at the 127-acre Lakeridge Winery Estate, with an additional 450 acres owned at Prosperity Vineyards in the Florida panhandle, and 200 acres under contract throughout Florida.

What was that you said?

One of the most common conditions affecting older and elderly adults is age-related hearing loss, or presbycusis (prez-buh-KYOO-sis). Approximately one in three people between the ages of 65 and 74 has hearing loss and nearly half of those older than 75 have difficulty hearing. Doctors do not know why presbycusis affects some people more than others, but it seems to run in families. They suspect years of exposure to loud noise is another contributing factor.



If you are already experiencing age-related hearing loss, there are many local support groups that are informative as well as fun. Some of them are:

- Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA-FL) Gulf Coast Chapter
Debbie Hagner, President 727-271-0770 (text only),
debbhagner@yahoo.com
- Association for Late Deafened Adults (ALDA) Suncoast Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 4825 East Bay Dr., Clearwater, FL 33764
- Florida Coordinating Counsel for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH)
- For more information go to nidcdinfo@nidcd.nih.gov

There is no reason to suffer in silence. Join a group that can help you and your family cope. In addition to the regular monthly meetings, ALDA has "socials" at locations around the area. Bette, from our office, attended these informal get-togethers as a student learning American Sign Language while attending St. Petersburg College. She now attends two socials a month to keep up her signing skills. These events are held at the Countryside Mall, local Starbucks, Panera's and other restaurants. Locations are listed on the ALDA website, aldasuncoast.com. Hard of hearing, and deaf folks attend these socials to visit, and to help students, people experiencing hearing loss, and/or anyone who wants to learn.

These are billed as "good for school lunch boxes" but they work great for my "break-fast on the way to work"

No Bake Granola Bars

Ingredients

- 2 cups puffed brown rice cereal (unsweetened)
- 2 cups old fashioned oats
- 1/4 cup roasted almonds, chopped
- 1/4 cup roasted sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup dried fruit, chopped
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup brown rice syrup or 1/2 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup mini chocolate chips (optional)



Directions

1. Combine cereal, oats, nuts, seeds, coconut and fruit in a large mixing bowl.
2. Heat the peanut butter, syrup, and vanilla in a small sauce pan until warm. Do not boil.
3. Pour the peanut butter mixture over the cereal mixture. Mix well while the syrup is still warm. Hands are the best tool for this mixing job.
4. Pour mixture into a 9x13 pan.
5. Pack the mixture down firmly with moist fingers or the bottom of another 9x13 pan sprayed with cooking spray.
6. The chocolate lover should sprinkle on the mini chocolate chip at this point and press them in firmly.
7. Cover with plastic wrap.
8. Cool completely.
9. Cut into 24 bars.
10. Wrap individually and store in fridge.
11. I have kept these in fridge for 2 weeks and they still taste fabulous!



IN OUR EAR

Is my power of Attorney any good?

A Durable Power of Attorney is "good" if it gives your agent the power to make the types of transactions that you will need them to make when you become seriously ill. Many seriously ill people need a home health company or the staff of a nursing home just to make it through each day. Your agent's highest priority will be to find ways to make your money meet your needs. In many cases your agent will need to do things with your assets that render you eligible for VA or Medicaid benefits. For example, your agent may need to create a trust for you, gift your assets to a trust or family member, create or change a right of survivorship on property that is purchased for eligibility purposes, or name a beneficiary on a property. Florida Law deems these to be "special powers". If you signed your durable power of attorney document after September 30, 2011, and you wish to give your agent any of the special powers, then the power must be listed and initialed."

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Legal Term of the Month

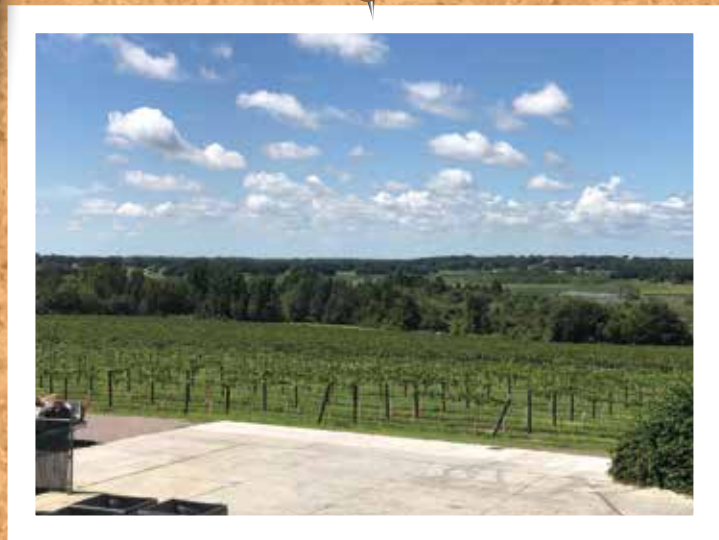
Consent decree – A court order that resolves a case in an unusual way. They do not involve admission of guilt. Critically, the Court maintains supervision after the consent decree becomes a formal order so that the Court can enforce it.

How to get off the Newsletter List

If you would like to have your name removed from our newsletter list, please email your request to jennifer@shurden.net or call our office at 727-443-2708.



Winery Tour



Lakeridge Winery Vineyards