



September 2019

Michigan.gov/ohsp



News conferences were held in Southfield (pictured above), Flint, Marquette, and Wyoming on August 12 announcing the start of a Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign.

Preliminary numbers show Labor Day traffic deaths are down in 2019

According to the Michigan State Police (MSP) Criminal Justice Information Center, the number of fatal crashes and fatalities over the 2019 Labor Day holiday is down from the 2018 holiday. Preliminary reports show that from 6 p.m. Friday, August 30 to midnight Monday, September 2 there were six fatal traffic crashes resulting in seven

fatalities. During the same timeframe a year ago, there were 12 fatal crashes and 12 fatalities. The number of alcohol-involved fatal crashes is also down, from six in 2018 to one in 2019. The Labor Day holiday was the conclusion of a 20-day *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement campaign.

Pedestrian safety campaign continues into September

Continuing an enforcement campaign that started in March, officers in Detroit, Kalamazoo, Warren, and Lansing worked overtime from September 5-11 to help enforce laws that keep pedestrians safe. The four cities were chosen because they have some of the highest number of pedestrian crashes over a five-year-period.

"This enforcement aims to educate community members about the importance of pedestrian safety and the traffic laws designed to protect them," said Michael L. Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) director. "We want everyone, people who drive and people who walk, to



As part of the pedestrian safety campaign, canvassers surveyed pedestrians in Detroit and Grand Rapids on the issues that affect their safety. Results from that survey will be available when the final report is complete.

Ped/Bike safety workshop coming to Michigan

The Transportation Safety Institute is offering a free Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program Management workshop October 28-29 at the MSP headquarters. The workshop is intended to provide participants with a more in-depth examination of the elements for a successful pedestrian and bicycle safety program. Also, it will take participants through the steps of building a comprehensive strategic safety plan utilizing a series of activities and exercises.

To register, visit tsi-dot.csod.com. Before attending, you must first take an online course, offered October 8-9. More information on the prerequisite is also available at tsi-dot.csod.com.

obey traffic signs and signals and stay alert for each other. Organizations are working hard to reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries in Michigan, but there is still more we can do."

Between 2013-2017, pedestrian crash data for the four Michigan cities show: Detroit with a total of 2,330; Kalamazoo with 264; Warren with 193; and Lansing with 261.

Law enforcement agencies participating in the mobilization include: Detroit Police, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Kalamazoo County Sheriff,

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SAFETY Network



National Teen Driver Safety Week takes place in October

The week of October 20-26 has been designated as National Teen Driver Safety Week. Motor vehicles are the leading cause of death for teens (15-18 years old) in the United States, ahead of all other types of injury, disease, or violence. In 2017, there were 2,247 people killed in crashes involving a teen driver, of which 755 of those deaths was the teen driver. In Michigan, licensed drivers age 15-20 represented 6.6 percent of drivers in fatal crashes in 2018. In addition, 9,637 teens and young adults were injured in traffic crashes, representing 12.7 percent of all people injured in crashes.

NO KEYS UNTIL YOU KNOW THE RULES

- ⊗ Cell phones while driving ⊗
- ⊗ Speeding ⊗
- ⊗ Drowsy driving ⊗
- ⊗ Driving unbuckled ⊗
- ⊗ Alcohol ⊗
- ⊗ Passengers ⊗

(A 16- or 17-year old driver's risk of being killed in a crash increases 44 percent when carrying one passenger under the age of 21, doubles when carrying two passengers younger than 21 and quadruples when carrying three passengers younger than 21.)

Governor names new members to the Michigan Truck Safety Commission

Governor Gretchen Whitmer named six new commissioners and reappointed one current commissioner to the Michigan Truck Safety Commission (MTSC). The seven appointees join four existing commissioners to make up the 11-person panel.

The new commissioners are: Gregory Causley, of Saginaw; Carol Heinowski, of Grand Ledge; Kim Kelly, of Dimondale; Jeffrey Lee, of Canton; James Shea, of Waterford; and Jeremy Worm, of Ahmeek. Michelle Taylor, of Muskegon, was reappointed. John Harris, Capt. Mike Krumm,

Charles Moser and Michael Prince also continue on the commission.

The MTSC is the only organization in the nation dedicated to commercial truck driver education and training supported solely by the industry it serves. The commission is committed to enhancing truck and truck driver safety by providing truck driver education and training, heightening all drivers' awareness of the operational characteristics and limitations of trucks, initiating data collection and research, and supporting enforcement of motor carrier safety laws.

