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Newly Formed Orland Park Substance Awareness Forum Hosts Free Movie Night



“The Anonymous People” Highlights 23 Million Americans in Addiction Recovery

Orland Park’s newest community awareness organization is holding its first public event to coincide with September being National Recovery Month.

The Orland Park Substance Awareness Forum was created by Mayor Dan McLaughlin to develop a concerted effort to battle drug use in Orland Park.

“I asked a number of area community leaders to be a part of this forum last spring --- especially those who interact with young people --- so we can all work together,” McLaughlin said. “We have a very dynamic, enthusiastic group that has been collaborating for the past few months.”

The group’s Treatment and Recovery Committee will mark September as National Recovery Month and host a free screening of the documentary, “The Anonymous People.” The screening will be held at Orland Park’s Marcus Theatres, 16350 South LaGrange Road, on Wednesday, September 23 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Rachel Ridge, Community Relations Coordinator for Rosecrance, serves on the Treatment and Recovery Committee.

“When it comes to the devastation of alcohol and drugs and the toll they take on individuals, families and communities, people are hungry for hope,” Ridge said. “The Anonymous People’ is about the 23 million Americans living in long term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. We hear lots of negative stories about addiction and its destruction but we don’t hear much about the people who have found recovery.”

The September 23 free movie night will open with a welcome from McLaughlin, free popcorn and pop, raffle prizes and time for discussion. McLaughlin will proclaim September as Recovery Month in the Village of Orland Park at the September 8 Orland Park Village Board Meeting.

Ridge added, “People who are in recovery from drugs or alcohol are encouraged and invited to come out to support this event and be a part of the voices for recovery.”

“We invite anyone who has been affected by addiction to join us,” McLaughlin said. “It promises to be a very informative presentation and we want people to know that they are not alone. They have an entire community behind them willing to help.”

Questions may be directed to the Mayor’s Office at 708/403-6399.