

PUBLIC SAFETY

NEWS



Bob Taft, Governor

Kenneth L. Morckel, Director



Healthy Ohioans



Healthy Ohioans is part of the President's Challenge in which all state employees are encouraged to enroll in the program and log their physical activity. You can join by selecting a group that fits you: kids, teens, adults, seniors and educators. Register and make a commitment to one of the fitness lifestyles listed on the President's Challenge Web site, www.presidentschallenge.org.

This is not a program only for athletes or for those who participate in sports. A commitment to a healthier lifestyle can involve a variety of activities like walking, taking the stairs, yardwork or lifting. Almost any activity can be part of a wellness lifestyle. Most Americans are not active. In fact, poor diet and sedentary lifestyles kill about 300,000 Americans annually. Sixty-one percent of U.S. adults, or 108 million people, are overweight or obese and 70 percent do not participate in any physical activity outside of their job.

The President's Challenge is a free, easy and interactive way to monitor your physical activity. Ohioans can access the President's Challenge through the Healthy Ohioans Web site at www.healthyohioans.org.

Healthy Ohioans focuses on encouraging all Ohioans to be physically active, to eat nutritious foods including the recommended five daily servings of fruits and vegetables and to prevent or stop the use of tobacco. Go to: www.healthyohioans.org.



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If you have upcoming events or information that you would like to see in the next issue of *Public Safety News*, send it to Lynne McBee, Office of Communications, Shipley Bldg., 4th floor, or via e-mail at lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us

IT'S ABOUT SAFETY



Thirty Years at the BMV

The following Bureau of Motor Vehicles employees received 30-year pins recently:



From left to right: **DEBORAH GARVIN**, Registration; **LOUISE ROWN**, Registration; **PATRICIA HODNETT**, Special Case; and **ROBERTA CLARK**, Financial Responsibility. Pictured with Registrar Frank Caltrider.



From left to right: **HARRY FRY**, Field Services; **LARRY KOBI**, Field Services; **KEN WOEHRMAYER** (with Jim Chisman), Field Services; and **ESTHER GARDNER**, Telecommunications (with Registrar Frank Caltrider).

Salvage Receipts Now Available

As of November 1, 2003, the Ohio State Highway Patrol will no longer issue salvage inspection receipts by mail. This process has been simplified by allowing the public to purchase a receipt at their local deputy registrar for a fee of \$50, plus the \$3.25 deputy registrar fee. Each inspection requires a separate receipt. A salvage inspection is necessary when a vehicle is involved in an accident and the insurance company assesses the vehicle as totaled. The title is then changed to a salvage title. Upon the purchase of a receipt at a local deputy registrar and inspection by the Highway Patrol, the vehicle may then be approved for re-titling as a rebuilt salvage and allowed back on the road with proper vehicle registration. The purpose of the Highway Patrol's inspection is to verify ownership of all parts and review required documentation. It is not to certify the vehicle's safety or road worthiness.

How to Protect Yourself from Cyber Attacks

More people received computers and laptops this holiday season than ever before. If you were one of the ones who did, be aware that there are security precautions you can take.

The State of Ohio Security Task Force (SOSTF) and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) have teamed up to offer a new eSecure Ohio brochure highlighting 10 simple steps Ohioans can take to protect themselves from cyber attacks. The brochure is available on the Ohio Homeland Security Web site at Ohio.gov/homelandsecurity.

The eSecure Ohio brochure notes that small business and home computer users can be just as vulnerable to attacks as large companies. Recommended computer security action steps include:

- Use and update anti-virus software on a regular basis
- Disconnect your computer from the Internet when not in use
- Never open unknown or unexpected e-mail attachments
- Use a firewall to protect your computer from an Internet-based attack
- Create backup copies of important information on removable discs
- Change passwords periodically
- Identify technical computer support and make sure users know where to find help if trouble strikes
- Have a "boot" disc or CD available if your computer is damaged or compromised
- Turn on the computer's protective measures and turn off those features that could threaten security
- Re-evaluate your computer security twice a year with the beginning and end of daylight saving time

Biennial Registration Begins

House Bill 87 allows for biennial registration, which begins January 1, 2004. If a motorist wishes to participate in the biennial registration, he or she will need to pay the registration fee for both years. The motorist will also pay a deputy registrar fee of 1.5 times the current fee. Also, the motorist will pay two years worth of permissive taxes, based on the most recent fee chart.

