



Newsletter

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Insuring Fido

Every year, insurance companies spend more than \$300 million on claims to cover injuries from dog bites. Most of the claims fall under a homeowner's policy. But now insurers are starting to ask owners of notorious breeds to prove that their animals do not bite if the homeowner wants to include their pet in the household's policy.

Pit bulls, Rottweilers, Dobermans and Chows are the breeds most frequently linked to attacks and so top the list of dogs needing to prove their friendliness. Some companies will insure the dogs without proof if the owners have a high fenced yard. Most insurers today can not insure a new client that owns any of these threatening breeds!

If your dog already has a rap sheet, you may be unable to get insurance. Even if your dog is not a threat, you should double check your coverage, as some policies explicitly refuse to cover dog bites. Since even the nicest dog can bite when startled, it is important to see that you have some insurance coverage.



Are You Putting Your Homeowners Insurance at Risk?

You are if you own a trampoline!

Using a trampoline is promoted as fun. But the growing use of trampolines are resulting in a dramatic increase in serious injury, including

broken necks, spinal cord injuries and disabling head traumas, many of which result in paralysis as well as death.

Because of this most insurance companies are no longer willing to insure your homeowners or farmowners policy if

you own a trampoline! Or, if they are willing to insure that exposure they are making a surcharge to your policy!

If you currently have a trampoline, or are considering purchasing one, you might want to reconsider!

About Lodi Employee Recognitions & Congratulations

Pat Emmons will have completed her 30th year of employment with Padgett-Young on May 15, 2003! Pat was hired in May of 1972. She was one of three office staff that included Virginia Rowe and Barb Wilson.

In 1983 Pat took insurance classes and obtained her agents license. We asked Pat to recap her 30 year career.

Pat, times and office procedures have changed in the last 30 years. Going from manual typewriters, and most policies being issued in the agency to computers and policies being issued by our companies. It was a big adjustment when we got our first computer. We shared one unit, getting our allotted time daily for it's use. Today each person has their own computer, and they would find it difficult to get by without it.

Many changes have been made, which include, more employees, more companies we do business with, and we now have four bosses. The insurance business has been a good place for employment and I am not sorry that this is the field that I picked.

Over the years I also raised two children, both are now married. We also have two grandsons who make life a joy, and sometimes a challenge.

Life is good in the small town of Lodi. When I retire I plan to enjoy some good years here with family and friends. (I enjoy bowling, friends at my Tuesday Club and walking at the Local Recreation Center.) I am a member of the Leroy Church Choir. I am also active in the Historical Society, and enjoy helping some dear senior friends.

Prior to being employed at Padgett-Young, I worked at the Westfield Companies home office from 1955-1965.

Insurance has been a major part of the "Wright family".

Our Family has combined 250 years in the insurance business.

At our Quarterly meeting the following employees were recognized: **Christy Barnes**; 10 years of service and **Dale Roberts**; 15 years of service.

And from **Harold Young**:

After 37 years as the head of Padgett-Young & Associates, I have decided it is time to change my priorities. Some more golf, fishing and less work! I plan to semi-retire. Chris Betts will become the President of Padgett-Young & Associates, assuming the administrative responsibilities.

Linda and I will be gone more, but when here, I plan to continue to service my existing clients and any new prospects both personal and commercial.

In my absence the customer service representatives, Michele, Renee and Christy will handle your needs. Chris and Dale will be available to answer any insurance questions in my absence.

The Big Business of Identity Theft

Identity Theft Complaints Nearly Doubled in 2002

You apply for a loan and you are denied due to poor credit history. You discover loans and credit cards have been taken out in your name that you did not apply for. You suddenly realize someone has been fraudulently using your identity.

What is Identity Theft?

Identity theft occurs when criminals steal consumers' identities by using Social Security numbers and other forms of personal identification. If someone fraudulently uses your identity to steal money from your bank account and apply for loans and credit cards, you are left with damaged credit and possibly a criminal record that can take considerable time and money to restore.

Identity Theft Facts

- Every 79 seconds an identity is stolen.
- This year, more than 500,000 Americans will be robbed of their identities, with more than \$4 billion dollars stolen in their name.
- Many victims do not even realize the theft has occurred until months or years afterward.
- Victims spend anywhere from six months to two years recovering.

- Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America. Rising by as much as 40% annually, according to the FBI.

How Identity Thieves Get Personal Information

- They steal wallets and purses containing identification, credit and bank cards.

- They steal mail, including bank and credit statements, pre-approved credit offers, telephone calling cards and tax information.

- They complete a change of address form to divert your mail to another location.

- They rummage through trash, or the trash of businesses.

- They fraudulently obtain credit reports by posing as a landlord or employer.

If you are interested in learning how you can insure against this threat, give us a call!

Ohio Financial Responsibility Law

If you do not have vehicle insurance, you can not drive in Ohio!

In Ohio, it is illegal to drive any motor vehicle without insurance or other financial responsibility (FR) proof. It is also illegal for any motor vehicle owner to allow anyone else to drive the owner's vehicle without FR proof.

Section 4509.101 of the Ohio Revised Code prohibits an individual from operating a motor vehicle in Ohio without maintaining proof of FR continuously throughout the registration period with respect to that vehicle, or, in the case of a driver who is not the owner, with respect to that driver's operation of that vehicle. The law requires financial responsibility in the minimum amount of \$12,500 for bodily injury to or death of one (1) individual in any one (1) accident, \$25,000 for bodily injury to or death of two (2) or more individuals in any one (1) accident, and

\$7,500 for injury to the property of others in any one (1) accident.

Random Verification of Financial Responsibility

Ohio law requires verification of proof of financial responsibility whenever a person is "randomly selected" by the BMV and requested to provide such verification. This process includes the mailing of letters to a random selection of five percent of registered Ohio vehicle and noncommercial truck owners.

Approximately 5,400 notices are generated per week or 280,000 notices annually.

The BMV is required to send written notice by regular mail to the owner of each vehicle randomly selected, informing the owner that proof showing financial responsibility coverage was in effect on the date specified must be submitted within 21 days of the mailing of the notice. This notification is sent to the person at the person's last known address as shown on the records of the BMV.

The owner may submit evidence to show that the vehicle is exempt because the vehicle:

- ♦ is issued on a seasonal basis only and the date specified is out of season for that vehicle.
- ♦ is inoperable or has been out of service for a period of at least 30 days immediately prior to the selection date.
- ♦ is exempt for any other reason the BMV may prescribe.

If you receive one of these letters, promptly contact your insurance agent or CSR.

Darker vs Lighter



Most people think darker is better than lighter in sunglasses, when it comes to protecting eyes against the sun's harmful rays. This assumption is wrong. In fact, darker sunglasses can cause more harm if they do not provide higher levels of protection against ultraviolet rays. When you wear a darker lens, your pupils enlarge, letting more light in. If the sunglasses aren't providing enough UV protection, you are allowing an even greater amount of harmful rays into your eyes than if you wore lighter sunglasses of similar quality.

Since exposure to bright sunlight increases the risk of developing cataracts and macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss in older adults, it is important to choose sunglasses that adequately shield the eyes from UV rays. When selecting your next pair, remember:

- The ability to block UV light has no relationship to the price tag.
- Choose sunglasses that wrap around your temples so that rays do not enter your eyes from the sides.
- Consider that UV light reflects off surfaces like sand, snow and pavement. Wear your glasses consistently, even for short outings.