

SAFER OHIO

Vol. 2 Issue 2

April - June 2014

THE SAFER OHIO INITIATIVE

NEW TOOLS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



In This Issue



Cover Story 3

A recent emergency management training exercise in Allen County tested elements of the Safer Ohio Initiative, Ohio's comprehensive strategy of emergency preparedness to enhance our readiness before, during and after critical incidents.



Surveillance Towers 6

Ohio Homeland Security's SkyWatch Portable Surveillance Towers are available to agencies throughout Ohio



OCJS Hosts Conference 8

Representatives from Ohio's cities attended the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence in May



Elderly Fall Prevention 9

Ohio EMS promotes Elderly Fall Prevention Resource Guide



International Influence 10

Ohio State Highway Patrol trains, advises and mentors international law enforcement personnel

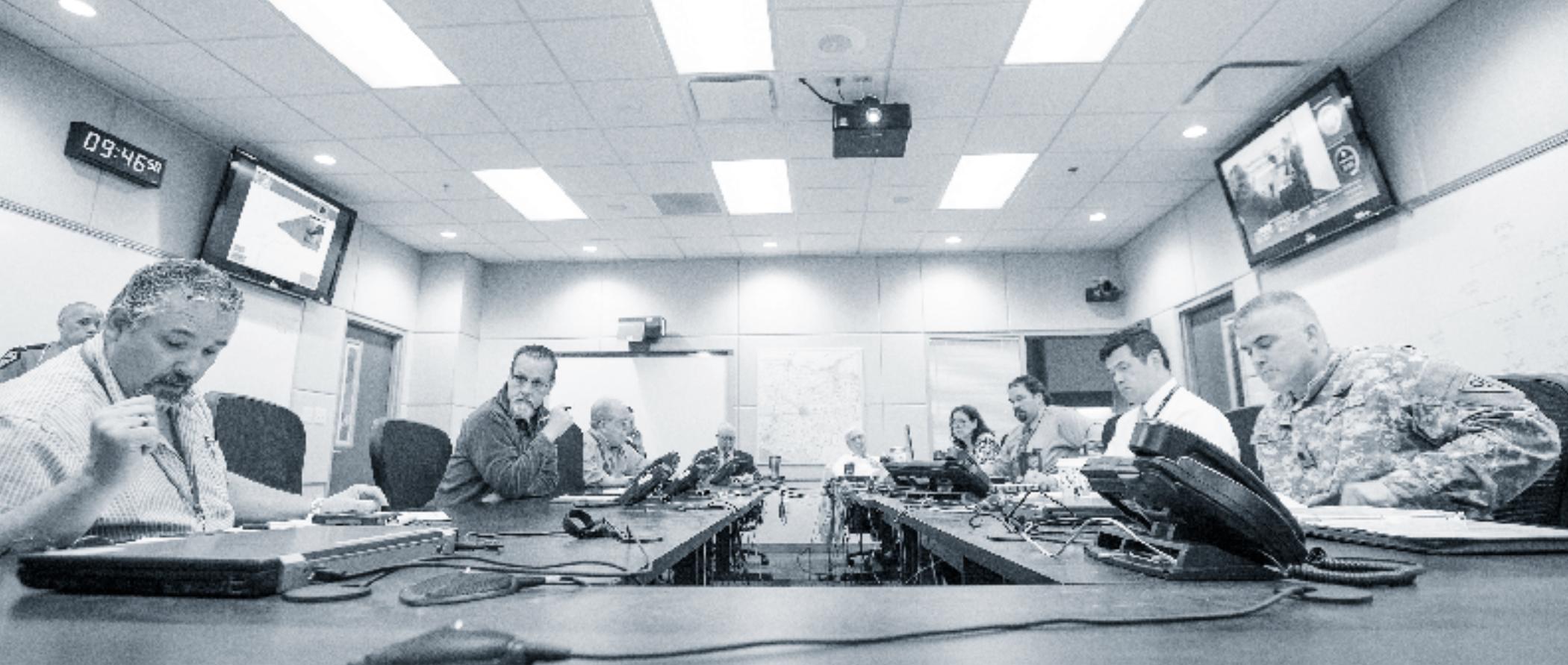
Also

ODPS Briefs 12

News and events from the divisions of the Ohio Department of Public Safety

ODPS Partnerships 14

How the Ohio Department of Public Safety is creating a safer Ohio



THE NEXT STEP IN PUBLIC SAFETY

The Safer Ohio Initiative

In April, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), in collaboration with county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) directors, implemented the Safer Ohio Initiative, a comprehensive strategy of emergency preparedness to enhance our readiness before, during and after critical incidents.

