



Board of County Commissioners
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camden County "Teens in the Driver Seat"



WOODBINE, GEORGIA – May 4, 2015 – At the 30th Annual Crawfish Festival held in Woodbine, a group of high school students were busy handing out information on driving safety and encouraging everyone to sign a pledge not to drink and drive or text while driving. In an effort to get the word out about underage drinking, these teenagers took it upon themselves to help educate the Camden community.

The group, known as "Healthy Camden," teamed up with the Georgia Department of Transportation and Camden Community Alliance & Resources, Inc. to promote *Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS)*. On their website, www.t-driver.com, TDS says car crashes kill more young people than any other cause, accounting for nearly half of all teen deaths in America each year. *Teens in the Driver Seat* is working to lower this number by utilizing the powerful voices of its teens.

The teenage members of Healthy Camden help shape the program and are responsible for implementing it in the schools and community in order to educate their peers and parents about driving risk. Healthy Camden also promotes Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws that help to keep teens safe. Car crashes are the #1 killer of teens in America. Many of the causes include driving at night or while drowsy; not wearing a seat belt; speeding and street racing; driving while under the influence; and distractions such as texting and passengers.

According to an article published in August 2014 by USA Today, parents are a distraction for their children when driving. The research found about 53% of teens who talked on the phone behind the wheel talked to a parent and 46% talked to a friend. This is mostly due to parents keeping track of their teen and expecting their teen to answer the phone when they call. Parents need to be reminded that children are under our influence. (Text messages were more likely to go to friends than parents.)

"Leadership that Listens"

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Camden Community Alliance & Resources, Inc. is a local non-profit and the official planning agency for improving the lives of family and children. In a recent survey, they found 86% of Camden County High School students think that their parents should be the ones to tell them about the dangers of underage alcohol consumption. Additionally, survey results also revealed that 76% of Camden County High School students choose not to drink.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to commend the teenagers at Camden County High School and everyone involved with the “Healthy Camden” and “Teens in the Driver Seat” campaign for wanting to be part of the majority and educate the community while encouraging their peers to drive safe. The Board of Commissioners are proud to have the younger generation of Camden County taking steps to educate, encourage and support their peers in every way possible about the hazards of driving.

Teen’s Pledge: I make this pledge, both bold and brave, so someone’s life I will help to save. Watch my speed, stay awake and know the difference a drink can make. Buckle up and avoid distractions – like texting, cell phones – such deadly actions. Golden rules, simply five, strive to keep our drive alive.

Most teens and parents are unaware of the driving restrictions imposed on them by the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws. For more information please go to <http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/bystate/ga.html>. If you would like to find out more about Teens in the Driver Seat go to www.t-driver.com for information, videos, print outs and more.

For additional information, please contact Camden County at 912.576.5601 or visit our website at www.camdencountyga.gov.

About Camden County: Located in the extreme southeast corner of Georgia, Camden County truly is “Georgia’s Coastal Community of Choice.” Originally formed in 1777, Camden County is best known for its rich history, natural scenic beauty and Southern hospitality. Our mission is to deliver defined county services with exceptional customer service and in a financially sustainable and transparent manner.

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