

Partnering to fight underage drinking

Plandome Taxi service joins Manhasset CASA's "Talk. They Hear You" campaign

BY BILL
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The Manhasset-based Plandome Taxi company has formed a partnership with the Manhasset Coalition Against Substance Abuse and its "Talk. They Hear You" campaign to display CASA decals on its vehicles in an effort to combat underage drinking, officials said.

"Plandome Taxi is very happy to support Manhasset CASA and their efforts to protect children from the dangers of alcohol," Angela Marmo, the co-owner of Plandome Taxi, said in a statement.

Manhasset CASA's "Talk. They Hear You" campaign focuses on communication between parents and children on the potential dangers associated with underage drinking using online resources and community events.

"With summer being the season youth are more likely to engage in underage drinking, we greatly appreciate Plandome Taxi's timely collaboration," said Lisa Belinsky, Manhasset CASA's



Pictured from left: Angela and Robert Marmo, the owners of Plandome Taxi; Lisa Belinsky, the executive director of Manhasset CASA; Caryn Sawyer and Stacey Kelly, Manhasset CASA board members; and Cathy Samuels, project director for Manhasset CASA.

executive director.

Manhasset CASA officials said underage binge drinking, which they defined as having five or more drinks, puts children at greater risk to try drugs like marijuana and cocaine, are

more likely to engage in sexual behaviors at younger ages and are more likely to perpetuate or be victimized in violent crime.

According to the 2013 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, which mea-

sures a community's need for substance abuse prevention services, Manhasset High School 12th graders are binge drinking at 2.5 times the national rate, its 10th graders are binge drinking at twice the national rate and 25

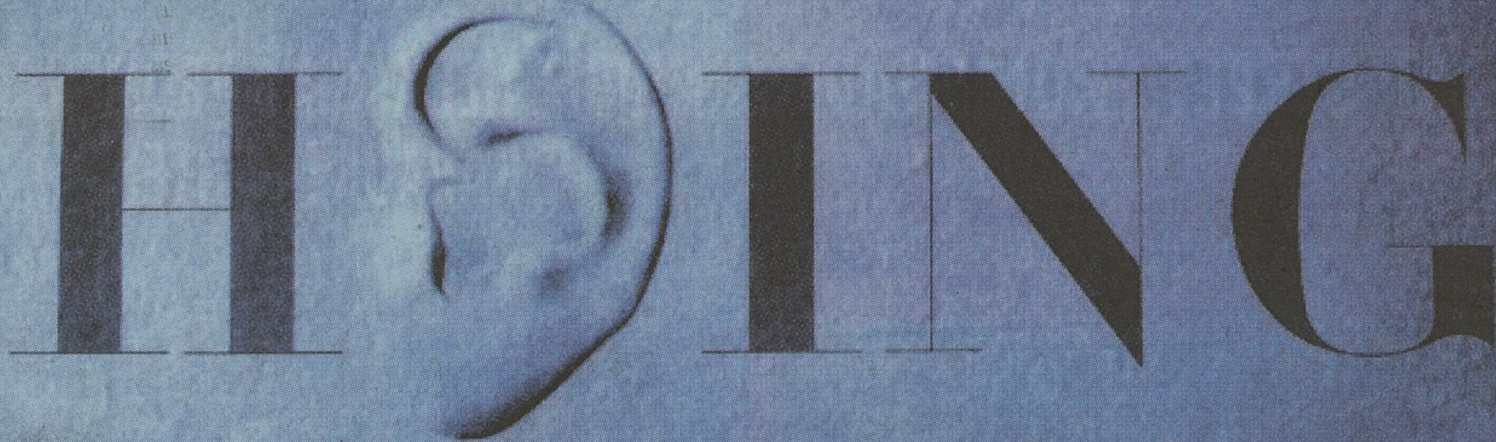
percent of 12th graders have admitted to using marijuana in the last 30 days.

Officials said in 2009, underage drinking played a role in 1,844 homicides, 949,400 non-fatal violent crimes - rape, robbery and assault - and 1,811,300 property crimes, including burglary, larceny and car theft.

The Manhasset Coalition Against Substance Abuse was established in 2001 to prevent the underage use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco within the community.

Officials said "Talk. They Hear You" resource materials are available at underageddrinking.samhsa.gov, including the interactive video "Start the Talk," which outlines the proper way to discuss alcohol abuse with children.

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