***Media Relations Information for 12/31/2012***

*Public Relations Officer – Sgt. John Krueger*

*Office: 281-842-3161*

**LPPD, and area law enforcement, cracks down on drunk drivers over holiday period.**

La Porte Police recently joined several other area law enforcement agencies, with the assistance of a Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) Regional DWI Task Force Grant, for a period of 14 selected days of targeted DWI enforcement. The first two weekends for the grant were Friday 21 December, Saturday 22 December, Friday 28 December and Saturday 29 December, and local law enforcement continues to hail any such operation as a success.

The times of enforcement for the operation were from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. on each night. The program was established as a zero tolerance traffic enforcement incentive, meaning that any suspected drunk driver would be legally processed for offenses meeting the criteria. As an added feature, to ensure the legitimacy and stringency of the program, any La Porte officer working under the grant program was required to be certified in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, or scheduled to be certified this fiscal year.

Texas and Harris County’s various DWI reduction programs have consistently proven to reduce injuries, fatalities and property damage along major thoroughfares. In fact, recent Center for Disease Control and Prevention statistics reveal that every day almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 48 minutes. In addition, the annual cost of alcohol-related crashes totals more than $51 billion. Thankfully, there are effective measures, such as designated police patrols, that can help prevent injuries and deaths from alcohol-impaired driving.

With these facts in mind, residents are reminded to drive safely, while taking comfort in knowing additional traffic enforcement officers are monitoring local roadways in an effort to increase the level of safety. For more information on La Porte Police Department’s involvement in any of the various DWI enforcement programs, please contact the agency at 281-842-3167.