

Town Hall Meeting announced

Officials hope to increase awareness about underage drinking

Alcohol is the leading cause of death among adolescents.

For that reason, the Lake County After School Coalition will present a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, April 11 to discuss underage drinking prevention.

The event, at Carmel Catholic High School, One Carmel Parkway in Mundelein, is open to parents, grandparents, teachers, officials, youth and community members.

Participants will be able to voice concerns about underage drinking and work to find solutions for preventing it from happening.

Attendees will learn how to increase the awareness of the threat of underage drinking, identify how the problem affects the community and brainstorm possible solutions to the problem.

Child care and refreshments

will be provided to attendees. Sessions will held in English and in Spanish.

The meeting will be sponsored by the Lake County After School Coalition, the Mundelein Police Department, Nicasa, Lake County InTouch, the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center, and the College of Lake County.

For more information, visit www.LakeCountyAfterSchoolCoalition.org or call Theresa Loerch at Kathy@kathyryg.org, or call (947) 680-5909.

OurTown^{lc}

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Lake County

Meeting targets underage drinking

By Jim Newton
STAFF WRITER

A coalition of Lake County service providers will host a "Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking" on Tuesday, April 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Carmel High School in Mundelein.

Lake County will join hundreds of communities nationwide in holding a meeting on this issue.

Organizations sponsoring

the meeting include the Illinois Department of Human Services, Lake County Health Department, College of Lake County, Lake County InTouch, Nicasa, the Mundelein Police Department, and the Lake County After School Coalition.

Organizers said the purpose of the meeting is to share new research on the risks associated with underage drinking and empower the community to take action.

"The attitude is that it's OK,"

said Mundelein Police Chief Raymond Rose, co-president of the Lake County After School Coalition. "But we have to stand together as a community and remind people it's not OK."

The federal government's Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking is providing support for town hall meetings taking place in communities across America this spring.

"We are working with lead-

ers throughout the community to keep kids away from the pressures to use drugs and alcohol," said state Rep. Kathy Ryg, D-Vernon Hills, co-president of the Lake County After School Coalition. "It's important that we discuss this issue as a community so that everyone can be a part of the solution."

The goal of the town hall meeting is to educate parents, teachers, officials, youth, and other community members about the impact underage

drinking has on the community. Together, moderators will facilitate discussions over possible ways to address the issue in Lake County.

Concurrent meetings will be held in English and Spanish.

The town hall meeting will be held at Carmel High School, 1 Carmel Parkway, Mundelein.

For more information, visit www.lakecountyafter-schoolcoalition.org, or contact Ryg's office at (847) 680-5909.