

REGION

News from the surrounding areas

Northern SCHUYLKILL



MIA LIGHT/Standard-Speaker

Driving Technology Systems Inc. of Pottsville joined the national Click It or Ticket campaign this week in partnership with the North Central Highway Safety Network Inc. With a Pottsville City police cruiser bearing one of the new reflective magnetic display boards are, from left: Ed Boothman, Buckle Up Pennsylvania Seat Belt Law Enforcement Liaison; Carole Alonge, North Central Highway Safety Network Inc. highway safety project coordinator; Pottsville City Patrolman Jim Englert and Tim Rader, owner of Driving Technology Systems Inc.

Company promotes seat belt campaign

By MIA LIGHT

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Enforcing traffic safety laws is one of a police officer's most important responsibilities.

In fact, statistics show that encouraging safe driving practices can potentially save more lives than reducing violent crime.

Saving lives is at the heart of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's partnership in the national "Click It or Ticket" initiative, which encourages the use of seat belts when riding in a car.

A Pottsville company stepped up to the plate this week to help reinforce the Click It or Ticket message by providing local police departments with reflective magnetic display signs that adhere to police vehicles and proclaim the passenger safety slogan.

Driving Technology Systems Inc. of Pottsville introduced its magnetic message displays to the Pottsville Police Department on Tuesday in a presentation held at the Pottsville office of the North Central Highway Safety Network Inc. The attention-grabbing displays shine day or night with 3M Diamond Grade Reflection, alerting drivers to special initiatives launched for traffic safety programs. And because the Click It or Ticket campaign is a national one, the Driving Technology Systems' reflective message boards are customizable to be state specific so they're usable in Pennsylvania, California, Texas, Alaska, Florida, Maine or any other state across the nation. "What makes this project rewarding for us is that we're able to use a local company to develop materials and equipment that we're using state-wide, and also that they're able to use this across the country," said Mark Alonge of the North Central Highway Safety Network. "The 'Click it or Ticket' campaign has seen great success in increasing safety belt use, and so we are always looking for opportunities to spread the 'Click it or Ticket' message throughout the United States," Alonge said. The magnetic message boards developed by Driving Technology Systems are "exactly what is needed to increase the visibility during patrols," Alonge said.

"The magnetic 'Click it or Ticket' display sign on moving patrol vehicles is an effective and low cost method of spreading this important message," he said. The magnetic displays are available to every Schuylkill County police departments that receives Buck Up PA grant funding. And the North Central Highway Safety Network is making the reflective magnetic displays available to municipal police departments that do not receive Buckle Up PA funding.

For more information on Driving Technology Systems Inc. and the reflective magnetic displays, visit www.drivingtechnology.com, or call 622-4421.

Zoning report

Testimony finishes in w application; zoners defe

Testimony finished Monday evening before the Schuylkill County Zoning Hearing Board on an energy company's application to build 13 wind turbine towers.

Green Energy Products Inc., Weston Place, Shenandoah, is seeking board approval to construct 13 wind turbine towers to generate electricity for sale to utilities on land leased from Girard Estates in Mahanoy and East Union townships. The board, which met at the courthouse in Pottsville, deferred a decision until a later date.

The presentation of its proposal was concluded by experts presenting testimony in the fields of environment, zoning, land planning, real estate and economic development. All told the board the project would not have a negative impact.

Margaret Kear, of Minersville, an environmental specialist who is also serving on the steering committee appointed by the Schuylkill County commissioners, reported the committee, in its final draft of revising the county's comprehensive land use plan, said development of wind towers should be encouraged.

The plan is not official, as this is only a proposal being made by the committee. The plan still has to be adopted by the county planning commission and the commissioners, which will take several months.

Charles Schmehl, of Bethlehem, zoning and land planning specialist, told of visiting a wind farm in Weymart, Wayne Township, which has 42 wind towers on two hilly sites and the closest private home 1,000 feet away.

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Police log

Two sustain minor injuries in c

A Mahanoy City resident and a Pottsville woman sustained minor injuries when their vehicles collided along Roy in Branch Township, Schuylkill County, Jan. 3.

State police at Schuylkill Haven said Santino M. N 31, and Janet Putalavage were wearing seat belts at the 11:30 a.m. accident.

Troopers said Putalavage was traveling west and stopped to turn onto a side road when Napoli's 2005 Caravan minivan struck the right rear of her 1998 Bu Skylark.

Napoli was unable to stop in time when approach intersection, troopers said.

Both motorists were treated at The Pottsville Hos and Warne Clinic and released.

Police, firefighters and ambulance personnel from ersville assisted at the scene.

Trooper M.J. Luckenbill Jr. said both motorists wo cited for traffic violations.

Out-of-town man injured in acc

A Chambersburg man suffered minor injuries when his truck crashed along Interstate 81 in Delano Township Monday evening, state police at Frackville

a curve and lost cont the 1988 GMC box tr vehicle yawed across lanes, rolled onto its ger side and slid part a dirt embankment i