

Mayor's Column for the March 2, 2011 Review

The B.A.S.E. (Building A Safer Evansville) Coalition is holding a free community supper and discussion on Monday, March 7, from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Evansville Youth Center, 209 South First Street. We are all invited to share a meal, become educated, and speak frankly about prescription drug abuse and underage drinking in Evansville's youth.

Some eye-opening numbers gleaned from the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of Evansville High School 10th and 12th grade students follow:

- 35% of students reported having 5 or more drinks in a row (binge drinking) in the last 30 days, a higher percentage than Rock County and Wisconsin data.
- 60% of students reported that their parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to drink alcohol at least twice a month, a lower figure than Rock County survey numbers.
- More than 25% of EHS students completing the survey reported using marijuana in the last 30 days, a higher percentage than County and State figures.
- 11.4% of surveyed students have sniffed glue, huffed aerosol spray cans, or inhaled paints or sprays to get high at least once, again, higher than County and State data.
- 14% of surveyed students have been offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property during the last 12 months, compared to a County figure of 18%.
- Nearly 28% of students have taken prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription, higher than the County percentage.

215 sixth and eighth grade students in Evansville also completed the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2009. 18 students, 8.9%, indicated that they have attempted suicide.

Our community must come together to find ways to reduce risky behaviors of our children. One soon-to-be-completed project is installation of a prescription drug collection drop off box at the Police Department. Citizens may anonymously drop off any unused, unwanted, or expired prescription drugs. In collaboration with the Rock County Health Department, these drugs will be properly destroyed. Participation in this program will reduce drug availability for misuse and recreational purposes. An additional benefit is keeping medicines out of our landfills and ground water.

I encourage you to participate in this important conversation. I hope to see you at the Youth Center next week.

Energy Saving Tip

Clean the lint screen of your clothes dryer after every load of laundry. A clogged lint screen can increase the energy use of the appliance up to 30%, as well as be a fire hazard.

Community Announcements

Peter Skelly, Chair of the Civil War Round Table of Rock County, will present “The Unlucky 13th” (six companies of the 13th Wisconsin were from Evansville, Union, Janesville, and Milton) on March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Eager Free Public Library.

On Tuesday morning, March 15, award-winning Wisconsin author Jerry Apps will speak at Eager Free Public Library at 10:30 a.m. He will reminisce about growing up in rural Wisconsin.

Community Congratulations/Thanks

Evansville thanks Ivy Otto, David Huset, Phil Kress, and Nancy Kress for their enthusiasm and efforts in preparing an Evansville application for a Bird City Wisconsin designation.