

Give Your Loved Ones the Gift of Safety

There will be many reasons to be merry this holiday season. And making sure that our loved ones enjoy themselves responsibly is one of the most reliable ways to guarantee their safety. That is why Manhasset CASA would like everyone to embrace the spirit of driving sober this season.

"The message is simple, drinking alcohol and driving does not mix. If you plan to consume alcohol, you should plan not to get behind the wheel of a vehicle or ride a motorcycle. Otherwise, it's a mixed message for our teens and children," said Cathy Samuels, project director of Manhasset CASA.

A new report from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (Dec. 6, 2011) shows that adolescents appear to be strongly influenced by parental behavior when it comes to driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The report conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) shows that those 16 and 17 years old living with parents who drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol are far more likely to drive under the influence than adolescents whose parents do not drive under the influence.

According to the 2011 Student Results of the Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey for Manhasset Union Free School District, 15.4 percent of 12th grade students and 23.2 percent of 10th grade students indicated that in the past 30 days, they rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol. In addition, 6 percent of 12th grade students and 2.8 percent of 10th grade students drove a car when they were drinking alcohol in the last 30 days. The report also indicated of those students

who drank alcohol in the past year, 38.2 percent of 12th grade students and 29.7 percent of 10th grade students drank alcohol in a car.

Unfortunately, millions of drivers on America's highways continue to make deadly decisions by driving a vehicle or riding a motorcycle while intoxicated, which jeopardizes their safety and the safety of others on our roads. During December 2009, there were 753 people killed in crashes that involved drivers or motorcycle riders with blood alcohol concentrations of .08 grams per deciliter or higher.

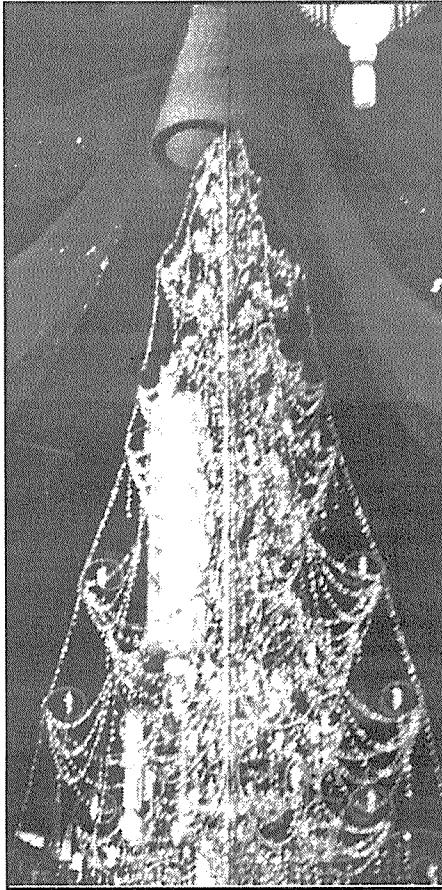
Manhasset CASA recommends these simple tips for a safe holiday season:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to call 911;
- And remember, "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving." If you know someone who is about to drive or ride with a driver who is impaired, take the driver's keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

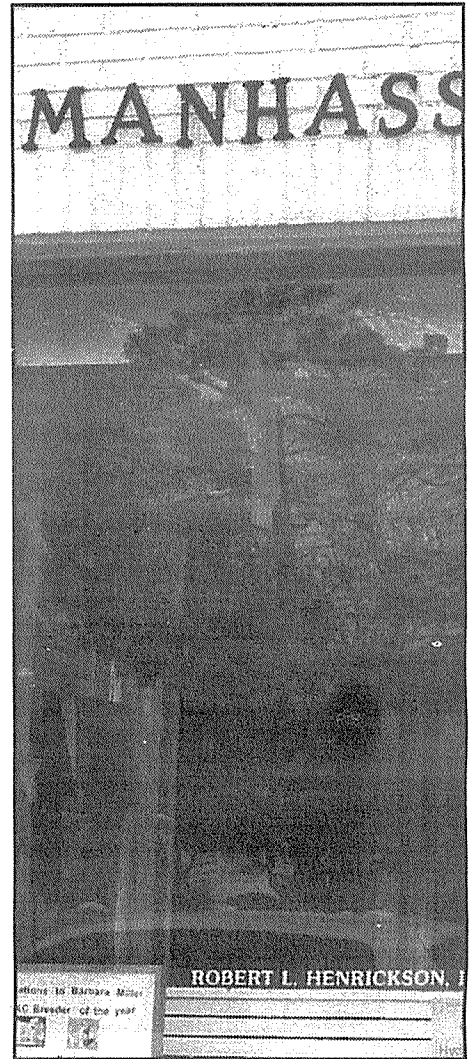
To help parents create an action plan to talk with their children about the dangers of underage drinking, SAMHSA has developed an online tool at <http://www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov/>. In addition, you can go to Manhasset CASA's website www.manhassetcasa.org to learn more about drunk, drugged or distracted driving. For information regarding alcohol and your health, go to www.rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov.

HIDE & SEEK By Hayley Kucich

The Dec. 15 mystery photo of the beautiful Christmas tree chandelier at The Radio City Christmas Spectacular was correctly guessed by Doris Bezkor, Mattea Marcucci, Bob Miglis and Nell Kucich. Good luck guessing this week!



Last week's mystery photo of the of the beautiful Christmas tree chandelier at The Radio City Christmas Spectacular.



This week's mystery photograph—if you recognize the photo, email Hayley Kucich at hideandseekmanhasset@yahoo.com.

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