

May/June Crime Reporter
Jun 01, 2010

THE CRIME REPORTER

Sponsored by TRICOM:

Winnebago County Citizens, Businesses and Law Enforcement Working Together on Crime Prevention, Health and Safety

May/June 2010 Edition

You can help re:TH!NK to stop illegal underage drinking at springtime events!

Springtime brings lots of opportunities for youth and adults to celebrate the accomplishments of the past school year; blow off pent-up energy from the long Wisconsin winter and generally have fun. This year, we can avoid the tragic alcohol related teen deaths that have marred so many past proms and graduations.

re:TH!NK wants to remind everyone that Parents Who Host Lose the Most: Don't Be a Party to Teenage Drinking is a campaign that is being rolled out across Winnebago County May-June 2010. The coalition is working with police and community groups to provide parents with accurate information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth. The campaign encourages parents and other responsible adults to clearly and directly remind family members and close friends that allowing teenage alcohol consumption is illegal and unacceptable.

It is illegal, unsafe, and unhealthy for anyone under age 21 to drink alcohol. Allowing underage youth to drink alcohol in your home endangers everyone's children. Together, as a community, we are all saying hosting or allowing underage drinking is unacceptable in Winnebago County. We'll be cooperating with police efforts to identify and prosecute those who sell and serve alcohol to youth.

Underage drinking isn't a "grey area" of the law. If it is illegal to purchase, pour or provide alcohol for anyone under age 21 who isn't your child or spouse. Other parents can't provide "permission" for you to serve their kids alcohol. Adults who think taking car keys away when providing alcohol to youth are placing both the youth and their financial future in jeopardy. Alcohol related drowning, falls and suicides kill hundreds of teens each year. And most homeowners' insurance policies don't extend liability coverage for illegal activities. If you purchase, pour or provide alcohol for youth; you put your financial future at risk.

Parents, grandparents and other adults hosting parties for youth under age 21 should plan family and teenage events carefully to prevent underage alcohol use. Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these simple guidelines when hosting parties that include teens:

- Host safe, alcohol-free activities and events for youth during prom and graduation season.
- Refuse to supply alcohol to children or allow drinking in your home or on your property.
- Be at home when your teenager has a party.
- Make sure your teenager's friends do not bring alcohol into your home. If youth bring alcohol into your home, confiscate it immediately.
- Talk to other parents about alcohol-free youth events. Unity creates a tough, enforceable message.
- Report underage drinking to authorities promptly.

For more information or if interested in volunteering to help spread the word, please call: Lisa Brown
lbrown@co.winnebago.wi.us (920)232-3009

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Established in 1994, the Tri-Communities Crime Reduction Coalition, TRICOM, is a coalition that brings together the law enforcement, business and citizen communities. TRICOM is committed to health, safety and crime-prevention. Its Vision is: "One community focused upon a caring safety-conscious, health-driven and crime-free environment."

In order to make the communities of Winnebago County safe and crime-free, the Mission of TRICOM is to identify gaps in crime prevention services, conduct research on needs and programs to fill these gaps, be a networking hub and connector of resources that enhance the work of its partner organizations, and enhance community involvement opportunities in crime prevention and safe neighborhood programs.

For further information about TRICOM contact Chairman Dan Hinton at (920)236-4820 or (920)727-2882 ext. 4820.

Residents who believe that crime prevention is a good investment have a new option: The Winnebago County Crime Prevention Fund is an endowment fund, established to provide lasting financial support for crime prevention activities throughout Winnebago County. The fund is an initiative of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and all law enforcement agencies throughout Winnebago County. For more information contact the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation at (920) 426-3993.

Be a mentor to a child. You can make a difference!

You can be a Best Friend and make the world better... one child at a time. Call Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha at (920)729-5600 for more information.

TRIAD

Don't Wait, Get Involved Soon...

TRIAD is a national program that unites police, sheriff and seniors to share experiences and prepare to defend against frauds and scams or other senior issues. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of older adults, through education and active participation in statewide programs and projects, by partnering with Law Enforcement, Senior Serving Agencies and Seniors to help reduce criminal victimization of older adults.

