

**Milledgeville Police Department**

*Office of Public Relations  
Public Information Officer  
Felicia Cummings*

**Contact Information**

*PIO F. Cummings  
(478) 414-4012 office  
(478) 456-0048 work cell*



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Division:** Patrol

**Milledgeville PD on alert for holiday period**

Officials with the Milledgeville Police Department (MPD) remind motorists to begin planning now if they will be traveling during the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Every year during the Memorial Day holiday travel period, law enforcement agencies in Georgia join forces for an enforcement blitz. MPD patrol officers will be in high alert during this time due to the increased number of motorists on Milledgeville's roads.

"Roads will be busier than usual, with the holiday weekend bringing in the more traffic, so our officers plan to be out in full force," said Milledgeville Police Chief Dray Swicord.

The holiday travel period will start May 27 at 6:00 p.m. and will end at midnight on Memorial Day.

In addition to increased enforcement during this time, MPD patrol officers will also participate in the Click It or Ticket campaign.

"In the coming days, officers will be patrolling during peak travel times, strictly enforcing seat belt laws and keeping an eye out for impaired drivers," said Major John Davis, MPD's Patrol Commander.

The Click It or Ticket campaign is a nationwide initiative sponsored by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). During the campaign, which is slated from May 15-June 4, MPD patrol officers along with traffic enforcement officers in the department's Specialized Patrol Unit will be stepping up seatbelt and child safety restraint enforcement in an effort to increase seatbelt usage and save lives.

"Every day, unbuckled motorists are losing their lives in motor vehicle crashes. As we approach the Memorial Day holiday, we want to make sure people are doing the one thing that can save them in a crash — buckling up." Davis said.

Davis also reminds motorists that 100 Days of Summer H.E.A.T. enforcement campaigns are also underway for the holiday period.

“The Summer H.E.A.T. program has been very successful in specifically targeting driving behaviors that lead to motor vehicle accidents. We have seen the program's success as a reduction in the number of accidents over the past few years and we want to continue striving for safe roadways for the citizens and visitors of Milledgeville,” Davis said.

H.E.A.T is a 4-month program focused on traffic enforcement of high speed, aggressive and distracted driving. The program is intended to reduce the number of unsafe motorists and traffic accidents. Milledgeville H.E.A.T. will last until late August and will focus traffic operations on roadways with high numbers of citizen complaints and traffic accidents.

100 Days of Summer H.E.A.T. is slated to begin Monday, May 21 and lasts till Sept 3.

Through Click It or Ticket, Summer H.E.A.T., and the upcoming Memorial Day holiday travel period, the most important thing to remember is to be a safe and responsible driver.

“The Milledgeville Police Department wishes all citizens a safe Memorial holiday as they enjoy time with family and friends, but we also want to make sure everyone has a safe holiday. The best advice we can give is to be alert and drive cautiously so that everyone on the road can make it through another holiday travel period safely,” Swicord said.

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