When requested by officials, local response to critical incidents can be supplemented by state assets. The Safer Ohio Initiative stresses proactive assistance and pre-positioned resources, mapping applications that better identify available assets and a centralized reporting structure so state agencies and resources can be reached with just one call.

The initiative uses new tools, including Safe Ohio Teams, working under the direction of county EMA directors, a new statewide information-sharing system, and the new Safer Ohio Phone App.

These elements were tested recently in an emergency management training exercise in Allen County.



As part of the exercise, the Safe Ohio Team concept was employed for the first time—both in Allen County and at the State Emergency Operations Center, where around-the-clock intelligence analysts monitor public safety conditions statewide from the Hub, which consists of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's watch desk, criminal intelligence unit and statewide dispatch center.

When the State Emergency Operation Center is not activated, the Safer Ohio Initiative ensures state support to local officials is coordinated and information is shared among relevant state and local partners.

The Safe Ohio Team concept supports local EMA and first responders. As always, local officials are the on-scene decision makers. The Safe Ohio teams are activated using a tiered evaluation system, including initial assessment, consultation and deployment.

In a critical incident, those first on the scene are encouraged to provide an initial assessment to the state Hub by using the Safer Ohio Phone App, by phone, MARCS or other available methods.

Initial assessments by local first responders will be examined by a consultation team made up of representatives from Ohio EMA, Ohio Homeland Security,

the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio National Guard. If the consultation team determines a situational assessment team should be offered to local partners, the consultation team will confer with the county EMA director and call for additional agency participation if necessary.

Based on need, personnel from appropriate agencies can be deployed to an incident within 3-5 hours of being notified, but they will only be sent after local EMA directors have been contacted and accept the offer. The situational assessment team will support the local response by assessing needs and offering resources when appropriate.

Additionally, trained individuals on ODPS Emergency Resource Teams will be available to help county emergency management agencies with specific response and recovery missions, if necessary.

The multi-function app also has more commonly-used features, such as a button to connect to 9-1-1, a button to request help with a non-emergency traffic situation and a link to traffic information from the Ohio Department of Transportation's OHGO application.

When used during a critical incident, Ohio's public safety intelligence analysts

Elements of the Safer Ohio Initiative were tested on May 2 in an Allen County emergency management training exercise.

can disseminate information gathered by multiple sources and provide essential information to state and local officials focused on emergency management.

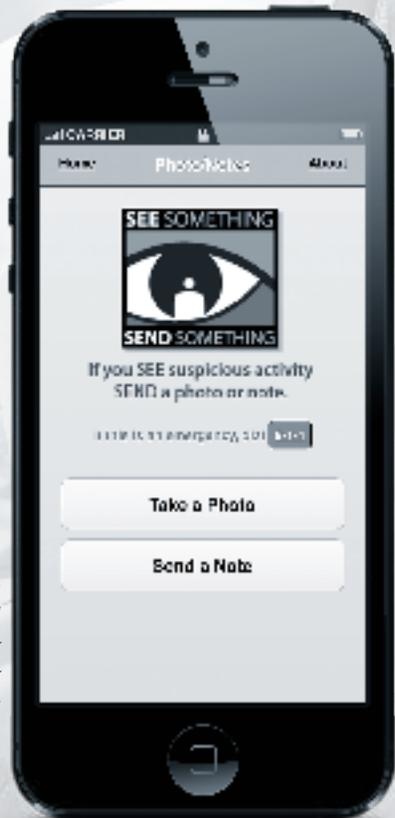
Analysts can add photos submitted through the app to another new tool, the Safer Ohio Repository.