Once an individual pays for biennial registration, there will be no refund. For example, if the vehicle is sold before the second year begins, the owner will not receive a refund.

The registration section will place inserts in renewal notices beginning in January. The notices let Ohioans know about biennial registration. Individuals may call the registration section for assistance, go to his or her local deputy registrar, or log onto OPLATES.com to sign up for biennial registration.

Qualified Vehicles for Biennial Registration	Vehicles Excluded from Biennial Registration
Passenger car Motorcycle Moped Farm truck Non-commercial truck Motor home Gratis Disabled veteran POW	Those that are up for a bi-annual inspection (such as e-check) for the following year Commercial trucks Commercial trailers Church bus Commercial bus Transit bus Placards Temporary tags Recreational vehicles (ATV, Snowmobiles) School bus Restricted plates (DUI plates)

Also, motorists that purchase organizational plates that require supporting forms on an annual basis are excluded. Limousines are excluded because owners must show annual proof of insurance.

Every 15 Minutes

Every 15 minutes someone dies as the result of an alcohol-related crash. A national program, "Every 15 Minutes," has been designed to educate students on the dangers of drinking and driving. The two-day event reinforces what students hear about the choices they make and how that affects their life and the lives of those around them. The program offers real-life experience without the real-life risks.

The car crash behind Springfield South High School on the morning of December 16 wasn't real, but the tears which welled up in the eyes of some students were as wet as the drenching rain that pelted the spectators.

They watched a fellow classmate rushed to a hospital helicopter and two more loaded into a black hearse. Law enforcement and EMS officials hoped the students got the message not to drink and drive.



The program, presented by the Clark County Safe Communities Coalition, was staged at the request of the principal with the help of more than 30 community agencies. Tom Spurgin, South High School dean of students, said school officials wanted to send students a message before their winter vacation.

"Part of being an adult is making right decisions, good decisions," Lt. Joseph Gebhart of the Patrol's Springfield Post said. Lt. Gebhart guided the audience through the devastating effects of losing a loved one due to impaired driving. As each worker responded to the scene, he explained the worker's role in the crash.

"Drinking and driving can be a fatal decision," he reminded students. Gebhart said someone in the nation is killed in an alcohol-related car crash every 15 minutes. Failure to use seat belts often is a factor in those fatalities, he said.

The grim reaper pulled a student out of class every 15 minutes for the rest of the day. The reaper was accompanied by a law enforcement officer who announced that the victim had died through the actions of a drunk driver. This made a total of 26 students. The officer then read an obituary of the "deceased." Lt. Gebhart, visibly shaken, remarked that making the announcement at school was just as disturbing as making a real announcement.

The "deceased" students wore black T-shirts, painted their faces as though they were dead and even helped write their own obituaries. "Dead" students remained silent the rest of the day.

After school, the "departed" went to Wittenberg University for an overnight retreat. They wrote letters to their parents telling them things they wish they had said during their lifetime. After the letter writing and group session discussing the program's impact on them, the students participated in activities such as wearing the Fatal Vision® goggles to allow them to experience firsthand the potentially fatal consequences of alcohol and drug impairment.

The next day the rest of the student body attended the "funeral" of their departed classmates and witnessed the sentencing of the drunk driver.

"What we like to show over the next two days are the consequences," Gebhart said.

Coordinated community efforts like this one not only make the community more closely knit, they develop a respect for all public servants who help keep the community safe.

Motor Scooter Requirements

The motor scooter craze is on. The popularity of motorized scooters has caused many Clerks of Court, Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) officials and the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) to field numerous questions from municipalities, customers and members of the media.

