



Cheverly Police Department Press Information Office



March 8, 2016

Press Release

Cheverly, Prince George's County, Maryland . . . This St. Patrick's Day Officers will be concentrating on traffic enforcement as St. Patrick's Day celebrations get underway.

Drivers can expect sobriety checkpoints, additional DWI patrols, underage drinking and sales to minors' details during the campaign. Officers will also be ticketing distracted drivers who use handheld electronic devices and fail to wear seatbelts.

Cheverly Police Department urges everyone to have a plan this St. Patrick's Day. If you plan on drinking, designate a sober driver. A day of celebrating can quickly turn to tragedy because of impaired driving. Help us to keep our roads the safe by planning ahead to stay safe.

St. Patrick's Day is one of the deadliest holidays due to the number of drunk drivers on the road. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), The St. Patrick's Day holiday period from 2010 to 2014 saw the loss of 266 lives nationally due to drunk-driving crashes.

In 2014, alone, 29 people (28% of all crash fatalities) were killed in drunk-driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday period.

Drunk driving kills more than 10,000 people each year in our country, and every one of those deaths is preventable.

Choosing to drive drunk can ruin or end your life or someone else's. This St. Patrick's Day, if you drink and drive, you face jail time, the loss of your license, a higher insurance rate, and dozens of unanticipated expenses that total thousands of dollars.

The Cheverly Police Department and the MHSO ask you to commit to following these easy steps, so you can enjoy a safe holiday without jeopardizing lives on the road.

**Before the festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night.
Before you start drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home.
If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
If available, use your community's sober ride program**



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Walking impaired can be just as dangerous as drunk driving. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.

When walking be sure to utilize cross walks in well-lit areas.

If you see a drunk driver on the road, call local law enforcement. You could save a life.

The effort is funded by the Maryland High Safety Office.