CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Sheriff Kristin Graziano 3691 Leeds Avenue North Charleston, SC 29405





CCSO, other agencies fight trailer theft with ID event

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – A collaborative effort on Nov. 12 by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, the National Insurance Crime Bureau and partner law enforcement agencies aims to help authorities recover stolen trailers.

Last year, Charleston County deputies took 71 reports of stolen trailers and recovered 14 in all. That recovery rate could be higher if the trailers were stamped with unique identification numbers and entered into a system, helping officers quickly reunite a stolen trailer with its owner.

That's why CCSO, along with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, Dorchester County Sheriff's Office, State Law Enforcement Division and National Insurance Crime Bureau, will host an event Nov. 12 at Exchange Park, where residents can get a free "owner-applied number" stamped onto their own trailers with a special device. This, along with the trailers' VIN and serial numbers, also will be entered into our records system.

The TIP event, or Trailer Identification Project, is free to anyone who wants to make their own trailer more identifiable if it's ever stolen. If a trailer's VIN or serial number is known to law enforcement before a theft, the chances of its recovery are much greater. The owner-applied number further increases the chances of recovery by making it harder for thieves to trade or sell the stolen property. This number will be engraved on the trailer frame and in a secondary hidden location.

The event runs between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, at Exchange Park, 9850 Highway 78, Ladson.

Participants also will have a chance to enter a free drawing for a Proven Industries trailer coupler lock valued at \$245! We thank Hawk Services Towing & Recovery for donating the prize.

CONTACT Andrew Knapp | Public Information Officer | 843-666-1990 | aknapp@charlestoncounty.org

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For more information about the event, contact CCSO Detective Mike Thompson at 843-554-2471 or Detective Will Martin at 843-529-5327.

Detective Thompson will be available for news media interviews upon request. Please contact the PIO. Media are welcome to cover the event as well.



CCSO Detective Mike Thompson uses a special device to engrave an owner-applied number to a trailer during a 2018 TIP event.

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