

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE

221 E. Main St.
Lancaster, OH 43130

Contact Person: Teresa C. Carper
Phone: (740) 466-4700



SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- "Ride Like A Friend, Drive Like You Care"-
National Teen Driver Safety Week October 14-20, 2012**

[Lancaster, Ohio, October 15, 2012] The National Teen Driver Safety Week kicked off October 14th, and Safe Communities of Fairfield County is asking Teens to take the time to remember to "Ride Like A Friend, Drive Like You Care." In other words, Teens can and often do make good decisions even though they may be new to driving. Asking a friend who is riding with you to Buckle Up, and to show that you are a real friend by driving safe, is some of the campaign's message.

The National Campaign to promote teen driving safety has the theme this year of "Share, Not Scare." The idea of the theme is that Traffic Safety Advocates often share what can happen to those of us who do not use safe driving habits, and what can happen if we are involved in a traffic crash. We often want to "scare" teens into driving safe. Often, though, giving Teen Drivers the tools to make the right decision has a lasting impact on their driving now, and in the future. Education and asking Teens to support their friends in an effort to make better choices behind the wheel can, and does make a difference.

"We often forget that Teens are young adults, and value their future and the safety of their friends," noted Teresa C. Carper of the local Safe Communities Program. "Asking students to make sure they and their passenger buckle up, refuse to let a friend drive impaired, and putting down the phone while their friends' safety is in their hands, is one way to improve overall traffic safety for this age group."

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of deaths among teens 16-19 years of age. Inexperience plays a major role in these crashes, as well as distractions. The recent change in the law involving texting and driving should be a reminder to teens that this behavior behind the wheel is not only against the law, but deadly.

"One of our most precious resources to this community is our young people," noted Sheriff Dave Phalen. "I encourage parents to get involved by discussing the importance of safe driving habits not only during this special week, but every day of the year."

"Buckle Up Every Trip, Every Time," following recommended speed limits, and putting down the phone...all good advice for not only teens, but all drivers in Fairfield County.

Parents and Teens can get information on safe driving tips from a variety of websites. Safe Communities of Fairfield County recommends starting with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website at www.nhtsa.gov.

TOSERVEANDPROTECT