

State Police crackdown on impaired & reckless driving Thanksgiving weekend

State Police issued nearly 14,000 tickets, arrested 212 for DWI statewide during last year's enforcement

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the New York State Police and local law enforcement agencies will participate in a special traffic enforcement initiative to crack down on unsafe driving behaviors during the Thanksgiving holiday. The special traffic enforcement period started Wednesday and runs through Sunday.

"While we expect lower traffic volumes this year due to New Yorkers taking COVID-19 precautions and limiting large gatherings, we must still ensure that those who do travel, get to their destination safely," Cuomo said. "State Troopers and local law enforcement will be out in force working to prevent needless crashes caused by those who get behind the wheel while impaired. I urge drivers to follow the law and make safety your top priority while out on the roads"

The State Police will supplement regular patrols statewide with fixed sobriety checkpoints, underage drinking enforcement, and the "Operation Hang Up" initiative, which targets distracted drivers by utilizing concealed identity traffic enforcement

(CITE) patrol vehicles to better locate drivers talking or texting on handheld devices. These unmarked vehicles blend in with everyday traffic, but are unmistakable as emergency vehicles once emergency lighting is activated.

Elevated traffic volumes typically occur during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. It is also a time when alcohol consumption increases. During the 2019 Thanksgiving holiday period, troopers arrested 212 drivers for DWI, issued 5,168 speeding tickets and 634 tickets for distracted driving. To discourage impaired driving, the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) and its partners will be participating in a nationwide social media blitz using the hashtag #BoycottBlackout-Wednesday.

Superintendent Keith M. Corlett said, "Throughout the Thanksgiving weekend, troopers will be highly visible and on the lookout for impaired and reckless drivers. Make safety your top pri-



ority - follow posted speed limits, make sure everyone is buckled up, put down your smart phones, and don't get behind the wheel if you are impaired. Planning ahead for a safe ride home is always the best choice.

GTSC Chair and DMV Commissioner Mark J. F. Schroeder said, "It is up to all of us to prevent impaired driving tragedies this holiday season, so I urge everyone to do your part to make sure our roads are safe. Be responsible, have a plan, and don't

let loved ones drive drunk or drugged, and together we can protect everyone on the roads. It's that simple."

The Thanksgiving impaired driving enforcement initiative is funded by the GTSC. It and the New York State STOP-DWI Foundation remind motorists the "Have a Plan" mobile app is available for Apple, Android and Windows smartphones. The app enables New Yorkers to locate and call a taxi or rideshare service and program a designated driver list. It also provides information on DWI laws and penalties, and provides a way to report a suspected impaired driver.

A press release said, "If you drive drunk or drugged, you not only put your life and the lives of others at risk, you could face arrest, jail time, and substantial fines and attorney fees. The average drinking and driving arrest costs up to \$10,000.

"Arrested drunk and drugged drivers face the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance

rates, and dozens of unanticipated expenses from attorney fees, fines and court costs, car towing and repairs, and lost time at work."

The New York State Police, GTSC and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommend these simple tips to prevent impaired driving:

- ✓ Plan a safe way home before the fun begins.

- ✓ Before drinking, designate a sober driver.

- ✓ If impaired, use a taxi or ride-sharing service, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.

- ✓ Use the community's sober ride program.

- ✓ If one suspects a driver is drunk or impaired on the road, don't hesitate to contact local law enforcement.

- ✓ If one knows someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

LEWISTON POLICE BLOTTER

The following activity occurred Monday, Nov. 9, to Sunday, Nov. 15, as reported by the Lewiston Police Department. LPD reported 195 response calls during this period. For more information on arrests and other activity, visit the Lewiston Police Department's mobile app or its page on Facebook.

Monday, Nov. 9

- **LPD officer, forgery** - Officer initiated call. Patrol reported taking a complaint from a male. No further information.
- **5200 block of Walmore Road, suspicious activity** - Officer initiated call. Patrol reported a large amount of smoke in the area. Fire involved burning debris behind trailers; fire controlled at this time.
- **Niagara Scenic Parkway, southbound, MVA-injuries** - Caller to 911 reported a vehicle struck a deer; no airbag deployment, male, 21, with chest pain. Patrol found the male driver swerved to miss avoiding the deer and struck a guardrail, damaging same as well as heavy front end damage to vehicle. Male transported by Lewiston No. 1 Fire Co. to Mount St. Mary's Hospital with neck, chest and back pain. Vehicle

towed. MV form completed. Report taken.

