ARTICLE REGARDING DRUGS IN PARK DISTRICT'S FALL 2012 REPORTER BROCHURE

[SIMILAR ARTICLES WILL BE RUN IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF REPORTER AND ALSO OAK PARK RECREATION AND PARK NEWS]
Volunteer To Make Your Life Better
GET HIGH – AND MAYBE DIE

An insidious enemy has infiltrated segments of Simi Valley society and threatens to destroy and kill. Its name is heroin. Recent deaths have already been documented, and groups have formed to mount not only a defense, but an offense to this menace.

It’s pretty well known that alcohol and drug abuse have been destroying individuals, families, bodies, minds, relationships, and trust for a long time. It becomes easy to tune out the barrage of news about these topics. However, heroin, which can be cheap and easy to obtain is becoming the newest way for teens and young adults to get high and capturing the attention of folks who never thought it would affect them or their family members.

The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District has joined with the City of Simi Valley and the Simi Valley Unified School District to face this problem head-on. These three agencies have formed the Task Force on Heroin Prevention. Members of their elected boards and staff, along with representatives from other community groups have become educated on this issue and are working to form a plan of attack. What can you do? How can you become educated? Where do we go from here? Here’s a quick review, additional resources are referenced below.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PARTIES: Did you know that there are teens who have parties where they bring prescription drugs they have stolen from their homes and drop them in a bowl? The teens at the party take turns choosing a mystery drug to consume, then wait to see what happens. Sometimes, this is a teen’s introduction to drug use.

PROGRESSIVE DRUG ABUSE: Many drug users say they started with alcohol and marijuana, and progressed to hard drugs. Others begin with prescription drugs. It is important to know that many prescription drugs contain opium derivatives. Opium is also used to produce heroin. Use of it in any form can lead to dependence.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROTECTION: What can you do? Store your prescription drugs where others cannot access them. When the medications are no longer needed, dispose of them at no charge, 24 hours a day, at the Simi Valley Police Department’s secure drop off container in the lobby of the police station at the corner of Tapo Canyon Road and Alamo Street.

BE AWARE: Heroin usage can change behaviors. Pay attention to sudden changes in behavior, mood swings, withdrawal from family members, carelessness about personal grooming, loss of interest in hobbies, sports and other favorite activities, changes in sleeping pattern, red or glassy eyes, and sniffling or runny nose. These and other signs may indicate use.

LEGAL ISSUES: Although drug laws allow police enforcement and District Attorney prosecution, they can also give parents a false sense of security. Illegal drugs can still be obtained, by those that seek them. That’s why education about the dangers of legal and illegal drugs is so important. Be aware of what to look for and where and how to get help. We need to put drug dealers out of business. Consider also the many opportunities to help your family members stay engaged and involved in healthy life-improving activities.

RESOURCES: Many organizations, agencies, websites, and other resources are available to help parents and friends of addicts and suspected addicts. Some are educational sites, while others are for groups or treatment centers. A few of the resources you may want to check include: Adp.cahtn.net.gov, Bgsusi.com, Drugs.com, DrugAbuse.gov, DrugFree.org, Icfs.org, Narconon.org, NotOneMore.net (a new Simi Valley group), StopMedicineAbuse.org, TheAntiDrug.com, TimeToTalk.org, UnitedParents.org, and SimiValley.org (drug drop off box, crime prevention task force, teen and resource programs)

SIMI VALLEY TASK FORCE ON HERION PREVENTION: This tri-agency group is developing a coordinated, comprehensive crime plan and recommendations for immediate implementation to prevent heroin and other drug abuse in Simi Valley. Public involvement is encouraged. To learn more, go to the City of Simi Valley’s website: www.simivalley.org. The information may also be accessed through the park district’s site: www.rsrdp.org. Look for the heroin prevention box.

ALTERNATIVES TO DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District encourages teens and adults to choose healthy ways to connect with their community by participating in recreation activities, attending events, or even volunteering. The district offers sports programs, art classes, dance, theater, swimming, hiking, golf, community events and so much more. Programs are year-round and are offered for all ages, from babies to seniors and everyone in between. Volunteering to help in the community can also be a great way to connect and engage in a positive way with others.

SIGN UP TODAY: Contact our volunteer office at 805-584-4453, or email: volunteers@rsrdp.us to obtain a volunteer application packet and schedule attendance at a volunteer orientation meeting. Volunteer to make your life better by donating your time and talent to help Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

ANTI HEROIN RALLY

Simi Valley STAND UNITED against this terrible problem in our town!

Simi Valley Rally/Worldwide Anti Heroin Rally Day
Saturday, September 15
9:00am at the Simi Valley City Hall.

For more information visit Not One More at www.notonemore.net.

"HEROIN SUCKS"
The Life Right out of you.

• 4 •

Rancho Simi Recreation
and Park District

www.rsrdp.org
Email: volunteers@rsrdp.us
for more information

Rancho Simi Reporter (805) 584-4400
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES LISTING IN PARK DISTRICT’S WINTER/SPRING 2013 REPORTER
Get Fit in 2013!
HOME OWNERSHIP  Adult
Understanding the Process of
with Dedree Hoyt
In two hours, explore one of life's most
important processes of buying your own home or
investment. Workshop will cover short sales,
foreclosures, bank owned, first-time buyers
programs escrow, lending, inspections, taxes
and more. Together we will answer your ques-
tions and increase your understanding.
28174 1 W 7:00-9:00 p 2/27  $10*
28175 1 Sa 10:00 a-12:00 p 4/6  $10*
Location: SDCC, C-1
*Shows each if registering with an additional
person. (Discount rate NOT available through
online registration.)

POSITIVE SUPPORT
FOR PARENTS
Parenthood can be rewarding, enjoyable, and
enlightening. It can also be demanding, frustrat-
ing and exhausting. Parenting is the toughest
job around, yet most parents do not get training
and learn through trial and error. Join the Triple
P Program in a supportive learning environment
with other parents. Parent/caregivers will learn
how to build a better relationship with their
child/children, create a positive environment,
manage common behavior problems, and
reduce stress. Parents will discuss and share
their ideas and experiences and receive practical
information that can be incorporated into
everyday interactions and situations. Open to
parents with children ages zero to 12.
28337 7 Tu 6:30-8:30 p 1/15-2/26 Free*
28338 7 Tu 6:30-8:30 p 3/12-4/23 Free*
*Spaces limited, pre-registration required.

