MEETING NOTICE

The South Central Safe Community Partnership meets every third Thursday of the middle month every quarter. Next meeting is on May 17, 2012 @ 9:30 AM at SCPDC, 5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70360. Call (985) 851-2900 for more info.

Safe Community Mini-grants awarded to 6 agencies

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) awarded this year’s traffic safety mini-grants to six local agency partners whose programs are driven by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission’s (LHSC) Safe Communities Program priorities.

The six mini-grantees are: Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for South LA (ADAC), Assumption Parish Sheriff’s Office (APSO), Bayou Region Motorcycle Awareness Campaign (MAC), St. James Parish Sheriff’s Office, St. John District Attorney’s Office, and Lady of the Sea General Hospital (LOSGH).

The programs and funding amounts are as follows: ADAC’s Get in the Zone: Don’t Drink and Drive Program ($1,500); APSO’s Overtime DWI Enforcement ($2,000); MAC’s Safety Commodity Distribution ($1,220); St. James SO’s Occupant Protection Enforcement Campaign ($1,988); St. John DA’s Harold Keller DWI/Substance Abuse Classes ($2,000); and LOSGH’s Safety Circus ($1,280).

Safety: going the extra mile

Making the roads safer goes beyond just encouraging people to buckle up or catching drunk drivers. Safety pro’s and advocates pitch in time, money and effort to address all aspects of safety—vehicle, behavior and roadway conditions. In the case of the regional safety coalition down the Bayou and River Region, which is referred to as the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP), traffic safety is a prioritized advocacy that creates a glue between safety practitioners and the public. Everyone shares the same principle of going the extra mile to improve safety. Safe Community partners roll like one big happy family.

Since its inception in October 1999, SCSCP has not only grown from 10 to 35 active agency partners, it has also expanded its highway safety efforts from behavioral approaches to engineering initiatives. On its 12th year of getting funded by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC), the coalition remains true to its fatality reduction mission despite the financial challenge across the nation.

St. Patrick’s Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign 2012

Everyone seems to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day (March 17, 2012) with a big bang. But no one is excused from getting a ticket if suspected to be driving drunk. This enforcement campaign, which runs from March 12-18, is targeted to avoid any roadway crash during one of the most widely celebrated happenings in America. As per National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics, 37% of the traffic fatalities during St. Patrick’s Day 2009 involved at least one driver with a blood alcohol content of .08 grams per deciliter or above, the legal level of intoxication established in every state in the Union. (Visit trafficsafetymarketing.gov for marketing tools you can use for this campaign.)
**Safety: going the extra mile …**

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With Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development’s (LADOTD) Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) in place, the SCSCP steps up and shines atop in traffic safety planning across the state. Just last October 26, 2011, the coalition, through an agreement between LADOTD and the South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC), adopted the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP). This living plan is a collaborative effort between safety stakeholders from the Parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John and Terrebonne. SCRTSP is the first regionalized version of the SHSP document in LA.

Like the SHSP, the SCRTSP is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to reducing motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries. The main goal is to implement SHSP at the local level. This plan captures the SCSCP’s ongoing highway safety programs plus newly initiated engineering strategies to address the needs of the Bayou Region and River Parishes.

Both SCSCP’s and SCRTSP’s mission aligns with the statewide goal of reducing the number of fatalities by 50% in Year 2030.

As of this writing, the coalition is planning for the South Central Region Traffic Safety Summit, which will be on September 27, 2012 at the Houma Terrebonne Civic Center. It will be a perfect opportunity for safety partners to address safety issues, learn best practices and effective tools, and gather input for furthering action plans. Legislative updates and crash data will be presented. A child safety seat check and a few safety demos are also planned.

Meanwhile, everyone is gearing up for DOTD’s statewide Safety Summit on April 3-4, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge.