- **1600 block of Saunders Settlement Road, vehicle/traffic stop** - Officer initiated call. Patrol out with field sobriety.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

- **5000 block of Walmore Road, suspicious activity** - Officer initiated call. Patrol responded to a call of a male being shot in the woods. Patrol found the male was not struck. One juvenile male in custody. Report taken.
- **4700 block of Lower River Road, harassment** - Female caller to 911 reported a neighbor's dogs are harassing and menacing her; ongoing problem. Caller states the neighbor brought a video camera outside while letting the dogs out to menace her; complainant also has a camera in yard for security, facing neighbor's yard. Patrol found nothing criminal at this time and no report to file.
- **400 block of Oneida Street, harassment** - Caller to 911 reported a delivery driver being harassed by a resident. Suspect in a blue Ford pickup continually asking the caller about an Amazon order and holding the driver against

his will (not physically).

- **Creek Road/Scovell Drive, vehicle/traffic stop** - Officer initiated call. Rightful owner cited for speed in zone. Uniform traffic ticket issued for Lewiston Town Court.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

- **500 block of Briarwood Lane, theft** - Caller reported jewelry taken over sometime the past two to three weeks.
- **2900 block of Saunders Settlement Road, shoplifting** - Caller reported a male with stolen Tide pods in his jacket. Suspect wearing a camo jacket with a grey hoodie. Male left southbound heading toward Townline Road.
- **Upper Mountain/Military roads, vehicle/traffic stop** - Officer initiated call. Driver cited for speed in zone; vehicle clocked at 50 mph in a 35 mph zone. Uniform traffic ticket issued for Lewiston Town Court.
- **900 block of Center Street, suspicious activity** - Officer initiated call. Male party advised patrol he was going on a fishing trip the next morning in the Niagara River and he wanted to catch some sleep. Patrol found all OK.

Thursday, Nov. 12

- **400 block of N. Eighth Street, theft** - Caller to 911 reported the theft of a 16-foot aluminum ladder that was taken from the driveway sometime over the past week.
- **400 block of Lower River**

Road, forgery - Caller reported a fraud complaint; unknown if money was exchanged. Report only.

- **Locations on Walmore/Saunders Settlement roads and Lewiston Road/Meadowbrook Drive, vehicle/traffic stops** - Officer initiated calls. Included were: driver cited for speed in zone, vehicle clocked at 60 mph in a 45 mph zone; and driver, speed in zone, vehicle clocked at 60 mph in a 45 mph zone. Uniform traffic tickets issued to both drivers for Lewiston Town Court.

Friday, Nov. 13

- **Lewiston Queenston Bridge, assist** - U.S. Border Patrol reported a male attempting to drive through while under the influence of drugs; officer requested. Patrol reported one male in custody; Miranda warnings read and State Police requested for a chemical test.
- **5000 block of Walmore Road, fire** - Caller to 911 reported a garage on fire near the reservation. Responders on location.
- **Locations on Campus Parkway/Eagle Circle and Saunders Settlement/Garlow roads, vehicle/traffic stops** - Calls officer initiated. Included were: driver cited for failure to stop at a stop sign and one male in custody for aggravated unlicensed operation. Uniform traffic tickets issued for Lewiston Town Court.
- **2800 block of Niagara Street, medical call** - Caller to 911 reported a female not breathing and no pulse. Advanced Life Support responders requested.

Saturday, Nov. 14

- **1000 block of Elliott Drive, suspicious activity** - Caller

to 911 reported a blue vehicle parked in front of the residence all morning with a male inside. Patrol spoke with the rightful owner who said he was out of gas and was waiting for AAA to respond.

- **5700 block of West Street, damage to property** - Caller reported an unknown person broke a window on a vehicle; it doesn't appear anything was taken. Patrol spoke with complainant and observed damage to the rear driver side window. Report to be completed; patrol cleared.
- **5400 block of Walmore Road, suspicious activity** - Caller to 911 reported a male with a rifle walking in the woods. Caller said a cashier confronted the male who then got into a silver Chevy Silverado and headed southbound on Walmore Road.
- **700 block of Center Street, suspicious activity** - Caller reported a subject in a black SUV who had been inside the vehicle for an hour and a half.

Sunday, Nov. 15

- **Saunders Settlement/Walmore roads, vehicle/traffic stop** - Officer initiated call. Patrol reported two parties had jumped out of the vehicle and were dancing.
- **500 block of Lake Road, 911 hang-up** - Dispatch reported the female caller answered on the call-back but was highly hysterical.
- **5900 block of Garlow Road, noise complaint** - Anonymous caller reported loud music coming from the garage. Male party involved stated he would turn down the music; male also reported yelling in his backyard, cursing the neighbors out for calling on him.

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