PARENTING IS A TOUGH JOB!
Are you interested in building a better rela-
tionship with your child and enhancing your
parenting skills? Join the Positive Parenting
Program (Triple P) in a series of three seminars
that will discuss positive parenting, raising
confident and competent children and resil-
ience. Parents/caregivers will learn the six building
blocks of positive parenting, how to foster
social/emotional skills so children develop
confidence and reach their full potential, and
how to prevent emotional problems. These
seminars are for parents and caregivers of
children ages zero to 12.
The Power of Positive Parenting
28339 1 Th 6:30-8:30 p 1/24 Free*
Raising Confident, Competent
Children
28340 1 Th 6:30-8:30 p 2/28 Free*
Raising Resilient Children
28341 1 Th 6:30-8:30 p 3/28 Free*
*Spaces limited, pre-registration required.

ONLINE CLASSES
ed2go
Learn More
The Ed2Go network provides
hundreds of instructor-facilitated
online courses that can be completed
at your own pace and at the times
that are convenient to you. All
courses run from 6-8 weeks and are
composed of 12 lessons.

MEDITATION/GUIDED IMAGERY
with Marla Takacs 13 yrs-Adult
This series on meditation will teach simple,
essential and powerful techniques to relax both
body and mind. By engaging in meditation
practice, you can eliminate negative states of
mind and cultivate inner peace and happiness.
Classes consist of guided meditations, teaching
and discussion. Beginners are welcome!
28209 6 M 5:45-6:45 p 1/14-3/4  $60
28210 6 M 5:45-6:45 p 3/11-4/15  $60
NO CLASSES JAN 21 & FEB 18
Location: SDCC, Recreation Room

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Rancho Simi Reporter (805) 584-4400
Navigating the Road to College 15 yrs-Adult
with Anne Cavanaugh & Jennifer Charton

Anna is currently working towards a MS in School Counseling and is a college and career technician at SVPH. Jennifer holds a Master’s in Counseling & Guidance and currently works as an Admission Representative for CSUN.

Start preparing now for the road to college! This class will help high school students and their families navigate the whole college planning process and requirements. Discussions will consist of financial aid, applications, choosing a school, how to stand out amongst other applicants and parent versus student responsibilities.

Open forum at the end of each class.

28122 4 M 6:30-8:30 p 1/7-2/4 $129
28123 4 M 6:30-8:30 p 2/25-3/18 $129

No Class Jan 21
Location: SDCC, B-1

Community Resources

2-1-1 Ventura County
Extensive resource links
www.211ventura.org
211 or 1-800-339-9597

City of Simi Valley
Service Directories Citizen Advisor
www.cslimi-valley.ca.us
805-583-6861

Simi Valley Unified School District
Links to substance abuse and cyberbullying resources
www.simi.k12.ca.us
805-306-4500

Interface Family Services
Family resources, mental health services, referrals, family violence intervention, substance abuse
www.ifcs.org
805-485-6114

Taskforce on Homelessness
www.simivalley.org
805-583-6861

Alcoholics Anonymous
www.aaventuracounty.org
805-522-1300

Narcotics Anonymous
www.ccmr.net/County_Line.html
818-773-9999

Overeaters Anonymous
www.overeatersanonymous.org
505-891-2664

Action Family Services
Mental Illness or chemical dependency services/treatment
www.actionfamilycounseling.com
805-584-3258

Celebrate Recovery
help for those struggling with hurts, habits & hang-ups
www.celebraterecovery.com

Nar-Anon
For those affected by someone else’s addiction
www.naranon.org

Simi Valley Free Clinic
Medical, dental, counseling, legal services
www.freesclinics.com
805-522-3733

Crisis Pregnancy Center
805-583-3590

Ventura County Child Protective Services
805-654-3200 (24 hrs)
COPIES OF PAGES FROM DISTRICT’S WEB SITE, INCLUDING HOME PAGE, DRUGS DESTROY PAGES, CALENDAR OF EVENTS PAGES, AND COPIES OF EVENT FLYERS THAT HAVE BEEN POSTED
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District provides active, healthy, family-oriented parks and recreation activities. We hope that you and your family will take the time to visit the many different parks around town. You can learn more about them and the many recreation activities offered throughout the year on our web site. There are many opportunities to play ball, watch nature, relax, and even reflect on the history of Simi Valley. Our web site also allows you to register for activities on-line, and provides you with the latest information about upcoming events.

The Park District is firmly committed to a drug-free environment, as there are far too many examples of drug use tearing apart families and destroying people's lives. The potential in each of us should have every opportunity to develop with great friendships, supportive families, healthy relationships, and plenty of opportunities for education and recreational experiences.

Not too long ago it became increasingly clear that heroin use was on the rise in many parts of the country, including Ventura County. As overdoses and deaths increased families stepped forward and urgently asked the City of Simi Valley to do something to stop the devastation. In response, the City of Simi Valley, the Simi Valley Unified School District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and representatives of Not One More formed the Heroin Task Force to hear from the community, consider what could be done, and develop responsive strategies for implementation.

Throughout the proceedings it became clear that drug and alcohol abuse can have profound negative consequences for users and also for their family, friends and fellow community members. For your information, the members of the Heroin Task Force and their contact information are listed below. The Task Force's meeting information and other important links are also provided. You may find these resources helpful in learning what to look for and how to respond to a family member or friend's drug or alcohol use and/or abuse. We hope you find this information helpful. If you have suggestions for improvement, please let us know by clicking on the suggestions tab on our home page and sending us a brief note.

