

Red ribbons recommended for driving in December

The Oakland County chapter of Mothers Against Drunken Driving kicked off its annual red-ribbon campaign Monday.

The idea is to tie a red ribbon on your car somewhere to let others know that you don't condone drunken driving.

MADD chapter administrator Joan Rich said about 100 people attended the ceremony at the county commission auditorium in Pontiac where the speakers included County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Sgt. Ken Hurst of the sheriff's alcohol enforcement unit and Troy resident Donna Broken-shire, who lost her daughter to a drunken driver five years ago.

Last year Oakland County MADD distributed 350,000 ribbons throughout the county, and "we'll do that or better this year," Rich said.

Ribbons will be distributed by many area small businesses, but if you can't find one, call 253-1700 and MADD personnel will mail a ribbon to you.

In 1992, more than 17,000 people died nationwide in alcohol-related traffic accidents, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That's down from more than 19,000 deaths in 1991.

In 1992, alcohol-related traffic deaths made up 45 percent of the total traffic deaths nationwide. As a percentage of the total, alcohol-related deaths tend to rise during holidays, accounting for:

- 75 percent of 1992 New Year's Day traffic deaths.
- 66 percent of 1992 Memorial Day and Independence Day traffic deaths.
- 53 percent of 1992 Labor Day traffic deaths.
- 55.5 percent of 1992 Thanksgiving traffic deaths.
- 49.5 percent of 1992 Christmas traffic deaths.

Oakland County MADD has scheduled its annual candlelight vigil memorial service remembering drunken-driver victims for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the Redeemer Lutheran Church on East Maple in Birmingham.

A candle will be lit and a bell tolled in honor of each victim. The public is invited to attend.

Also, on New Year's Eve, the MADD chapters of Oakland and Wayne counties will co-sponsor Project Lifeline, whereby drunks can get free taxi rides.

Just call 353-1994 between 9 p.m. Dec. 31 and 5 a.m. Jan. 1 and MADD will pay for your cab.

Clinton health plan meeting set

Congressman Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, has scheduled a special town meeting from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday to discuss the Clinton health care plan and other reform bills, including the Affordable Action Health Care Now Act (H.R. 3080), which he is supporting.

The town meeting will be in the little theater at Wylie E. Groves High School, 20500 W. 13 Mile in Birmingham. Joining Congressman Knollenberg will be state Rep. John Jamian, chairman of

the Michigan House Public Health Committee.

"The debate over health care reform is likely to dominate the remainder of the 103rd Congress," Knollenberg said. "This town hall meeting gives me a chance to review and discuss just what is in these various health care proposals with interested citizens and to gauge their opinion on the very different approaches to health care reform pending before Congress."

Congressman Knollenberg's

meeting coincides with a series of town hall meetings on health care reform across the country.

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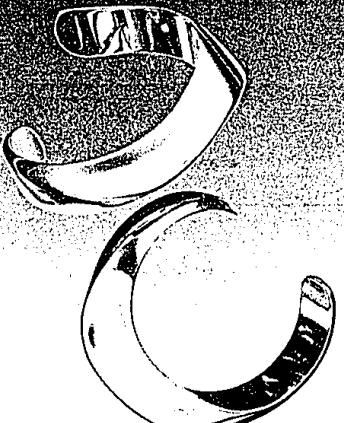
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