The repository securely stores images, videos and documents captured by first responders on a scene, including photos uploaded through the Safer Ohio Phone App.

Through the repository, county EMA directors, Ohio Homeland Security, Ohio EMA partners and government officials have access to information like never before.

For county EMA directors, the Safer Ohio Initiative means enhanced resources come with no-cost access to unprecedented analytical, intelligence and mapping assistance. Through new critical incident response tools and more participation and collaboration at every level, we will have a safer Ohio.

The Safer Ohio Phone App is Ohio's multi-function, mobile public safety tool for reporting suspicious activity, requesting emergency or roadside help, and monitoring traffic conditions. Download it from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.



Tiered Levels of the SafeOhio Teams

Initial Assessment

Those first on the scene are encouraged to provide an initial assessment to the state Hub within 1-3 hours of the event/incident notification using the Safer Ohio App, by phone, MARCS or other available methods.

Consultation Team

Representatives from Ohio EMA, Ohio Homeland Security, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio National Guard will conference call or meet at the state EOC in Columbus to determine if a situational assessment team should be deployed. If such deployment is indicated, the consultation team will evaluate the situation, consult with the county EMA director and call for additional agency participation if necessary.

Situational Assessment Team

Local and county authorities will continue to determine if or when state resources are needed. Representatives from appropriate agencies will be deployed to the incident based on situational need. They will only be sent after local EMA directors have been contacted regarding the incident. The team will assess needs and offer resources when appropriate. These teams will be ready to deploy within 3-5 hours of being notified.

ODPS Emergency Resource Teams

To reduce the impact of an event on citizens, trained individuals on ODPS Emergency Resource Teams will be available to respond based on information received from the situational assessment team. These teams will be ready to deploy within 3-5 hours of being notified. Local and county authorities will continue to determine if or when state resources are needed.



For more information on the Safer Ohio Initiative, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety

Ohio Homeland Security using manned surveillance towers for big events

Towers available for deployment upon request

Visitors at this year's St. Patrick's Day celebration in Cleveland might not have noticed the tall, white SkyWatch tower adjacent to Public Square, but that doesn't mean members of the crowd weren't noticed by the Cleveland Division of Police or Ohio Homeland Security (OHS). In light of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is taking every opportunity to keep Ohio safe.

During the parade and festivities in downtown Cleveland, a Cleveland police officer and an infrastructure protection specialist from Ohio Homeland Security watched over the crowded streets for potential threats or incidents, all the while communicating with officers on the ground and OHS analysts stationed in the Emergency Operations Center. The Cleveland Division of Police has a SkyWatch tower of its own, but requested the use of the ODPS tower for added security.

"Having a protective posture in place at any large scale event is very important," explained Commander Harold Pretel, Bureau of Homeland Services, Cleveland Division of Police. "As the crowd gathers, the use of the towers allowed our command and control element to see what was going on – where the crowd was forming. We were able to gauge the feel of the crowd, whether it was excitement or tension. That is something you cannot do with traditional surveillance video."

This is not the first time the ODPS-owned towers have been used to monitor large crowds. ODPS utilized the towers at the 2013 Ohio State Fair and in coordination with the Ohio Investigative Unit, Columbus Police Department and The Ohio State University Police Department during football games on The Ohio State University campus.

Cleveland police requested the SkyWatch towers return to Cleveland to assist with security at the Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon on May 18. The event attracted more than 40,000 runners, fans and volunteers to downtown Cleveland.

"The start line and the finish line were different at this year's race," explained Commander Pretel. "The crowd at each of these areas was very large and it was important to view the crowd and direct resources in response to any incident. The use of the SkyWatch tower provided that opportunity."

ODPS purchased two SkyWatch towers last year from Flir Systems Inc., of Alpharetta, Ga., with federal homeland security funds and operating funds from the Ohio Investigative Unit.

The towers can stand 25 feet in the air and offer the ability for two people to have 360-degree views of their surroundings. They are also equipped with a pan-tilt-zoom camera and three fixed cameras, spot lights and weather observation technology.

