

Volume 1 Issue 2

January 2009



www.cobbat.org/safehomes

404-409-9112

New Campaign Tool: Organization Agreement

By, Pat Giuliani

Cobb Safe Neighborhood/Safe Homes was designed to have neighborhoods networking together with their local law enforcement agencies for increasing safety by preventing underage drinking and youth access to alcohol and other drugs. Campaign materials help increase community awareness of unsafe underage drinking realities and adult social host liabilities and help frame these as adult problems with serious consequences for youth, families and the whole community.

Cobb Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Homes originally had two types of agreements; Neighborhood Partnership Agreements and Safe Homes Agreements. We have now created a third form; entitled Organization Agreement. The purpose of this third form is to encourage other community groups such as; PTA/PTSA, faith or civic organization, neighborhood book club, mothers morning out group, bunco or bridge groups, etc., to help mobilize more Cobb citizens to join in this campaign. Now there's another way to reach out so more can share in the collective responsibility for keeping youth, families and communities safe through the campaign's simple, uniform, standardized policy and enforcement protocols.

Get your organization on-board by signing this new agreement and abiding by the five simple terms listed therein. Then, your organization can encourage its' members to sign the Safe Homes Agreements and report the number of such signed agreements to the Cobb Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Homes coordinator. Your organization will receive recognition for any CSNSH Campaign referrals. This each one-reach one model encourages organizations and individuals alike to reach out to others to help grow the Campaign.

A celebration is planned for Tuesday, March 31st at the First Presbyterian Church in Marietta to recognize those neighborhoods, organizations and individuals who have signed CSNSH Campaign agreements. Everyone can help reach out to more Cobb residents so together we become proactive in stopping "social hosting", defined as adults providing youth with alcohol or allowing underage drinking to occur in private settings.

Can we enlist your support in helping us reach out to your sphere of influence in Cobb County? Join with others in this proactive instead of reactive approach!

Please contact me, Pat Giuliani, via email at safehomes@cutdf.org for more information.

Social Networking Web Sites: Police Intelligence Tool

By Cobb County Police Detective, Chip Mercier

Law Enforcement has used the Internet for years to intercept predators those who prey on young children, especially girls. But do you know that law enforcement uses the Internet to gather intelligence about all sorts of crimes? Or that employers use it to learn about potential or current employees? In law enforcement we can use these web sites to investigate a suspect and his/her associates to build a case or to prevent a crime from occurring.

Youth post information on social networking web sites as a way to communicate with their friends about an upcoming party, with photos and comments posted after the party – often depicting underage drinking and other risky and illegal behaviors. Recently, a concerned citizen anonymously mailed pages from Facebook's social networking Web site to the police department. This case received lots of news coverage and involved a local restaurant serving alcohol to underage persons. The Web site pages showed girls drinking alcohol in the restaurant and included comments about their drinking problems. A police investigation led to the revocation of the restaurant's alcohol license and possibly prevented a young person from harming themselves or someone else after drinking at this establishment. See link for news article... <http://www.ajc.com/search/content/news/stories/2008/11/12/cobbrest.html>

Social networking Web sites give youth a false sense of anonymity. Their perception is that only their friends will know what goes on in cyberspace and that parents, teachers and law enforcement are left in the dark. That isn't always the case. Police surveillance on the Internet can and does provide useful intelligence to help fight crime and promote safety, but some youth are using blockers in attempts to protect or hide their information. In law enforcement, we are

bound by the U.S. Constitution and a person's fourth amendment right to privacy. This is where parental monitoring is very important. Here are some internet tips to help parents monitor their child's Internet activity:

1. Know your child's email address. They may show you the Web site they made for your benefit but actually use a second site they want to hide from you. By searching their email address, it will show all sites linked to that email address.
2. Know their friends. Require your child to make you part of his/her social networking account. Once you have logged onto their site, you can link to their friends and their friends' friends page.
3. Monitor your child's Internet activity. If you find something that concerns you about your child or one of their friends, copy the page before they delete the record.
4. Put home computers in a common living area as the family room or kitchen. Putting computers in a child's bedrooms makes monitoring more difficult. Let your kids know you will be monitoring their internet activity, just as you do their real world activities.

