Goleta – The Goleta Police Department encourages everyone attending holiday parties and gatherings where alcohol may be involved to use a designated sober driver.

This holiday season, from December 13th to New Year’s, the Goleta Police Department will have more officers on patrol looking for drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

In addition, Goleta Police will hold a DUI/Driver’s License checkpoint on December 13th from 7:00pm to 3:00am at an undisclosed location in the city of Goleta.

“Unfortunately, this time of year is when we see more people driving impaired,” Sergeant John Maxwell said. “There is no excuse for driving after drinking or using drugs that impair. There are many ways to get home safely without driving.”

The Goleta Police Department reminds the public that impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs and marijuana can also impair, especially in combination with alcohol and other drugs.

So, if you are hosting a holiday party, offer non-alcoholic drinks for designated sober drivers and monitor how people are getting home. If someone has been drinking and tries to leave, offer to have them stay the night or take ride-share home.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The City of Goleta contracts with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office for police services.