

The Waite Hill Police Beat

March 2013

Now that winter is almost over, we have to remember to take care with pedestrian traffic as we approach spring. Our Village has had an increase of bicyclists and joggers over the years. There have been a few incidents with bicycle crashes and near misses of pedestrians versus vehicles.

The other major concern is the inattention of drivers due to texting or talking on cell phones. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has found that texting while driving has increased dramatically.

The NHTSA has conducted a phone survey among 6,000 drivers above the age of 18 and found that 18 percent admitted to sending emails or text messages while behind the wheel. Among drivers between the ages of 21 to 24, approximately 50 percent admit to sending texts while driving.

Read more: <http://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/study-texting-while-driving-increased-by-50-percent-over-2010/#ixzz2NKcMJRtF>



This trend has to stop, our police department is being vigilant with this issue and trying to be proactive when we encounter individuals on our roads who are texting. Please remind your young drivers about the possible tragedy that could result from inattention while driving.

Officer Mike Sevel received the "Combat Cross" award through the Lake County Chief's Association for his involvement with the murder that took place in Willoughby Hills. Officer Sevel's quick action along with Willoughby Hills Officer Randy Mullenax brought a tragic incident to a quick end. These officers certainly preserved the possibility of further harm to others that were in that household.

We are still working on the arrangements with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide an opportunity for residents to safely dispose of their unwanted, unused prescription drugs. I am working with the Lake County Narcotics Agency and we will have a couple of dates for April of this year. I will confirm the date as soon as I receive more information.

Please remember, if you notice anything that does not look right or looks suspicious, please contact us. The best way to reach an officer is through the dispatcher at 440-942-1660. If it is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. DeWitt, Chief of Police