

Kirtland Police Department Receives AAA Awards **by Chief Wayne Baumgart**

Chief Wayne Baumgart, Amy Buchannan, Lynne Kravos and Mayor Mark Tyler attended the American Automobile Association (AAA) Annual Awards Luncheon, on September 21, 2009 in Independence, Ohio, where the City of Kirtland received several Community Traffic Safety Leadership Awards by AAA East Central.

The City of Kirtland received an award for 30 years of pedestrian safety without a pedestrian fatality.

Kirtland also received the Platinum AAA Traffic Safety Leadership Award, which is the highest recognition for having five years of improvement in at least two statistical areas and providing educational, environmental, engineering and other programs that promote safety in the community. Over 80 jurisdictions were represented in the East Central AAA and Kirtland was one of 7 receiving the Platinum Award.

Examples of programs and events that help to capture the award are “Click it or Ticket”, Safety Town, child restraint seats, traffic signal engineering (such as at 306 and Joseph), the “Grim Reaper” program with Officer Prib, the third grade seatbelt program, selective enforcement (targeting areas that experience a higher than average number of traffic incidents), traffic signage and many other programs that occur with the joint effort of the Fire Department, Public Works, School District, Recreation and the Police Department. We also work with the local Safety Committees and the Lake County Health Department to bring about changes to improve safety for citizens.

All of these efforts are reported to the American Automobile Association and are evaluated against a points-based system to determine whether we qualify for an award in each category.