



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

BRADLEY D. ROGERS, SHERIFF



S E R V I N G E L K H A R T C O U N T Y

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Police agencies team up for increased DUI patrols

ELKHART — Local law enforcement agencies want people to make the right choices, starting with not getting behind the wheel when impaired by drugs or alcohol.

Throughout the month, police officers in Elkhart and St. Joseph counties will join others across the state in emphasizing good safety habits. The event is part of Operation Pull Over, a national campaign to identify and arrest dangerous, impaired and aggressive drivers.

“Last year, our department made more than 500 DUI-related arrests — about 20 percent of them after we were called to investigate traffic crashes,” Elkhart County Sheriff Brad Rogers said. “We must continue to be vigilant and keep impaired individuals from getting behind the wheel and creating safety risks for all of us.”

In particular, March is a critical month for traffic safety because more people are out on the roads as the weather improves. Also a factor is the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. In 2009, for example, a third of the 12,000 crashes reported statewide during March occurred on March 17.

The increased enforcement efforts are part of Operation Pull Over. Through March 20, officers will be working overtime to conduct high-visibility activities designed to increase public awareness of the dangers and penalties associated with impaired driving.

The extra patrols and checkpoints are available due to federal funding distributed by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. ICJI’s traffic safety division director, Ryan Klitzsch, appeared with Sheriff Rogers and other local law enforcement leaders during Tuesday’s news event at the Elkhart County corrections facility.

In 2010, the Elkhart County Sheriff’s Department was recognized as the best agency in the state for its Operation Pull Over work — the third time it has received the honor in the past five years.

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