



# *Holiday Public Safety Awareness*

The holiday season is always a special time of year. It's also a time when we all have a tendency to become complacent and vulnerable to theft and other holiday-related crime. The Western Springs Police Department's Crime Prevention Division would like to provide some basic safety tips to help ensure everyone has a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season.

## VEHICLE SECURITY TIPS

- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or store it out of plain view.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag, and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.

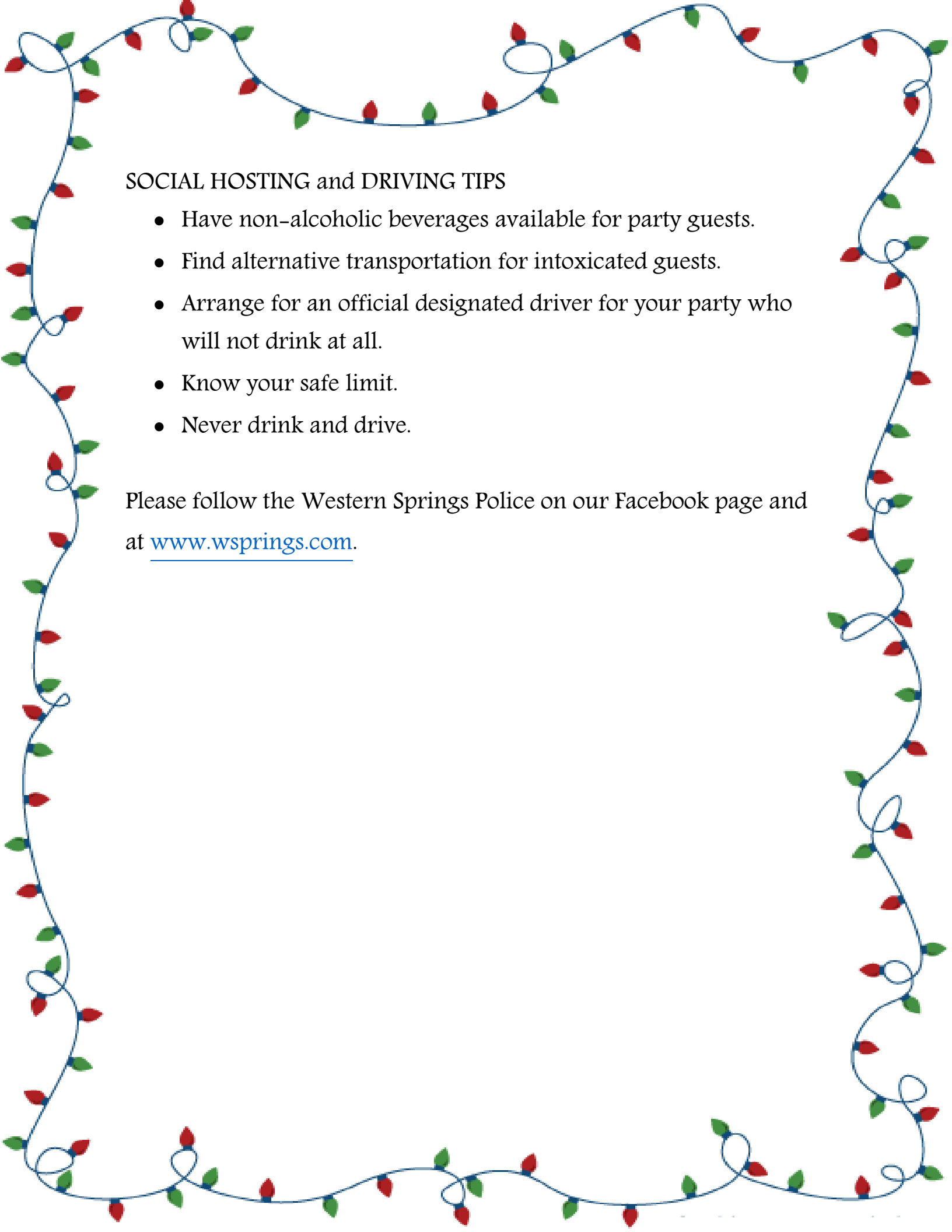


## SHOPPING TIPS

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, individuals may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

## HOME SAFETY TIPS

- Be extra vigilant about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.



## SOCIAL HOSTING and DRIVING TIPS

- Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Find alternative transportation for intoxicated guests.
- Arrange for an official designated driver for your party who will not drink at all.
- Know your safe limit.
- Never drink and drive.

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