



East Haddam
Youth & Family Services, Inc.

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Summer 2017

Upcoming Events

Chasing the Dragon

The Life of an Opiate Addict
June 7
7:00-9:00 pm
NHRHS Auditorium

MS Beach Party

June 28
6-8 pm
Town Beach

4th Annual Summer Palooza

July 15
11 am - 2 pm
Heritage Park

Contact Information:

Telephone: 860-873-3296
Fax: 860-873-3243
Email:
youthandfamily@prodigy.net

Visit www.EHYFS.org for
additional information or
if you are interested in
receiving future editions of
this newsletter.

You can also find us on
Facebook

A Note From the Director:

High school graduation is just around the corner. It is a celebration filled with excitement and anticipation that highlights important milestones our children have achieved as they move from adolescence toward adulthood. It is an occasion to be shared and enjoyed and many of our teens are already thinking about post-graduation parties with friends. For some, this also means thinking about alcohol and drug use. For many, the temptation to drink or use drugs is greater during this time than any other time during the year. Parents must be aware of the pressure their teens might be under and set appropriate boundaries and expectations about drinking and drug use.

Some Guidelines for Parents

Parties Your Kids Are Giving:

1. Expect and encourage calls from parents of teens confirming the party time and place.
2. Inform parents and teens that there will be no alcohol or drugs permitted in your home or on your property.
3. Plan on being home during the entire party and exercise proper supervision.
4. Inform teens that leaving and then returning to the party will not be permitted.
5. Call parents of teens who arrive at the party under the influence.
6. Know who is invited. Enforce a NO CRASHING policy!

Parties Your Kids Are Going To:

1. Call the parents of the party giver to:
 - Verify the occasion.
 - Make sure a parent will be home.Be sure that alcohol and drugs will not be permitted.
2. Agree upon a specific time your child will return home before your child leaves for the party.
3. Know how your teen will get to and from the party, and if needed, be available to provide transportation.
4. Tell your kids never to ride home with a driver (including an impaired adult) who has been drinking or is under the influence of drugs. Instruct them to call you for a ride if needed.
5. Be awake, or be sure to have them wake you when they arrive home.
6. Avoid spontaneous "sleepovers" when possible.

Confidential Tip Line:

Call 860-873-5013

or

Text 860-615-9909

Police will be doing Party Patrols on the weekend after graduation and randomly throughout the summer. Parents, concerned citizens and youth can report underage drinking, drug use and unsupervised parties any time by calling or texting the confidential tip line.

-Toni McCabe

Asset Building in Action:

A snapshot of one of our community members who makes a difference everyday



Tammy Spurgeon is dedicated to East Haddam, not only because she and her husband have chosen to raise their children here, but also because she has a vision for this community. She believes that East Haddam can be a community where all of our children and youth can feel safe, connected, and respected. She believes that children and are much more likely to make good decisions and healthy choices for themselves when these things exist. And she believes in her own ability and that of each and every one of us to make a difference.

Tammy works tirelessly to put her beliefs and commitment to our community into action. When her children were younger, she spent years serving as PTO President where she supported elementary school staff, students and families. Even today, years after her kids have left the elementary school, it is not unusual to see her helping to organize the yearly PTO Basket Bash, or participate in a monthly meeting. Now that her kids are in Middle School, Tammy has committed herself to serving as co-president of MPAC, the Middle School Principal's Advisory Council, organizing and supporting many of their events, including the Book Drive, Walkathon and Middle School First Day.

Not only does Tammy actively support parent organizations in town, our schools, youth athletic, music and drama programs, but over, the past two years, she has become a leader on the Local Prevention Council. She has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the "Be Your Best Self" campaign and has spent numerous hours working with other LPC volunteers and staff to develop informational materials for parents and talk with parents, teachers, coaches, and even kids about the importance of having and being positive role models in the lives of all children and youth. She has been actively involved in planning and running numerous LPC activities, including Family Dinner Nights, East Haddam Unplugged and Red Ribbon Week.

Tammy is a socially engaging, thoughtful and dedicated member of our community who is willing to get involved in anything she thinks might help our town. She brings passion and persistence to causes she believes in and is not afraid to encourage others to do the same.

Tammy often says "I just want to do good". She does that...every day.

Local Prevention Council: *By Robin Callahan - Prevention Coordinator*

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST! It's Not Worth It.

"Kids will be kids. What's the harm if they have a few beers in the basement?
At least I know where they are."

Every day, studies reveal alarming evidence and long-term consequences of underage drinking. This is why it's important to address how and where youth get alcohol and what we as parents and concerned citizens can do to avert tragedy. Nationally, news sources have been reporting injuries and deaths that could have been avoided.

The Social Host Liability Laws:

Social host refers to adults or youth who **host** parties where alcohol is served on property they control. Through **social host liability laws**, adults and youth can be held responsible for these parties if underage people are served, regardless of who furnishes the alcohol, and even if the homeowner/parent is not home.