"I encourage any local law enforcement having an event to put in a request to Ohio Homeland Security for the use of a tower. It is an incredible level of support," Commander Pretel said.

E-mail requests to utilize the SkyWatch towers to SAIC@dps.state.oh.us



For more information on the SkyWatch towers, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.

BMV Committed to Improving Customer Service

In an effort to boost local economic development and reduce costs by an estimated \$1 million per year, the last state-run Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) customer service center located at 1970 West Broad Street in Columbus closed on June 27. Employees working at the customer service center were integrated into positions within the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

A privately-operated Deputy Registrar opened in the West Broad Plaza, in the heart of Columbus' West Side retail district on June 30. Unlike the former location, the new location is open Saturdays with convenient parking.

“This conversion will boost local economic development efforts and reduce costs for the BMV and taxpayers by an estimated \$1 million per year,” said Ohio BMV Registrar Mike Rankin. “The new location will create jobs and invest in the West Side neighborhood’s ongoing economic development success.”

Additionally, the Morse Road Deputy Registrar Patio Shops location relocated to a new one-stop facility on Morse Road in Columbus, one block east of I-71. The full-service facility includes a Driver Exam Station and Franklin County Title Clerk’s Office. A Deputy Registrar will open at that location on August 1.

Recent Survey Ranks Ohio BMV Number One

DMV.com, a guide for Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and driving-related issues, recently released results from a survey comparing customer satisfaction among state DMVs. Customers were asked about their satisfaction with seven different service categories, including the quality of online service, telephone service, in-person customer service, wait times and overall performance. Each state was then ranked from best to worst in overall customer satisfaction.

The Ohio BMV scored the highest reported customer satisfaction in the country and the fourth shortest wait time. Ohio BMV also reached a new high in its customer service satisfaction ratings, based on 2013 survey responses from over 21,600 Ohio BMV customers.

The many customer service and process improvements made in 2013 are only part of our success story. The BMV staff, Deputy Registrars, their employees, public safety support staff and vendor partners are the BMV’s greatest assets.

Ohio Community Initiative to Reduce Violence

In 2007, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) sought ways to assist cities in deterring violent crime, especially gang- and group-related homicides. OCJS turned to Professor David M. Kennedy at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to learn more about the focused deterrence strategy he developed in Boston in the mid-1990s, and that April, Cincinnati implemented the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV). Due to its initial success, CIRV quickly received international attention.

Since then, OCJS has worked continuously with cities to implement some form of the strategy, and recently hosted a workshop for 50 representatives from Ohio cities including Cincinnati, Canton, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown.

Focused deterrence strategies are premised on the fact that the overwhelming majority of violent crime is committed by a relatively small group of offenders. The volatility between street groups can be traced to issues of respect, rather than territory-related conflicts. The CIRV strategy focuses on disrupting group dynamics that promote violence as a method to address perceived displays of disrespect.

This strategy is a collaborative effort consisting of teams to deliver a message to violent street groups that the violence must stop. The message is communicated through different mechanisms such as call-in sessions, direct contact, law enforcement, probation and parole, community outreach and media. Social services, training, education and employment opportunities are offered to those who want a more productive lifestyle.

Law enforcement team. The strategy of the Enforcement Team is to focus enforcement efforts on chronic violent groups. The team relies on a multi-agency effort of local, state and federal law enforcement.

Services team. The strategy of the Services Team is to implement a life-change system that engages members of violence-prone groups. Alternatives must be provided so ex-offenders can transition to an employment-based lifestyle. Comprised of a lead social service agency, an employment agency and, in some cities, street advocates (mostly reformed ex-offenders), the team strives to provide immediate and tailored services to individuals choosing to leave a life of crime.

Community team. The strategy of the Community Team is to work with affected communities to articulate and implement norms, values and expectations of nonviolence. Members of this team represent various community interests. The team is often led by street advocates and other community-police partnerships.

The first step is network analyses, which reveal key offenders, the groups in which they are enmeshed and the interrelationships between groups. Next, representatives from these groups are convened to receive the message that the violence must stop, and are warned of the consequences should they fail to heed the warnings. These “call-in” sessions include participation from law enforcement, social services and community members. Because many group members are under probation or parole supervision, their attendance can be legally mandated. These offenders also are instructed to relay the message to their groups.