Kelley named to Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission



Hank Kelley, of Grand Rapids, is a transportation planning and programs supervisor for the City of Grand Rapids with a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. Kelley is appointed to the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) to succeed Lawrence Hummel, who resigned April 25, 2019. Kelley represents local units of government for a term expiring May 27, 2021.

Kelley joins Sheriff Michael Poulin and Chief Ronald Wiles as local government representatives.

The GTSAC identifies traffic safety challenges and develops, promotes, and implements strategies to address those challenges. The commission develops comprehensive solutions to traffic safety challenges through partnerships with all levels of government and the private sector, while maximizing and coordinating the use of existing financial resources.

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GUEST COLUMN

In this issue of the SNN, we are including a guest column from Walt Brinker, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, 1966 West Point graduate, and Vietnam War veteran. Since 1980, Mr. Brinker has made a hobby out of assisting stranded motorists and has agreed to share his life lessons with us.

Roadside Survival Safety

By Walt Brinker, www.roadsidesurvival.com

Safety is always the primary concern for people when it comes to preventing or contending with a vehicle breakdown. My experience includes having performed more than 2,000 free-of-charge roadside assists as a hobby, and along the way, learning some great lessons of how to prevent and, if necessary, contend with vehicle breakdowns.

Each year, AAA responds to approximately 30 million motorist assist calls¹ and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates nearly six million vehicle crashes annually². So, breakdowns are at least five times more likely than a crash and inevitably going to occur.

With that in mind, prevention is key. Breaking down on the roadway is an unpleasant and inconvenient experience, and it can be dangerous. Every year motorists, first responders, and road service workers are injured and killed following vehicle breakdowns after being struck by other vehicles. The best way to stay safe is to keep your vehicle in good operating condition.

The most common reasons for breakdowns are tire-related issues (75 percent of my assists). It is absolutely critical to check your tires regularly and ensure that they are in good shape and properly inflated. If you have a young/novice driver at home, one of the best things a parent can do is teach them this important rule.

The remaining 25 percent of my assists consist of:

- Out of gas.
- Engine overheating.

- Engine cutting off and not restarting.
- Vehicle lockouts.

PREVENTING BREAKDOWNS:

Your car will “talk” to you. Mushy handling, vehicle pulls to one side, and wheel vibration indicate a tire issue. Here are some tips to follow.

- Have tires inspected, rotated, and balanced every 5,000 miles.
- Watch engine temperature gauge (if over halfway from cold to hot, visit a mechanic ASAP).
- Weak starts, dim lights, and “chirping” are indicators of an electrical issue.
- Warning lights indicate the vehicle is “sick” and may need a service call.
- Your job is to “listen” to your vehicle and respond appropriately.
- Watch your gas gauge and get in the habit of refueling at 1/4 tank.
- Check your battery connects and make sure they stay tight.
- Watch for the battery light (no longer charging if light comes on).

CONTENDING WITH BREAKDOWNS:

Plan ahead for a breakdown. While some new vehicles today no longer come with a spare tire as standard equipment, most vehicles on the road still have spares, so check it occasionally to make sure it is inflated (80 percent are flat). Rehearse a tire change and make sure you have a lug wrench, jack, a cheater bar to loosen too-tight lug nuts, and all the components to

quickly and safely change the tire. Prevent the vehicle from rolling off the jack by applying the parking brake, putting the transmission in gear or park, and placing chocks on the tire diagonally opposite the flat tire. I suggest keeping an old towel in the trunk to lay on the ground to keep you from getting dirty, a plastic tarp in the event of having to change a tire in wet or snowy conditions, a pair of heavy duty gloves to avoid cuts, and a 12-volt air compressor. Lastly, keep a one-gallon empty gas can in your trunk.

If your vehicle becomes disabled, move the vehicle from the travel lane to a level, firm, safe area. Place a set of three reflecting warning triangles behind the car. This will enable you to reduce your risk from other vehicles traveling at high speeds just inches away.

My website www.roadsidesurvival.com provides much more information about preventing and contending with vehicle breakdowns, including information about a book I wrote about my experiences, *Roadside Survival: Low-Tech Solutions to Automobile Breakdowns*.

Safe travels!

