

Milledgeville Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Milledgeville PD gears up for Summer H.E.A.T.

Officials with Milledgeville Police Department's Specialized Patrol Unit (SPU) are preparing for another round of 100 Days of Summer H.E.A.T. H.E.A.T. stands for Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic and is a traffic safety campaign provided by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS). GOHS's 100 Days of Summer H.E.A.T. initiative will begin May 21 and last till Sept. 3. The statewide initiative is intended to reduce the number of injuries, traffic accidents and fatalities on Georgia highways with enforcement and education on speeding, DUI, seatbelt usage, and aggressive driving.

"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," said Maj. John Davis, MPD patrol commander.

During H.E.A.T, a new location is chosen, based on collected data from traffic statistics.

The Milledgeville PD H.E.A.T. program will focus traffic operations on roadways with high numbers of citizen complaints and traffic accidents. Traffic operations will be spearheaded by MPD's Specialized Patrol Unit.

"Overall enforcement during H.E.A.T. in past years has had a positive impact on the City of Milledgeville. Yes, we still enforce traffic laws and write citations to violators, but we have increased efforts to educate, inform and become more involved in the community, which goes a long way," said Lt. Reenae Gray, SPU's head supervisor.

The program includes strict traffic enforcement and the distribution of educational materials by patrol officers.

This campaign applies to drivers of all ages.

During the month of August, MPD officers move H.E.A.T. operations to school zones.

"During the summer, there are kids out of school and families traveling for vacation. Then right around the corner, school starts and you have parents on the road trying to get their kids to school. This is why we want to make sure these families and these motorists are safe on the roads at all times. We want to look out for people who are putting them in danger," said Officer Davis Descoteaux, a member of the SPU team.

To kick the program off, Gray and Descoteaux conducted a road check on Barrows Ferry Road May 2, checking licenses, watching out for seatbelt violations and handing out pamphlets about the H.E.A.T. campaign.

"100 Days of H.E.A.T. gets people to pay closer attention to their driving habits. That's a good thing for long-term-highway safety," Gray said. "If we can encourage drivers to use seatbelts, follow speeding laws, and not to drink and drive, we will improve the safety of our roads here in Milledgeville tremendously."

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