Group members are warned that the entire group will suffer criminal justice sanctions for the criminal actions (committing a homicide) of a single member. This tactic recognizes the role group dynamics play in either encouraging or deterring individual criminal actions. Given the possibility of severe punishment for the entire group for the actions of a single member, the potential for individual violence is diminished.

At the call-ins, law enforcement advises there will be scrutiny on subsequent violent crime, and prosecutors describe the willingness of judicial officials to punish group members to the fullest extent of the law. Offenders are warned that future incidents will result in swift, targeted enforcement of the entire group.

The success of CIRV relies on law enforcement delivering on the promise to focus enforcement on chronic violent street groups whose members commit a homicide. Law enforcement must respond swiftly to group members involved crime with meaningful consequences for the entire group. The results of the enforcement actions are relayed to the target population at the next call-in session to show the legal consequences of violence perpetrated by group members.

For cities interested in CIRV, please call OCJS at 888-448-4842.

EMS Promotes Elderly Fall Prevention Resource Guide

The Ohio Division of EMS, working with the State Trauma Committee and the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership, created a resource guide for EMS providers across Ohio to help them locate fall prevention services for the citizens they serve who are at risk of falling. The 33-page booklet contains the contact information for programs available for balance training, home repairs and modifications, well-being checks and more. These are arranged by county so EMS providers can easily find nearby programs to assist the elderly fall victim.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, falls among the elderly in Ohio have reached epidemic proportions. From 2000 to 2011, Ohioans aged 65 and older had an increase of 167 percent in the number of fatal falls and a death rate increase of 145 percent.

Overall, more than 30 percent of people age 65 and older fall each year for a variety of reasons. Many of them are correctable, including balance problems, vision problems and altered mental status. But of those who fall, fewer than half talk to their doctor or other healthcare provider about it. This poses a significant problem because 80 percent of all elderly people who fall but are not injured will fall again and suffer a serious injury within six months.

As healthcare providers, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel are in a unique position to help prevent elderly falls. They are inside the homes of the elderly fall victims, see them when they have fallen, even when they are not injured, and see the layout and the environment of the house. This presents EMS with an opportunity that other healthcare providers do not usually have. They have the chance, right there in the home, to assess, intervene and prevent future falls.

The Elderly Fall Prevention Resource Guide is available as a free download on the Ohio EMS website, www.ems.ohio.gov.



Patrol Provides Training to Suriname National Police

In partnership with U.S. Department of State, Patrol trains, advises and mentors foreign law enforcement personnel

On September 30, 2012, the Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Ohio State Highway Patrol entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) establishing the framework for cooperation to support law enforcement and anti-crime efforts.

In February, INL asked the Patrol to provide assistance under that MOU framework by providing Ethics and Leadership in Policing training to officers of the Suriname National Police, an agency that is in the midst of organizational change to address various issues.

Capt. Richard Fambro and S/Lt. Heidi Marshall traveled to Paramaribo, Suriname, from April 10 – 26, to provide two week-long training programs consisting of the following topics, which were developed in part by the Patrol's Regional Training Unit:

- Basics of Ethics in Policing
- Organizational Behavior
- Community Relations
- Handling Police Misconduct
- Value-Based Policing and Core Values
- Introduction to Leadership Principles

- Communication and Leadership
- Relationships and Team Development
- Decision Making and Risk Analysis

The training was presented in a lecture/group discussion format to two groups of officers with three to 16 years of department experience. Each session culminated with a graduation where officers were presented certificates of completion and a uniform patch from the Patrol in recognition of their participation.

The graduation for the first week's class was attended by one of the National Police Commissioners and Mike Otis, United States Embassy Regional Security Officer. The second week's graduation was attended by Humphrey Tjin Liep Shie, Chief of the National Police, and members from the local media.

Capt. Fambro and S/Lt. Marshall reported feedback received from the students was overwhelmingly positive and that the chief of police expressed an interest in having them return to present similar training to upper-level command staff.



