



News Release

Lexington County Sheriff James R. Metts, Ed.D.

P.O. Box 639, Lexington, S.C. 29071

www.lexingtonsheriff.com

(803) 785-8230 Fax 785-2410

24-hour Press Box
799-2001, Ext. 1100
Release # 07-07-206

Contact: Major John Allard
PIO Office & 24-hour messages
Phone: (803) 785-2415
E-MAIL: jallard@lex-co.com

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6:45 p.m. (For immediate release)

CAR DEALERSHIP PROVIDES VEHICLE TO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

At 10 a.m. on Monday, July 2, Lexington County Sheriff James R. Metts will accept a 2007 Mazda CX-7 sport-utility vehicle on behalf of the Lexington County Sheriff's Department from Wray Automotive Mazda-Volkswagen. W. Harold Wray, who owns Wray Automotive, will present the vehicle to the sheriff at the car dealership at 655 Broad River Road, Columbia.

The 2007 Mazda CX-7 will be driven by a deputy who serves as statewide coordinator of a driver safety program for teen-agers that is sponsored by the South Carolina chapter of the National Safety Council, Metts said. The National Safety Council on Monday will contract with the Sheriff's Department to coordinate implementation of the Alive@25 program in high schools across South Carolina. The cost for the four-hour driver safety class is \$35 per student.

The Sheriff's Department has received a \$1,000 grant from Wal-Mart that will enable the agency to pay the \$35 fee for 28 students from Lexington County to attend the four-hour driver safety program, Metts said. Parents and students who want additional information about the grant can call Lt. Jim Crawford, supervisor of the Sheriff's Department Traffic Division, at (803) 785-8230 or e-mail Crawford at jcrawford@lex-co.com.

Metts was the first law enforcement administrator in South Carolina to support Alive@25, which teaches teen-agers defensive driving tactics and other safety techniques. Teen-agers who complete the program are 96 percent less likely to be killed in a vehicle crash than youths who do not enroll in the program, according to the National Safety Council. Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teen-agers in the United States.