Private homes are the most common setting for **drinking** among high school seniors. All too often, home is also a teen's **source** for alcohol.

In a 2016 East Haddam survey, 89% of students report getting alcohol from a friend's home or their own; 32% of students report an older sibling or friends buys it or them. And the largest number of students state drinking alcohol at a friend's home, at parties, and at their own home.

Who can be held responsible?

- Adults, including family members and friends, who serve or provide alcohol to an underage youth
- Adults can be arrested if they allow underage consumption to occur with their knowledge, even if they did not provide the alcohol
- Parents and homeowners even if they are not on the premises and/or did not provide the alcohol.

Potential consequences:

- Individuals who permit minors to possess and/or consume alcohol may be fined, imprisoned or both
- You could be held civilly liable for injuries, alcohol poisoning, or deaths that occur

National and local incidents of underage partying have been highlighted recently in the news and on social media including a recent after-prom party arrest in Ellington, and an arrest of a father and son in New Canaan.

Well-meaning parents often host drinking parties on behalf of their children, either in the belief they can control the amount of alcohol a teen consumes or because they consider teen drinking inevitable and believe that their supervision can ensure the safety of the children involved. Truth is once parties start, the party begins to grow in numbers, and alcohol and unexpected substances are added to the situation, it can quickly spiral out of control and lead to devastating consequences.

It's not just about the adult legal aspect - kids need to learn that they are responsible for their actions.

Possession of alcohol by a minor on public or private property can face several penalties that may include:

- Infraction with fines up to \$500
- Possible 60-day license suspension if caught in possession on public property or a 30-day suspension if caught in possession on private property.
- If not licensed, minors must wait an additional 150 days before they are eligible.

If you're a parent, talk to your children early and often about the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs. Inform your kids about Social Host Liability Laws, and the consequences of their actions. **Talk often. They hear you.**

For resources, please call EHLPC at 860-873-3296 or visit www.ehlpc.org or our Facebook page @ehlpc.

Middle School Beach Party

Wednesday, June 28th

6-8 pm

Town Beach

Open to all East Haddam students entering grades 6-8. Join your friends for a free party at Town Beach. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Permission forms are required for admission. Contact EHYFS for additional information.

4th Annual Summer Palooza

Saturday, July 15th

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Heritage Park

East Haddam Youth & Family Services is hosting the 4th Annual Summer Palooza on July 15th from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Heritage Park (located at the intersection of Great Hillwood Rd. and Falls Rd.).

This is an opportunity for families, community groups, organizations and businesses to come together to provide a fun, safe and substance free event.

As always, our goal is to collaborate with as many organizations as possible to create an event that everyone will enjoy. We are currently looking for groups who are interested in participating in this event by making a monetary donation, volunteering a few hours of your time or choosing a game or activity you would like to add to the festivities.

If you are interested in participating in this event, or if you have questions, please contact us at 860-873-3296 or youthandfamily@ehyfs.org.

East Haddam Youth & Family Services Sponsors the 4th Annual

FREE SUMMER PALOOZA
A COMMUNITY-WIDE FAMILY FESTIVAL
JULY 15TH • 11AM - 2PM

LIVE MUSIC

FOOD

GAMES

FACE PAINTING

BALLOON DARTS

HERITAGE PARK
LOCATED AT THE SENIOR CENTER, INTERSECTION OF GREAT HILLWOOD RD. & FALLS RD.

Youth Helping Youth Scholarship:

Youth Helping Youth is a leadership group that works in partnership with East Haddam Youth & Family Services to promote safe and healthy lifestyles among East Haddam youth. Each year, this group awards a scholarship to a graduating member who has positively contributed to their school and community. This year's Youth Helping Youth scholarship recipient is Jenna Sullivan.

Jenna has been an active member of YHY for three years, and served as President during the last two. She has played a key role in organizing the annual Polar Plunge fundraiser, sticker shock campaigns, 4th & 5th grade socials and other YHY activities. She also served as the youth representative on the East Haddam Youth & Family Services Board of Directors where she has helped guide the work of the agency. She has devoted numerous hours of community service to EHYFS during her high school career and through her involvement, has shown a commitment to helping others. Jenna's dedication to her school and community has made her a valuable addition to Youth Helping Youth.

She plans to attend DeSales University in the Fall.

East Haddam Confidential Tip Line: 860-873-5013

The East Haddam Police/Resident Troopers Office have established a confidential Tip-Line to receive information from concerned citizens about parties or gatherings where underage alcohol and/or drug use is happening. The Tip-Line is answered by a voice mail system and reviewed by a Police Officer. You will receive a return call only if you provide your contact information and request a callback. All information is kept confidential.

NEW TEXT MESSAGE FEATURE:

You can now text information to 860-615-9909.

Because the Tip-Line is confidential, it is important that you provide as much information and detail in your message as possible.

Use the confidential tip or text line



Report Underage Alcohol and Drug Use

*A collective effort
makes us stronger to
help our kids be drug
and alcohol free.*

Call: 860-873-5013

Text: 860-615-9909