

**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

Dave Phalen, Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECEIVES FUNDS FOR
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

[Lancaster, Ohio, October 15, 2012] Sheriff Dave Phalen announced today that his Office has applied for, and been awarded, the first High Visibility Enforcement Overtime Grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety/Office of Criminal Justice Services' Traffic Safety Division. The federal funds are provided through annual state grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The grant, in the amount of \$29,988.38, will provide for extra patrols during Holidays and special mobilization periods throughout the year. The funds are available now through September 30, 2013.

"The grant is not only a great benefit to our office, but specifically the citizens of Fairfield County. This grant will allow us to add extra patrols during critical periods without burdening the county's budget," stated Sheriff Phalen during the announcement. "By adding extra patrols during very specific times, we will be extending our current priority of reducing crashes and traffic fatalities."

The Sheriffs Office, which applied for the grant in July, will use the funds to add deputies to the roadway during such Holidays as Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, and the Fourth of July. They will also participate in the National Mobilization known as "Click It or Ticket" and the National Impaired Driving Crackdown "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over." The first of many high visibility times will be during the period surrounding Halloween. High Visibility Enforcement Grants, or HVEO grants, are awarded across the state to promote the overall State of Ohio's mission to reduce traffic related fatalities. For the calendar year 2011, Fairfield County had 2,994 crashes, 745 injury crashes, and 14 traffic related fatalities. Statistics show that Impaired Driving, Speed, and Teen Drivers are major concerns for law enforcement and traffic safety advocates in Fairfield County.

"It is our goal to decrease fatalities here in Fairfield County. Preventing crashes and fatalities is our goal and now with these extra funds we can promote our mission even further than before. Our goal is a fatal-free Fairfield County," concluded Sheriff Phalen.

Citizens can join in the safety effort by buckling up, never driving impaired, and following legal speed limits. For more information on traffic safety efforts and tips for safe driving, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at www.nhtsa.gov.

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