

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

MARCH 2003



Bob Taft, Governor

Kenneth L. Morckel, Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Mentoring: A Great Life Experience**
- **God Bless America**
- **Ohio's Most Common Natural Disaster: Flood**
- **Grange Mutual Assists Motorcycle Ohio**
- **The Puck Stops Here**
- **Quality Quote**
- **PS NEWS Roving Reporter**
- **Salute to Ohio—It's a bird...it's a plane...it's Worthington!**
- **Calling All Trivia Buffs**
- **Who is it?**

Time to Watch the Skies

April starts tornado season in Ohio. Three-fourths of the tornadoes reported in Ohio during the past 60 years have occurred between April and July. This most severe of storms, however, pays little attention to the calendar and has brought its destructive winds to the state during every month of the year.

Later this month, Gov. Bob Taft will declare March 23-29 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. It will be during this week that many elementary school students in our state study weather patterns, learn about safety preparedness, prepare weather safety posters for the annual contest and participate in the statewide siren drill on March 26.

Our EMA division and the statewide Severe Weather Awareness Committee lead all these activities. This 16-member committee has conducted an aggressive weather safety awareness campaign in Ohio twice a year since 1978. This year's chair is Jeff Walker, Licking County EMA director.

Other agencies represented on the committee include the National Weather Service, the Red Cross, Ohio News Network, the Ohio Insurance Institute and the state departments of insurance, aging, health, education, natural resources and the state fire marshal.

You can learn about weather safety by visiting our EMA division's Web site, where this season's public education booklet may be viewed or downloaded.

The best preparation you can make for this tornado season is to purchase a weather radio, which can be found at most retail electronic stores. Last year, our EMA division completed installation of its 16th NOAA weather radio transmitter in Ohio. The life-saving broadcasts transmitted through this extensive system are now available to 97 percent of Ohio's population. There is neither quicker nor more accurate weather forecast system available than through the weather radio that should be in every home and office in the state.



Seneca House



OSHP Assists



Path of Destruction

Last November, a storm front with multiple tornado cells swept through northern Ohio, causing five fatalities and more than \$100 million in damage. This was a house in Seneca County, near Tiffin, destroyed by the storms. President Bush declared 20 Ohio counties as disaster areas and Ohio EMA recovery officials spent all of November and most of December in northwest Ohio alongside their federal colleagues coordinating the recovery effort. Ohio averages 16 tornadoes a year.

Place Label Here

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



MENTORING: A GREAT LIFE EXPERIENCE

January was National Mentoring Month. Rich Nagel, assistant administrator of the Human Resource Management (HRM) section, was honored at the Statehouse atrium on January 8, 2003, by the Mentoring Center of Central Ohio for being an outstanding mentor to 16-year-old Matt Boggess, a West High School student.

Rich takes Matt to movies, restaurants and Blue Jackets hockey games. They have talks about school, relationships and life. Boggess thinks Nagel is like an older brother, and he tells him things he wouldn't tell anyone else. He called Nagel when his father was stabbed one recent morning and also when older guys pulled a gun on him on the Hilltop.

"When I first met Matt he didn't care about school, he flunked his freshman year and his personal life was in turmoil," Rich says. Students with mentors often improve their grades and their relationships with parents and peers. By providing skills building, listening and fun, mentors help develop the whole person and foster care, confidence and competence for a wider, more successful future.

This past winter, Boggess participated in an accelerated program and caught up with his studies. He expects to graduate in two and a half years.

There are still 1,000 Columbus children that need mentors. If you are interested in sharing your life with a student, please contact Rich Nagel in HRM at 614/752-6400.



Matt Boggess, left, and Rich Nagel have become best friends as a result of the mentoring program with West High School and the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Nagel was recently honored for being one of four central Ohio volunteers recognized as outstanding mentors.

God Bless America



Time marches on and so do Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) employees. They are marching to serve their country. One of the most recent people leaving ODPS to serve in the Armed Forces is Brian Pfeffer, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) coordinator for the EMS division. He will be stationed in Turkey with the Army as a lieutenant.

.Another person, Duke Hobson, Section Chief for BMV Administrative Services, had his last day at ODPS on February 5, 2003.

Other employees who are currently serving as of 02/26/03 are:

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Tpr. Rustin Schack
Sgt. Raymond Hass
Tpr. William Lee
Tpr. Robert Eaton
Tpr. Tye Tyson
Tpr. Michael Gurlea
Tpr. Russell Cantrell
Tpr. Leroy Bethel
Tpr. Kevin Jewett

Tpr. Darrell Dowler
Tpr. Jeremy Bryner
Tpr. Thomas Murphy
Tpr. Leslie Brode
Tpr. Lawrence F. Firmi
Tpr. Richard Tocash
Tpr. Phillip Linville
Cadet Joseph Wheeler
Tpr. Matt French

Investigative Unit

Mandowl Nixon

Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

Dennis Karl

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Brian Pfeffer

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Tim Mathews

We salute all those serving in the Armed Forces and all those that may soon be called up. God bless and return home safely.

Ohio's Most Common Natural Disaster: Floods

Hopefully, Ohioans will not have any more mountains of plowed snow or massive power outages any time soon. During this time of year, we need to be mindful of flood safety. If we experience too many days of above-freezing temperatures or excessive rainfall, flooding or flash flooding could occur.



Did you know that flooding is Ohio's most common natural disaster, and is the nation's leading weather-related killer?

Three types of flooding occur in Ohio:

General River Flooding occurs after long-term heavy rain, snowmelt, or a combination of the two. It usually occurs slowly, allowing more time to move people and property to safety.

