



Lake County General Health District

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CONTACT: CHRISTINE MARGALIS (440) 350-2879
LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY SAFELY THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR

The Lake County Safe Communities Coalition would like to remind Lake County residents that although everyone may be Irish on St. Patrick's Day, no one should drink and drive during their St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

To help promote the use of a designated driver during the holiday weekend, the Lake County Safe Communities Coalition produced 15,000 St. Patrick's Day-themed napkins with the message "Don't Rely on the Luck of the Irish! Designate a Sober Driver" that were distributed by police departments to their local bars and restaurants to remind patrons to celebrate safely. Seven Lake County communities are participating in the promotion.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, during the St. Patrick's Day weekend of 2013, 40% of all crash fatalities involved drunk drivers. Thirty-one people were killed in drunk-driving crashes on St. Patrick's Day alone. To date in 2015, Lake County has had three fatal motor vehicle crashes, one of which has been confirmed to involve an impaired driver.

According to Mentor-on-the-Lake Police Chief John Gielink, "While it's always a positive gesture to visit with the businesses in our community, it is especially nice that we're paying a call with a valuable safety message this time of year as we approach St. Patrick's Day. By visiting establishments in our community with an offering of themed napkins provided by the Lake County Safe Communities Coalition, we show that we can work hand in hand with business proprietors in pointing out safety issues to patrons as they travel the roads on St. Patrick's Day. This not only serves as a reminder to the business owners of the concerns of drinking and driving, but we're also providing something for them to make visible to their customers. If this helps to create a safe environment on the roads as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, it is truly a worthy effort".

The Lake County Safe Communities Coalition recommends following these easy steps for a safe St. Patrick's Day:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver;
- If you happen to see an impaired driver on the road, call #677 to reach law enforcement
- Remember that if you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make arrangements to find a safe way home.

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