



PRESS RELEASE

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Capital Area OWI Task Force finishes year with numerous arrests

The Capital Area OWI Task Force, a multi-agency approach to curbing impaired driving, finished the 2013 budget year last week with thirteen arrests for operating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Task Force consists of several Dane County police agencies, including the City of Madison, Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Town of Madison, Verona, and the Wisconsin State Patrol.

All these agencies have agreed to work together to provide a highly visible presence in each other's communities to not only actively look for impaired drivers, but to also bring awareness to the dangers of drunk and impaired driving through prevention. The goal of the task force is to reduce alcohol related crashes throughout the Dane County area and reach our goal of "Zero in Wisconsin".

Throughout the summer and early fall, officers from each agency worked together in a selected community to provide extra enforcement during the late night hours of weekend nights. The task force is partially funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Traffic Safety.

Officers made approximately 690 traffic stops resulting in 170 citations including 13 for OWI and 42 for Operating while revoked or suspended. Other citations were for violations including seatbelts, child restraints, speeding, open intoxicants, vehicle insurance, and vehicle registration violations. There were also ten drug related arrests as well as three warrant arrests including one felony warrant.

The OWI Task Force is in the planning stages for the next 12 month period and to expand to possibly include more communities.

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