Ohio State Highway Patrol S/Lt. Heidi Marshall provided ethics and leadership training to officers of the Suriname National Police.

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), headed by Assistant Secretary William R. Brownfield, advises the President, Secretary of State, other bureaus in the Department of State, and other departments and agencies on the development of policies and programs to combat international narcotics and crime.

INL programs support two of the Department's strategic goals: to reduce the entry of illegal drugs into the United States and to minimize the impact of international crime on the United States and its citizens.

OIU Gives CMSD Computers Seized in Gambling Raids

*By Thomas Ott, CMSD
Special Contributor*

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) will find legitimate uses for hundreds of computers seized in gambling raids at Internet cafes.

The CMSD Board of Education voted on April 29 to accept 654 computer monitors from the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU). The monitors have 654 computer cords, 640 computer mice, 631 keyboards, 525 hard drives, eight televisions and numerous firewalls, routers, card readers and web cameras.

The computers were confiscated from nine Internet cafes in Cuyahoga County, part of a network that used software supplied by New Jersey-based VS2 Worldwide Communications. OIU's Cleveland office handled the case, along with the county prosecutor's office, Secret Service and Parma Heights police.

Supporters maintained that the cafes were legitimate businesses that sold Internet or phone time and let customers play slots-like computer games for cash as a marketing strategy. Critics said operators were running neighborhood casinos. The industry col-

lapsed in Ohio last year after state legislators banned cash jackpots and capped the maximum value of other prizes at \$10.

"Several Cuyahoga County residents said they were extremely pleased these locations were shut down," said Greg Croft, OIU agent-in-charge in Cleveland. "We're a better community for it."

The computers will replace the district's oldest stock. Euclid Park PreK-8 School will be the first recipient.

VS2 pleaded guilty last September to a reduced charge of attempted racketeering and gambling, paid a \$10,000 fine and agreed to stop doing business in the state. Assistant Agent-in-Charge Robert Boldin said the case has resulted in 29 convictions and a number of fines.

State investigators said they chose CMSD for the donation because the district covers a large portion of the county and has an information technology department that can handle the volume of computers.

Boldin said most of the equipment is three to four years old. He estimated the total value at \$350,000 to \$400,000.



Public Safety Briefs

ODPS Earns Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award

The Ohio Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) held its 2014 employer recognition dinner on April 5 to recognize employers with personnel policies that support employee participation in the National Guard and the United States Military Reserve.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety received the coveted “Extraordinary Employer Support Award” with special recognition of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The Extraordinary Employer Support Award recognizes sustained employer support of the National Guard and Reserve service. Only prior recipients of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award or Pro-Patria Award, who demonstrate sustained support for three years after receiving one of those awards, are eligible for consideration at the committee level. In 2008, the Ohio Department of Public Safety was the recipient of ESGR’s:

- **Above and Beyond Award** – Given in limited numbers by state and territory ESGR committees to recognize state and local level employers that go “Above and Beyond” the legal requirements for granting leave and providing support for military duty by their employees as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
- **Pro-Patria Award** – Presented annually by each ESGR committee to the employer in its state or territory that provides the most exceptional support of our national defense through leadership practices and human resource policies that support their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.
- **Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award** – The highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for outstanding support of employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety salutes its men and women who serve both this nation and the people of Ohio in a way that makes us extremely proud.



Trace-back update: Toledo liquor store clerk sentenced to jail for selling alcohol to Ottawa Hills teen

On April 15, Nicholas Thompson, 38, of Toledo, was convicted in the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas of sale of alcohol to a person under 21. Thompson was sentenced to six months in jail at the Correction Center of Northwest Ohio.

The conviction comes more than a year after Ottawa Hills teenager Brian Hoeflinger was killed in an alcohol-related crash. Through a trace-back investigation, agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) determined Thompson, a clerk at a Toledo liquor store, sold Hoeflinger’s friends alcohol, even though they were not 21.

EMS Grants

The Ohio Division of EMS grant program recently awarded more than \$3 million in grant funding for training and research: \$2,521,750 to 723 applicants for training and equipment, and \$550,068 to 21 research grant applicants.



