

GRADUATIONS WARNING UPDATE: Mayor, Police Chief Sound Off on Underage Drinking

Posted by [Guy McCarthy](#) (Editor), June 3, 2013 at 06:24 pm



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Redlands police are planning [party patrols to crack down on anticipated underage drinking](#) this week when thousands of teens graduate from Redlands High, Redlands East Valley High, and Citrus Valley High.

The mayor and police chief sounded off Monday to underscore efforts to address underage drinking and binge drinking in Redlands.

"Underage drinking is a major threat to the health and safety of Redlands youth," Mayor Pete Aguilar said in a statement June 3. "In addition to drinking and driving, which is a major cause of death among teens, underage drinking has been linked to a host of other serious problems including reduced academic performance, sexual assaults, unintended pregnancies, fights, and violence."

About 5,000 people under age 21 die each year nationwide as a result of underage drinking, Redlands spokesman Carl Baker said. The casualties include about 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes, 1,600 as a result of homicides, 300 from suicides, and hundreds from other injuries such as falls, burns, and drowning, Baker said, citing the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

"We now have the Social Host Ordinance as a tool to combat underage drinking and related problems," Redlands police Chief Mark Garcia said. "If you are thinking about letting youth at your graduation party drink alcohol, we have a message for you: Don't. We are enforcing the Social Host Ordinance vigorously."

The city council approved the [social host ordinance](#) in January. The ordinance holds hosts responsible for alcohol consumption by people under age 21 at their parties.

Violators of the ordinance are subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$500, city spokesman Carl Baker said. Repeat violations can result in additional fines that include costs incurred by law enforcement, fire and other emergency service providers.

Graduations in Redlands this week include Redlands East Valley High on June 5, Redlands High on June 6, and Citrus Valley High on June 7.

Baker says Redlands police are planning five nights of party patrols to crack down on underage drinking at house parties, from Tuesday June 4 through Saturday, June 8.

"This is part of a collaborative approach to curb the problems related to binge and underage drinking in Redlands in order to achieve a safer, healthier community for our youth," Baker said.

School officials also know this is not their first rodeo. Citrus Valley High administrators have issued the following pre-graduation statement:

"All persons in the Redlands Bowl are expected to conduct themselves with C.L.A.S.S. All seniors are expected to behave in a manner befitting the occasion. If there is any suspicion that a senior has been drinking or is under the influence of drugs, he/she will be removed from the ceremony immediately."

The legal drinking age in California is 21.

<http://redlands.patch.com/groups/editors-picks/p/graduations-warning-update-mayor-police-chief-sound-off-on-underage-drinking>



REDLANDS: Police “party patrols” targeting underage drinking



Armed with a new city law, Redlands police are cracking down on underage drinking at graduation-season house parties.

“We now have the Social Host Ordinance as a tool to combat underage drinking,” Police Chief Mark Garcia said in a written statement. “If you are thinking about letting youth at your

graduation party drink alcohol, we have a message for you: Don'!

“We are enforcing the Social Host ordinance vigorously.”

By tapping into state grants, police will be fielding night-time party patrols June 4-8.

Violators will be issued tickets punishable by hefty fines and fees.

First offenders face \$100 fines. Second offenses carry \$200 penalties. And a third offenses can cost \$500.

Worse, beginning with the second offense, violators will be hit with administrative costs, which can add up to several thousand dollars.

By RICHARD BROOKS



Redlands police target underage drinking this week



ERIN WALDNER/STAFF PHOTO

Redlands Mayor Pete Aguilar speaks at a Monday, June 3, press conference at the Police Annex, where city officials announced a graduation week crackdown on underage drinking.

[BY ERIN WALDNER](#)

STAFF WRITER

June 03, 2013; 04:50 PM

Redlands police will observe graduation week by cracking down on underage drinking at house parties.

Redlands, East Valley, Citrus Valley, Redlands High, Orangewood and Grove schools are holding commencement ceremonies this week and beginning Tuesday, June 4, the Redlands Police Department will deploy five nights of party and DUI saturation patrols.

Officers will be working overtime, with funding coming from state grants.