If you have any questions or concerns about underage drinking or businesses you suspect may be selling alcohol to underage persons, please contact the Cobb County Police Department's Regulatory Services/ Permits Unit at 770-499-3933.

Detective Mercier has been actively involved with the Cobb Underage Drinking Taskforce and investigates underage drinking incidents that occur in unincorporated Cobb County.

House Parties: Liability and Insurance

By: Mary Harbin, LSAS, Craig Crump State Farm Insurance

There are millions of parties every year hosted by individual homeowners. The trouble is most party hosts do not know what their liability is for an alcohol related incident should someone get hurt while in their home or get into an alcohol related accident after leaving their home.

According to a Trusted Choice Survey, of the over 28 million homeowners who threw a Super Bowl party over 21 million did not have a Personal Umbrella Policy. Not having this kind of insurance leaves the party hosts subject to lawsuits and significant financial liability. Party hosts can be held personally liable if someone leaves their party and is involved in an alcohol related accident in over 30 states. A personal umbrella policy can provide an extra \$1 million

Of insurance coverage in addition to a traditional homeowners policy. Most people do not realize the extra insurance coverage only cost about \$100 - \$200 per year. This financial risk, should a party guest leave your home intoxicated and get into a crash causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in injuries and damages, can cause homeowners financial ruin.

For example, under a traditional policy with \$100,000 of coverage, the homeowner would be personally liable for any costs over the policy amount. If the guest or a person involved in such a crash is injured and incurs \$400,000 of expenses, the homeowner is liable for the additional \$300,000.

Mary has been the office manager for Craig Crump State Farm and Financial Service since 1992.

~Save the Date: March 31, 2009 ~

Cobb County Prevention awards& Recognition Event

Please come out and join with community leaders and youth and adult citizens to learn how to prevent community substance abuse problems and how you can help! We'll also be honoring these special guests; local Substance Abuse Prevention Champions, Local Cobb Safe Neighborhoods Safe Homes Campaign Honorees, and "Youth Voice & Vision" PSA Contest Entries & Winners!

When: Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 6:00—8:30 pm
Where: First Presbyterian Church of Marietta
189 Church St., NE
Marietta, GA 30060

Reception, refreshments & exhibits from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Honorees will walk the red carpet to receive awards!

Please RSVP by March 6th to Mia Chaplin at mchaplin@cobbcollaborative.org or call 770-514-7514.

Event co-sponsored by: Cobb Community Collaborative Drug-Free Communities Support Program and Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force.



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Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force has a new name: Cobb Alcohol Taskforce!

By, Cathy Finck, Coordinator

The new name allows the taskforce to address not only issues surrounding underage drinking (youth under age 21), but also issues surrounding youth binge drinking (primarily college aged youth ages 18-24).

A new brand for the taskforce, complete with updated logo and Web site is being designed and developed. Look for the new Web site to go “live” on or before March 31, 2009.

Cobb Alcohol Taskforce’s mission is to mobilize CObb citizens and organizations to change the community alcohol landscape, using evidence based strategies designed to change policies and practices of major community institutions in order to reduce underage and youth binge drinking.

The taskforce utilizes the CAMP approach to environmental prevention, which groups key strategies into the following four categories to impact:

- ‘C’ - community norms
- “A” - access and availability
- “M” - media messages
- “P” - policy and enforcement

The taskforce is using the SAMHSA model program, Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

To learn more about Cobb Alcohol Taskforce members, supporters, and our work plan, please visit us on the Web for now at www.cobbat.org or call 404-791-7406.

If you are reading this e-newsletter...YOU CAN help spread the news and help grow the Cobb Safe Neighborhoods Safe Homes Campaign!

With your help we hope to reach out to parents, youth and all adults in Cobb County to help engage everyone in the shared responsibility for enforcing underage drinking laws. We invite parents to be stressing the damage that alcohol has on the adolescent brain, and helping to educate themselves and their teens on the short and long-term implications underage drinking has on today’s youth. Adult citizens can help by educating their neighbors and partnering with law enforcement to stop the “social hosting” of underage drinking parties that are all too frequent throughout Cobb County!