

PRESS RELEASE

December 23, 2008

Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. Announces *ArriveSafe*

In 2007 there were nearly 13,000 alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the U.S. - one alcohol-related fatality every 40 minutes. This represents nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2007 in Ohio there were 391 alcohol-related fatalities. Here in Montgomery County, 31 people died as a result of alcohol-related crashes during 2007. Thankfully, so far in 2008 there have only been 3 alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

The holidays are supposed to be a time of celebration and joy. However, far too many in our community have lost a loved one due to an alcohol-related traffic crash. The real tragedy is the fact that *every one* of the alcohol-related injuries and deaths were completely avoidable. Had the alcohol impaired driver never made the decision to get behind the wheel, all of those deaths and injuries would have been prevented.

The *ArriveSafe* program will again be offered over the holidays. If you are going to celebrate the holidays with alcohol, either have a designated driver or call *ArriveSafe* and we will provide you with a free cab ride home. If we can remove just one impaired driver, it makes our streets safer for all of us.

My office, along with AAA Miami Valley and the Southwestern Ohio Affiliate of MADD have teamed up to again provide this service. Starting this Wednesday, December 24th at 6 p.m. simply call 449-9999 and ask for an *ArriveSafe* cab to take you safely home. The ride will cost you nothing.

This service is being offered from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. on Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26 and Saturday, December 27 as well as Wednesday, December 31, Thursday, January 1, Friday, January 2 and Saturday, January 3. The program will provide a ride from your location to your home, up to \$50, and is available to all residents of Montgomery County.