At a news conference Monday, Police Chief Mark Garcia said he wants parents to know the department will be enforcing the city's social host ordinance, which holds homeowners or responsible persons liable if underage drinking takes place at a party.

Violators can be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second and \$500 for the third. After the first offense, administrative costs that can run thousands of dollars are tacked onto the fine.

“If anyone is thinking of hosting a graduation party, we would ask that you please ensure that you do not allow underage drinkers to consume alcohol during those parties,” Garcia said.

Speaking at the police annex downtown, the police chief said the department has issued a number of citations since the City Council approved the social host ordinance in January. Six citations were issued March 23, when police investigated a loud house party on Brockton Avenue.

Officers found several underage individuals drinking alcohol and said that one of the people cited had purchased three kegs of beer for the party.

Mayor Pete Aguilar said a California Healthy Kids Survey found that 55 percent of Redlands' 11th-graders said it was very easy to get alcohol. On average, children in town had their first drink at age 12, the survey found.

The consequences of underage and binge drinking can be devastating, Aguilar said. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers and about one-third of them involve alcohol, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Garcia said the extra graduation patrols will run through Saturday, June 8.

“We want to make sure that we have the safest and most enjoyable graduation period we possibly could,” he said.

Follow Erin Waldner on Twitter @PE_ErinWaldner and online at blog.pe.com/Redlands

Redlands police to conduct party patrols

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[Greg Capps, Staff Writer](#)

Posted: 06/03/2013 07:42:38 PM PDT



Police Chief Mark Garcia talks about the department's efforts to prevent underage drinking during a news conference at the Redlands Police Department on Monday. The city has an ordinance that allows it to fine homeowners who supply alcohol to teens. (Rachel Luna/Staff Photographer)

As graduation ceremonies commence, police will be conducting overnight patrols in an attempt to dry up underage drinking.

Mayor Pete Aguilar and Police Chief Mark Garcia announced the initiative at a press conference Monday afternoon.

Five nights of patrols are scheduled today through Saturday to coincide with local high school graduations.

"If anyone is thinking of hosting a graduation party, we would ask you please ensure you do not allow underage drinkers to consume alcohol during those parties," Garcia said. "We want to make sure that we have the safest and most enjoyable graduation period that we possibly could."

City Council approved a Social Host Ordinance in January allowing fines to be issued against adults and minors for hosting parties with underage drinking or drug consumption. A red, white and blue sign next to the lectern noted the penalties: \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second, and the third instance can result in a \$500 fine plus the costs incurred by responding law enforcement agencies.

This week's party patrols are being funded by a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

"We're deeply concerned about the negative impacts of mixing youth and alcohol," Aguilar said.

He listed problems arising from underage drinking including drunken driving, lowered academic performance, sexual assaults, unintended pregnancies and violence.

"Since house parties are where many youth first get their drinks, it's critical to stop allowing house parties to be a significant point for youth obtaining alcohol," he said. "We recognize that even though the laws on the books can't reduce all of the minor drinking, it is still more difficult today and we have more enforcement mechanisms in place than we did previously."

Mario Saucedo, Common Vision Coalition chairman, also spoke in support of the patrols to a crowd of media outside police headquarters.

"Instead of ending with a fine or citation or even a tragedy, let our graduation celebrations be a truly happy event and be remembered fondly for what they are years to come," he said.

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Read more: http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/news/ci_23380000/redlands-police-conduct-party-patrols#ixzz2VGYi3ihq

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Fur-ever friends available during Homeward Bound Mega Pet Adoption



PHOTO COURTESY SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

More than 200 cats and dogs will be available for adoption during the mega event at Yucaipa Regional Park Saturday.

By Yazmin Alvarez

If you're looking for a furry, four-legged friend to join your family then head over to the Homeward Bound Mega Pet Adoption event at Yucaipa Regional Park Saturday and Sunday.

More than 200 cats and dogs will be available from 17 animal shelters and rescue groups from throughout the San Bernardino County-area.

The event, now in its second year, is a partnership between San Bernardino County Animal Care

and Control, the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley and Yucaipa Animal Placement Society.

It also kicks-off the county's Animal Care and Control Division's participation in the ASPCA 2013 Rachel Ray \$100K

Pet adoption cont. on next pg.

