



TOWN HALL UPDATE

The Livonia Save Our Youth Task Force held its third annual Town Hall meeting this past March 11 at Livonia City Hall. Previous topics in this event have been on general problems of substance abuse and underage drinking. However, deaths are still occurring in our community, and a very unknown problem is coming straight from our homes, straight from our very own medicine cabinets.

Prescription drug abuse is a dangerous, and it's sweeping our safe streets, yet many parents and community members are unfamiliar with this subject. With recent media attention on youth deaths that continue to persist, it was urgent that we shed light on this preventable problem.

The Town Hall presentation included a diverse panel of people who helped educate the audience and community members on the subject of prescription drug abuse. Included on the great panel were:

- James Geldhof, Drug Enforcement Agency
- Dr. Mark Menestrina, Brighton Hospital
- Richard Smolarek, Pharm.D. Walgreen's
- Michelle Moccia, CNS, St. Mary Mercy Hospital EC
- Dan McCulley and Monte Banks, LPD School Resource Officers
- Sarah B., a young person in recovery
- Susan Spolsky, lead Social Worker at SMMH EC
- Tim Eskin, Livonia Fire Department

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Healthy Families Expo

Saturday, April 24, 2010 • 12:30–4:30PM

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is sponsoring a free event at Embassy Suites Livonia. Bring your kids for an afternoon of demonstrations, fun activities, and information to help you and your family live a healthy lifestyle. Hear from motivational health expert Peter Nielsen of "Peter's Principles," see kid-friendly cooking demonstrations, and learn about sports injury prevention. The Task Force is partnering with Livonia Police Department to sponsor a drug take-back program. Bring in your expired or unused prescription drugs, and we'll properly dispose of them. Decrease the opportunity for teens to obtain, sell, or abuse medications and learn about how to keep them drug-free!

Over 100 people turned out to hear how to keep our young people safe from prescription drug abuse. Dr. Menestrina said in 2005, prescription drug medicine became the drug of choice over marijuana for young people. With prescription drug sales booming in the United States, opportunities are plentiful for teens to steal from the medicine cabinets of friends or family and then sell or abuse the drugs.

Some over the counter medications which contain dextromethorphan are also abused by people and can be fatal. Susan Spolsky advises parents to ask their children questions about their whereabouts and their friends. Rich Smolarek urged them to keep medications under lock and key. In addition, take old prescriptions to a takeback program.

The Task Force is working on establishing a takeback program in our community, (read about the Healthy Families Expo below this article), but in the meantime you can crush the pills and mix them with kitty litter or coffee grounds in a sealed plastic container and throw them in the trash. Visit the Task Force web site for more discussion.

Passport to Safety

Saturday, May 22, 2010 • 11:00AM–3:00PM

Another opportunity to keep kids safe will be at Passport to Safety at the Livonia Police and Fire Stations. Use your free passport and visit safety areas including 911 training, automobile safety, bike safety, choking and poisoning safety, computer safety, fire safety, food safety, and water safety. The Task Force will offer demonstrations about what smoking can do to your lungs and how to spot the difference between pills and candy. There will be a bicycle safety track, food and drinks, and lots of free gifts! We look forward to seeing you at the fun and informative event!

IN THIS ISSUE

- » [Town Hall Update](#)
- » [Upcoming Community Events](#)
- » [Stomp Drugs Film Festival](#)
- » [Run Against Drugs](#)
- » [Scholarship Opportunities](#)

JOIN OUR MEETINGS

Everyone is welcome to attend our Livonia Save Our Youth Task Force community meetings and may participate in any project they choose.

First Wednesday every month
6:00–8:00 p.m.
Dickinson Center, Rm 13
18000 Newburgh Road

* Note: Please check our web site for exact meeting location as Dickinson Center may be closing.

We also have regular office hours on Mondays, 12-3:00 p.m. Stop in to pick up drug information, learn about resources for prevention and treatment, and see what activities and programs we have coming up and how you can help!

We look forward to seeing you and appreciate your support.

JOIN US ONLINE



Find us on Facebook to receive instant information on various resources, news, and updates about what we are doing. Become a fan and share our efforts with your friends.

You can also visit our web site and sign-up for e-mail updates.

www.SaveOurYouthTaskForce.org

STOMP DRUGS FILMFESTIVAL

Calling All Filmmakers!