Miscellaneous Upcoming Events

(please see the bottom of this page for The Heroin Taskforce's Meeting Schedule)

February 19, 2013
Transition Fairs - From School to Adult Life

http://www.rsrpd.org/admin/taskforce/taskforce.html

2/14/2013
For families of secondary and post secondary special education students and the professionals who work with them. click here for a flyer regarding the event with all the details

February 21, 2013
Simi Valley PTA/PTSA Council Event
"Prescription Drugs and Heroin Use Among Teens in Ventura County"
"WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW AND DO"
click here for a flyer regarding the event with all the details

February 28, 2013
Transition Fairs - From School to Adult Life
For families of secondary and post secondary special education students and the professionals who work with them. click here for a flyer regarding the event with all the details

March 6, 2013
Transition Fairs - From School to Adult Life
For families of secondary and post secondary special education students and the professionals who work with them. click here for a flyer regarding the event with all the details

March 12, 2013
Transition Fairs - From School to Adult Life
For families of secondary and post secondary special education students and the professionals who work with them. click here for a flyer regarding the event with all the details

April 19, 2013
Workshop - Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
This workshop will provide parents and caregivers with an overview of some of the concepts and strategies taught in the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training programs.
click here for a flyer regarding the event with all the details

Community Resources
Contact Information

2-1-1 Ventura County
Extensive Resource Links
www.211ventura.org
800-339-9597

Action Family Service
Mental Illness or chemical dependency Services/treatment
www.actionfamilycounseling.com
805-584-3258

Alcoholics Anonymous
www.aaventuracounty.org
805-522-1300

Celebrate Recovery
help for those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups
www.celebraterecovery.com

City of Simi Valley
Service Directories Citizen Advisor
www.ci.simivalley.ca.us
805-583-6861

Community Coalition United
http://communitycoalitionunited.org

Crisis Pregnancy Center
805-583-3590

DrugFree.org
www.drugfree.org

Heroin.net
www.heroin.net

HeroinKills.org
www.heroinkills.org

Interface Family Services
Family resources, mental health services, referrals, family violence intervention, substance abuse
www.icfs.org
805-485-6114

Nar-Anon
For those affected by someone else's addiction
www.nar-anon.org

Narcotics Anonymous
www.ccrna.net/County_Line.html
818-773-9999

Not One More
www.notonemore.net

Overeaters Anonymous
www.overeatersanonymous.org
505-891-2664

Simi Valley Free Clinic
Medical, dental, counseling, legal services
www.freclinicsv.com
805-522-3733

Simi Valley Unified School District
Links to substance abuse and cyberbullying resources
www.simik12.ca.us
805-306-4500

Taskforce on Homelessness
www.simivalley.org
805-583-6861

Ventura County Child Protective Services
805-654-3200 (24 hrs)
The Heroin Task Force

Introduction

The Heroin Task Force represents the the cooperative efforts of three agencies in Simi Valley, The City of Simi Valley, The Simi Valley Unified School District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. These agencies are all working together to improve the efforts to help keep Heroin out of our Community. Click here to see the "Simi Valley Task Force on Heroin Summary Report"

THREE AGENCIES RELATED WEBPAGE'S

City of Simi Valley's related webpage

Simi Valley Unified School District's related webpage

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District's related webpage

HEROIN TASK FORCE CONTACT INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Appointing Entity</th>
<th>E-mail Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Judge</td>
<td>City of Simi Valley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjudge@simivalley.org">mjudge@simivalley.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Pro Tem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Force Chair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Collins</td>
<td>Simi Valley Board of Education</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robdisimi@aol.com">robdisimi@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Force Vice-Chair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Huber</td>
<td>City of Simi Valley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhuber@simivalley.org">bhuber@simivalley.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan White</td>
<td>Simi Valley Board of Education</td>
<td><a href="mailto:danwhite@interdealer.com">danwhite@interdealer.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate O'Brien</td>
<td>Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:katieoliberty@gmail.com">katieoliberty@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gene Hostetler</td>
<td>Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:akamrbuff@aol.com">akamrbuff@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
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HEROIN KILLS
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

HEROIN TASK FORCE MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 27th, 2012</td>
<td>6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Simi Valley City Hall, City Council Chamber</td>
<td>2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, Ca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Please check back for the Agenda</td>
<td>or click <a href="#">here</a> to see if it's posted on the Cities related website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12th, 2012</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Simi Valley City Hall, City Council Chamber</td>
<td>2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, Ca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Agenda](#)
### July 31st, 2012
**Time:** 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Simi Valley City Hall, City Council Chamber  
**Address:** 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, Ca

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes

### June 28th, 2012
**Time:** 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Simi Valley City Hall, City Council Chamber  
**Address:** 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, Ca

- Agenda

### May 30th, 2012
**Time:** 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Simi Valley City Hall, City Council Chamber  
**Address:** 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, Ca

- Agenda
- Discussion of City of Simi Valley Resources Allocated to Youth Service and Drug Interdiction/Prevention Programs

### May 8th, 2012
**Time:** 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Simi Valley City Hall, City Council Chamber  
**Address:** 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, Ca

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes

### April 30th, 2012
**Time:** 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Simi Valley City Hall, City Council Chamber  
**Address:** 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, Ca

- Agenda

### April 10th, 2012
**Time:** 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Sinaloa Middle School, Multi-Purpose Room  
**Address:** 601 Royal Ave. Simi Valley, Ca

- Agenda Packet
- Meeting Notes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td><strong>Transition: From School to Adult Life:</strong> For families of secondary and post school special education students and the professionals who work with them. Please click here for a flyer with all the details on it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2013)</td>
<td>(oxnard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 21</td>
<td><strong>Simi Valley PTA/PTSA Council Event:</strong> Prescription Drugs and Heroin Use Among Teens in Ventura County: What Parents Need to Know and Do. Designed for parents of children 4th - 12th grades. Please click here for a flyer with all the details on it.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2013)</td>
<td>(westlake village)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td><strong>TRIPLE P: Positive Parenting Program:</strong> Attention Parents, are you interested in improving your parenting skills or your relationship with your child?..........</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transition: From School to Adult Life:
For families of secondary and post secondary special education students and the professionals who work with them.

Please click here for a flyer with all the details on it.

A Faery Hunt:
With the help of the faery folke, the children and their families embark on an exciting quest to help the faeries in this interactive children's show. In this way, the audience actually become part of the story. The shows are for children 2-10 year olds, boys and girls, and the young-at-heart. Most of the children come in costume -- it is not required faery fun. Groups and parties are welcomed.

For all the latest details, please visit their website at www.afaeryhunt.com

Transition: From School to Adult Life:
For families of secondary and post secondary special education students and the professionals who work with them.

Please click here for a flyer with all the details on it.

TRIPLE P: Positive Parenting Program:
Attention Parents, are you interested in improving your parenting skills or your relationship with your child?............

Please click here for a flyer with all the details on it.

