

Woodfin police and ALE issue 25 citations at student party

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Woodfin County police said they issued 25 citations at a UNC Asheville student-held party last weekend.

Students received citations for underage drinking and supplying alcohol to minors. There was one arrest for provisional driving while impaired.

"Our concern is the safety of everyone, including the motoring public. Our aim was to ensure the safety of our roads so that we don't have people drinking and driving, or underage drinking," said Sgt. Mike Dykes of the Woodfin Police Department.

Dykes said the high number of citations is an unusual occurrence in Woodfin. It is not unusual for the Alcohol Law Enforcement to be called on the spot to issue citations. ALE said the underage drinking did not alarm them.

"We realize it's the first couple of weeks back, and these things are going to happen. ALE is not going to hand out names of students to the university or parents for people over 18. There's no need to get the students into trouble," an ALE spokesperson said.

Police said they first became aware of the party after receiving a phone call about a suspicious car in a neighbor's driveway. Further investigation revealed the presence of minors at the house where the party was held.

Students said police blocked off the driveway and entered the house at approximately 1:30 a.m.

The officers checked the students' identification and gave breathalyzers to those who lacked ID. The police did not leave until after 3 a.m., students said.

Refusing to take a breathalyzer test, along with the alcohol odor on the breath is sufficient evidence to convict an underage user, according to police.

Junior Stephanie Foran, said the police were at the end of the driveway by 12:30 a.m. and told her there was a traffic issue since some people had parked over the neighbor's driveway.

Police would not allow any of the approximately 150 guests leave until they had checked all IDs.

According to the police, for the first offense, a person convicted of selling or providing alcohol to someone under the age of 21 must pay a \$250 fine plus in court costs and complete 25 hours of community service.

"They were just normal guys trying to do their jobs without unnecessarily screwing us over."
-Michael Szymczyk, senior.

"There were a large number of people at the party, some of whom seemed to just show up out of nowhere. There were around six officers I saw, and I talked to a couple of them for a little bit and they were just normal guys trying to do their job without unnecessarily screwing us over," said

Michael Szymczyk, senior music technology student.

Other attendees said they were not pleased with the police response, saying it was a lockdown situation which made them feel uncomfortable.

Joe McMurray, a 21-year-old visiting student from Duke University, said he felt like a hostage at the party since the police wouldn't let anyone leave until they had issued all citations.

"Many people had done nothing wrong, but because of the officers' inefficient and poorly-communicated plan, we were forced to sit on the porch under guard of two officers," McMurray said. "The officer in charge was so busy trying to catch wrongdoers that he didn't have the decency to allow the 21-year-olds and non-drinkers to leave until after 2:30 a.m."

The owners of the house, were issued citations. They said it was unfortunate the party had ended that way, saying it was invite only, with the aim to celebrate the 21st birthday of two close friends.

"We just wanted everyone to have fun and were not out to put anyone in harm. It got to a point where we couldn't know who was doing what because there were too many people," one of the owners of the house said.

Police issued eight citations and ALE issued 17.

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Pack

"Well I was the last in my family to take the plunge. First it was the two youngest, then my husband and then I had no choice. I just had to partake. We were having way too much fun," Dickinson said.

Although her family enjoys the new fountain, Dickinson said she has mixed feelings about the construction in Pack Square Park.

"I think it is nice to see some of the buildings that are dilapidated revitalized, where you have the smashed windows and the vacant feeling. But some of the new construction is a little troublesome watching," the Asheville resident said.

The design of the new city park worries Dickinson, she said.

"I think they are trying to push the envelope in height and other things, but most people would say it would be nice to keep the character of downtown and not have the developers come in and ruin that. I think they're constantly trying to push it," she said.

Cheney said she agrees.

"I know there is interesting design work that's been done, but to me it is not cool looking," she said.

Waiter Jayson Landers at the College Street restaurant, Fiore's Resortante Toscana said the Pack Square Park construction reduced business.

"Initially it was kind of difficult. We definitely saw a reduction in walk-by traffic and we think it made it difficult for people driving by to try and find us because there were often barriers up and men working and things like that. So, people tended to be focused on the road itself instead of looking around," Landers said.

Landers hopes the new construction, once complete, will bring in more customers, he said.

"We will certainly be glad when it's finally done. We're hoping it'll be a draw for people on this side of town, because right now there's not a whole lot," he said.

Cheney, said she hopes the new Pack Square Park won't disappoint.

"I've been to peace demonstrations in front of the Vance memorial. And, I've been to the old theater that used to be a picture show up on the square. I brought my child there," Cheney said. "But, I have an open mind. I will see how this turns out and if it's as nice as the old square was."

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Health

sions such as commencement, conferences, and men and women's basketball.

The Wellness Café will be a restaurant where the campus community can choose from a menu on which every item is healthy and nutritious, according to Ray.

"Behind the Wellness Café will be a teaching kitchen where we will be able to teach students, faculty, staff and groups from the community how to cook healthy meals. We will be able to do research in that facility and have telecommunications capabilities, but this will not be a culinary program," Ray said.

There will be three biometric labs designed for the promotion of childhood, workplace and senior wellness, Ray said.

The meditation room will teach stress management, and the fitness training area will have all new equipment. It will be possible for the room to be shut off so classes can be taught on strength and fitness, he said.

The tennis court parking lot will be a double-decker parking garage, which will make more spaces available during the day for commuter students.

"There are not plans in the construction contract to close access to Campus Drive. However, there will certainly be intermittent occasions where access is closed due to construction-related issues. But for the most part these will be temporary," Facilities Engineer Randy Williams said.

The old health and wellness building and the Justice Center will still be in use after the new center opens, according to Ray.

"The only athletic thing that will be leaving the facility is men and women's basketball. I believe volleyball and other sports will keep their facilities over in the current facility," Ray said.

UNCA's health and wellness department needs as much space as it can get for classrooms and even office space, according to Ray.

"The overall cost for the project is around \$42 million dollars," Ray said.

Maser said the cost of the project doesn't bother her as long as the new center will be functional and useful to students.

The contract schedule completion date is April 21, 2011, according to Williams.

"The project is proceeding very satisfactorily, in large part due to the general contractor performing in an expeditious and professional manner," he said.