

# EAGA Business Builder

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## Today's presentation was about distracted driving



Distracted Driving is the term used to describe any situation when the driver is not paying full attention while operating a motor vehicle. Texting and cell phone use are the most obvious causes for driver distraction, but there are also other activities that contribute to the problem. The gentlemen that spoke today were not from the MVD, or the legislature, and they were not law enforcement personnel that came to tell us about the legal implications of getting cited for distracted driving. There were a few statistics presented, and a few comments

about the demographics of 'usual' perpetrators of this particular crime, but the program today was not designed to be a lecture about the subject; and it was not designed to be just a presentation of research and statistics. It was designed to have a serious impact on the audience though. The first speaker was Nathan. Nathan is a student at St. Pius High School. He discussed his passion for riding bicycles; and his career goal of being a national bicycle racer. Obviously a lofty goal. He joined a competitive racing team; and he trained. He trained a lot, and he progressed along the path toward the goal; becoming the youngest winner of a national race in New Mexico ; and then, finally achieving the status of one of the top ten cyclists in the nation. Nathan showed pictures of his events; of he and his racing team ...and of his destroyed bike. One eventful day, Nathan, his coach and another team member were riding in a training session along Coors Blvd. Automobile traffic along that route moves about 50 miles per hour and one of those vehicles veered a too far to the right of his lane. The car hit Nathan, who then careened into his instructor. The instructor sustained severe injuries, which included broken bones. Nathan's injuries were substantially more severe. The first police officer at the scene, thinking that Nathan had not survived, reported him as a fatality. Nathan's will to succeed kept him from being a fatality, but the road back is very long, very painful, and very hard. He had a severe brain injury and was in a coma for quite awhile. One humorous (at least now) event was when Nathan came out of the coma, he could only speak Spanish. He had been studying that language in a high school course, but he was nowhere near being considered a conversational Spanish speaker. But now, his high school teacher had to go to the hospital to translate Nathan's conversations so that he could communicate with his parents. Today, Nathan is still moving toward a goal, but it is no longer the goal to be a world champion cyclist. That goal is gone. It was destroyed when a distracted driver went out of his traveling lane for a very brief time. The second speaker provided some information and pictures gathered from his job as an insurance adjuster. He had a few statistics about the causes of those accidents, including how many such incidents are caused by distracted drivers. He commented that as an investigator he had learned to see the identifiably different damage done to a vehicle when caused by hitting another vehicle or structure versus those caused by hitting an animal versus those caused by hitting a person. The last picture he displayed was an example of damage to a vehicle that had hit a person. His investigation experience told him that was the case, however it was his personal experience that was a sad confirmation of the cause. The vehicle in the phot was the one that had hit Nathan...and the speaker was the driver of that vehicle. The gentleman's words, tone and speaking manner made it very clear how much the incident had impacted him and his life. Many years of sadness and remorse resulting from the loss of attention for only few seconds. Today's speakers had two opposite perspectives of what happens to individuals involved in a distracted driver incident. The driver will be forever affected by the damage he caused to another human. Physical injury as well as destruction of dreams. Nathan is an exceptional individual. He did not display any animosity toward the person that caused him so much personal grief. Nathan is in the process of recovering lost time; relearning physical skills and capabilities... and redirecting his career goals. The examples and experiences of these two men carry a definite message. Distracted driving takes many forms; from the well known texting and cell phone use; drowsy driving; breakfast eating; radio channel changing; and more. None of it is necessary. But...even after the presentation, a couple of the otherwise intelligent men in the room were heard to bemoan how serious the problem is , but "what is a businessman to do when there are only so many hours in a day and to be successful, you have to always be in contact with potential clients and staff." Gentlemen: The solution really is not that hard to see. **TURN OFF THE DAMN PHONE WHILE YOU ARE DRIVING!** Even if it "only takes 5 seconds to check to see who is calling". In 5 seconds, at 50 mph, your vehicle, without you in control, has traveled nearly the length of a football field. How many bicyclists, pedestrians or children could you destroy in 5 seconds? What would happen to you, your family and those precious clients if you kill someone during the 2 or 5 seconds that you are not paying attention. When driving a vehicle—concentrate on only that. You do not want to be a participant in a never ending real life nightmare.

♦ There will not be a meeting on May 30th because of the Memorial Day Holiday.

## Business Leads:

La Madeleine French Bakery & Café opening at 2110 Louisiana Blvd NE (just North of Target)  
- Lionel Specter—Zeon Signs

High Desert Relief is moving to 4840 Pan American Freeway (behind Affordable Solar - next to The Fitness Superstore.

The Fitness Superstore at Tramway & Copper has closed.

Cantina Fitness is moving into former The Fitness Superstore at Tramway & Copper.

Ondra Inc - 3D printing, printers filament supplies - is moving into former The Fitness Superstore at Tramway & Copper.

- Jay Weingardt—The Fitness Superstore

## Reciprocity:

Thank you to Manny Ortega for great service.  
- Larry Kennedy—Walla Engineering

Thank you to Bill Elliott—AAA Roofing for speeding up the roof repair process.  
-Jack Zipper

Thank you to David Rodriguez and the folks at Computer Solutions Group for working with me.  
- Merlin—dog at Trucks Unique

## ◆ Welcome to our newest member:

The Grove Café & Market  
Representative: Andrew LoBue, General Manager

◆ Summer Bash will be on Saturday, July 8th. If you would like to participate as a member of the Bash Committee, you and your wife / significant other are invited to the Committee's next meeting; 6:00PM Tuesday, May 23rd at Terry Robert's home. If you would like more information about the Committee, or just want to be added to that list, contact Committee Chairmen Pat Maloy or Dan Mowery.

◆ The EAGA annual Trap Shoot has been scheduled for September 22nd. More information and details later.

## Badge Board Greeters

May 23rd Paul Losey—Covenant Schools of America  
May 30th No Meeting—Memorial Day Holiday  
June 6th Stan Byers—Milagro Media  
June 13th  
June 20th Scott Lardner—Rocky Mountain Stone  
June 27th

## Upcoming Speakers

May 23rd Mike Predika—Black Briar  
May 30th No Meeting—Memorial Day Holiday  
June 6th  
June 13th Paul Losey—Covenant Schools of America  
June 20th  
June 27th

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