Currently the BMV, as well as the OSHP, are informing the public that the following must occur before a person may drive the motor scooters on public roadways:

- ⇒ Motor scooters must meet federal safety standards
- ⇒ Scooters must be titled and registered
- ⇒ People must maintain financial responsibility coverage
- ⇒ Any person driving a motor scooter must be at least 16 years old and have a valid operator's license with a motorcycle endorsement

The best way to show whether or not a motor scooter meets all safety requirements is to either have a certification from the manufacturer stating that all safety requirements are met, or have a law enforcement agency perform an inspection to determine whether a vehicle meets the required safety standards. The OSHP can conduct such an inspection at the salvage inspection sites located throughout Ohio. The motor scooters would be considered a self-assembled vehicle. If the motor scooter passes the OSHP inspection, a VIN plate is issued.

If the scooters do not meet federal safety standards, or if the motor scooter has not been titled, registered or insured, the scooter cannot be driven on Ohio's roads. Law enforcement can cite individuals for not complying with the law. It is up to each municipality to determine whether or not the scooters can be driven on sidewalks.

The public should be aware that in most cases, motor scooters cannot be driven on Ohio's roads. Many of the complaints from Ohio parents show that places that are selling motor scooters are not explaining the laws to the parents.

ESA Winners

The fourth quarter Excellence in Service Awards ceremony was held on December 16th. The winners are:

- ★ Office Support—**Joyce Lewandowski**
- ★ Technical Services—**Todd Emmer**
- ★ Management—**Sally Henkle**
- ★ Law Enforcement—**Paul Rapp**

WARNING!

Warning Signs of Childhood Drinking

While the following behaviors may indicate an alcohol or drug problem, some also reflect normal teenage growing pains. Experts believe that a drinking problem is more likely if you notice several of these signs at the same time, if they occur suddenly, and if some of them are extreme in nature.

- Mood changes: flare-ups of temper, irritability, and defensiveness
- School problems: poor attendance, low grades, and/or recent disciplinary action
- Rebelling against family rules
- Switching friends, along with a reluctance to have parents get to know the new friends
- A “nothing matters” attitude: sloppy appearance, a lack of involvement in former interests, and general low energy
- Finding alcohol in your child’s room or backpack, or smelling alcohol on his or her breath
- Physical or mental problems: memory lapses, poor concentration, bloodshot eyes, lack of coordination, or slurred speech



The PSNEWS Roving Reporter

Q Who is your favorite fictional character and why?



A "SPIDER-MAN-
Because he was just a real boy with real problems before he became a super hero; and as a kid, I always wanted something that outstanding to happen to me." John Fitzgerald, OSHP

A "The RoadRunner because he is not very smart but is very clever with very quick reactions. He has a sixth sense about danger and is able to use his positive attributes to stay safe. He seems to enjoy using his capabilities to outwit Wily Coyote." Jeff B. DuBois, ADM



A "Buckaroo Banzai-
The Rock Star (Buckaroo Banzai and the Hong Kong Cavaliers), Brain Surgeon, adventurer and all around good guy can always be counted on to thwart the forces of evil." Greg Keller, EMA



A "My favorite fictional character is the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*. Why, because he tries to be so big and mean, but inside he is kind and loving of which we need more of in this world." Ray Wickham, BMV



BMV and Air Force



Arlin L. Hill, Clerk 2 in the Administrative Services' Application Verification Unit at the Alum Creek Facility, is pictured above playing the trumpet at a Veteran's Day function in Newark. Arlin has been employed with the State for five years. Arlin is regularly requested to play the trumpet as a tribute to veterans at holiday events, memorial services and other special functions. Arlin served five years in the Air Force. His basic training took place at Lackland AFB in Texas. He moved on from there serving at various Air Force Base locations in Colorado, the Philippines and Iceland.



Calling all Trivia Buffs

Most people use this device at least once a day. It was invented by Dr. Robert Adler in 1956.



What is it?

E-mail your answer to: lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us

Which muscle(s) in the human body are the busiest? The answer is the eyes.

These people knew the answer:
Lois Arthurs

Who is it?

This person works in Human Resources and knows way too much about Geezenstacks. Who is it?



Send your guesses to lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us

The person in the December issue is Lorrie Laing, administrator for the Governor's Highway Safety Representative (GHSO) office. These people knew the answer:

Joe Banicki
Peggy Barber

Wendy Forbes
Melony Simpson