Spring Egg Hunt - Arts and Crafts Show:
Arts and Craft items! Dozens and dozens of vendor booths featuring items for
adults and children; jewelry, clothing, toys, baby items, hair ornaments, hats, puppets, candles, soaps and more. Food, kids inflatable's, slides, train, mini-ferris wheel (some rides and activities have an additional charge).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>who</th>
<th>Open to the Public - All Ages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>when</td>
<td>Saturday March 30th, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30am - 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>Mae Bovar Park, 130 N. Kanan Rd. Oak Park Ca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cost</td>
<td>free admission - but additional charge for some rides and activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more info.</td>
<td>click here for an event flyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>click here for a vendors application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or call (818) 865-9304 for more information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention: A Workshop for Parents and Caregivers:

The workshop will provide parents and caregivers with an overview of some of the concepts and strategies taught in the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training programs.

Please click here for a flyer with all the details on it.

Please check back, we are always adding things!!

*some events held at our parks are not provided by the rancho simi recreation and park district.

http://www.rsrpd.org/rec/events/events.html 2/11/2013
Transition: From School to Adult Life

Transition Fairs

For families of secondary and post secondary special education students
and the professionals who work with them

SCHEDULE: New Format this year!
6:30-6:45pm Registration
6:45-7:15pm General overview
7:15-8:00pm Separate sessions with adult agencies serving people with disabilities with a diploma, or with a certificate of completion
8:00-8:30pm Visit booths

(If you have heard the Transition presentation and seen the video before, it’s okay to come at 7:15)

There will be a short video from parents, to parents!

There will be a separate session for special education teens and young adults on setting goals for adult life, presented by young adults who had services from the special education system.

An optional homework assignment for extra credit will be available, if assigned by the teacher.

Meet representatives from the following agencies: They will give a brief presentation and will be available to answer your questions.

Department of Rehabilitation
Tri-Counties Regional Center
Department of Behavioral Health
Employment Development Department
Community Colleges
Housing
Public Health
and Many Other Agencies!

DATES AND LOCATIONS OF FAIRS
ALL ARE FROM 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Oxnard Area- (Bilingual)
Tuesday, February 19, 2013
Oxnard Performing Arts Center
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard
(Separate introductory sessions in English and Spanish at this location only)

Ventura Area
Wednesday, March 6, 2013
Ventura Unified District Offices
255 W. Stanley Ave, Ste 100, Ventura

Thousand Oaks Area
Thursday, February 28, 2013
Westlake High School - Library
100 N. Lakeview Canyon Road,
Westlake Village

Simi Valley Area
Tuesday, March 12, 2013
Sinaloa Middle School - Gymnasium
601 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley

Sponsored by the Ventura County Transition Project

Spanish translation or sign language interpretation must be reserved 2 weeks in advance, (805) 437-1560.
¿Qué vas a hacer después?

Transición: De la Escuela a la Vida de Adulto
Ferias de Transición

Para familiares de los estudiantes de la educación especial en secundaria y post-secundaria y los profesionistas que trabajan con ellos

PROGRAMA: Formato nuevo este año!
6:30-6:45pm Registro
6:45-7:15pm Resumen general
7:15-8:00pm Sesiones separadas con las agencias para adultos que sirven personas con discapacidades con diploma o con un certificado de culminación
8:00-8:30pm Visíté los puestos de las agencias

(Si ha escuchado la primera mitad de la presentación anteriormente, puede llegar a las 7:15)
¡Habrá un video corto de padres a padres!

Habrá una sesión separada para los adolescentes y jóvenes de educación especial en el establecimiento de objetivos para la vida adulta, presentado por los jóvenes que recibieron servicios del sistema de educación especial. Una tarea opcional para el crédito adicional estará disponible, si está asignada por el profesor.

Reúmate con los representantes de las siguientes agencias: Se hará una presentación breve y estarán disponibles para responder a sus preguntas.

Departamento de Rehabilitación
Centro Regional de los Tres Condados
Departamento de Salud Mental
Departamento del Desarrollo de Empleo
Colegios de la Comunidad
Departamento de Viviendas
Departamento de Salud Pública
¡Y muchas agencias más!

LA FETCHA Y LUGAR DE LAS FERIAS:
HORARIO 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Área de Oxnard (Billingue)
Martes, 19 de febrero, 2013
Oxnard Performing Arts Center
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard CA
(Sesión introductoria separada en inglés y español en este lugar solamente)

Área de Ventura
Miércoles, 6 de marzo, 2013
Oficinas del distrito de Ventura
255 W. Stanley Ave, Ste 100, Ventura

Área de Thousand Oaks
Jueves, 28 de febrero, 2013
Westlake High School – Biblioteca
100 N. Lakeview Canyon Road
Westlake Village, CA

Área de Simi Valley
Martes, 12 de marzo, 2013
Escuela Sinaloa - Gimnasio
601 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley

Patrocinado por el Proyecto de Transición del Condado de Ventura

Para traducción al español o lenguaje de señas se debe reservar 2 semanas antes llamando al (805) 437-1560
Simi Valley PTA/PTSA Council Event

Prescription Drugs and Heroin Use Among Teens in Ventura County

What Parents Need to Know & Do
Designed for parents of children 4th – 12th grades

Hosted by:
Simi Valley PTA/PTSA Council,
in partnership with:

Presentations by:

February 21, 2013 – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Santa Susana High School
Multi-Purpose Room
3570 East Cochran Street
Simi Valley

For information contact:

Michelle Scharf
2nd Vice-President, Programs - Simi Valley PTA/PTSA Council
mich0426@sbcglobal.net

Made possible through funding from
Ventura County Behavioral Health Department
Alcohol and Drug Programs
Attention Parents:
Are you interested in improving your parenting skills or your relationship with your child?

In a series of three FREE seminars we will discuss positive parenting, raising confident and competent children and resiliency. You will learn six building blocks of positive learning, how to foster social/emotional skills so children develop confidence and reach their full potential, and how to prevent emotional problems.

Seminars designed for parents and caregivers of children ages zero to 12.
Seminars held at 1692 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley.