We are ALWAYS looking for new members to join us.

Be Observant – Call About Crime!

Please help law enforcement, if you see a crime in progress call the Winnebago County Emergency 911

www.winnebago crimestoppers.org

center or you call the Winnebago

County-Wide Crime Stoppers at 1-800-621-CASH (2274) or go to the website at

www.winnebago county crimestoppers.org REMAIN ANONYMOUS! Cash rewards up to \$1000 if your information leads to the arrest or conviction of a criminal. Help protect your community and others, get involved to make Winnebago County a safer and more secure community.

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WI Goes Smoke-Free July 5

Wisconsin workers will no longer have to choose between their health and a paycheck, and customers will be able to enjoy a night out without worrying about secondhand smoke. On July 5, 2010 Wisconsin will join the other 22 states that are 100% smoke-free in all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. The law will protect the health of everyone from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Starting July 5, smoking will be prohibited in all indoor workplaces including taverns, lodging places, restaurants, bowling alleys, theaters, retail establishments, private clubs, buildings open to the public, bus shelters and public transportation, common areas of apartment buildings, and all other indoor places of employment. Smoking will also not be allowed in sports arenas of all kinds (Lambeau Field, Miller Park, gymnasiums, swimming pools, skating rinks, etc).

Smoke-free air laws are good for health and good for business. Many businesses have decided to embrace the law and have gone smoke-free already. For a list of smoke-free business or to get more information or resources on the Smoke-Free Air Law, please visit www.wibetttersmokefree.com or contact your local tobacco control coordinator at 920.232.3021 or email edieringer@co.winnebago.wi.us. re:TH!NK has partnered with the DEA, the MEG Unit, Oshkosh City Police, Winnebago County Health Dept., Morton's Pharmacy, and the Winnebago County Solid Waste Division to provide Winnebago County with a safe and anonymous method of prescription drug disposal. Please help us by using the drug drop box. It's free to Winnebago County residents, anonymous, and open 24 hours every day starting April 22 2010. The Drug Drop is located at 420 Jackson Street in Oshkosh, inside the Oshkosh Safety Building.

By disposing of your expired or unused prescription medications in the Drug Drop, you will help us to:

- Improve the water quality of Lake Winnebago
- Reduce drug-related crime
- Prevent prescription drug abuse
- Prevent accidental poisoning, especially in children and pets

For more information check out www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health or contact the Winnebago County Health Department at 920-232-3000.

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Be Educated, Be Involved, Take a Stance in your Neighborhood

The key to safety in your neighborhood realistically is just being a good neighbor. Do you know the names/faces of those who live next door? Would you be suspicious if a moving truck pulled in next door and started loading up televisions and stereos? Does an adult in a car asking questions of a small child on the sidewalk strike you as odd? Have you ever answered the door to find someone selling meat or offering to do home improvements?

These are all situations the police would find suspicious and we would prefer to investigate them while they are occurring instead of after someone becomes victimized. The police department needs all neighborhoods to have citizens who will take an interest in their neighborhoods and their neighbors. Neighborhood watch groups were started to break down barriers and unite people toward a common goal of safety near your home. Tricom, your citizen's crime prevention coalition, suggests wherever you live contact your local crime prevention officer to initiate a neighborhood watch in your neighborhood. We are not asking anyone to get personally involved in

investigating suspicious activity. Rather, call the police when you see suspicious activity occurring. By joining forces we can make all of the communities in Winnebago County safer places to live.

For more information about Neighborhood Watch Programs:

In Menasha In Neenah

call 967-3500 call 886-6000

In Oshkosh In Town of Menasha

call 236-5742 call 720-7109

Elsewhere in Winnebago

County call 236-7309

Thank-you to the businesses that allow us to distribute The Crime Reporter and to TRIAD members and Crime Stoppers member Melanie Hunt for their help in preparing the news