



Alliance for Safe Kids, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 3, December 2008

In the November edition of our newsletter, you might have noticed a couple of articles from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. The Partnership has graciously allowed us to reprint their articles, and you'll find another in this month's newsletter. Monitoring was a topic discussed at length at our Teens, Parents, Alcohol/Drugs and the Law panel in October, and we thought additional information on the topic might be useful.

Please try to attend some of the upcoming programs listed on the calendar below. And if you have an event or other item you'd like to see in future newsletters, or have questions about any programs listed here, please let Cathy know at (914) 736-1450 or cadlerask@yahoo.com.

We wish you the happiest of holidays! Please stay warm, and stay safe.

Tricy Cushner, President Cathryn Adler, Director

Calendar

Tuesday, December 9th:

7 PM: ASK coalition meeting,
Sparkle Lake community building

Wednesday, December 10th:

7 PM: Youth Court training,
Lakeland High School

Sunday, December 28th:

8 PM – Midnight, Teen Night,
Jefferson Valley Lanes

Wednesday, December 17th:

7 PM: Youth Court training,
Lakeland High School

Wednesday, January 7th:

7 PM: Youth Court training,
Lakeland High School

Friday, January 9th:

7-10 PM – Middle School Night,
Yorktown Cultural & Community Center

Moonlight Bowling!

Next ASK Teen Night on Sunday, December 28th

Jefferson Valley Lanes will be hosting the fourth ASK Teen Night at the end of December.

All Yorktown teens are invited. From 8-10 PM that evening, the event will be limited to 9th and 10th graders only, while from 10 PM til Midnight, all Lakeland and Yorktown High School students are invited.

ASK will be chaperoning the event, insuring a safe as well as fun evening for all teens attending.

Each game will be \$3, with free shoes, and there will be door prizes.

The Yorktown High School SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club is cosponsoring this event.

Youth Court

This year's class of the ASK Youth Court is full. To reserve a space on the waiting list for the 2009-2010 Youth Court, please contact Youth Court Director Art Lander at (914) 736-1450.

The Alliance for Safe Kids, Inc., is a not-for profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to keeping our kids out of harm's way. For further information, please email the Alliance at Alliance4SafeKids@yahoo.com, or write to PO Box 106, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Please visit our website, www.AllianceForSafeKids.org



Neighborhood Watch



During the holiday season, police often see a rise in the number of home burglaries. You can help protect your neighborhood by just jotting down a note. Is a car – one you don't recognize – parked in your neighborhood in an odd place or during an odd time? (Especially during the day, when many people are at work and houses are often vacant.) Make a note of the license plate, just in case. If there is a burglary in your neighborhood, you may have an important lead to pass along to us.

Some of the calls I receive after a crime come days later, from someone who saw a suspicious car or person, but they did not get a plate number. With your help, we can be proactive. With a lead, we can work with other area police departments to possibly solve the crime.

That's what Neighborhood Watch does. If your neighborhood has a Watch program, think about joining it. If you don't have a local Watch, and are interested in starting one, just give me a call at the number below.

The Yorktown Police Department and Alliance for Safe Kids both want to keep our town safe for both you and your family. Just give us a call; between us we can make Yorktown a safer place.

Detective Sean Lewis
Yorktown Police Department
(914) 962-4141

An Update on Compliance Checks

On Wednesday, November 26th, the Yorktown Police Department conducted a round of "compliance checks" – visits to local businesses to ensure that they are not selling alcohol to minors.

The following businesses passed the check: Courtesy Mobil (on Route 202), Finnegan's, Miracles, Murphy's, Piatto Grill, Southside Inn, Turco's, Yorktown Coach Diner, and Yorktown Shell.

If you visit these businesses, please thank them for their good work in protecting our kids.

The following business failed the check, selling alcohol to a minor: Courtesy Shell, 3709 Crompond Road.

Second ASK Middle School Night – Friday, January 9th

Students from Mildred Strang and Copper Beach Middle Schools are invited to another Middle School Teen Night on January 9th. The event will again be held at the teen center in the Yorktown Community & Cultural Center. The Boys & Girls Club will be organizing the evening. In addition to the activities offered at the first Middle School Night - dodge ball, basketball, ping pong, foosball, bumper pool and a variety of video game competitions, and jewelry-making – the upcoming evening will include a DJ and dancing.

The Alliance for Safe Kids continues to look for additional locations and groups interested in providing safe environments for teens to socialize. Please contact ASK at (914) 736-1450 if you have suggestions or would like to help.

Keeping Watch Over Your Child: The Basics of Monitoring

From Partnership for a Drug-Free America

http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/ProtectingYourKids/Articles/Keeping_Watch_Over_Your_Child.aspx

Monitoring is an effective way you can help your tween or teen stay drug-free, and an important thing to do — even if you don't suspect your teen is using drugs.

