



## PRESS RELEASE

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## The La Grange Highlands Community Places A Spotlight on Road Safety as Students Head Back to School and Families Take Advantage of Weather to Get Outside and Additional Relief from COVID-19 Impact.

The La Grange Highlands Civic Association in partnership with area residents, the Township of Lyons, AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center La Grange, Cook County Sheriff's Department, School District 106, and School District 204 have joined together to take action. This newly formed Traffic Safety Committee is putting a spotlight on keeping the roads safe for all to enjoy and as a first step encourage all drivers to "Take the Pledge to be an Attentive Driver."

According to NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis, **Illinois was the 10th state with the highest number of traffic related fatalities in 2018 with 1,031 deaths** out of the 36,560 traffic related fatalities across the U.S. Close to national statistics, of those fatalities, 53% were drivers, followed by passengers (17%), motorcyclists (12%), pedestrians (16%), and pedalcyclists (2%).



As an initial effort, this committee is focusing on the positive impact drivers can have in the community and therefore asking all drivers to "Take the Pledge" because speeding and erratic driving continue to be of great concern throughout the Highlands. Due to the easing of COVID-19 quarantine guidelines, and the lack of sidewalks in this area, many more community members of all ages and abilities are on the roads walking, biking, and running, among other activities, often while vehicles are driving dangerously through the neighborhood. The National Safety Council states that the three biggest causes of fatalities on the road are [alcohol](#), [speeding](#) and [distracted driving](#). On a typical day, **more than 700 people are injured in distracted driving crashes**. Talking on a cell phone – even hands-free – or texting or programming an in-vehicle infotainment system are just a few examples of what can divert one's attention away from driving.

Awareness and enforcement of traffic safety guidelines are essential to changing these statistics and making a positive impact, which is why the collaboration among these various community organizations is instrumental. *"Traffic safety is a shared responsibility and it takes all of us - both the police and community working together - to keep our streets safe," Sheriff Thomas J. Dart* said. The Cook County Sheriff's Department continues to increase patrols in the area, as well as the utilize mobile speed tracking systems. Additionally, beyond supplementing speed limit signage where needed, the Township of Lyons has placed additional focus on this effort. *"We look forward to everyone doing their part in helping us increase awareness of the importance of driving slowly and using caution when on the road,"* states **Township Supervisor, Christopher Getty**. To this end, the Committee is working on additional strategies to increase awareness and enlist everyone's engagement and participation such as each organizations' communication vehicles and social media sites, as well community meetings and e-newsletters. In support of these efforts, **Adam Maycock, CEO of AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center La Grange** states, *"The safety and wellness of our community remains a high priority. We will continue*

*messaging to staff and visitors alike to drive in a safe and respectful manner. We all must take personal ownership in the safety of the community in which we work.” Additionally, the Committee is working with School Districts 106 and 204 to help engage the parents of younger students as well as teens already driving. “We are a walking community, with no sidewalks and no bus service to our schools. Our students and families are often walking next to vehicles two times a day five days a week. We are working together with this Committee and various community leaders to make our streets safer for our families.” **Dr. Amy Warke, Superintendent of School District 106.***

The Committee’s call to action is for all to take the “Attentive Driver Pledge” and be vigilant when it comes to the safety of the Highlands community. Additionally, as a way of saying thank YOU to everyone that takes the pledge, their names will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win prizes from local organizations such as The Barker Shop gift basket (\$100 value); Starbucks of Western Springs gift pack (\$50 value); Jewel gift card (\$25 Value); and a Mariano’s gift card (\$20 value). The drawing and announcement of winners is anticipated to take place by Thanksgiving.

Please take the pledge by clicking [here](#)!