1 - <https://newsroom.aaa.com/2017/04/one-three-u-s-drivers-cannot-pay-unexpected-car-repair-bill/>

2 - <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/811162>



SAFETY Network

PARTNER PROFILE

Traffic Safety Network

There are 14 active Traffic Safety Networks (TSN) in Michigan, joint sponsored by the OHSP and AAA. The TSNs provide opportunities to strengthen relationships, share best practices, and promote education and involvement in problem identification and traffic safety solutions among agencies concerned with the safety of citizens living

in and visiting Michigan. Membership is open to all public or private groups and individuals with an interest in serving the public's traffic safety needs. TSN meetings often include guest speakers, hands-on activities, and legislative updates. To find a TSN in your area, or to contact the OHSP representative, please click [here](#).



Community Service Trooper Corey Hebner of the Gaylord Post presents at the Traverse Bay TSN on August 21.

GHSA/NHTSA RESEARCH PROGRAM INFORMATION

A number of research projects co-funded by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and NHTSA are underway. For the status, final report, or update, please visit ghsa.org/resources/BTSCR.P.



Vince and Larry were part of the 56th annual National Blueberry Festival parade on August 10 in South Haven. Starting in 1963, the festival is one of the country's oldest continuously-running fruit festivals. Vince and Larry were on hand to remind festival-goers to buckle up, and to drive distraction-free. To request the Vince and Larry costumes for your event, click here or email Jessica Beyer at BeyerJ1@Michigan.gov.



What's Ahead

SEPTEMBER 2019

- 24 **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Great Lakes Segway, 239 E. Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake, 9 a.m.

OCTOBER 2019

- 2 **Traffic Incident Management Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9:30 a.m.
- 3 **Motorcycle Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.
- 9 **Impaired Driving Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, 10 a.m.

- 15 **Distracted Driving Action Team meeting.** MSP Headquarters, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2019

- 7 **Senior Mobility and Safety Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.
- 12 **Traffic Safety Engineering Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 9 a.m.
- 17 **Traffic Records and Information Systems Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 1 p.m.
- 20 **Drivers Age 20 and Younger Action Team meeting.** Horatio Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, 10 a.m.

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The legal ramifications of vaping and driving

By Kinga Canike and Kenneth Stecker

As vaping grows in popularity, so do concerns about how it might affect traffic safety on Michigan roads.

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. Vaping devices produce an aerosol that consists of fine particles.¹

Many different devices may be used to vape. They range from e-cigarettes, which resemble smoked cigarettes, to vape pens, which resemble large fountain pens, and there are also devices referred to as advanced personal vaporizers. The typical vaping device consists of a mouthpiece, a battery, a cartridge for the liquid, and a heating component that is powered by a battery. When the device is used, the battery heats up the heating component, which turns the contents of the liquid into an aerosol that is inhaled into the lungs and then exhaled.²

The liquid used in these devices usually contains a propylene glycol or vegetable glycerin-based liquid with nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals and metals. Some people use these devices to vape THC, the chemical responsible for marijuana's mind-altering effects. Vaping devices may even be used to vape synthetic drugs such as flakka.³

The ability to use vaping devices to smoke THC and synthetic drugs is what causes concern for law enforcement in charge of keeping Michigan roads safe. In November 2018, Michigan voters legalized marijuana use and possession for persons 21 years and older. However, under the new recreational marijuana law, also known as the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act, it is not legal to consume marijuana while operating a motor vehicle.

The problem lies in that police officers cannot always tell during a traffic stop what substance the driver has in his or her vaping device. Unlike a traditional cigarette, most e-cigarettes do not give off an odor. A police officer can only further investigate what is in the vaping device if he or she has either consent from the driver or reasonable suspicion that a crime is being, has been, or is about to be committed. Reasonable suspicion is the legal standard of proof in United States law that is less than probable cause (what is needed for warrants and arrests), but more than a suspicion or hunch.⁴ Reasonable suspicion must be based on "specific and articulable facts."⁵

Even though it is not illegal in Michigan to vape legal substances (besides marijuana) while driving, it is not legal to be under the influence of any of these substances while operating a vehicle. Some substances that can be vaped may fall under Michigan's Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) statute.

Under MCL 257.625, it is illegal to operate a vehicle upon a highway or other place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles, including an area designated for the parking of vehicles, within this state if the person is operating while intoxicated. A person can be "operating while intoxicated" if he or she is under the influence of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, an intoxicating substance, or any combination of these three categories.⁶ Since vaping devices these days can be used to vape anything from alcohol to marijuana to synthetic drugs, a person can fall under all three categories of Michigan's OWI law if using this device before or while driving and becoming intoxicated. Marijuana would fall under the controlled substance section of the

law, and synthetic drugs would be considered intoxicating substances under the law.