The Power of Positive Parenting
Thursday, January 24th 6:30pm-8:30pm

Raising Confident, Competent Children
Thursday, February 28th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Raising Resilient Children
Thursday, March 28th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Spaces limited, registration required. Call 805-584-4400 or visit www.rsrpd.org

This program is sponsored by Ventura County Behavioral Health through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Prevention and Early Intervention funding.
The Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)
Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Mary E. Samples, Assistant Superintendent
in collaboration with the
Autism Society Ventura County (ASVC)
Proudly Presents...

Sharing Strategies from the
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
A Workshop for Parents and Caregivers

This workshop will provide parents and caregivers with an overview of some of the concepts and strategies taught in the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training programs.

The workshop will give parents and caregivers:
- Insight into behavior patterns of their child.
- Ideas for intervening early as behaviors start to escalate.
- Ways to keep everyone safe.

Dates (Please choose one):
Saturday October 6, 2012—Cancelled due to low enrollment
Friday November 30, 2012
Saturday February 2, 2013
Friday April 19, 2013

LOCATION:
Ventura County SELPA
VCOE Conference Center
5100 Adolfo Rd. Camarillo 93012

Registration 8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
Workshop 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lunch is on your own

COST: FREE to parents of a student with an IEP in the Ventura County SELPA
Due to a generous donation and co-sponsorship from the Autism Society Ventura County and SELPA Community Advisory Committee

All others: $10
(Includes handbook)

Slots are limited, so registrations will be taken on a “first come-first served” basis. You will receive written confirmation of your registration. Questions? (805) 437-1560, FAX: (805) 437-1599.

REGISTRATION – Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Parent Training
Please indicate which date you will be attending below
☐ Parent of student with IEP (Free)  ☐ Other ($10)


Name: ___________________________________________ Title: _______________________ District: ___________________

Address: ___________________________________________ Street Address: ______________ City: __________ Zip Code: _____________________________ Confirmations will be E-Mailed

Email: ___________________________________________ Phone: ___________________________ FAX: ___________________________

Parent NCPI Training

revised January 3, 2013
The Simi Valley Police Department
Presents
The Parent Project®
Because the tougher it gets to be a kid . . .
The tougher it gets to be a parent!

Starts Tuesday, January 15, 2013
4364 Valley Fair Street, Simi Valley, CA. 93063
Class will be held in the “Old Jacks Shoes” building
(Located at the S/W corner of Tago Street and Valley Fair Street)

Tuesday
6:30 – 9:30 PM
10-Week Series
No-cost tuition
$20 materials deposit

We promise concrete answers for every question you ask:
➢ Never argue with your child again
➢ Improve school attendance and performance
➢ Prevent or intervene in alcohol and other drug use
➢ Find resources to help

REGISTER NOW!
Call 805.583.6290

Financial Assistance Provided by the Simi Valley Police Foundation
The Moorpark Unified School District, Moorpark High School, Community High School, The High School at Moorpark College, Chaparral Middle School and Mesa Verde Middle School Invite Parents and Students to attend a

COMMUNITY DRUG FORUM
Presented by
VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT
and
MOORPARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Guest Presenters and Orators:
Assistant Sheriff Gary Pentis
Ventura County Sheriff’s Office
Doctor Matthew Beatty
Emergency Room Physician
Los Robles Hospital
Sergeant Victor Fazio
Ventura County Sheriff’s Office
Moorpark Police Department

DATE: January 23rd, 2013
TIME: 6:30PM – 8:00PM
WHERE: Moorpark High School
Performing Arts Center

This evening will provide you and your student(s) with valuable information pertaining to current drug trends in Ventura County.
For more information, please visit your schools website.
Community Coalition United and Ventura County Behavioral Health are pleased to announce Mental Health First Aid in the form of a free 2 day interactive 12-hour course.

**Course Information:**

This course presents an overview of mental illness and substance use disorders and introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments. Those who take the 12-hour course to certify as Mental Health First Aiders learn a 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

**Location:**  Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
Sycamore Drive Community Center - Multi Purpose Room B  
at 1692 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley, CA 93065

**Dates:**  
Tue Aug 28, 2012 09:00 AM 4:00 PM
and
Wed Aug 29, 2012 09:00 AM 4:00 PM

**Who can benefit:**

The 12-hour Mental Health First Aid USA course has benefited a variety of audiences and key professions, including: primary care professionals, employers and business leaders, faith communities, school personnel and educators, state police and corrections officers, nursing home staff, mental health authorities, state policymakers, volunteers, young people, families and the general public.

**To register** for this valuable training contact:  
June Ewart, Community Coordinator, Community Coalition United  
Ewart2006@gmail.com  
(805) 304-3386

*A Special thanks to Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District*
Behavioral Health sponsors free mental health training

Classes offered January and February in Simi

By Carissa Marsh

cmarsh@theacorn.com

A free two-day course is being offered this month to help residents better understand mental health problems and to gain the skills necessary to respond to mental health emergencies.

The Mental Health First Aid USA program is sponsored by Ventura County Behavioral Health as part of its Prevention and Early Intervention effort through Mental Health Services Act funds.

The 12-hour interactive course is given over two days. It is scheduled for Jan. 22 and 23 and will be offered again in February.

This round of classes is the second in Simi Valley. Community Coalition United, a group founded by Simi resident June Ewart and aimed at helping local at-risk youths and their families, worked with VCBH and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District last year to bring the Mental Health First Aid USA program to the city.

"I had taken the training myself (in Ventura) to see what it was about and become certified . . . and I was really taken by how extensive it was, how much it covered," Ewart said. "It was really great training."

Though she said the class is valuable, she recognizes it is a big time investment.

"It's a 12-hour training course . . . so it is a big commitment for a lot of people," she said. "I thought it would be more utilized . . . if it was closer to home."
The course presents an overview of mental illness and substance use disorders and introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact and reviews common treatments.

"It's a pretty intensive class. I can tell you this, you're not bored," said Ewart, who has taken the course twice. "It holds your attention. It's highly interactive."

Organizers say it is far more likely that someone will encounter an "emotional emergency"—such as distress, panic or substance abuse—than a medical emergency, such as a heart attack or a stroke.

"We think about how to help somebody in an emergency. We think of CPR and we think of medical first aid," Ewart said. "But up until now there's never been anything offered for the mental health component . . . and more people will go to the emergency room for a panic attack than an actual heart attack. There's a lot of distress out there."