Donate Life Update

In our last issue, Amber Fosler described how her son's medical condition inspired her to obtain her Donate Life license plate. In this issue, she provides an update.

We knew our son would need a liver transplant someday, we just had hoped it would be further in the future. Elias went into liver failure in early January and was added to the liver transplant list on

January 24. His liver and overall health started to deteriorate rapidly not long after he was added to the list. He was running out of time waiting on the list so we started looking for a living match. Luckily, my husband's cousin, Zac, was a match, and within a week, the surgery was scheduled.

On February 26, when Elias was 7 months old, he received his gift of life. We spent 47 days in Pittsburgh at both Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Ronald McDonald House of Pittsburgh during the surgery and the recovery process.

Currently, both Elias and Zac are doing well. While Elias will be immunosuppressed for the rest of his life, he now has normal liver function.

As we start this new journey with Elias, we are still advocating for organ donation. A deceased donor would have been preferred but we are so thankful for Zac's selfless act. Elias ran out of time waiting, which shows there is a huge need to register more donors in Ohio and across the country. Again, this is why I selected the Donate Life license plate and why we are sharing our story. You won't need your organs after you are done with them!

–Amber Fosler, Hilliard, Ohio



What's on Your Plate?

The Ohio BMV selected its second and third “What's on Your Plate?” winners! Winners are featured on the BMV website and Facebook and Twitter pages. They also receive a decorative license plate with the personalization of their choice.

Diane Grimes was the first winner for 2014. Diane's son, Connor, was diagnosed at birth with biliary atresia. Diane donated 40 percent of her liver to her son when he was 2½ years old. Diane and her son, who is now 18, both have Donate Life plates, Diane's with the message “IGAVE” and her son with the message “IRECVD”.

Doug and Julie Menkhous were the second quarter winners. In 1985, Julie's aunt purchased a Delorean DMC- 2 just before the movie “Back to Future” was released. A Delorean was featured prominently in the film, as was the song, “Power of Love” by Huey Lewis and the News. After Julie's aunt passed away, the car was offered to the pair. After restoring the car, they decided to acknowledge the Back to the Future trilogy with the plate, “POW O LUV” because it was the “power of love” that brought Julie and Doug together and the “power of love” that brought the Delorean to their home.

BMV Launches “I Hold the Key” Contest

The Ohio BMV selected its first “I Hold the Key” winner! As this quarter's winner, Robby Nowe will be featured on the BMV's website; Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts; and Deputy Registrar flat screens. He also will receive an “I Hold the Key” keychain. Robby was selected for his pledge to drive safely:

“I am a newly licensed driver in Powell, Ohio. I plan to do everything I can to be an extremely safe driver. I plan on doing this by never texting and driving, always following the speed limit, never driving past curfew, never driving with too many people in the car and preventing myself from getting distracted by not doing things that will cause my driving to be impaired.”



Public Safety Partnerships

ODPS Supports Guns-N-Hoses Blood Drive

Summer often means outdoor activities, but it also marks the beginning of trauma season in Ohio — the time of year when motor vehicle crashes and traumatic injuries increase and the need for blood often exceeds the supply.

With so many summer activities, the number of people who take time to donate blood decreases. That is why the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is teaming up with the American Red Cross for the 19th annual Guns-N-Hoses blood donation campaign, June 26 - July 31.

“Just one donation can save up to three lives and impact countless others,” said ODPS Director John Born. “I am encouraging all first responders to donate blood this trauma season, and in turn, encourage their friends, family and communities to join us in helping to save lives.”

As part of the ODPS commitment to this cause, the Ohio State Highway Patrol will participate in a Guns-N-Hoses Blood Drive at its Academy. To schedule an appointment to donate, visit redcrossblood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or contact your local Red Cross Chapter.



Click It or Ticket / 6-State Trooper Project

More than 900 law enforcement partners around Ohio participated in the Click It or Ticket mobilization from May 19 – June 1 to help save lives by cracking down on those who don't buckle up.

