

The Time To Think Safe Teenage Driving Is Right Now

Bulletin Board Paid Service of The Leader/Times

May 22, 2001, Scotch Plains - The warmer temperatures of Spring are here - bringing the Prom season, beach season and other recreational opportunities for teenagers. Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company believes now is also the perfect time for parents to focus on safety when it comes to regulating the driving practices of their teenage children, an age-group closely associated with risky road behavior. Citing statistical facts which show that while young drivers comprise only 7% of the population, they account for about 14% of motor vehicle deaths, Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company urges parents to take precautionary steps to help their children avoid potentially dangerous situations.

Richard C. Crist, Jr., President of Allstate New Jersey, said, "Traffic accidents are the number one cause of death for 15-20 year-olds. This statistic and others numbers paint a clear picture. There are just more risks associated with teen driving."

Nelson Espeland, Exclusive Agent said, "With many teens involved in serious alcohol-related accidents, it's the perfect time to focus on ways to reduce underage drinking and driving, as well as other risk factors." Espeland added, "Immaturity combined with lack of driving experience, tendency to speed, following too closely, driving too fast for the road condition at hand or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, are factors associated with teenage drivers." Parents can take precautions such as:

- A limit on the number of passengers - teens are likely to have difficulty concentrating on the road with music, laughter, food and other distractions, all of which increase with number of passengers.
- Limit or supervise driving during high-risk periods - statistics show that the highest number of accidents occurs Friday and Saturday night, as well as early Saturday and Sunday morning.
- Geographical restrictions - require teens to obtain special permission if they plan to travel outside the parents' designated geographical area.

Allstate New Jersey promotes the "Graduated Licensing Law (GDL)," signed by former Governor Christie Whitman and which went into effect on the first of this year.

Espeland explained, "Graduated licensing means that as teens gain experience and prove themselves to be good drivers, before graduating to less restrictions and more privileges." The Garden State GDL law established a graduated driver licensing system requiring teenage drivers:

- To hold their learners' permits for a year.
- And then hold a provisional license for a year, before becoming eligible for an unrestricted license when they reach age 18.

Additional provisions include:

- A midnight-to-5 a.m. driving curfew.
- A limit to the number of under-age passengers, and penalties for permit holders and provisional licensees who accumulate more than two points related to driving violations.
- And penalties for permit holders and provisional licensees who accumulate more than two points related to driving violations.

Crist noted, "As the father of a teenage driver, I take these facts very seriously. There is lost human potential and grieving families behind all of those statistics. Therefore, I dedicate Allstate New Jersey to helping reduce the risk of these tragedies befalling any family."

"Through Allstate New Jersey, I'm able to offer a Teen Prom/Party Kit, a video on safe teen driving (the High Risk Years) and a number of other informational brochures, pamphlets and resources," Espeland added. "These materials are perfect for community groups and other organizations that are working to educate parents and teens."

Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company, headquartered in Bridgewater, NJ, was established in 1937 by the Allstate Insurance Company as a separate and distinct company to service the unique needs of consumers in the New Jersey insurance marketplace. Allstate New Jersey is a major provider of auto, home, commercial and Motor Club insurance products. The Allstate Financial Group provides life insurance, retirement and investment products and services through Allstate New Jersey agents. Allstate New Jersey's many sales agents and experienced claim professionals are conveniently located throughout the Garden State. Allstate Insurance Company is no longer licensed, and does not write business, in New Jersey.

Letters to the Editor

Letter Carriers Thank Patrons for Supporting Food Drive on May 12

As President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1492 of Westfield and Mountainside, I am writing on behalf of myself and our membership to thank the patrons of Westfield and Mountainside for their generosity during our Food Drive held May 12.

Your donations enabled us to collect 23,000 pounds of food, which will help our local food bank through the summer. This time of year is very difficult for some families, as the children are not in school and will not be receiving breakfast or lunch through the meal programs offered during the school year.

I also wish to convey thanks from our guest, Postmousetriss Minnie, to all the children who stopped by with food donations and warm hugs during her visit at the Post Office.

Thomas J. Murphy,
Branch Manager
Letter Carriers Branch 1492
Westfield



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TABLE TENNIS BRONZE MEDALIST...Matt Conway of Florham Park won a bronze medal at the Special Olympics World Games in 1999.

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Table Tennis Tournament Draws World Class Talent to Armory

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - The Second Garden State Open Table Tennis Tournament was held in the Westfield National Guard Armory last Saturday and Sunday, sponsored by "Lily Yip Sports, Inc."

Well over 270 entrants, including world class competitors hailing from as far away as Africa and China, Hawaii and California, participated before a packed house.

Mrs. Yip, a two-time United States competitor in the 1992 and 1996 Summer Olympics, has devoted her time to instructing and tutoring the mentally disabled of the New Jersey Developmental Center in North Jersey.

Even more significantly, Mrs. Yip has introduced into the tournament the first Special Olympic event, including 10 players from the Developmental Center, in preparation for the Special Olympic Summer Games, to be held Friday through Sunday, June 1 to 3.

Florham Park's 24-year-old Matthew Conway was having the time of his life. Mr. Conway, who won a bronze medal in the Special Olympics, is a New Jersey state table tennis champion and a bronze medal winner in the 1999 World Games.

Last weekend's event coincided with the 30th anniversary of China and USA Ping Pong Diplomacy, an event dedicated to improving people-to-people friendship between China and the United States, as well as other countries.

The Cancer Q Cup Garden State Open is a USAITT-sanctioned, four star tournament. The competition was divided into 29 categories, according to age and ability levels.

Among those in attendance were former United States World Champion Sol Schiff, a young 83-year-old. Mr. Schiff began table tennis competition in elementary school at the age of 10; at the age of 11, he won his first Men's National Singles Tournament, repeating that feat two years later in 1934.

He won four National titles, nine National Doubles, 10 Canadian National Championships and the World Doubles, and played on the United States team that won the World Championship in 1938. Mr. Schiff laid down his paddle in the mid 1960s due to glaucoma.

The Garden State Open has gained far-ranging support and sponsorships, although the tournament committee is seeking additional support from individuals, communities and enterprises in order to maintain such a successful event.

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Thank You for Protecting our Children!
Thank You for Protecting our Country!

Thank You!

Gray

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WANTED

ALL FORMER AND PRESENT WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD MEMBERS AND DISPATCHERS TO HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT A PICNIC IN TAMAQUES PARK ON MAY 28, 2001 (MEMORIAL DAY). THE FESTIVITIES WILL BEGIN AT 12:30 PM AND WILL END AT 4:30. THERE WILL BE GAMES FOR THE KIDS, FOOD, AND A FRIENDLY GAME OF SOFTBALL (game at 2:00).

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE OR ARE A FORMER MEMBER YOURSELF, PLEASE JOIN US WITH YOUR FAMILY. WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL DIANE SANCHEZ OR DAN SULLIVAN AT 233-2501.

THE PICNIC WILL BE LOCATED BY THE GRILLS IN THE PARK. JUST LOOK FOR THE BALLOONS AND AMBULANCE. PLEASE RSVP TO EITHER DIANE OR DAN BY MAY 25TH SO WE CAN GET AN IDEA OF HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE ATTENDING.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE, THE WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

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