



*SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF PICKAWAY COUNTY*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE: March 7, 2011**

**TO: Circleville Herald**

**FROM: Safe Communities of Pickaway County**

**RE: Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk This St. Patrick's Day**

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*Don't depend on Dumb Luck.....Designate a Sober Driver before the Party Begins!* St. Patrick's Day has become a popular night to celebrate with friends and family. Many establishments will be holding special events to celebrate, and folks may choose to have a party at their home. Whatever your plans are, plan ahead and remember that "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk."

On St. Patrick's Day in 2009, there were 103 crash fatalities on St. Patrick's Day. Of those crashes, 37 percent involved an impaired driver and/or motorcyclist with a BAC of .08 or higher. This limit is illegal in all states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. But the tragedies and costs from driving impaired do not end with potential death and injury.

"Drunk driving violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing, and lost wages due to time off from work", noted Dwight E. Radcliff, Sheriff of Pickaway County. "I encourage anyone who sees a drunk driver on the road to call law enforcement immediately."

As a part of the High Visibility Enforcement Overtime Grant, the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office will have extra patrols out to enforce impaired driving laws, and to help make this St. Patrick's Day a safe celebration. Although March 17<sup>th</sup> is officially St. Patrick's Day, the time frame for increased visibility begins on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and continues through March 17<sup>th</sup>. The grant awarded from the Ohio Department of Public Safety provides funds to increase patrols

for time periods set forth by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration during holidays and special national enforcement blitzes.

Teresa C. Carper, Director for Safe Communities of Pickaway County, recommends the following for a safe St. Patrick's Day: "Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin, designate a sober driver, and if you are impaired don't drive. Also, if you know someone who is about to drive impaired, take their keys and help them to make arrangements to get home safely, because 'Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk'".

For more information, visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org) .