Reduce underage drinking. Many parents think underage drinking is a harmless rite of passage. Others are concerned, but don’t know what to do about it. That’s why Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) launched the Power of Parents, It’s Your Influence™ program to combat the underage drinking problem that claims about 6,000 lives each year. The Power of Parents, It’s Your Influence™ program provides parents with the tools to talk with their teens about alcohol.

Free parent workshops equip parents with strategies for having these potentially life-saving conversations. For more information, please call Bayou Region MADD Coordinator Josephine Rodrigue at (985) 226-3574 or email dixiecajuns@hotmail.com.

MEETING NOTICE

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) meets every third Thursday of the middle month every quarter. Next meeting is on August 16, 2012. Executive Board Meeting is at 9:00 AM followed by the Partnership Meeting at 9:30 AM at SCPDC, 5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70360. For more info, call (985) 851-2900 or email rudynah@scpdc.org.

Law Enforcement Cracking Down On Impaired Drivers on 4th of July

Houma, LA – Most Americans may not realize it, but the Fourth of July is one of the deadliest holidays due to alcohol-impaired driving crashes. Houma Police Chief Todd Duplantis could not agree more. That’s why his team of police officers, along with other agencies in the South Central Region, are stepping up in conducting the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” enforcement crackdown to catch and arrest impaired drivers who put themselves and others at risk.

“Too many people die behind the wheel each year due to those who choose to drive after drinking, so our officers will be out in full force this Fourth of July showing zero tolerance for impaired drivers. We will catch and arrest you. No warnings. No excuses,” he said.

Impaired driving crashes killed more than 10,000 people in 2010, accounting for 31% of all traffic-related fatalities in the United States. That’s an average of one alcohol-impaired-driving fatality every 51 minutes. But the percentage of fatalities from impaired driving spike around the Fourth of July.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 392 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the Fourth of July holiday in 2010 (6:00pm July 2 - 5:59am July 6). Of those fatalities, 39 percent were in crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. For more information about this campaign and other safety events, visit trafficsafetymarketing.gov.
Nicholls Police Chief Jaccuzzo earns national honors

A national magazine has named Nicholls State University (NSU) Police Chief Craig Jaccuzzo as its “Director of the Year” for higher-education campus safety.

Campus Safety, a trade publication for K-12 and college administrators and security staff, extended the said award during the first quarter of this year.

The magazine gave him credits for “completely overhauling NSU’s police department, including building a new facility, new communications system and uniform patrol fleet with standardized equipment.” Under his tenure, he has beefed up use of security cameras and added hundreds of units amounting to $400,000.

Campus Safety also acknowledged his efforts to pass a Louisiana law requiring all sex offenders to register with the campus police when they become university students, volunteers or employees. NSU now maintains a list of registered sex offenders on its webpage. NSU VP of Student Affairs Dr. Eugene Dial expressed that the university is very proud of the accomplishments of their police department under Jaccuzzo’s leadership. “This recognition is well-deserved,” he said.

Lafourche gets approved for school sidewalk project

The Lafourche Parish Government (LPG) has been approved to receive LADOTD’s Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant monies that will fund the construction of sidewalks and pedestrian safety signs along Raceland Upper Elementary and Middle Schools. The South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC) assisted LPG in completing the grant application.

The proposed 3/4-mile concrete sidewalk will serve the residents of Alidore Community especially the students who walk and bike to school. Supporting this project are Lafourche Parish School Board, the Parents and Teachers Associations (PTA's) and principals of both schools, Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office, the Louisiana State Police Troop C, the South Central Regional Active Transportation Committee, Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) and South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP).

LPSO has new CPS techs, HPD Officer pursues instructorship

Kudos to the newly certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technicians from Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office (LPSO) who completed the four-day course organized by Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force this year! They are Patrol Sgt. Chantel Chouest, Deputy Aaron Schneck, Deputy Joseph Anderson and Deputy Lynette Grazier.