Those who take the course will learn a tested five-step action plan giving them the skills, resources and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with the appropriate professional, peer, social and self-help care.

Ewart said it's common for people, due to inexperience or stigma, not to know how to deal with or respond to a mental health issue.

"Oftentimes when people are having a mental health crisis people will stay away from the person instead of engaging them," she said. "The great thing about this class is that when somebody is having symptoms or problems, it really teaches you how to interact with that person."

The Mental Health First Aid USA program is aimed at a wide variety of people, including primary care professionals, employers and business leaders, faith communities, school personnel and educators, law enforcement officials, nursing home staff, volunteers, young people, families and the general public.

Since "mental health" has been a buzzword in the media lately, Ewart is hopeful the response for the upcoming classes will be just as positive as it was for the first class last August, which filled up so quickly there was a waiting list and a second course added.

"I can't think of a single person that couldn't benefit from this class," Ewart said. "Even people that have their own problems and go through the class, they feel a lot better after taking the class and they feel like there's more hope.

"In any instance it's just a very helpful class for all communities."

This month's free certification course will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues. and Wed., Jan. 22 and 23, and will take place at the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District's Sycamore Drive Community Center, multipurpose room B, 1692 Sycamore Drive in Simi Valley.

A second class will be offered next month, Feb. 26 and 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day in the same location.

Participants must attend all 12 hours to receive a certificate of completion.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch.

For more information on the program, visit www.MentalHealthFirstAid.org. To register for the class, visit www.rsrpd.org, call (805) 584-4400 or visit the park district offices at 1692 Sycamore Drive.

ARTICLES AND PRESS COVERAGE
Simi Valley/Moorpark

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Task force weighs anti-heroine plan

Goals include teen education, support group

By Mike Harris
mharris@vcstar.com
805-437-0323

The Simi Valley heroin prevention task force has introduced recommendations aimed at curtailing a sometimes deadly surge in heroin use by the city's youth.

At its meeting Tuesday night at City Hall, the task force delayed adopting the recommendations until Sept. 12 to give its agencies time to evaluate them and consider whether they can fund the efforts.

"While some strategies were successful programs that are currently in effect, many are the product of the outreach and resource gathering process undertaken by the task force," a task force report states.

The 32 recommendations are ranked on a scale of 1 to 5 — the higher the number, the greater the priority.

The top five recommendations are:

- Implement educational programs targeting high school students.
- Develop middle school and high school programs.
- Develop media that target youths.
- Develop drug and alcohol awareness classes for parents and children.
- Disseminate information to the public on intervention and treatment programs.

The task force was asked at the meeting to adopt a draft report submitted by Dan White, a candidate for the Simi Valley Unified School District board, that accused the district of neglecting "any credible data ... that provided insight into the level of drug use by its students."

The task force's vice chairman, Rob Collins, clerk of the school district's board, dismissed the "negative tone" of White's report, saying he would not endorse it. After the meeting, Collins said White was trying to generate publicity for his campaign.

"He's saying that we had our heads in the sand and passing the buck, and that's not true," Collins said.

In addition to its school board representatives, the task force also has members of the City Council, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District board, the Chamber of Commerce and the Not One More heroin prevention nonprofit group.

The task force formed this year in response to a public outcry over increased heroin use by Simi Valley youths.

Police say four people in their 20s and two in their 40s died of heroin overdoses in Simi Valley last year. No such deaths have been reported in the city this year.

The local problem is reflective of a nationwide surge in heroin use among young people, authorities say. In Ventura County, the spike is most severe in Simi Valley and the rest of the east county, police say. Many young people move on to heroin after becoming addicted to prescription synthetic opiates such as OxyContin, police say.
**DOG VACCINATION CLINIC**

Get your dog vaccinated and licensed at this one-day event.

**SIMI DOG PARK**
2251 Lost Canyons Drive, Simi Valley
Sunday, September 16
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
(NO appointments)

Questions: call (805) 584-4400 ask for Cyndi

**VACCINATION CLINIC**
BY DR. RON
Low cost prices for vaccinations.
Cash and checks only.
All usual vaccinations will be available, plus rattlesnake and influenza vaccines.
**DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH**
FOR VACCINATIONS!

**DOG LICENSING BY**
COUNTY OF VENTURA
ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT
Bring your sterilization document with you for licensing.
Cash or check only.
**DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH**
FOR LICENSING!

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**Join us at an**

**ANTI-DRUG COMMUNITY FORUM**
Sept. 27, 7-8:30PM
FOR ANY PARENTS AND ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY CONCERNED ABOUT DRUGS

Boys and Girls Club of Simi Valley, 2850 Lemon Drive.
For more information, call (805) 583-6909
 Presented by Simi Valley Police Department and Other Concerned Agencies

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14**
12:00 - 4:00 PM
**RANCHO SIMI COMMUNITY PARK**
1765 ROYAL AVENUE, SIMI VALLEY, CA 93065
FOR YOUTH AGES 5-14
• Kids will participate in three events: swimming, biking, and running
• Participants will receive a t-shirt, award, and bag of goodies
• Each age has its own participation division

$30 PRE-REGISTRATION  $40 DAY-OF-REGISTRATION
To register for this event please download a packet from our website: wwwsrvpd.org
For more information please call (805) 584-4400
Join us at an
ANTI-DRUG COMMUNITY FORUM
Sept. 27, 7-8:30pm
FOR ANY PARENT AND ADULTS IN OUR
COMMUNITY CONCERNED ABOUT DRUGS.
Boys and Girls Club of Simi Valley, 2850 Lemon Drive.
For more information, call (805) 583-6909
Presented by Simi Valley Police Department
and Other Concerned Agencies
SVPD urging community to become more drug aware

By Carissa Marsh
cmarsh@theacorn.com

The Simi Valley Police Department, in conjunction with other concerned agencies, is hosting an anti-drug community forum to discuss current drug trends and problems impacting local youths.

The event will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 27 at the Boys & Girls Club of Simi Valley, 2850 Lemon Drive.

The parents of middle school and high school age students are encouraged to attend.

That was the audience in mind when crafting the flier for the program, said Sgt. Dwight Thompson, who is organizing the forum.

