

# PSN

# PUBLIC SAFETY

# NEWS

JUNE 2001

Bob Taft, Governor

Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director

## New Booster Seat Legislation Announced

Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor was joined by Representative Kevin DeWine in early May to announce groundbreaking booster seat legislation designed to protect Ohio children. The legislation will require children weighing between 40 and 80 pounds and up to eight-years-old to be restrained in booster seats. A booster seat raises a small child higher in a car, allowing a safety belt to properly cross at the shoulder, as recommended by safety belt and auto manufacturers.

"Representative DeWine's leadership on this safety issue will help save the lives of countless Ohio children," said Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director of Ohio Public Safety. "As a state, we must commit to making child passenger safety, and booster seats, a top legislative priority." The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates only 6.1 percent of booster size children use a booster seat.

A father of three, Representative DeWine worked to build statehouse consensus during the bill drafting process. "As elected officials, we have a responsibility to do everything in our power to protect our smallest citizens. As a father, I have the responsibility to do everything to keep my children safe," said DeWine. DeWine's son, Tyler, is "booster seat-size." Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children of every age from 6 to 14 years. Studies show that after age four, restraint use falls from 91 percent to 68.7 percent. Over 47 percent of fatally injured children ages four to seven are completely unrestrained.

Ohio law requires children aged 0-4 and/or less than 40 pounds be restrained while riding in a motor vehicle. It is recommended that all children under age twelve ride restrained in the back seat.



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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](mailto:lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us)

### IT'S ABOUT SAFETY

Editor: Lynne McBee  
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## Legal Staff Welcomes Adrian Allison

Adrian Allison has joined our legal staff as Associate Legal Counsel. Adrian received a bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace College where he played defense on the football team for four years. During his football career, Baldwin Wallace suffered only ten defeats in four winning seasons.

Adrian received his law degree from Case Western Reserve University. Prior to his appointment with the Department of Public Safety, Adrian was an assistant attorney with the Ohio Attorney General's office dealing with Education. He also held a Public Relations position with the Browns as an Intern. Adrian is expected to be handling primarily BMV issues for the Department.



## Miss Helen Retires

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) oldest employee, Helen Palecznicki, 79, retired April 30, 2001. She was a devoted employee in the Record Clearance area of the License Support unit.

Helen was a great asset to the BMV with 28 years of service. She is shown with Registrar Frank Caltrider receiving her special plate with HELEN imprinted on it, a certificate of achievement from the Governor and best wishes from her associates. Helen emigrated from Poland and grew up in Canton. She raised one daughter.



## Trauma Season

-Ann Foraker

On May 22, 2001, the American Red Cross and the Ohio State Highway Patrol launched the promotional campaign, "What's holding you back?" The campaign is aimed at saving lives during the summer trauma season, which began on Memorial Day weekend and continues through Labor Day.

"What's holding you back?" Is a fitting theme for the 2001 trauma season. This campaign focuses Ohioans on safety belt use and the importance of donating blood at times of serious need and routinely throughout the year.

Some twenty-five plus Ohio State Highway Patrol Cadets kicked off the promotional campaign at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy where over 25 pints of blood were given.

**To schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [www.bloodsaveslives.org](http://www.bloodsaveslives.org)**

According to Catherine West, communications manager for the Central Ohio Blood Service Region of the American Red Cross, this was a great turnout. She also stated, "Our partnership (with the Highway Patrol) sends an important message to the public. Prevention and preparedness — taking steps to reduce the likelihood of life threatening injuries and ensuring an adequate supply of blood to respond to emergency situations — will undoubtedly save lives."

What's holding you back...from giving blood and buckling up are safe and simple processes that saves lives each and everyday.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit Central Ohio Blood Services Region Web site at [www.bloodsaveslives.org](http://www.bloodsaveslives.org). For more information about the "What's holding you back?" campaign, visit the Ohio Public Safety Web site at [www.state.oh.us/odps](http://www.state.oh.us/odps).

## Patrol Remembers the Fallen



*Trooper Cassandra Brewster, Swanton Post, rings the Memorial Bell in the courtyard of the Academy during the observance of the fallen troopers.*



*On May 18, 2001, Governor Bob Taft (seated) joined Col. Kenneth L. Morckel, OSHP Superintendent, (speaking) and other dignitaries to recognize and honor its 34 fallen officers, including Tpr. Robert Perez, Jr. who died on May 15, 2000.*

## Amish Country This Summer

For a weekend getaway, you might want to travel north to Holmes County where you can see a handmade piece of furniture, a beautifully-stitched quilt or have a homecooked meal all in Ohio's Amish country.



Ohio has the largest Amish population in the world. They are a plain folk who forsake modern conveniences for a simpler way of life. We can learn many things from their back-to-the-basics life-style.

But we also must be cautious. Driving on rural roads is a journey all its own. You never know what's around the bend...a tractor...an Amish buggy... or a deer crossing the road.

Especially with Amish buggies, it is good to know that they travel at between five and seven miles per hour. Horses also get skittish. Safety experts define closure time as "the time a driver has to recognize and respond when coming upon other vehicles."

Imagine traveling at 55 mph and coming upon a car traveling at 45 mph that is 500 feet (about 1/10 of a mile) ahead. After six seconds, you will have 412 feet to react before colliding with that car. However, if traveling at 55 mph and coming upon a horse drawn vehicle traveling at 5 mph that is 500 feet ahead, you will have only 44 feet to react before colliding in those same six seconds.

The car would hit the horse-drawn vehicle in **just 6.5 seconds**. So when you see a slow moving vehicle sign, slow down! Prepare to pass with caution.

The Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO) produced billboards that appeared in Amish country to help remind motorists to slow down on rural roads. They also hold meetings with Amish communities to discuss solutions to the problem of Amish buggy and motor vehicle crashes.