The best solution for law enforcement on dealing with this issue is to be prepared and attend trainings focused on drugged driving. The OHSP, in conjunction with the MSP, offers trainings for law enforcement to help officers learn to observe the signs of drivers who may be under the influence of a controlled substance and/or intoxicating substance. These programs include the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement program, and the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program. Both of these programs stress the significance of utilizing the three Standardized Field Sobriety Tests in all OWI cases, including those involving substances other than alcohol.

For more information on this article and PAAM training programs, contact Kenneth Stecker or Kinga Canike, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors, at 517-334-6060 or e-mail at steckerk@michigan.gov or canike@michigan.gov. Please consult your prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by this article. Discuss your practices that relate to this article with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practice.

1 <https://www.centeronaddiction.org/e-cigarettes/recreational-vaping/what-vaping>

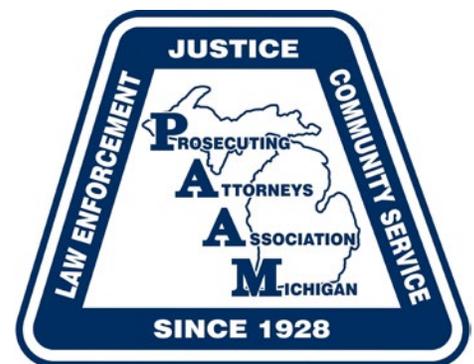
2 <https://www.centeronaddiction.org/e-cigarettes/recreational-vaping/what-vaping>

3 <https://www.centeronaddiction.org/e-cigarettes/recreational-vaping/what-vaping>

4 *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1, 27 (1968).

5 *Terry*, 392 U.S., at 21.

6 [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(24b0xontptxdu0ij0wjormsm\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-257-625](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(24b0xontptxdu0ij0wjormsm))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-257-625)





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Graham honored by GHSA



on teen driver safety, Graham has been among GHSA's most valued colleagues throughout the past 16 years. During his tenure with Ford DSFL, he has brought free, hands-on advanced driver training to newly licensed drivers in every state. Graham and the Ford DSFL program were also instrumental in launching GHSA's first competitive state grant program, which provides funding to help states augment their existing teen safe driving efforts.

Ford Driving Skills for Life (Ford DSFL) Global Program Manager Jim Graham received the Kathryn J.R. Swanson Public Service Award at the 2019 GHSA annual meeting in Anaheim, CA. A leading partner

Also receiving awards at the GHSA meeting were Candace Lightner, founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving; the Connecticut Superior Court's Online Adjudication system; the Montana Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; the South Dakota Office of Highway Safety's *Jim Reaper* campaign; and the Washington Regional Alcohol Program. More information and past winners can be found at ghsa.org/about/safety-awards.

Toward Zero Deaths

September 17, 2019

648

Traffic Deaths in Michigan this Year

25TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT

MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY
SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE MARCH 10 & 11, 2020

Spend two days learning about the four E's of traffic safety—Enforcement, Education, Emergency Medical Services, and Engineering—from state and national experts.

Visit Michigan.gov/OHSPTrafficSummit for more info.

KELLOGG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

At the annual OHSP summer staff meeting, this year held at the Woldumar Nature Center in Lansing, Director Michael Prince recognized Program Management Section Chief Alicia Sledge for 20 years with the MSP.

SAFETY Network



Longtime traffic safety advocate Thomas O. Reel (left) recently stopped by the OHSP office in Dimondale to visit with OHSP Director Michael Prince (right) and the rest of the staff.

Tom was OHSP director from 1976-1979 and then spent 25 years with the Traffic Safety Association. After decades of service, Tom received the Richard H. Austin Long-Term Traffic Safety Award.

Everyone at OHSP thanks Tom Reel for all his efforts to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries.

Pedestrian *Continued from page 1 >*

Kalamazoo Township Police, Western Michigan University Public Safety, Warren Police, Macomb County Sheriff, Lansing Police, and Lansing Community College Police.

Officers during this campaign will be on the lookout for violations by drivers that include: illegal turns, failing to stop at a signal or stop sign before a crosswalk, failing to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk at a signalized intersection, and blocking a roadway that interferes with the normal flow of traffic. Officers will also be looking for violations by pedestrians that include: not following traffic control signals, not walking on a sidewalk where provided, not walking facing traffic when on a roadway, and failing to yield to drivers with the right-of-way.

In Michigan, more than 100 pedestrians die each year. The month of September is an especially deadly time of year for pedestrians, with one of the highest volume of crashes – more than 1,000 in the last five years.

