



**DAN LAWRENCE  
FROM THE CHIEF**

The problem of operating a motor vehicle while driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs (DUI) continues to be an issue in every community all year long. It seems to persist despite programs designed to educate the community about the dangers of DUI.

Historically, alcohol-related offenses increase during the period from Thanksgiving through the new year.

In an effort to help educate the community about DUI, the Clayton Police Department and other police agencies will be increasing enforcement activities during this holiday season. These activities will include increased police patrols and DUI checkpoints in the area.

With this article, I hope to provide valuable information about DUI and decrease the number of DUI arrests.

In most states, including California, you are legally intoxicated if your blood-alcohol level is .08 percent. At this level, the law considers you impaired and unable to safely drive a motor vehicle.

Generally, if you consume three drinks in one to two hours, you will become too intoxicated to drive safely. Whether it is a 12-ounce can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine or a shot of hard liquor, your body will reach the same level of intoxication just as quickly.

It is important to realize that DUI laws relate to your blood-

# Add 'don't drink and drive' to your holiday list

NUMBER OF DRINKS (over a two-hour period) 1-1/4 ozs., 80 proof liquor, 12 oz. can of beer or 4 ozs. of wine.

Your Weight	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
90 to 109	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
110 to 129	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
130 to 149	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
150 to 169	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
170 to 189	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
190 to 209	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
210 to 229	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
230 & UP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

This chart is a guide to alcohol tolerance, not a guarantee.

(.01% - .04%)  
May be DUI

(.05% - .07%)  
Likely DUI

(.08% - UP)  
Definitely DUI

alcohol level at the time of your driving and not at the time of the test, if you are arrested.

Time is the only thing that will allow the body to metabolize the alcohol and allow the drinker to become unimpaired. Coffee won't sober you up. In fact, certain tests have shown that there may even be negative effects by mixing alcohol (a depressant) with caffeine (a stimulant).

The effects of alcohol may be increased if you're tired or hungry, if you have certain health problems, if you're taking medication or if you're experiencing heightened emotions.

Don't drive after drinking or using other drugs (legal or illegal). This is the safest message of all and the only way to be sure that you are not under the influence.

If you are driving under the influence with a child in the car, you can be charged with child endangerment - which is a

felony.

It is illegal to have an open container of alcohol in your vehicle, or to drink alcohol in a vehicle even if the car is parked.

It is also illegal to ride a bicycle or operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or any other drug.

Your car may be impounded if you are arrested for driving under the influence. Your penalty may be increased if you were also driving recklessly or at a high rate of speed.

If you injure someone while driving under the influence, you will face a felony.

If you are under 21 years old and have any amount of alcohol in your system, you will lose your license.

You don't have to be "drunk" to be dangerous behind the wheel. Impairment begins with the first drink. Alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream and carried to the brain immedi-

ately upon consumption.

If you plan to drink, always plan for a designated driver. The designated driver is the one person in a party of two or more who doesn't drink alcoholic beverages and agrees to drive the others home safely. The designated driver is not the person who has consumed the least amount of alcohol.

On behalf of the Clayton Police Department, I want you to have a fun, safe and happy holiday season. Please don't drive while under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs.

If you have questions, feel free to contact the Clayton Police Department at 673-7350 for additional information.

*Officer Richard Enea Jr. assisted in writing this article.*

*Dan Lawrence is Clayton's Police Chief. Please send your questions, comments or topics you'd like to see covered to DanL@cpd.ci.concord.ca.us*

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## Travis Credit Union opens for business



Tamara Steiner/Clayton Pioneer  
**CLAYTON VICE MAYOR GREGG MANNING** (second from left) and Hoffmeister (holding the scissors) are surrounded by Travis directors, officers, branch staff and Chamber of Commerce representatives as they "cut" the red ribbon, officially opening the branch.

Travis Credit Union cut the ribbon on their spacious new quarters in the Clayton Valley Shopping Center last week. On hand were dignitaries from the cities of Concord and Clayton, members of the CBCA, Concord Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and representatives from the offices of Congressman George Miller and Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier.

Travis Credit Union's president and CEO, Patsy Van Ouwerekker greeted the well wishers and introduced the branch staff. Concord City Councilwoman, Laura Hoffmeister, congratulated the branch on its opening and said "We're happy to share Travis with our sister city, Clayton." Hoffmeister is also the assistant to the city manager of Clayton.

*See Travis Credit Union ad on Page A3.*

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