



# NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Heavy Police Presence This St. Patrick's Day to Catch Drunk Drivers Throughout the Village of Woodridge

[Woodridge, IL]— As St. Patrick's Day approaches, the Woodridge Police Department is urging motorists to plan a safe ride home and never get behind the wheel drunk. During this holiday, law enforcement officials in Woodridge will be on high alert, cracking down on drunk drivers as part of its *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* public safety campaign.

“Drunk driving is dangerous, deadly and against the law – and we will be taking every measure to protect the village's streets this St. Patrick's Day,” said Chief Ken Boehm. “Today we are giving fair warning to everyone traveling through Woodridge that our law enforcement officers will be out on patrol and if you are caught driving drunk you will be arrested.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that over 700 people were killed nationwide in crashes involving drunk drivers during St. Patrick's Day holidays from 2006 to 2010. On average, every 51 minutes a person is killed in a drunk-driving crash in the United States and the majority of these crashes involve drivers who have blood alcohol concentrations of .15 grams per deciliter or higher, almost twice legal limit of .08 g/dL.

Since public safety is the #1 concern, the Woodridge Police Department will also have extra patrols watching for seatbelt safety. As part of the **State of Illinois Click-it or Ticket** program, the Department will have extra patrols on the streets from March 14 -17, 2013, watching for proper seatbelt usage.

The Woodridge Police Department recommends the following easy steps to have a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation to get home safely.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact local police.
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive a car or ride a motorcycle while impaired, take the keys and help that person make other arrangements to get to where he or she is going safely.

For more information, visit [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov) , [www.buckleupillinois.org](http://www.buckleupillinois.org) and <http://drivesoberillinois.org>

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