The flier shows a male driving down a highway, a pipe stuffed with marijuana on his dashboard. Out the window there’s a mile marker titled “The Road to Nowhere” and a billboard with a woman saying, “It’s okay, my kid only smokes a little pot . . . isn’t it?”

“We started talking about how not everybody who smokes pot is going to end up dying with a heroin needle sticking out of their arm in a bathroom someplace,” Thompson said.

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Forum

"But I've never met a heroin user that didn't start with marijuana."

A 20-plus-year veteran of Simi PD who's worked with the community's youth for several years, Thompson said that's why early prevention is so important—and that means knowing the symptoms of substance abuse and addiction.

"(We are trying) to reach out to the people (and let them know) that just because your kid is smoking a little pot doesn't mean they're going to be okay. You need to be vigilant and know what the signs are," Thompson said.

"It's believed that when a parent finds out their child is using drugs, they've usually been using for 18 months," the sergeant continued. "Usually the parents don't know."

Next week's forum will give parents the knowledge to know when a child is using, as well as ways to prevent drug abuse and resources to use if they do find themselves in a crisis.

For the past five months Thompson has been working with representatives from Simi Valley Unified School District, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Simi Valley Hospital, Ventura County Behavioral Health, Not One More and ACTION Family Counseling Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers to create a forum that is "about the community and healing."

While the main event doesn't start until 7, the doors will open a half-hour early for attendees to explore information tables set up by organizations, including drug and alcohol recovery centers and programs, the police department's crime prevention unit, local churches and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Several speakers will give short presentations, about 10 minutes each, Thompson said.

A representative from the police department will discuss the history of drug abuse and current trends, the sergeant said, answering questions like, "How did we get from drinking alcohol in the '50s to kids dying of heroin in the 2010s? Is there a nexus between smoking pot and using heroin?"

A representative from Simi Valley Hospital will share what emergency room doctors and nurses are seeing, in terms of what drugs are most common and the number of overdoses they deal with.

The forum will also feature talks by a parent who has lost a child to a drug overdose and a young adult who has battled addiction and is in recovery.

An expert in treatment and recovery will wrap up the presentations.

There will be time for questions and answers with the speaker panel, as well as a DEA agent, after the individual presentations. Audience members will be able to write down and submit questions at the forum.

Although heroin is the buzzword of late because of the impact it's had on communities across the nation, Thompson said he and those helping him organize the event didn't want to call it an anti-heroin forum.

Instead, the goal was to create an "all encompassing" program that could give people the tools to fight whatever the "drug of choice" is at a particular time.

"Several years ago kids were doing acid and they were doing methamphetamine... and then coke," Thompson said as an explanation of how drug trends change.

"I don't want to create a system that is only designed to combat one drug."

Thursday's event will be the second large-scale anti-drug forum in Simi Valley in less than a year.

The U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration and the DEA Citizens Academy Alumni Association presented a free seminar on the epidemic of prescription drug abuse last November at the Reagan Library.

About 100 people attended the two-hour event, mostly community leaders, law enforcement officials, school district representatives and health professionals. But organizers said the banquet hall wasn't packed with the people who needed to see the presentation most: parents.

Thompson took part in a panel discussion during that event. He is hopeful that the upcoming forum will draw out a larger crowd and engage the community in the discussion of how to combat drugs.

"If somebody understands and knows the message of drug awareness, try to bring one person that doesn't. Try to bring one more," he said. "We'd love to fill up to maximum capacity with 500 people."

For more information about the event or to request a free table at the forum, call (805) 583-6909.
SVUSD remains committed to drug fight

The Acorn’s Aug. 31 article, “Big Ticket’ programs tough sell for task force,” spoke to the work of the Heroin Prevention Task Force. The article included some thoughts about what Simi Valley Unified School District could do to help our youth understand the dangers of using all drugs, including heroin.

At the July 31, 2012, meeting of the Heroin Prevention Task Force, the four agencies represented—the City of Simi Valley, Simi Valley Unified School District, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce—were presented with a list of strategies for addressing this community problem. Each agency was asked to review these strategies to determine which ones could be supported and implemented.

After reviewing these strategies, SVUSD met with representatives of Not One More, the local group whose members (and others) had presented many of the ideas used to develop the task force’s strategies. At a meeting on Aug. 15, the district’s plan was discussed with NOM representatives. The district’s course of action includes continuing programs already in place and adding new programs and approaches to this issue.

Instrumental in strengthening our efforts in the areas of drug education and at-risk behaviors will be Cheri Toyen, our tobacco use prevention education coordinator. Toyen’s responsibilities have been...

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SVUSD

From Page 4 —

expanded this year to include intervention counseling. As our intervention counselor, Toyen will continue to assist with our Keepin’ It Real program, the new DARE program that is taught in the sixth grade at all but three of our elementary schools. These schools will implement the program when teacher training becomes available.

SVUSD is also looking into using the Drug FreeYouth In Town model to develop middle and high school peer support groups. “Junior NOM” groups are also being formed at our local schools. Parent permission will be required for participation in these groups.

In addition to the plans outlined above, SVUSD will invite organizations to attend school-related events, provide drug and alcohol awareness classes for parents and students, disseminate information on intervention/treatment programs, look at additional programs for sixth-graders, seek to expand ACTION groups on campus to include all of our high schools, develop a survey for students and parents, and develop a list of potential speakers, including students. The district has added an anonymous link on its website so drug- or alcohol-related incidents can be reported.

Speakers, including a pharmacist, will talk to ninth-grade students about the dangers of all drugs, including prescription drugs. Parents and students will be asked to voluntarily sign “drug- and alcohol-free forms” as a pledge to remain substance-free.

Perhaps the strongest component of our plan to provide drug education for our students is our teachers. They are dedicated, nurturing people who care deeply about all of their students. Our middle and high school teachers were trained Aug. 21 by the Simi Valley Police Department regarding drug trends in our city and symptomology of people under the influence of drugs. Campus supervisors and support staff will be trained in coming weeks.

The Simi Valley Unified School District continues to stand united with our community in helping our youth remain drug free.

Scroggin is superintendent of Simi Valley Unified School District.
EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY—Marchers with anti-heroin nonprofit Not One More wave to traffic along their route through Simi Valley on Sept. 15. The march coincided with other anti-heroin rallies happening simultaneously throughout the country for Worldwide Heroin Awareness Day.
Heroin task force adopts strategies to battle drug use

SVUSD implementing several recommendations

By Carlise Marsh crmarsh@theacorn.com

With a battle plan now in place, Simi Valley is ready to take on the drug war that has taken hostage—and even killed—too many local youth.

