

Crackdowns

Chapel Hill police set to enforce town drinking, noise ordinances

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The Chapel Hill Police Department will continue to enforce alcohol consumption and parking regulations as students return for the fall semester. All are concerns of the community, and laws pertaining to them will be enforced to benefit the town and university.

Again this year, town police will strictly enforce the alcohol consumption laws passed last fall by the Chapel Hill Town Council. Police have the authority to give an offender a \$32 citation.

"There will be no period of warning for alcohol," said police Maj. Arnold Gold.

Town ordinances state that alcoholic beverages may be carried, but not consumed, on public property — city recreational areas, sidewalks, streets and municipal parking lots.

Gold also said there has been a widespread use of fraudulent identification to purchase alcohol. People caught using driver's licenses borrowed from friends or with altered dates could lose the license for six months.

Police have been checking licenses at convenience and grocery stores and other businesses that sell alcoholic beverages. Businesses that sell alcohol to underage persons may lose their ABC permit or face a fine, Gold said.

Police also will check for minors at sorority and fraternity parties if there are complaints.

"We go when we receive calls. We do not plan to sneak in to catch people," Gold said.

Chapel Hill Police will not check for underage drinkers at dorm parties, Gold said, because it is a responsibility of the University police.

"Believe it or not we want the students to have fun," Gold said. "Students should have fun, but remember to respect others and there will be no problem."

A new noise ordinance was adopted in June 1981 that is more restrictive than the previous ordinance. The noise level became a concern when police received several complaints from people on campus and in the community.

The ordinance requires that the standard noise level not be exceeded from Sunday until Wednesday. Permits to exceed the noise level can be obtained for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

"Professors called saying they couldn't hear themselves think," Gold said.

He said some students were having parties in the afternoons, and an ordinance was needed to ensure quiet times for sleep, study and work.

Last year, a fraternity had its permit revoked after breaking the noise regulation. Police have already received complaints about the noise from fraternity

parties this year. Gold said none have lost their permits, but will receive letters warning them about the regulation.

Gold said the police will not revoke anyone's permit for their first offense, but will after the second or third offense.

He said if a group's permit is suspended and they continue to exceed the noise level, they will have to go to court. "It hasn't reached that point yet. We hope to work with the people so it won't," Gold said.

Parking has been another problem in the community. Gold said the enforcement would be relaxed at the beginning of the year so students would have the opportunity to park and unload.

Gold said Cameron Avenue was a problem area because people historically park in the bike lanes. Another problem has been caused on Franklin Street by people who park in loading and fire zones to run short errands. These areas will be policed and cars will be ticketed.

On West Franklin Street, people often park on the sidewalk, Gold said.

"Sidewalks need to be kept clean for pedestrians, joggers, the handicapped and especially the visually-impaired," he said.

Fines for parking violations have increased to \$25 this year from \$10 last year. Meter violations are still \$1.

"If you're unsure, don't park there. It's not worth the \$25," Gold said.



Legal cases

Everyone in Chapel Hill wants to have a good time, but some types of fun are illegal in the city. Clockwise: A student enjoys a beer with a friend — but public consumption of alcohol is illegal. Cars jam the street during Orientation week, but police promise that illegal parking will be heavily fined. Students fraternize at the Beta House, but a noise permit must be obtained before such large parties. The same rule applies to the Sigma Nu House, where a live band performed last week.

Photos by Al Steele