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**Fatal crashes drop in Lafourche, Terrebonne**

It was reported that car accidents in Lafourche and Terrebonne claimed fewer lives in 2011 as compared to 2010. Law enforcement partners attribute this drop to increased awareness among drivers. “We always like to see a decrease,” Louisiana State Police (LSP) Troop C PIO Evan Harrell said.

According to LSP database as of December 2011, 14 car wrecks in Lafourche killed 14 people, while 10 wrecks in Terrebonne killed 12. Compare that to 2010, when 19 crashes in Lafourche left 21 people dead and 21 crashes in Terrebonne killed 29. This reduction mirrors a statewide decline. There were 536 fatal crashes that killed 578 in 2011 compared to the 640 crashes that killed 720 in 2010. The statistics continue a downward trend over the past four years.

Harrell added that the decrease is a result of increased cooperation between State Police, parish sheriffs’ offices and local police departments.

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**Mini-grants … from Page 1**

The SCSCP is also implementing the Regional Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Checkup Event initiative in five different locations this year. ADAC is leading this effort and is budgeted with $2,000 to purchase booster and convertible seats which will be distributed to drivers, caregivers and parents who are evaluated to be in need of child seats.

For more info, call (985) 851-2900 or email rudynah@scpdc.org

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**Did you know?**

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America’s roadways. In 2009 alone, nearly 5,500 people were killed and 450,000 more were injured in distracted driving crashes.
“A Day of Service” Car Seat Checks
On behalf of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and “A Day of Service” in his honor, two Child Passenger Safety (CPS) car seat checks were conducted by the Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program, the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for South Louisiana (ADAC), and the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) to benefit the community. Certified CPS technicians from LA State Police Troop C, ADAC, Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office, Lady of the Sea General Hospital, Houma Police Department, and Weatherford International gathered at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Houma on January 13 and the Sacred Heart Church in Morgan City on January 14 to provide a no-cost car seat check & installation. A total of 31 seats were checked in both events, 14 of which were replaced. In photos are (L-R): Louis Toups (LSP Troop C), Keith Faul (HPD) and Alicia Toups (ADAC).

Thibodaux PD acts big on Data-Driven Approaches to Crime & Traffic Safety
Chief Scott Silverii of Thibodaux Police Department (TPD) announced the continuation of their comprehensive crime prevention initiative, with the arrest of more than 160 people for DWI so far in 2011. In 2009, the chance of being killed in a Louisiana automobile crash was 64% higher than by murder. Nationally more than one-third of all traffic fatalities involved the use of alcohol.

The emphasis on DWI enforcement as a component of this crime-fighting strategy reduces the potential in the City of Thibodaux for being involved in a serious-injury or fatal crash as well as victimization by crime. Data-driven approaches to crime and traffic safety (DDACTS) continues using info for placing officers in areas statistically prone to high crashes and crime. It additionally provides a diffusion of benefits throughout the city by making officers more proactive and communally involved. This positive effect led to an increase of nearly 500% in the detection and apprehension of drunk drivers threatening the local community.

Chief Silverii stated, “DWI detection is a lifesaving enforcement effort, as driving under the influence in Louisiana is a criminal offense, not a traffic offense.” By adding this strategy to the comprehensive plan, crime within the City of Thibodaux has also seen dramatic reductions. Chief Silverii reports that this year compared to the three previous years’ average, criminal damage is down 21%, burglaries are down 28%, automobile crashes are down 20% and total calls for service have been reduced by 3%. These are only a few examples of success produced by using statistics and technology, professionally trained officers, and building great community partnerships. (Source: Thibodaux PD PR)
How to reach us: If you want to join the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) and attend our future partnership meetings and projects, you may contact SCPD’s Transportation Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone at (985) 851-2900 or email rudynah@scpdc.org. LIKE us on Facebook and FOLLOW us on Twitter.

South Central Safe Community Partnership
South Central Planning & Development Commission
Physical Address: 5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70360
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1870, Gray, LA 70359