Recently, a new bill has been proposed in the Ohio legislature that would add \$5 million for road projects to help protect the Amish. The bill would allow the 21 Ohio Amish counties to apply for grants that would help widen berms, improve visibility and add signs or anything else they feel would help improve road conditions and help the Amish. In Ohio, in 1999, the last year statistics are available, there were 161 buggy and motor vehicle crashes. The year before that, there were 140.

So have fun purchasing quilts and other Amish items in Amish country, but go slow. Let country roads take you there and bring you home—safely.

## PATROL SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

In 2000, ten sobriety checkpoints were conducted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP). In these, 11,193 vehicles passed through the checkpoints, 8,544 were checked and 338 vehicles were diverted for additional testing, resulting in 72 DUI arrests. The average BAC was .166. The true effectiveness of sobriety checkpoints does not lie in individual arrests, but in their deterrent effect.



When administered properly according to the judicial guidelines and the law enforcement agencies policies for officer and motorist safety, sobriety checkpoints are a safe and effective deterrent to impaired driving and are the ideal complement in our state's DUI enforcement efforts.

## New State of Ohio Web site and New Look for ODPS Web

Be sure to check out the new state of Ohio Web site at [www.ohio.gov](http://www.ohio.gov). It is the marquee piece for Ohio's e-government program and is Governor Taft's desire to have citizens "save time online," a priority in his 2000 State of the State address.

The state Web site allows visitors to access the most frequently requested documents or services from one location. Previously, visitors had to search for the agency to find the information.

In addition, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) has a new look. If you have access to the Web, click onto [www.state.oh.us/odps](http://www.state.oh.us/odps). Each division has a new masthead, which was posted in mid-April. The new look keeps the divisions consistent with a similar style.



## American Red Cross Needs Blood Desperately

The American Red Cross needs you...more specifically, they need your blood! There is a desperate need for "O" and other blood types as well. Throughout the day on August 19<sup>th</sup>, the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive in the Ohio Department of Transportation building, lower level. If you would like to give the gift of life, please call Barbara Smith at 752-7955 to schedule a time.

# Quality Quote

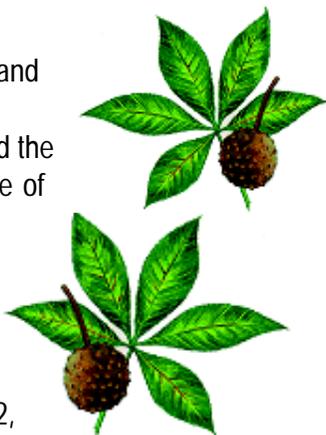
*"Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least."*  
- Goethe

## *Salute to Ohio*

*Proud to be a Buckeye*

### STATE TREE

The buckeye tree is native to Ohio and gave the state the nickname of the "Buckeye State." The Indians called the buckeye "Hetuck," meaning the eye of the buck, because of the striking resemblance of the seed, both in color, shape and appearance to the eye of the buck. Early settlers used the wood for building purposes. A law effective October 2, 1953, adopted the buckeye as Ohio's official tree.



### The PSNEWS Roving Reporter

**Q** What is your favorite type of dog and why?

**A** "My favorite dog is the Shih Tzu. Why? Because they are loving, playful, smart and good with children. Who could ask for anything more?" Rosemary Cook, Internal Audits

**A** "Husky...because they're loyal, playful and have wonderful eyes!" Vicky Smith, Chief, Printing Services, ACF

**A** "My favorite dog is a Labrador Retriever. Mainly, because it's big, soft and cuddly. Also, it's easy to train." Deb Bell, BMV Title Section

**A** "Labrador Retriever. I've had three of them over the years. They are well-behaved, bright, even tempered, love kids, and just enjoy doing things for others." Terry Williams, Investigative Unit

**A** "The dog that I like the most is the breed of the Samoyed. I like the breed because they are great with kids and a great lookout for the house and family. And they're really good looking." Gary Humphries, Photo Lab

**A** "We love our Pembroke Welsh Corgis. Right now we have two males (Huntly and Edi) and two females (Currie and Iona). We had as many as 11 last summer, but eventually all but one of the puppies were adopted. Corgis are wonderful family dogs, very friendly, intelligent and inquisitive. They are herding dogs by nature, and will herd anything (other animals, toys, kids, unsuspecting adults!)." Mike Glenn, EMS

**A** "A stuffed-animal dog. It's house-broken, it stays on command, and you don't have to feed it or clean up after it!" Kelli Blackwell, EMA

## AND THE WINNER IS...

Ohio's Safest Young Driver winner is Jeff Mobley, a Westerville North High School junior. He receives a new Honda Civic and a year's membership to AAA.

Last fall, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP), the Safe America Foundation and Honda teamed together with other Ohio companies and organizations to find the safest young drivers in Ohio. And in the process, the contest taught Ohio teens the life lessons they'll need to keep themselves and their friends safe on Ohio roadways.

Teens aged 16-18 with no moving violations were eligible to compete in the contest to become "Ohio's Safest Young Driver." Twelve semi-finalists were chosen from a pool of applicants who successfully completed a 15-question, multiple-choice questionnaire, an essay on safe driving habits and an optional essay on a safe driver whose habits the teen tries to emulate. The semi-finalists attended the Mid-Ohio Driving School in May 2001. Jeff Mobley was announced the winner on May 30, 2001.

"Schools are teaching teens the skills they need. We hope this program makes those skills a habit," O'Connor stated.

All across the state, teen-age drivers are over-represented in traffic crashes; drivers ages 15-20 make up only 6.7 percent of the driving population yet account for 14 percent of the drivers involved in fatal crashes.