The idea of "monitoring" your tween or teen may sound sinister, but it's actually a very simple idea that leads to great things: You know where your child is at all times (especially after school), you know his friends, and you know his plans and activities. By staying in-the-know about your child's daily schedule, you're taking an important step in keeping your child drug-free. Kids who are not regularly monitored are four times more likely to use drugs than kids who are regularly monitored.

We won't mince words here: Monitoring is one of the best ways to keep your kids off drugs, but it isn't always easy. "If a child readily talks about what's going on, then monitoring happens naturally during the course of events," says Anthony Biglan, Ph.D., a senior scientist at the Oregon Research Institute. "If it doesn't happen naturally, parents need to make some rules to facilitate monitoring."

Strike a Balance

Because monitoring conflicts with your child's desire to be independent, he is likely to resist your attempts to find out the details of his daily whereabouts. Don't let this deter you from your goal. He may accept the idea more easily if you present it as a means of ensuring safety or interest in who he is and what he likes to do, rather than as a means of control.

The most important time of day to monitor is after school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Kids are at the greatest risk for abusing drugs during these hours. Call your child's school to find out about adult-supervised activities he can take part in during these hours. Encourage him to get involved with youth groups, art or music programs, organized sports, community service or academic clubs. Follow up with your child to make sure he is actually going to the program he has chosen.

Monitoring becomes critically important when kids reach middle school, Biglan says. Because kids go from class to class during middle school or junior high, they don't always develop the close relationships they had with other kids during their earlier school years. Also, kids at this age are extremely sensitive to the beliefs of their classmates, so peer pressure becomes a major contributing factor in their behaviors. Of course, monitoring doesn't mean you have to go through your child's dresser drawers. "Kids need an increasing amount of privacy as they get older and that's OK," says Biglan. But the balance between monitoring and privacy can shift if signs of drug use show up. "Remember", says Biglan, "when it's time to intervene, kids' privacy issues take a backseat."

Four Core Rules of Monitoring

- *Know where your child or teen is at all times. Make sure he/she knows you're asking out of love, not because of a lack of trust.*
- *Get to know all of your teen's friends personally. Know their faces and their voices. Interact with them whenever possible -- without actually forcing them to "hang out" with you.*
- *Find out how your teen plans to spend her day. Looking for something to discuss during dinner? This is a great one. "So...what're you up to tomorrow?" Easy. Right?*
- *Limit the time your child spends without adult supervision. The after-school hours of 3 to 6 are the most dangerous time for tweens or teens to be on their own. Greater peer pressure or boredom can lead to an after-school alcohol or drug use. If you or another adult you trust can't be home for your teen, find out about after-school programs she can get involved with.*

Tips and Laws, from www.Westchestergov.com

Tips for Parents

About drinking:

- Alcohol is a drug, in fact the most abused drug in America, and five times more teenagers die from alcohol-related causes than all illegal drugs combined.
- Binge drinking is especially dangerous to teenagers. Alcohol poisoning can be fatal.
- If your teenager is intoxicated, don't let him or her "sleep it off." Brain damage and even death can be the result. Seek medical help immediately.
- Teens usually drive to and from parties and face Driving While Intoxicated arrest and/or injury.
- Alcohol is involved in two thirds of sexual assaults and date rapes among teens.
- Tell your teens that you disapprove of underage drinking and why. Share your concerns and listen to theirs.
- Know the laws. Serving or purchasing alcohol and/or allowing anyone under 21 to drink is illegal and dangerous. Please don't do it.
- Do not serve alcohol at teen parties in your home. Make sure no one brings alcohol to the party. You are legally liable for any damage caused by teens who drink at your home.
- Circulate regularly during parties, checking all rooms of the house and the yard.
- If your teen is attending a party in another home, call the parents to make sure alcohol is not allowed and that they will be home during the entire event.

For additional information contact:

Thomas G. Meier

Director, Westchester County Drug Prevention and STOP-DWI

112 East Post Road, White Plains, NY 10601

(914) 995-4115 or tam7@westchestergov.com

Westchester's Social Host Law

Westchester has a new law designed to make parents accountable for underage drinking that goes on in their home. The Social Host Law, enacted by the Board of Legislators and signed by County Executive Andy Spano, provides penalties (fines and even jail time) to adults who host drinking parties for their underage children. It is the latest effort in the county's campaign to deter drinking by minors.

Can my child consume alcohol in a bar/restaurant if I am present and I purchase the alcohol for him?

No. Bars and restaurants are licensed by the New York State Liquor Authority, and the law does not allow consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21, even under their parents' supervision. The bar and restaurant owner may also be liable if a patron under the age of 21 leaves the establishment intoxicated and causes property damage, personal injury or the death of a person. (*Alcoholic Beverage Control Law §§ 65, 65-c; Penal Law § 260.20(2); General Obligations Law §11-100*)

*From **Your Kids & Alcohol, Q & A***

http://www.westchestergov.com/pdfs/Youth_StopDWI_KidsAndAlcoholFAQs.pdf