Last week, a panel of city and community leaders called the Task Force on Heroin Prevention adopted a list of strategies aimed at stemming the proliferation of drug abusers in town and assisting those already addicted in getting help.

"This task force has made enormous progress, I feel," said Rob Collins, Simi Valley Unified School District board of education trustee and vice chair of the task force. "We've taken a scourge in our community—this black tar heroin that's cheap on the streets, that's so deadly and so addictive—and we're rolling up our sleeves and, I think, making a difference."

Comprised of representatives from the City Council, Simi Valley Unified School District and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, the task force was created with the goal of developing a focused and aggressive community action plan to help prevent the use of heroin and other drugs.

Two members of Not One More (NOM), the grassroots anti-heroin campaign that sparked the formation of the task force, and the board chair of the

— Please See Page 2
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce are also on the panel. The task force had its first meeting April 10. During the months of discussion that followed, the group learned about the anti-drug programs currently offered in Simi Valley and what could be added or improved.

The past several meetings had been spent considering a slew of recommended strategies that resulted from various presentations and audience feedback.

On Sept. 12, the task force finally took decisive action, unanimously adopting the recommended strategies and agreeing on which agency or agencies would be responsible for carrying out each one.

The three lead agencies plan to channel more information through various outlets—flyers, posters, ads, forums, online links and social media—on the risks of drug use, as well as alcohol or tobacco abuse, and where to find assistance and treatment.

The tri-agencies plan to collaborate with religious institutions to generate more ideas and solutions and to develop a survey that would ask the community what they know about drug use.

**It's all about education**

The school district has been the entity to draw the most fire from residents and even local officials for what is perceived as a lack of attention or action on the issue of drug abuse.

As such, Collins outlined a number of strategies that were implemented immediately, thanks to the input of audience members, NOM and other task force representatives.

Those strategies included:

- Increasing the number of canine searches and training exercises held on middle and high school campuses. The unannounced searches will now also be carried out inside classrooms, where backpacks are located, while students and teachers wait outside.

- Improving security on campuses, including closer supervision of the restrooms and perimeter areas. Additionally, all visitors must sign in and be escorted to their destination during the school day.

- Forming junior NOM groups and peer support groups at middle and high schools.

- Schools preparing PSAs focusing on drug prevention.

- Adding a link on the district website for anonymous drug reporting. People can select a school and answer a short series of questions about what they saw or know. Submitted forms go directly to an assistant principal at the school.

- "The danger signs are out there. Kids know students that are having trouble with drugs ... but there is a big stigma about reporting this," Collins said. "It's anonymous, their name will never be known, but the families will be informed and we can try to get that young person help."

SVUSD has also created a new position—an intervention counselor who will serve as a liaison with NOM, monitor current programs and oversee the development and execution of new approaches.

Future steps to be taken include implementing additional anti-drug educational programs, particularly in the sixth grade; having former addicts come speak to students; creating 12-step groups on high school campuses; and offering Saturday School for first-time offenders so they can reduce their suspension, possibly with a service or restitution component, and a simultaneous but separate information session for parents.

While the city doesn't have the resources in its budget to hire two more School Resource Officers, as recommended by residents, Simi Police Chief Mitch McCann reorganized his staff to enhance the SRO program.

The two existing SROs were shifted from patrol to the youth services unit so that all the officers dealing with juvenile issues are together. The youth service officer will supplement the SROs—who are now wearing more approachable polo-shirt uniforms—and visit campuses more often.
Anti-heroine effort starts
in Simi Valley

■ Task force plans to assess progress after four months

By Rachel Miller
Special to The Star

Strategies developed by the Simi Valley Task Force on Heroin Prevention are being implemented as part of a citywide effort to reduce drug use among young people.

The main goals are increasing educational and awareness programs for middle and high school students, and parents, and developing peer support groups.

"I believe we're on the right track with this," said Councilman Mike Judge, chairman of the task force. "It will have a positive impact."

The agencies involved in the effort came up with strategies for what they wanted to do, Judge said. The groups will apply the tactics for the next four months and then meet to assess progress.

Judge said this week that progress would be evaluated based on information including crime statistics, dropout rates and number of drug overdoses.

The task force formed this year in response to an outcry over increased heroin use by Simi Valley youths. At public events, the group heard from members of the community, including those personally affected.

"We took to heart what they told us," said Rob Collins, a Simi Valley Unified Board of Education trustee and vice chairman of the task force. "We realized we needed to start as early as possible in the schools with earlier intervention programs and programs similar to D.A.R.E."

"We realized we needed to start as early as possible in the schools with earlier intervention programs and programs similar to D.A.R.E."

The task force includes members of the City Council, Simi Valley Recreation and Parks District board, Chamber of Commerce and Not One More, a heroin prevention nonprofit.

"For me, it's been gratifying to see our community pull together," Mayor Bob Huber said. "We adopted these recommendations, and now we're going to implement them, and most of it does not have a big cost impact."

As a result of the task force recommendations, the Simi Valley Unified School District is increasing supervision of restroom areas and campus perimeters, as well as implementing a sign-in and escort policy for school visitors.

Simi Valley Unified also has agreed to allow more K-9 searches and training on campuses, with random unannounced searches by officers and whistleblower dogs in classrooms.

In addition, Simi Valley Police Chief Mitch McCann has reorganized staff so that a youth officer will work with two school resource officers to visit campuses more often and address juvenile issues. The school district also has set up an anonymous drug reporting form on its website.

"The form goes directly to the assistant principal and the district office," Collins said.

"Family members and friends often know if someone has a drug problem, so this might help. It's not about snitching on someone; it's about getting them help," Collins said.

Other recommendations adopted by the task force at its Sept. 12 meeting include educating Neighborhood Watch participants about how to recognize the use or sale of drugs and raise awareness through fliers and posters about available prevention and rehabilitation resources.

Four people in their 20s and two in their 40s died of heroin overdoses in Simi Valley last year, according to police. No such deaths have been reported in the city this year.

The local problem is reflective of a nationwide surge in heroin use among young people, authorities say.