



Warren C. Evans
Sheriff

News Release

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Release Date: Thursday, August 24, 2006

Sheriff bolsters Thanksgiving OWI Patrols

- *Day before annual Holiday feast has become among worst for drunken driving*

Wayne County Sheriff's Deputies will be out in force next week to help keep roadways safe for motorists, Sheriff Warren C. Evans said today. One of the key days they will be targeting is the day before Thanksgiving, which is one of the busiest days of the year for police patrols doing alcohol enforcement.

"We all know that the day before Thanksgiving is one of the busiest days for family travel on local roadways," said Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans. "Unfortunately, it also has become one of the worst days for alcohol consumption and drunken driving."

With that in mind, Evans has assigned additional deputies to patrol roads on that day and throughout the Thanksgiving weekend to look for suspected drunken drivers. Evans said his officers will be joining others from Wayne County's Drive Michigan Safely Task Force, which includes Brownstown, Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Grosse Ile, Northville, Romulus, Taylor, Westland and Wyandotte, in this team effort to keep roads safe this Holiday Season. Funds for the heightened presence are being provided through a grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning.

The Thanksgiving holiday - and the 24 hours leading up to it - has become a priority in Wayne County and across the state. Last year on the day before Thanksgiving, for example, officers arrested 23 people for drunken driving in Wayne County and there were five alcohol-related crashes resulting in five injuries. Thankfully, there were no fatalities in Wayne County during the four day Thanksgiving Holiday. Across Michigan, however, there were 17 fatal accidents - seven of them alcohol related, resulting in eight fatalities.

"Most of these accidents and tragic deaths are completely avoidable," Evans said. "Those of us in law enforcement across Wayne County and the State are adding these extra patrols because we want everyone to get to their destinations safely and enjoy this Holiday Season."