MIREADY



Auto Emergency Preparedness Kit Checklist

You can avoid many dangerous weather problems by planning ahead. Plan long trips carefully, listening to the radio or television for the latest weather forecasts and road conditions. If bad weather is forecast, drive only if absolutely necessary.

Auto Emergency Kit – Recommended Supplies:

- Jumper cables, flares or reflective triangle
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First aid kit: remember any necessary medications, baby formula and diapers if you have a small child
- Food: non-perishable food such as canned food, and protein rich foods like nuts and energy bars
- Manual can opener
- Drinking water
- Basic toolkit: pliers, wrench, screwdriver
- Radio: battery or hand cranked
- Cat litter or sand: for better tire traction
- Shovel
- Ice scraper
- Warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy boots, jacket and an extra change of clothes for the cold
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Charged cell phone and car charger
- Help sign
- If traveling with pets, include pet emergency items

For all weather hazards, check or have a mechanic check the following:

- Keep your gas tank full – in case evacuation is needed.
- Do not drive through a flooded area – Six inches of water can cause a vehicle to lose control and possibly stall. A foot of water will float many cars.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded – Roads may have weakened and could collapse
- If a power line falls on your car you are at risk of electrical shock, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.
- Antifreeze levels – ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and ignition system – should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- Brakes – check for wear and fluid levels.
- Exhaust system – check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- Fuel and air filters – replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
- Heater and defroster – ensure they work properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights – check for serviceability.
- Oil – check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- Thermostat – ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment – repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- Install good winter tires – Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/MIREADY

Rev. 11/15/18
MIREADY 2007

Also at: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/AUTO_EMERGENCY_KIT_543641_7.pdf



SAFETY Network

Michigan Work Zone Safety Task Force aims to eliminate deaths and injuries

The Michigan Work Zone Safety Task Force (WZSTF) was officially launched in October 2018 as a collaborative effort between the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Michigan’s heavy/highway construction industry. It is the goal of the task force to reduce and eliminate work zone injuries and deaths for construction workers and motorists. Through the work of seven specific action teams, the task force will not only address the multi-faceted needs of construction sites across the state, but will further the advancement of a culture that puts work zone safety first and foremost at all times.

After 10 months the Michigan WZSTF is hard at work across the state, collaborating and problem-solving to implement changes that will make work zones as safe as they can be for motorists and construction workers. The work of the task force is really just getting started, and the action teams, led by the steering committee, always welcome the support of the public, as well as their input, photos, and ideas. Check out the goals of the seven action teams below to see if there’s an area of work zone safety that you can contribute to.

ACTION TEAM GOALS:

- Action Team #1: To influence driver compliance by consistently enforcing work zone safety laws.
- Action Team #2: To establish a strong balance between maintenance of work zone safety and motorist mobility.
- Action Team #3: To maintain flexibility throughout project lifecycles to incorporate work zone safety.

- Action Team #4: To educate stakeholders at all levels regarding work zone safety.
- Action Team #5: To promote work zone safety through consistent marketing and targeted messaging.
- Action Team #6: To develop a strong, positive and consistent statewide work zone safety culture.
- Action Team #7: To facilitate the use of new technology to improve work zone safety.

Through Action Team #5 specifically, the task force is managing and promoting the work zone safety message through an active and growing Facebook page. We would encourage you to follow and like the task force page by searching for www.facebook.com/MichiganWZSTF. On this Facebook page we post safety links, videos and, specifically on #WorkZoneWednesdays, we highlight a specific safety message for followers and supporters to like and share. Join us on our social media journey and help us spread the work zone safety message statewide! Feel free to contact the Work Zone Safety Task Force through the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association, MDOT, an industry partner or the messaging feature on the Facebook page. Remember, work zone safety is everyone’s responsibility.



Staff Profile

JON BENALLACK
Graphic Designer



Jon has been with the OHSP for 13 years and with the State of Michigan for 20 years. He has a daughter who is a librarian at Central Michigan University and a son who works at Dick’s Sporting Goods. Jon is a once and future dog owner.

What do you like most about your job?

I really enjoy getting to do illustrations for the Traffic Safety Summit and Annual Evaluation Report cover, and photography.

What are you most proud of at work?

Saving lives through graphic design!

What are your interests or hobbies?

Ice hockey and playing the ukulele. I’ve been playing beer league hockey for 30 years, although I missed this past year with a dinged hip. As for the ukulele, I’m at my best when playing with lots of other folks who play really loud.

What personal achievement are you most proud of?

Parenthood.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Most any place I can play in small boats.

What’s something people don’t know about you?

My secrets!