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A Focus on Franklin

A Word from Police Chief Gordon Ellis



Recently, an article was published in the Franklin Chronicle that pertained to the use of heroin in Franklin. The article created a false perception that heroin use is somewhat worse in Franklin than in the region.

While Franklin has experienced an increase in crime associated with heroin use, this increase is not specific to Franklin. In fact, the southwest region of Ohio has been impacted with elevated heroin use. The Ohio State Highway Patrol recently seized two kilograms of heroin from a vehicle in Preble County on Interstate-70. The Warren County Drug Task Force Commander has advised that heroin drug crime is elevated throughout the region, and has become a more common drug of abuse over the last few years.

The increased use of Heroin as a drug of abuse appears to be related to the abuse of Oxycontin, a legally prescribed narcotic drug used to treat chronic pain. Oxycontin is a derivative of morphine, a powerful narcotic. If abused, Oxycontin creates an affect similar in nature to that of heroin.

Heroin is often easier to procure from illegal sources. The use of Heroin has major negative impacts on the abuser. One of the major indications and one of the first negative impacts of heroin abuse is that the drug is usually injected into the body. Repeated use of needles in arms, hands and legs can cause infections due to lack of sterile needles. Potential infectious diseases include hepatitis A or infected lesions.

Heroin has a significant addictive effect. Those who use heroin often develop a toler-

ance for the drug and experience painful withdrawal symptoms once they cease using the drug. Withdrawal symptoms include seizures, cramps, fever-like symptoms, and a feeling of inability to breathe. These symptoms can last as long as several weeks dependent upon the level of use.

Indicators of heroin use include used or pre-packaged syringes, empty medicine capsules and spoons with burn marks and darkened material on them. A house with multiple visitors that stay for a brief period of time and depart may be an indicator of drug activity. If you see individuals exchange small bags or packages for money, this also may indicate illegal drug activity.

The Franklin Police Department works closely with the Warren County Drug Task Force to address this criminal issue. In fact, a joint Franklin Police/Warren County Drug Task Force operation recently resulted in the arrest of three suspected drug dealers in Franklin and Franklin Township. The Franklin Police Department and the Warren County Drug Task Force will continue to focus efforts to reduce the use/abuse of heroin in Franklin and the region.

If you observe any indication of drug abuse in your neighborhood, please contact the Franklin Police Department at (937) 746-2882.

You do not need to leave your name when you call.

Help the Franklin Police Department and the Warren County Drug Task Force fight drug abuse in Franklin and the region. Partnering with law enforcement sends a strong message that drugs and drug abuse are not welcome in Franklin or Warren County.

Miami Conservancy District: Levee Accreditation

Back in March of 1913, the Miami Valley, including the City of Franklin, witnessed a natural disaster unparalleled in the region's history when heavy rains caused the Great Miami River and its tributary streams to overflow. Throughout the region, more than 360 people lost their lives (8 Franklin residents) and property damage exceeded \$100 million (nearly \$2 billion in today's economy).

In the wake of this tragedy, Miami Valley citizens, who had lost virtually everything, rallied to initiate plans to prevent future flooding. Some 23,000 citizens contributed more than \$2 million to begin a comprehensive flood protection program on a valley-wide basis – ultimately, five dry dams and levees were built that have been protecting the region since 1922.

The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) was formed in 1915 to assist in the above described effort. Levee accreditation is the main priority for

MCD this year. Without levee accreditation, many homes and businesses along the Great Miami River could be subject to expensive flood insurance in addition to MCD flood protection assessments.

More than 18 miles of levees, including the 3.7 miles in Franklin, are currently under review in Warren and Butler Counties; therefore, residents who live near the river will be seeing activity on the levees this year. There are many elements required for levee accreditation. As part of this effort, for example, all trees must be removed from levee slopes and areas adjacent to the levees. During a major storm, a tree along the levee could be pulled loose and leave a gaping hole in the levee, creating a void for water to rush through and flood communities. For every tree that MCD will remove, they plan on planting one elsewhere in its place.

The City and MCD appreciates the cooperation of residents in this initiative.



Save the Date for the 2009 River Ride!

On **Saturday, July 18, 2009** the City of Franklin, the City of Miamisburg and the Miami Valley Conservancy District will join forces to host a bicycle River Ride from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Participants will have a chance to watch a canoe/kayak race along the Great Miami River.

Bring the whole family along to enjoy local cuisine and tour the sites. The River Ride will begin in downtown Miamisburg and will meander along various points of interest within Franklin and Miamisburg communities. The route will continue through historic Franklin, showcasing the murals painted along Main Street, including a

free tour of the Harding Museum! Finally, the route will take you back to Miamisburg, which will host a myriad of entertainment.

Grab your bikes and hop on the trail for the 2009 River Ride!!

This event is free to the public and you can begin and end at your own pace. Snacks are provided!

For more information, please contact Chrissy Brown at 937-746-4542 or log onto:

www.drivelesslivemore.org



Visit our website at www.franklinohio.org