



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



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This St. Patrick's Day, spread the word: The Luck o' the Irish won't save you from a DUI

Bloomington, IL - St. Patrick's Day will be here before we know it, bringing with it parades, parties, green beer and more to communities throughout the state. To remind motorists of the dangers of impaired driving and to help keep our streets safe, The Bloomington Police Department is teaming up with the Illinois State Police and Illinois Department of Transportation for a stepped-up traffic safety campaign.

"St. Patrick's Day is a day to celebrate, for fellowship, and to have fun with family and friends. We encourage all our residents to do so responsibly and to avoid operating a motor vehicle if you choose to consume alcoholic beverages beyond legal limitations. Let's get through this holiday with no crashes or fatalities." said Chief Jamal Simington.

In addition to looking for alcohol- and cannabis-impaired drivers, the Bloomington Police Department will be stepping up seat belt enforcement, particularly at night when seat belt usage rates are lowest. Speeding, distracted driving and all traffic laws will be strictly enforced.

Whether you're attending a party, hosting friends or going out to a bar, keep safety at the forefront of your day and night. When it's time to leave, make sure your designated driver is sober. Remember that walking impaired can also be dangerous, so designate a sober friend to walk home with you. Designated drivers: Be alert for impaired walkers who may not obey street signs. It's not about luck, it's about smart decisions.

Other important tips:

- Drunk or high, it doesn't matter. It is never okay to drive impaired. Designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement.
- Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and plan to get your friend home safely.
- Always buckle up!

The St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered by IDOT.



Media Contact:

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If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

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