

Contacts: Ben Harper, Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute, 1-800-342-9819;
Alex Cabral, Governor's Office of Highway Safety, 1-888-420-0767
Writers: Janet Rodekohr UGA & Andrew Turnage GTIPI, 706/549-8415

TRAFFIC SAFETY CARAVAN SET FOR CARROLL COUNTY

A caravan will be rolling to Carrollton May 7-10. But don't look for colorful Gypsy wagons pulled by beribboned ponies. This is the 2003 Traffic Injury Prevention Caravan, an information blitz designed to make Carroll Countians aware of important safety issues.

Sheriff Terry Langley and the Carroll County Sheriff's Office have worked hard to make Caravan available to everyone by coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce, the faith community and local government.

"We support Caravan 110 percent," Sheriff Langley said. "If it saves one person's life, we've done a tremendous amount of work."

Sheriff Langley has called in the cavalry from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and the University of Georgia's Traffic Injury Prevention Institute to supply the educational message, materials and trainers.

"Of Georgia counties with 10 or more fatalities in 2002, Carroll County had the highest percentage of teens killed in car crashes," said Steve Davis, GTIPI director. "Of the 26 crash fatalities, eight were teen-agers. Reaching those teen drivers will be one of the missions of the Caravan."

The event requires heavy cooperation from law enforcement, elected officials, school administrators and teachers, chambers of commerce in Carroll and surrounding counties, health experts and many others. The Western Regional Traffic Enforcement Network will help with both enforcement and educational plans.

During the Caravan, look for law enforcement road-checks, child safety seat checks and school safety presentations in schools and child care centers, as well as presentations at civic, service centers and churches.

Sheriff Langley announced that Saturday, May 10, will be Public Safety Day. Law enforcement, fire and emergency services will have a traffic safety demonstration in the Carrollton Wal-Mart parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A banquet Friday evening, May 9, will thank visiting traffic safety experts and recognize local safety advocates for their support of the Safety Caravan.

During just four days, Carrollton, Carroll County, Villa Rica, Heard County, Haralson County, and their schools, will hear about child passenger safety and teen seat belt safety, child booster seats, teen driving, older drivers, aggressive driving, bicycle and helmet

safety, air bags, fire safety, first aid for children, school bus and pedestrian safety, and Georgia traffic laws.

The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) will work with local companies to identify risky behavior to help increase safety and reduce costs.

The Caravan is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

For more information about the Caravan, contact the Sheriff's office or Alex Cabral at GOHS (1-888-420-0767) or Ben Harper at UGA's GTIPI office (1-800-342-9819).