



Knowledge is Prevention

Preventing substance abuse by sustaining & strengthening a safe and healthy community, together.

Ecstasy Drug Alert in Oakland County



Recently it was reported that police had seized a significant amount of ecstasy in a drug bust in Oakland County. Ecstasy is often used at parties, and it is colorless, tasteless, and odorless. Individuals who want to intoxicate or sedate others can add them unobtrusively to beverages. The Royal Oak Community Coalition is alerting all teens and parents to this dangerous drug that can lead to permanent

brain damage and death. To learn what to look for and tips for talking to your teen, log on to our website: www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/rocc

Power of One - Developmental Assets

Want to learn the 40 building blocks all kids need to succeed? Then schedule a free presentation available for your community group, church, synagogue, parent meeting or civic group. All our presenters are trained to provide a 15-minute to a 1-hour program.



This presentation is geared to shaping a home, school and community environment that naturally blends the 40 building blocks within the fabric of a child's life. The program format is based on the Search Institute Healthy Youth, Healthy Community. It is an evidence-based program, which shows that by increasing the number of developmental assets a young person experiences the greater the likelihood that children will grow up to be healthy, caring and productive adults.

Adults learn common sense ideas that can be introduced in the home, school setting, place of worship and in the community. This program is funded by a foundation grant from Beaumont Hospital. Contact our office for more information: 248-588-5050 x 229



Flower of the Month Club

Now is the time to order or re-order your Flower of the Month. You will enjoy a beautiful bouquet or plant every month for a year for only \$30.00!!! Just think, that comes out to only \$2.50 per month! What a great way to help your community. You can keep the flowers for yourself or pick a special person each month to give them too. I'm sure you can find someone monthly whose acts of kindness you can celebrate by giving the gift of flowers. Please call Lynn Karnes at ADXL Online at 586-264-4246 to order your flowers today and make sure to mention ROCC at your point of purchase!

Upcoming Events:

Teen/Parent Driving Education

Thursday, February 26, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Churchill Ed. Center AAA Michigan and Royal Oak Community Coalition are sponsoring a one night pre-permit driving presentation to provide critical information teens need to know before they take the wheel.

The program includes:

- Hazards of impaired and distracted driving
- Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) components
- Parent's roles and responsibilities
- What to look for in a driving school
- Practical tips on teaching teens to drive
- Driver-ZED an interactive DVD

Families and Financial Well-being for Teens and Parents

Thursday, March 26th 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

The current economy affects the whole family. Teens feel the pressure of tight budgets and greater difficulty finding part-time work. Join Melanie Daugherty, a member of the Coalition and Bank Manager from National City Bank, in a session for teens and their parents to examine ways everyone in the family can be a part of the solution.

Royal Oak Public Library is hosting this event.

Did you Know: Teens participating in Dialogue Day tell us stress is the number one reason why they choose to use alcohol or other drugs.

Scholarships:

Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak and the **Royal Oak Community Coalition** are offering two scholarships for senior high school students who live in or attend a school in Royal Oak. Applications are due by March 15, 2009 details are available on ROCC's website at www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/rocc.

Conferences presented by **Empowerment Professionals**

February 28th 9-4pm: Starting Your Own Private Practice
March 6th 9-4pm: Adolescent Substance Use, Abuse, & Addiction
March 20th 9-12pm: Ethical Consideration For Private Practice
April 3rd 9-4pm: Youth Depression and Suicide
April 18th 9-4pm: Starting Your Own Private Practice
All conferences to be held at the Royal Oak Elks Club, 2401 E. Fourth St, Royal Oak, MI 48067. Log on to our website for registration information: www.Empowerment-pro.net



Empowerment Professionals, P.C.

Beverly J. Patchett, MSW, LMSW
310 W. Hudson
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067



In Memory of Larry Payne Sr., Owner of Duggan's Irish Pub



Much has been written about Larry, but few know that he also partnered with the Coalition on several initiatives. It is ironic, but he provided the training location for ecstasy awareness for restaurant owners and their managers. This took place several years ago when ecstasy was very popular among young adult party goers. He not only offered the meeting place but provided scrumptious food for the participants.



He was a integral part of instituting the TIPS training that is required by all servers about serving alcohol. Duggan's also hosted several Dream Cruise Summer Dream press conferences punctuating the need for everyone to refrain from drinking and driving and to remind visitors the largest car rally in the world is a family affair.



Larry made financial donations to our cause and was willing to help when asked.

He was one of the first supporters of our now signature annual face-to-face visits, made to all 113 alcohol and tobacco vendors. Coalition volunteers and Officers from the Police Department partner to provide educational kits and ID Checking Guides, which helps, curb underage access to alcohol and tobacco.

Larry certainly exemplifies the underpinnings of coalition work; We all can make a conscious contribution for the betterment of our community, be it one hour, one event, or one initiative.

We thank Larry for his community work and dedication to Royal Oak.



******* SPOTLIGHT *******

We thank Oakland Family Services for being one of our valued partners since 1999.

Oakland Family Services has been dedicated to strengthening individuals and families by providing quality treatment, education and prevention services throughout southeastern Michigan, since 1921 Oakland Family Services is an accredited, private non-profit human service organization with four locations across Oakland County. Visit Oakland Family Services at www.oaklandfamilyservices.org.



Taking Aim at Tobacco

We have read with great interest the Letters to the Editor regarding *Mr. Jim Hiller's* decision to quit stocking his store, **Hiller's Market**, shelves with tobacco products. There is however another question to be asked, Is it still profitable for business owners to sell cigarettes?



*****Today, the population of adults using tobacco is 17%.***
*** Twenty-five years ago it was between 76 - 80% *****

Because of this trend, restaurant owners have noted that people are willing to wait in line for a non-smoking table while smoking tables remain empty. Their response has been to either expand the non-smoking area to accommodate their customers or choose to eliminate smoking in their eatery entirely.

Then there are the businesses that decide the old tobacco vending machine was more trouble than it was worth. They are now few and far between because of the State restriction on vending machine placement. Clerks must also deal with disgruntled customers that lose money in the machine, and a legal requirement for keeping a watchful eye on minors trying to sneak an opportunity to buy smokes illegally. For most businesses it was just simply no longer worth it.

Now it's time for retailers to rethink tobacco, is stocking my store with a product that brings less and less revenue, a smart return for my trouble? First they have to provide floor and shelve space and keep track of the inventory. Employees need to stock shelves, as well as, take the time to make sure their customer is of legal age to make this purchase. If there is a slip up there can be a court appearance with an imposed fine.

That seems to be a lot of valuable time for a business owner to spend on a product with only a 17% customer base. Within the next few years, that number will continue to decrease.

We understand that his intention and decision were based more on health related issues and that is noble. It does however bring us to ask all our tobacco retailers, take some time and evaluate your financial return. Is it still worth all the time and energy of your staff to sell this product?

We commend Mr. Hiller's choice to focus on Americans' health rather than on tobacco company profits.

Please share this newsletter. You are encouraged to reprint, copy, disseminate, recycle—the more you help get the word out, the more people are aware because

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