On the other end, Officer Michael Toups from Houma Police Department (HPD) is pursuing to become a CPS Instructor. He has facilitated classes in Baton Rouge and Monroe as part of the requirements. He will soon be the first CPS Instructor in South Central Region.

CLICK IT OR TICKET 2012. On June 1, 2012, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC), along with Louisiana State Police Troop C (LSP-C) and the Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office (LPSO), collaborated and combined their efforts in order to support the “Click It Or Ticket” mobilization by conducting a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) seat check at the Lafourche Parish Health Unit. In photos are (from left) Trooper Evan Harrell (LSP-C), Deputy Joseph Anderson (LPSO) and Alicia Toups (ADAC) showing the drivers how to install a child seat properly. The event was a success. Of the thirteen seats checked, one was replaced.
2nd Bayou Region Safety Expo

April 21

Around 40 agencies, including the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP), participated at the 2nd Bayou Region Safety Expo organized by LA State Police Troop C. The four-hour outdoor event showcased law enforcement’s technology, transportation and training through demos and displays at the parking lot of the Houma Terrebonne Civic Center. Among the exhibitions were fire trucks, ambulances, air boats, patrol cars, K9 units and SWAT equipment. A Child Passenger Safety (CPS) seat check and installation was also offered for free by certified CPS technicians.

Despite the rain, the event pulled through.

The staff from South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC) put out a display for SCSCP. In photo are SCPDC’s Regional Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone (left) and Transportation Planning Assistant Cassie Parker (right). Top photos are displays from LSP Troop C and other agencies.

Lafourche Road Safety Assessment

April 19

The Lafourche Parish Government (LPG) and South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC), in cooperation with the LADOTD, Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), Houma PD and Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office (LPSO), conducted a Road Safety Assessment (RSA) on local roads in Lafourche Parish. The team visited the Gheens Shortcut Road, Lefort Bypass Road and Forty Arpent Road, and assessed how these roads would be improved to decrease the number of crashes. In photo are among the RSA Team members: (from left) Lt. Mark Adams (LPSO), Terry Arabie (LPG), Jason Taylor (LTAP), Ron Whittaker and Lyle LeBlanc (LADOTD), and Tom Buckley (LTAP). Two of the concerns found were incorrect bridge signs and cracked pavement (as shown). Project recommendations are being submitted for possible implementation.
June 24 to July 6
Fourth of July Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign

To save lives on our roadways this Fourth of July, SCSCP’s local law enforcement partners are cracking down on impaired driving through increased sobriety checkpoints, roving and saturation patrols, and other enforcement methods. No one is excused from getting a ticket once caught driving under the influence. DWI checkpoints are scheduled by sheriff’s offices, local PDs and state police from June 24 to July 6, 2012. For more info on this national campaign, please visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov.

August 16
Quarterly Safe Community Partnership Meeting

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) is scheduled to meet on Thursday, August 16, 2012 at the SCPDC office, 5058 West Main St., Houma, LA 70360. The Executive Board Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Partnership Meeting at 9:30 a.m. The agenda are Regional Safety Summit updates, Labor Day Impaired Driving Campaign plans, National Child Passenger Safety Week, Road Safety Assessment efforts, and parish/agency reports. For more info, contact Rudynah Capone at (985) 851 2900 or rudynah@scpdc.org

HELPFUL LINKS:

- Louisiana Highway Safety Commission: [http://www.lahighwaysafety.org](http://www.lahighwaysafety.org)
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development: [http://www.dotd.la.gov](http://www.dotd.la.gov)
- South Central Planning and Development Commission’s Safe Community Page: [http://www.scpdc.org/?p=752](http://www.scpdc.org/?p=752)

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 SCPDC’s Transportation Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone at (985) 851-2900 or email rudynah@scpdc.org. LIKE us on Facebook and FOLLOW us on Twitter.