Flash Flooding is deceptively dangerous. The flow in a small stream or ditch can become a deadly and destructive torrent in a matter of minutes. The water can then, just as suddenly, drop back to its normal flow. Flash flooding can occur anywhere that the amount of water exceeds an area's capability to absorb or convey it within banks of existing channels.

Urban and Small Stream Flooding can occur when heavy rain falls in an urban or rural area, resulting in flooded streets, creeks, underpasses or drainage ditches. It is not normally a threat unless motorists drive through the flooded roadway or children play in flooded drainage ditches.

The following lists some safety tips to help protect you during flood events:

- Never attempt to drive into a flooded roadway. It only takes about two feet of water to float most vehicles. Even if a vehicle in front of you successfully crosses a water-covered road, it is best to find an alternate route or wait. If you get stuck, you not only are risking your own life, but the lives of rescue personnel.
- If you live in a low-lying area or near a creek, pay close attention to water levels during heavy rain events. Water rises rapidly during flash floods, often taking victims by surprise. Be prepared to move quickly to higher ground if water levels begin to rise rapidly.
- Trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles are also susceptible to being swept away by high water. Such vehicles often give motorists a false sense of security, believing they can drive through high water. This belief often results in deaths from being swept away by floodwaters, or dangerous emergency rescues of motorists stuck in their vehicles.
- Never let children play near creeks or storm drains. Every year, deaths or injuries occur as a result of people getting swept into a creek or storm drain, with the most frequent victims being children.
- A mere six inches of rapidly moving floodwater can knock a person down. Two feet of water can float large vehicles- even buses.

For more information on severe weather safety, visit the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Web page at www.state.oh.us/odps/division/ema and click on "Severe Weather Awareness."

To be considered a legal gambling operation, 100 percent of the proceeds must be donated to a legitimate charity. The establishments running the games for charities are not permitted to keep any of the profits.

County prosecutors will continue the investigation and pursue state and federal criminal charges. Permits cited will have hearings with the Liquor Control Commission in Columbus who may decide to impose a fine, issue a permit suspension or permit revocation.

Grange Mutual Assists Motorcycle Ohio

On January 24, 2003, Motorcycle Ohio (MO) presented Grange Mutual Insurance President Phil Urban a Distinguished Service Award.

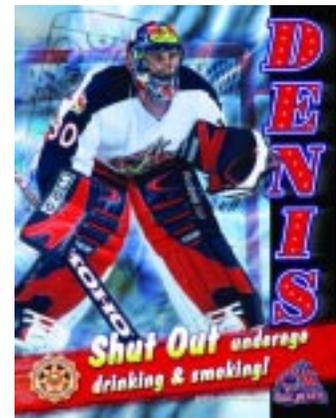
Grange Mutual Insurance donated 17 training motorcycles to the Motorcycle Ohio safety program last year. These motorcycles were used in the 2002 motorcycle training season. Grange is a pro-active company that wants to promote safety by becoming involved with the state of Ohio's Motorcycle Ohio program.

Motorcycle Ohio has trained 7,719 individuals in motorcycle safety in 2002.



(left to right) Grange Mutual Insurance President Phil Urban, Bob Secrest, Motorcycle Ohio Program Coordinator, and Pete Cline, Motorcycle Ohio Site Coordinator.

The Puck Stops Here



The Investigative Unit has placed an ad in the Columbus Blue Jackets Yearbook to remind people that it is illegal for minors to drink or smoke. The number 1-877-4-MINORS is also included.



QUALITY QUOTE

"No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep, and we know it."
Hal Borland



The PSNEWS Roving Reporter

Q What is your favorite type of pasta and why?

- A** "I prefer angel hair pasta with a variety of sauces or even olive oil. The spicier the better!! Why? Well, I really do think my body craves carbs, but other than that spaghetti is so fun to eat. The spoon, the fork and the twirl. A girl's just gotta have fun." Deborah Frohnauer, Admin.
- A** "Favorite Pasta - Spaghetti with meat sauce. It fills you up fast, gives you energy and it tastes better the next day as leftovers." Jeff Maute, OSHP
- A** "Nothing beats Mom's pasta salad. It is so addictive that you can't stop at one helping. It's the best!" Janet Meade, Information Services
- A** "My favorite pasta is rigatoni with marinara sauce and meatballs. My Mom made lots of pasta when I was growing up, and it just stuck (in all the wrong places, I might add!!)" Joni Vance, BMV

Salute to Ohio

Proud to be a Buckeye

It's a bird...it's a plane...it's Worthington!

It's the bicentennial mascot, and his name is Worthington! In the theme of "Red, White & Blooming - An Ohio Bicentennial Celebration," the new Ohio Bicentennial Commission mascot was introduced to the public Feb. 12 at the National City Cleveland Home & Garden Show.

Worthington will be an energetic ambassador and will carry Ohio's Bicentennial message, commemoration, education and celebration, to all parts of the state.

Worthington is a cardinal dressed in a flight jacket and aviator goggles. The state bird, Ohio's aviation heritage and the father of statehood combine, forming a meaningful mascot for the bicentennial.

Worthington will appear at Ohio Bicentennial Commission events throughout 2003.



Calling all Trivia Buffs

What year did the Wright Brothers fly the first flying machine at Kitty Hawk?



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

The television show that won the "People's Choice" Award for best drama for 2002 was *CSI*.

These people knew the answer:

No one knew the answer.

Who is it?

This person works for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles on the 2nd floor. Who is it?



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

In the February issue, the person is Larry Fish.

These people knew the answer:

Melinda Margaritis, Donna Shearer, Kevin Kelly, Joe Nichols, Sandra Stellmack, and Sue Campbell.