



BY FRAN ODYNEC/THE MADISON PRESS

Deputies from the Madison County Sheriff's Office, from left, Lt. John Swaney, Deputy John Bachman, and Chief Deputy Bob Henry, remind Madison County residents to "Click It or Ticket," especially over this Memorial Day weekend.

'Click It or Ticket' ramping up

BY FRAN ODYNEC
Editor

Click it and be safe. That's the advice of Lt. John Swaney of the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

This weekend through Sunday, June 5, the national "Click It or Ticket" safety campaign sponsored by the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) will be in full force and enforced.

"Throughout the county, our deputies will be very focused on seat belt safety due to the amount of fatal crashes lately," said Swaney of the local emphasis being placed on the campaign. "We want to remind motorists of the need for safety while traveling."

"A seat belt is a safety device installed to protect the driver and passengers, said Swaney. "It's only a click away."

From what deputies have observed at crash scenes, the majority of injuries have been head related.

"If they had been wearing their seat belts," said Swaney, of the crash victims, "chances are they would not have hit the windshield nor would they have busted the windshield."

According to the NHTSA, failure to wear a seat belt is a secondary offense, which means that a deputy can not stop a driver specifically for that violation. However, when a driver is pulled over for a primary offense, a citation can be issued for not wearing a seat belt.

Primary offenses include: failure to signal a turn; speeding; running a stop sign; and operating a vehicle with an expired license tag.

"Not wearing a seat belt is a secondary non-moving violation," explained Swaney.

"You won't get any points on your driving record, but you will get a ticket and be required to pay a fine."

In addition to restraining a driver or a passenger from colliding with or going through a windshield, seat belts can also help eliminate ejections, especially in roll-over crashes.

Swaney recalled a few years ago when three young boys were heading east on Lucas Road, entered a sharp curve in the road, lost control, and rolled over into a field. The vehicle was severely damaged and all three boys were ejected. One of them went through the closed sun roof.

"Two of them were flown from the scene by helicopter," said Swaney. He added, somewhat in disbelief, "The third one was walking around the scene."

"Had they been wearing

their seat belts," he said, "they may have just been cut and bruised up."

It's also not unusual for a person to be ejected through a vehicle's rear window.

Swaney recounted one morning before dawn while on patrol on state Route 38 just north of Old Xenia Road when he noticed something that looked out of place in a bean field that was waste high with crop. It turned out to be a vehicle on its top. He heard a cry for help coming from somewhere off to the side of the vehicle.

A couple years later, the woman who was lying in that field as a result of being injected through the vehicle's rear window came up to Swaney in a restaurant one evening and thanked him for saving her life.

Swaney said he was grateful for the expression of appreciation.

On Friday morning as he recalled that fateful morning, he said, "We're always focused on protecting the lives of Madison County residents. Use your seat belt. Click it and be safe."

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 5/28	Sun 5/29	Mon 5/30	Tue 5/31	Wed 6/1
78/64 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 60s.	85/66 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.	85/67 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 60s.	86/67 Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 60s.	76/57 Scattered thunderstorms possible.
Sunrise: 6:09 AM Sunset: 8:53 PM	Sunrise: 6:09 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM	Sunrise: 6:08 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM	Sunrise: 6:08 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:07 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM

Ohio At A Glance



LOTTERY

CLEVELAND (AP) — Here are the Ohio Lottery day and night selections for Friday:

The **night** drawings were:
The **Rolling Cash 5** Numbers were: 02-05-19-20-32.
The **Pick 3** Numbers were: 3-6-1.
The **Pick 4** Numbers were: 6-7-6-4.
The **Ten-Oh** Numbers were: 01-06-07-12-15-20-24-25-30-34-35-38-51-52-58-61-63-65-69-72.

The **day** drawings were:
The **Pick 3** Numbers were: 2-3-3.
The **Pick 4** Numbers were: 6-3-3-6.
The **Ten-Oh** Numbers were: 09-11-20-21-27-29-30-32-37-38-39-43-45-46-53-54-57-66-72-76.

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been utilizing any dry days in Madison County to get out and train for the 12-day bike trip. That has been a little challenging considering how much rain the area has received lately.

"The weather has been the biggest obstacle," Heiman said. "Judy Rauch, my neighbor, has been a ray of sunshine as she has been riding with me and it's always great to have company on a ride. We have been out and got caught in the rain, and the wind can also be troubling as well. But my training has been going well."

The Plains To Lakes event was started by Marie Nemecek and Charlotte Reicks, who live in Grand Junction, Colo. Typically, they maybe the only riders who bike the entire route each year. The route is different each year and they have logged close to 20,000 miles, through 42 states, while raising over \$500,000 for the fight against Huntington's disease.

Heiman joined thanks to a suggestion by his wife Barbara, who is a social worker for the Huntington's Disease Society of America, Central Ohio Chapter. He has participated in 11 GOBA

rides and was looking for a different challenge. Now his love of cycling is also benefiting those afflicted with Huntington's disease.

Huntington's disease is a neurological, familial disease, passed from parent to child through a mutation on the fourth chromosome. Each child of an HD parent has a 50-50 chance of inheriting the gene which causes degeneration of brain cells, resulting in the loss of ability to walk, think, talk, reason and swallow. Onset generally appears at midlife, but in some, onset occurs in childhood (juvenile HD) or in old age (late onset). The disease profoundly affects the lives of entire families, as the person with HD becomes totally dependent on others for his/her care. About one in 10,000 Americans have this disease.

While current donations have reached \$10,156, there is plenty of time to help support Heiman on his Plains To Lakes ride and help those afflicted with Huntington's disease. Visit www.bike-forthecure.org, to register to donate to support Heiman's ride. Your name or organization will be posted along with

the sponsors already registered for the event. The website has much useful information on the Plains To Lakes ride and Huntington's disease, plus there will be updates and photos posted during the 12-day trip.

"Madison County has been great and I have gotten some donations from Franklin County as well," Heiman said. "People have donated as little as \$5 and as much as \$500 to support me. It is so gratifying in this economy to see so many people really reaching deep in their pockets to fight this disease."

Heiman recently decided he needed a little maintenance on his bike and realized that he just passed 34,000 miles logged on his 16-year-old bike. Clearly the next 700 miles he rides in June will have the most impact on the lives of others who are fighting the effects of Huntington's disease.

"The response from Madison County has been extraordinary," Heiman said. "I have contacted and thanked most of the people I know and to those I don't know and to *The Madison Press*, I say thank you."

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