



Safe Communities Newsletter

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Spring 2016 Edition

Promoting Safety: Walk and Bike to School Day 2016

According to Safe Kids Worldwide, unintentional pedestrian injuries are the fifth leading cause of injury-related fatalities in the United States for children ages 5 to 19. As kids get older, they are anxious for a little more freedom when walking to school or in their neighborhood.

Safe Communities of DeKalb partners with REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) to promote safe walking and cycling to school. Safe Communities assisted three DeKalb County elementary schools and one middle school with



Right to left: Stephanie Irvin (Safe Communities), Ride Share Bear (Georgia Commute Options), and Richard Stephens (REACH).

their Walk to School Day. Thank you Columbia Elementary, Snapfinger Elementary, Toney Elementary and

Mary McLeod Bethune Middle school for participating in this year's event. Each school had great participation from students and staff. In total, **437** walkers and **5** bikers participated in this year's event. One step closer to a healthier DeKalb.

During the month of May, each school will be hosting another Walk to School day to end the 2015-2016 school year. Not only is this a healthy alternative for students, it is also better for the environment.

Spring Safety Tips:

- ☺ Wear a helmet when riding a bike
- ☺ Teach kids at an early age about walking safely to school or in the neighborhood.
- ☺ Set a good example and buckle up for every ride.
- ☺ Put all distractions away when driving.



***Events will be held at 445 Winn Way, Decatur, GA*

Take the Pledge: Don't TEXT and DRIVE.

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts the driver's attention from the primary task of driving. All forms of distracted driving endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. At any given moment

across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady for years. Distracted driving has be-

come a deadly epidemic on America's roadways.

[Take the pledge:](#)

Stay Alive



don't text & drive

Source: NHTSA

Date	Event
May 16-20	Click it or Ticket Campaign
May 25	P.R.I.D.E class (Located at Chamblee Civic Center)
June 3	Safe Routes to School Forum (Located in Atlanta)
June 9	**CPS 101
June 17	Car Seat Check with Emory PD
June 18	Fun Day @ Northlake Mall

**For more information on
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**It's all about saving lives."
-John Hardee**



Get a Car Seat Check: Make appointment TODAY.

Safe Communities of DeKalb wants all children to travel safely in cars. Installing a car seat for younger children and babies can be a challenge. Child passenger safety (CPS) technicians in your community can check to make sure your car seats are installed correctly and teach you how to use and install a car seat on your own.

To make an appointment with a CPS technician, please call 404-508-7884 or 404-294-3719.



For more information on ways to prevent child heatstroke in cars, visit: www.safercar.gov

Click it or Ticket: The choice is YOURS.

Motor vehicle crashes is one of the leading cause of death among those aged 1-54 in the U.S. In DeKalb County, more than 29,000 drivers and passengers were treated in emergency departments as the result of being injured in motor vehicle crashes from 2008 to 2012, according to the Status of Health in DeKalb Report. Adult seat belt use is the most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes. Yet, millions of people do not wear their seat belts on every trip in a motor vehicle.

Seat belts reduce serious motor vehicle crash-related injuries and deaths by about half. Air bags provide added protection, but is not an alternate for

a seat belt. Air bags plus seat belts provide the greatest protection for adults.

Click it or Ticket (CIOT) is the most successful seat belt enforcement campaign ever, helping create a seat belt usage rate of around 90 percent.

Across Georgia, day or night, the message is simple: **Click It or Ticket.**



Simple as 1-2-3:

1. Make sure everyone has on a seatbelt on before taking the car out of park.
2. Children under the age 12 should be in the back seat.
3. Children under 8 should be in a proper child restraint based on height and weight.

CIOT info link: <http://www.gahighwaysafety.org/campaigns/click-it-or-ticket/>