

A New Law, Please

by Suzy Hopkins

During one of our daily phone calls my 95-year-old friend said, "They ought to make everyone take an in-the-car driver's test every time they renew their license." She is perfectly positioned to say this since she gave up her car a year ago because she didn't feel safe driving any more.

Some people won't admit they are dangerous drivers. I had a neighbor, a sweet lady, that when I said hello passing her in the building's hall she would say, "Who is it?" because she couldn't see well enough to determine which neighbor I was. Then she would go out front and get in her car. OMG. One day I was driving on Clinton on the wide curve it makes. She was partly in my lane. I had to risk hitting the parked cars on the right side of the road or hitting her. Luckily neither happened. I immediately went to Community Response and spoke to the Chief. He said, "I can't stop her from driving. Only the Colorado DMV can if a written report is submitted by a family member, a court, a physician or optometrist. And by the way, she's not the only one living at Windsor Gardens who drives like she does."

Well that frustrated me to no end because I often have my grandkids in my car when I see her driving.

So, I agree with my friend:

-A written test needs to be given when a person renews their license, every two years, in case the driving laws have changed or the driver seems incompetent by failing the vision test.

-An in-the-car driving test should be given to every person renewing every two years to prevent accidents by people not qualified to drive anymore.

If a written request is submitted the driver may only have restrictions on their driving:

-no freeway driving

-affix an additional right-side mirror

-no nighttime driving

-no rush hour driving

Knowing people as I do, they will break those restrictions any time they think they can get away with it.

My friend is correct. There ought to be a law to protect not only the unsafe drivers but also the general public – you and me.