



News Release

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SHERIFF SERVES AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR DINNER TO BENEFIT ALIVE AT 25 SAFE DRIVER PROGRAM

Lexington County Sheriff James R. Metts will serve as the keynote speaker for a dinner on Wednesday, November 7 to benefit the Alive at 25 safe driver program that is sponsored by the South Carolina chapter of the National Safety Council. The Lexington County Sheriff's Department is coordinating implementation of the program across South Carolina under a contract with the state chapter of the National Safety Council.

The benefit dinner for the Alive at 25 program will be held at 6:30 p.m. on November 7 at the Corley Mill House and Garden, 221 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, Metts said. The cost is \$50 per person, and seating will be limited to 100 people. Citizens who want to purchase tickets for the dinner can contact Sgt. Terry Snead with the National Safety Council at (803) 732-6778.

So far this year, 2,500 high school students have completed the 4.5-hour Alive at 25 safe driver program that has been taught at schools across South Carolina, Metts said. All students who have parking permits in Lexington County School District One must complete the program.

The Alive at 25 program also will be offered to students who attend Chapin High School, Dutch Fork High School and Irmo High School in School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, Metts said. The Alive at 25 program also is offered to young adults who participate in the Alcohol Education Program in twelve out of the sixteen judicial circuits in South Carolina.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teen-agers in the nation, Metts said. Unlike traditional driver education classes that focus on the mechanics of driving, Alive at 25 addresses drivers' behavior.

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The Alive at 25 program promotes good decision-making, Metts said. It also provides teen-agers with the tools that they need to drive safely in an environment shaped by peer pressure.

In a recent study by the Colorado State Patrol, 93 percent of participants in the Alive at 25 program report that they will change their driving behavior as a result of completing the course. Citizens can obtain information about the Alive at 25 program and other safety information by accessing the web site for the state chapter of the National Safety Council at **www.scnsc.org**.

NOTE: Two brochures on the benefit dinner can be transmitted by e-mail. Please contact Major John Allard to request copies of the brochures.