

NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Coalition Meetings

March Monthly Meeting:
March 25, 2025 |
Zoom @ 6:30pm

April Monthly Meeting:
April 28, 2025 |
Zoom @ 6:30pm

May Monthly Meeting:
May 27, 2025 |
Zoom @ 6:30pm

● Coalition News & Updates

New Staff: In late February we welcomed Kelsey Ober into the Walpole Health Department. She is serving as the Program Director for the Drug Free Communities Support Program grant we received and will be a consistent presence on our coalition meetings.



Prevention & Safety Spotlight

Prom & Graduation Safety

Prom and graduation are milestones that are exciting and worth celebrating, but they can also come with risky behavior such as underage drinking and other substance use. Here are a few tips to keep our teens safe during this event-filled season:

- Encourage and have open conversations about the risks of substance use, including the risks of driving under the influence of substances.
- Set clear expectations and offer alternatives for safe celebrations.
- Discuss transportation plans and ensure safe transportation to and from events.

Underage Drinking Awareness

Underage drinking is a serious issue, with youth who drink before age 21 being more likely to develop alcohol dependence later in life. Let's help guide our teens toward safe, healthy choices this spring by fostering open conversations and providing support. Visit these links below for tips and resources.

- [CDC: About Underage Drinking](#).
- [SAMHSA: The Consequences of Underage Drinking](#).
- [NIAA: Underage Drinking in the United States \(ages 12 to 20\)](#).

Love Your Earth: The Harms of Vaping on the Environment

While the impact of vaping on human health is being recognized, fewer people are aware that vaping – and the products used for it – also causes serious harm to the environment.

- **E-waste:** E-cigarettes (vapes) often contain circuit boards and batteries, which contributes to e-waste that is difficult to recycle and can release toxic substances such as lithium, into the environment when improperly disposed of. It takes many years for these products to break down, leaving them sitting as waste for a long time.
- **Toxic Chemicals:** Leftover vape liquids, such as nicotine and other heavy metals (tin, lead, arsenic), can easily leak and leach into the soil and contaminate waterways and harm wildlife.
- **Plastic Pollution:** E-cigs are typically made up of several plastic components, all of which take hundreds of years to decompose.
- **Fire and Explosion Risk:** Many e-cigs have parts, such as lithium batteries, that can catch on fire or explode, posing a serious risk of injury or environmental hazards.
- This Earth Day, let's learn about the environmental harms of vaping and commit to reducing our impact by advocating for and practice proper disposal methods!
- Learn more here: [EPA: How to Safely Dispose E-Cigs](#).