



Southwest Michigan Safe Communities Steering Committee of Van Buren County

Seat Belt Super Bowl

The Southwest Michigan Safe Communities Steering Committee of Van Buren County is happy to announce the successful conclusion of the **Seat Belt Super Bowl**. This is the first of three challenges that will be conducted with the high schools of Van Buren County. This challenge was extremely successful and we are grateful for all the help and support we received from AAA of Michigan, the local police agencies and the high school principals and their staff. Credit should also be given to the students that were involved with the promotion and data collection in their schools. We also want to thank the many area merchants who donated compliance prizes that were distributed to students who were observed wearing their seat belts.

The first Seat Belt Challenge was held last year between the Paw Paw and Mattawan High Schools with Mattawan winning that contest. This year it was decided to expand the program to all the county high schools and do three challenges spread over the 2004-2005 school year. The first was the **Seat Belt Super Bowl** the second one will be the **March Madness Challenge** and the final challenge will be called the **Grad Bash Challenge**.

In the last few years there has been a number of serious traffic crashes involving young drivers. A few of these crashes involved multiple fatalities as a result of the occupants being ejected from the auto. We are hoping to reduce the severity of the injuries and the number of fatalities by increasing seat belt usage of our younger drivers.

Here is the final count:

SCHOOL	YES	NO	%	PREVIOUS %	% CHANGE
GOBLES	150	25	85.7	85.5	+0.2
BLOOMINGDALE	134	37	78.3	81.4	-3.1
BANGOR	223	2	99.1	90.4	+8.7
COVERT	65	17	79.2	74.1	+5.1
DECATUR	273	58	82.4	85.1	-2.7
LAWTON	109	10	91.5	89.8	+1.7
HARTFORD	227	83	73.2	77.0	-3.8
LAWRENCE	107	25	81.0	79.6	+1.4
MATTAWAN	366	7	98.1	91.6	+6.5
PAW PAW	413	1	99.7	89.6	+10.1
SOUTH HAVEN	351	20	94.6	92.6	+2.0

New High School Average = 87.5% which is up from 85.1% **(2.4% increase)** in just 1 month - GREAT JOB!

OVERALL WINNER PAW PAW HIGH SCHOOL @ 99.7% !!!!!

MOST IMPROVED PAW PAW HIGH SCHOOL @ 10.1%

SCHOOL V.S. SCHOOL WINNERS:

GOBLES (85.7%) beat BLOOMINGDALE(78.3%)

BANGOR (99.1%) beat COVERT (79.2%)

LAWTON (91.5%) beat DECATUR (82.4%)

LAWRENCE (81.0%) beat HARTFORD (73.2%)

PAW PAW (99.7%) beat MATTAWAN (98.1%) and SOUTH HAVEN (94.6%)

Congratulations to all the schools involved and we look forward to round two:

High School MARCH MADNESS Seat Belt Challenge.

Please visit the Van Buren County Road Commission's web site: <http://www.vbco.org/government558225.asp>. You will find additional information, final results and updates for all the Seat Belt Challenges.