Don't miss your screening opportunity!
Film entries for your creative anti-drug
message are due August 13th!

www.StompDrugsFilmFestival.org

CALLING ALL FILMMAKERS!

Help empower awareness about the danger of drugs and alcohol through film! The Livonia Save Our Youth Task Force has teamed up with the Livonia Police Department to challenge professional and first-time filmmakers alike to razzle, dazzle, and leave audiences in awe with their anti-drug video creations.

Grab your cameras and get creative! We are accepting film entries from all age groups and film genres. Your film could be comedy, drama, documentary, mockumentary, or a music video! Whatever direction you decide, you have a maximum of fifteen minutes to get your message across and impress the judges.

Yep, this is a film contest, the first annual Stomp Drugs Film Festival! All entries will go through as series of judging, and the last round of judging will take place on the screening date of November 1st at Emagine Theater

RUN DRUGS OUT OF TOWN IS NOW RUN AGAINST DRUGS

We changed our name to "Run Against Drugs," but we're still the same event! The 4th Annual 5k and 10k run/walk will be on June 12th, 2010 at Nankin Mill in Hines Park. Mark your calendars to attend this fun friends and family event!

The course is USATF certified, and racers will be Chronotrack timed by Race Services Co. Medals will be awarded to top finishers three deep in each age group. Whether you're into competition or simply want to have a good walk and run, this event is great for anyone.

Registration before June 1st includes event entry, t-shirt, and lunch. After this date, t-shirt supplies only while they last. Also returning will be the Family Expo filled with entertainment, educational material, and much more!

You can register as a team to honor, support, or remember a loved one or to show the community your support

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Brian's Foundation, organized after the heroin overdose death of Brian Montes, is offering academic scholarships to recognize and reward individuals who have progressed in their recovery from alcohol or substance abuse and addiction. Applicants must have attended a Livonia high school or be a current resident of Livonia, complete a one to three page essay describing his/her recovery journey

of Canton. Here, professional filmmakers will make the final call about what film makes top prize!

Are you up for the challenge? Visit the festival web site at www.StompDrugsFilmFestival.org to learn about all the contest details. Final film submissions are due this summer on Friday, August 13th! From that date, the judging rounds will begin and an online voting process will start.

The contest is already off to a great start, and the word is spreading fast. Tell your friends, your teachers, your organizations, your creative students, all community members—spread the word. The more film entries the better. Help spread word on an important anti-drug message with your creative talent! The community needs to see it. Lights, camera, action!

as a business or organization. Teams must have ten members for the opportunity to choose their own t-shirt color.

Early bird registration is available until April 30 and is priced at \$10 students/seniors and \$15 for adults. Price will increase as the event draws near. Don't delay, register today! You may register online or by mail. Visit our [Task Force web site](#) or JustSayRun.com for all the registration details.

This event is sponsored by the Livonia Police Department to benefit the Livonia Save Our Youth Task Force. We look forward to seeing you in June!



and academic goals, and provide documented proof of a minimum of one year of continuous recovery from a treatment or counseling professional.

Applications or more information are available by contacting brisfoundation@yahoo.com.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF K2?

There is a new potentially harmful product being legally sold and possessed in Michigan. The drug, sold as potpourri, is known as K2, Spirce, Genie, and Fire and Ice and has the potential to cause serious health issues in those who use it.

The effect when smoked is reported as an intense high similar to that of marijuana. The material is a combination of herbs and spices, sprayed with a synthetic compound chemically similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

The side effects of this drug may be deadly, although no deaths have been reported connected to this substance. Talk to your children about the danger of this product, and let storeowners know we do not want this sold in our community!

Source:
Lake Orion PD, letter to the community

SPEAKER BUREAU NEWS

We have a number of speakers and presentations available to the community. These presentations are developed to share information about the Livonia Save Our Youth Task Force and to educate the community about a variety of topics relating to substance abuse and youth. Recent presentations have included speakers at the following locations:

Frost PTSA
Dr. Mark Menestrina

Livonia Fire Department
Dr. Mark Menestrina

Franklin High School
Diane Montes and two young people in recovery

Livonia Jaycees
Jerry Kwas

Contact us to make arrangements or join our speakers bureau:

saveouryouthtaskforce@gmail.com