In addition, the Ohio State Highway Patrol joined forces with members of the 6-State Trooper Project for a multi-state enforcement effort from May 19 – 26. Members of the 6-State Trooper Project include: the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Indiana State Police, Kentucky State Police, Michigan State Police, Pennsylvania State Police and the West Virginia State Police.

Last year in Ohio, 59 percent of the people killed in crashes were not wearing a safety restraint.

“Too many drivers and passengers are not wearing their safety belts, and it all too often ends in tragedy,” said Colonel Paul A. Pride, Patrol superintendent. “It doesn't matter which state you're driving in — I want you to get home safely.”



See video from the Click It or Ticket event at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety



Motorcycle Safety Awareness Effort Kicks Off

Motorcycle Ohio, part of the ODPS Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) joined state leaders, traffic safety partners, law enforcement and motorcycle advocates and enthusiasts to raise motorcycle safety awareness on May 14.

“It is important that we continue to educate both riders and motorists alike about the importance of motorcycle safety,” said OCJS Executive Director Karhlton Moore. “We must also continue working with our traffic safety partners on education, enforcement and engineering efforts that ultimately contribute to a safer Ohio.”

Motorcycle Ohio works with state and local safety partners to get the message out to riders and motorists that everyone plays a critical role in motorcycle safety. Motorcycle Ohio and its partners will be working to continue these messages across the state during the entire riding season.



See video from the Motorcycle Ohio event at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety

It doesn't matter which state you're driving in – I want you to get home safely. -Colonel Paul A. Pride



Safety Partners Spread the *5 Minutes for Life* Anti-drug Message

More than 500 high school students across Ohio have agreed to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle within their schools and communities as part of ongoing efforts to fight drug abuse in the state. The initiative is part of *5 Minutes for Life*, a joint effort of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio High School Athletic Association, Ohio National Guard, Ohio Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement.

Through the program, state troopers, National Guard soldiers and local law enforcement officers meet with students for just five minutes to discuss responsible decision-making and leadership. After the talk, they ask for volunteers to serve as student ambassadors willing to spread the program's message within their schools and to encourage their peers to live a drug-free lifestyle.

So far, more than 15,000 teens have heard the *5 Minutes for Life* message, including New London teen Steven Shupp Jr., who volunteered to become a student ambassador.

“This program means a lot to me because I can reach out to these kids and make a difference – and hopefully start a chain reaction,” explained Shupp. “For kids my age, I hope they take the message like I take the message — it is five minutes for their life...to make that right decision.”

Earlier this year, Shupp, who is taking EMT and firefighter classes at the EHOVE Career Center in Milan heard a *5 Minutes for Life* presentation by Tpr. Evan Stevens of the Patrol's Norwalk Post and Sgt. Andrew Hance of the Ohio National Guard.

Student ambassadors are encouraged to use social media to promote key concepts and to post video and messages to the *5 Minutes for Life* Facebook and Twitter sites. On May 16, Shupp did even more for his peers at New London High School. He organized a presentation for New London students in 7th to 12th grades. He planned the event on his own — inviting back the Patrol and the Ohio National Guard – and also a local police detective, who brought a drug display.

The key to the success of the *5 Minutes for Life* program is student ambassadors like Shupp sharing the message with their peers.

“The peer-to-peer aspect of this program is great because they would listen to me — but they will listen to each other more,” explained Sgt. Vance. “If their friends think that drugs are bad — they are educating each other — the message will spread more and be more effective.”

5 Minutes for Life is part of Start Talking! — an effort launched by Governor John R. Kasich and First Lady Karen W. Kasich to give parents, guardians, educators and community leaders tools to start a conversation with Ohio's youth about the importance of living healthy, drug-free lives. To schedule a *5 Minutes for Life* presentation at a high school in your area, contact your local Ohio State Highway Patrol Post commander. For more information about Start Talking!, visit www.starttalking.ohio.gov.

Join the conversation!

 facebook.com/fiveminutesforlife

 twitter.com/5minutesforlife



For more information on *5 Minutes for Life* and the New London event, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety



What will you do today to contribute to a safer Ohio?