



Delaware General Health District
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DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walter L. Davis III, Sheriff

PHOTO NEWS RELEASE

INSURER, SHERIFF, HEALTH DISTRICT SAFETY COALITION TEAM UP TO ENCOURAGE SOBER DRIVING ON PROM NIGHTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Presenting the "Stay Alive, Just Drive" banner before a Friday assembly at Buckeye Valley High School were, from left, Delaware County Sheriff Walter L. Davis III, School Resource Officer Deputy

Fred Strawser, Delaware County Safe Communities-Safe Kids Coordinator Jackie Bain, BV Teen Institute Adviser Dee Dee James, and Farmers Insurance Agent Amy Ward.

DELAWARE, Oh., May 13, 2011 – Hundreds of local teenagers have signed pledges and banners to drive safely and sober during this prom season and beyond.

The safety pledges came out of a partnership among Farmers Insurance Agent Amy Ward, the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, and the Delaware General Health District's Safe Communities-Safe Kids Coalition.

Ward's agency provided large banners proclaiming "Stay Alive, Just Drive!" to Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Liberty, Olentangy, and Orange high schools. Over lunch periods on recent days, Sheriff Davis, deputies, and leaders of the safety coalition encouraged students to sign their schools' banners and cards with the safe-and-sober driving pledge.

"We want to get the students' attention," Sheriff Davis said. "This banner is allowing them to pledge to the whole school that they will be responsible drivers. Providing these banners right before the prom keeps our safety message fresh in the students' minds when they head to the prom."

Related activities at Olentangy High School included a mock car crash. Outside BVHS and BWHS, the wreckage of crashed vehicles are displayed as a safe driving lesson. During the pledging sessions, the safety coalition invited students at all of the schools to "drive" a Wii car-racing game while wearing special glasses that mimic the visual impairment of alcohol use.

The banners donated by Ms. Ward's north Columbus agency are valued at \$500.