**West Traffic Division**
**October 2015**
**Captain's Message**

Child and Pedestrian Safety is the focus of Traffic Education and Enforcement for the month of October.  October has been designated as "*International Walk to School Month*."  The following events are being sponsored by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) during the month of October.  West Traffic Division (WTD) officers, and those assigned to the various Areas within the City of Los Angeles, will be conducting educational and enforcement activities in support of these special events:

- "**Drive Safely Work Week**" is scheduled for **October 5 – 9, 2015**.  This campaign is sponsored by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS).  For more information go to http://trafficsafety.org/dsww-2015-materials-now-available .

- "**Walk/Bike to School Day**" is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 7, 2015**.  In the USA and Canada, International Walk to School Day galvanizes visibility for walking and bicycling to school.  Over time, this event has been part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration – with record breaking participation - each October.  Today, thousands of schools across America and in more than 40 countries worldwide celebrate walking to school every October.  This campaign is sponsored by the National Center for Safe Routes to Schools.  For more information go to www.walkbiketoschool.org/ .

- "**National School Bus Safety Week**" is scheduled for **October 19 – 23, 2015**.  Designed to promote school bus safety, school districts throughout the country observe this campaign the third week in October each year.  National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties - to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety.  This campaign is sponsored by the National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT).  For more information go to www.safercar.gov/parents/OnTheMove/SchoolBuses.htm as well as www.napt.org/ .

- "**National Teen Driver Safety Week**" is scheduled for **October 19 – 25, 2015**.  This campaign is dedicated to raising awareness and seeking solutions to preventable teen deaths and injuries on the road.  This year's theme is "*Avoid the Regret – Avoid Impaired Driving*."  The Center for Injury Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is joining with the NHTSA to promote this theme during the campaign week and throughout the year.  For more information go to www.teendrivesource.org/ .

-  "*Halloween California Avoid DUI Task Force Enforcement Campaign*" is scheduled for **October 30 – 31, 2015**.  Even if you've had just a little to drink, you can still get a DUI and be involved in a crash.  Only drive when you are sober.  Too many people wait until they've been drinking to figure out their ride home.  By then, it's too late to make a clear-headed decision.  You might think you're just "buzzed" and that you're "okay to

drive," but remember this: *Buzzed Driving IS Drunk Driving.*  For more information, go to
www.nhtsa.gov/StopImpairedDriving

The **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Conference & Expo** is
scheduled for October 24-27 in Orlando, FL.  For more information, go to
(*http://www.theiacp.org/*).  The **International Forum on Traffic Records and Highway Safety
Information Systems** is scheduled for October 25-28 in Costa Mesa, CA.  For more information,
go to (*http://www.atsip.org/*).

**HALLOWEEN SAFETY**

In California, Halloween pedestrian deaths are double the average, with more than half
involving alcohol or drugs. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in
2011, 44 percent of all highway fatalities nationwide during the Halloween period involved a
driver with a blood alcohol concentration at or above the legal limit of .08 percent. This
Halloween, motorists, partygoers and hosts should take the following tips into consideration
when planning their celebrations:

- Designate a sober driver or a sober friend to drive you home.  Also, save the number of
  a cab company in your phone before heading out for the night.
- Avoid driving through residential areas where trick-or-treaters are likely to be present.
- Turn on your headlights to make yourself more visible – even in daylight.
- Obey all traffic signs, signals and laws. The risk of killing a pedestrian increases even with
  just a small increase in speed. A pedestrian is nearly twice as likely to be killed when hit
  by a car going 30 mph compared to one traveling at 25 mph.
- Party hosts should have plenty of food on hand to avoid having to leave once the party
  has started and guests have begun drinking. Hosts should offer non-alcoholic drink
  choices for their guests and designated drivers. Never allow a guest to leave your party
  drunk to drive anywhere.

Parents need to take an active role on Halloween:

- Plan the route ahead of time, try and aim for well-lit streets, avoid high traffic areas and
  busy streets.
- Choose costumes that make it easy for your kids to walk and be seen by drivers - light
  colored costumes are the best choice.
- For darker-colored costumes, use retro-reflective tape to help make your child well-seen
  by drivers.  Be creative in applying the tape to make it fun and easy to be seen.
- Masks can sometimes obstruct a child's path of vision, so make sure that when crossing
  the street they remove it or consider using makeup instead of a mask for added safety.
- It's best to trick-or-treat when it's still light outside, but if you find yourselves out after
  dark carry a flashlight so that trick-or-treaters can see and so that drivers can see them.
- Don't run!  Always walk and make sure the kids do too.
- Cross only at corners and never cross between parked cars or in the middle of a block.
- Wait until you get home to sort, check and eat treats. Even if you're not behind the
  wheel, it is still important to remember to remain alert when near roads and busy areas.

▪ Remember, even if you see a car, they may not be able to see you or your child until it's too late.

Making smart choices this Halloween will help ensure that everyone's holiday ends well. Recipes for non-alcoholic designated driver drinks, or "DDrinks," are available at the OTS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CaliforniaOTS. For more information on all OTS efforts, visit [www.ots.ca.gov](www.ots.ca.gov) .

**COMMUNITY AND OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of motorists and pedestrians to observe all traffic laws as described in the California Vehicle Code (CVC). It is the responsibility of the Police Department to inform the community on the importance of traffic safety and to enforce the rules of the road as described in the CVC. The combined efforts of the community and the Police Department will help ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians throughout the City.

***The police should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.***

The Community Traffic Services Unit (CTSU) is one of WTD's specialized units, which works to resolve particular community concerns. If you have traffic safety concerns in a particular area, you may contact CTSU at 213-473-0215 or WTD at 213-473-0222 to voice your concerns. Also, please see the CTSU Web Section listed as part of the West Traffic Division Newsletter Web Page.

The areas within Operations-West Bureau and WTD are Hollywood Area, Wilshire Area, Pacific Area, West Los Angeles Area, and Olympic Area. Any of the geographical areas' WebPages can be accessed via LAPDOnline. Please check the Crime Prevention Circular for the areas that are of particular interest to you.

**Traffic Tips**
  * **Look both ways twice before crossing the street.**
  * **Always wear your seatbelt.**
  * **Don't drink and drive.**
  * **Don't use handheld devices such as cell phones, MP3 players nor GPS units while driving.**
  * **Please slow down. Speed kills.**
  * **Watch out for pedestrians crossing streets in and outside of crosswalks, especially at night.**

Captain Valencia Thomas
Commanding Officer
West Traffic Division