The Cooking Block grand opening serves up benefit for Barton School House



IECN PHOTO YAZMIN ALVAREZ

The Cooking Block in Redlands held a benefit to support the Barton School House.

By Yazmin Alvarez

The smell of chicken and shrimp Paella filled the room as guests sat, sipping wine during the grand opening of The Cooking Block Saturday in

Redlands.

The event, which featured cooking demonstrations and food tastings of dishes such as Atlantic salmon, Brandy lamb meatballs and the bubbling Paella that cooked over the stove, also served

as a benefit for the Redlands Conservancy. Twenty percent of the ticket sales from the opening will go toward the conservancy and its efforts to help complete the Barton Schoolhouse restoration

Cooking Block cont. on next pg.

Loma Linda University Health hosts new Loma Linda Farmers Market Night



Loma Linda University Health and Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce are teaming up for the new Loma Linda Farmer's Market Night every Tuesday evening.

The public is invited to the grand opening of the Loma Linda Farmer's Market Night from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11. A "soft opening" will be held on Tuesday, June 4, with the public invited as well. The market will continue year-round.

The Farmer's Market Night will be held in the parking lot on the southeast corner of Anderson Street and Mound Street, in front of the Loma Linda University Health Welcome Center (the former Loma Linda Post Office).

"We are very excited to partner with the Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce to present the new Loma Linda Farmer's Market Night," says Dr. Richard Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health.

"Farmer's Market Night fits really well with our efforts to promote wellness and encourage healthier lifestyles for everyone in our community; and we certainly look forward to having a venue where members of our community can come together and get to know each other."

The Farmer's Market Night will feature organic produce, fresh fruits, and vegetables from local farmers, as well as prepared food, gifts, and services from local businesses and groups. Farmer's Market Night is in addition to the Loma Linda Farmer's Market hosted by the Chamber, which will continue every Sunday morning on Barton Frontage Road.

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Auhtorities ramping up patrols for graduation parties, social host ordinance

By Yazmin Alvarez

Authorities in Redlands made it clear Monday that they will be cracking down on underage drinking at house parties this week as graduation celebrations get underway.

Redlands Police Chief Mark Garcia said during a news conference, the department will be ramping up patrols and will be enforcing the city's social host ordinance, which holds a homeowner or responsible party liable if alcohol or other controlled substances are served to underage persons during a party or any other social gathering.

Council approved the ordinance in January.

Violators of the ordinance are subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$500, officials said.

Residents who host gatherings that allow underage drinking face a \$100 fine for a first offense; the fine for a second offense is \$200; and a third offense is \$500. After the second violation, violators will also be responsible for cost recovery for police, fire and emergency services that respond to the incident, said Lt. Travis Martinez of the Redlands Police Department.

The fines could amount to several thousand dollars, he said.

In the last two years, Redlands Police has had more than 2,500 calls for service related to various types of parties, many of which include underage drinking, Garcia said.

Redlands Mayor Pete Aguilar said underage drinking is a "threat to our health and well being of our youth in Redlands."

"Alcohol is the number one illicit drug abused in Redlands... between 2009 and 2010, 55 percent of 11th graders in Redlands surveyed, said it was very easy to obtain alcohol, according to the California Healthy Kids Survey. The survey also found that the average age when children first use alcohol in the Redlands community is 12-years-old," he said.

But Redlands isn't the only city attempting to get the word out to



COURTESY PHOTO

Authorities will ramp up patrols this week enforcing the social host ordinance as graduation parties get underway. Shown here are graduates from Rialto class of 2013.

residents about the ordinance.

In Rialto, members of Rebuilders TDAY, a branch of Templo De Alabanza Youth Ministries, in conjunction with the Rialto Community Coalition, recently canvassed neighborhoods, knocking door-to-door and passing out flyers informing residents of the consequences associated with Rialto's social host ordinance.

Josh Ramirez, member of the Rialto coalition and youth leader at the church, said the response to the home visits were for the most part, "positive."

"The majority of residents didn't know about the ordinance. That's why we did this. We wanted to inform the community and use it as a way to also reach out to the youth in the city."

The group was able to visit more than 100 homes in Rialto.

While graduations in Rialto wrapped up Sunday, Redlands cer-

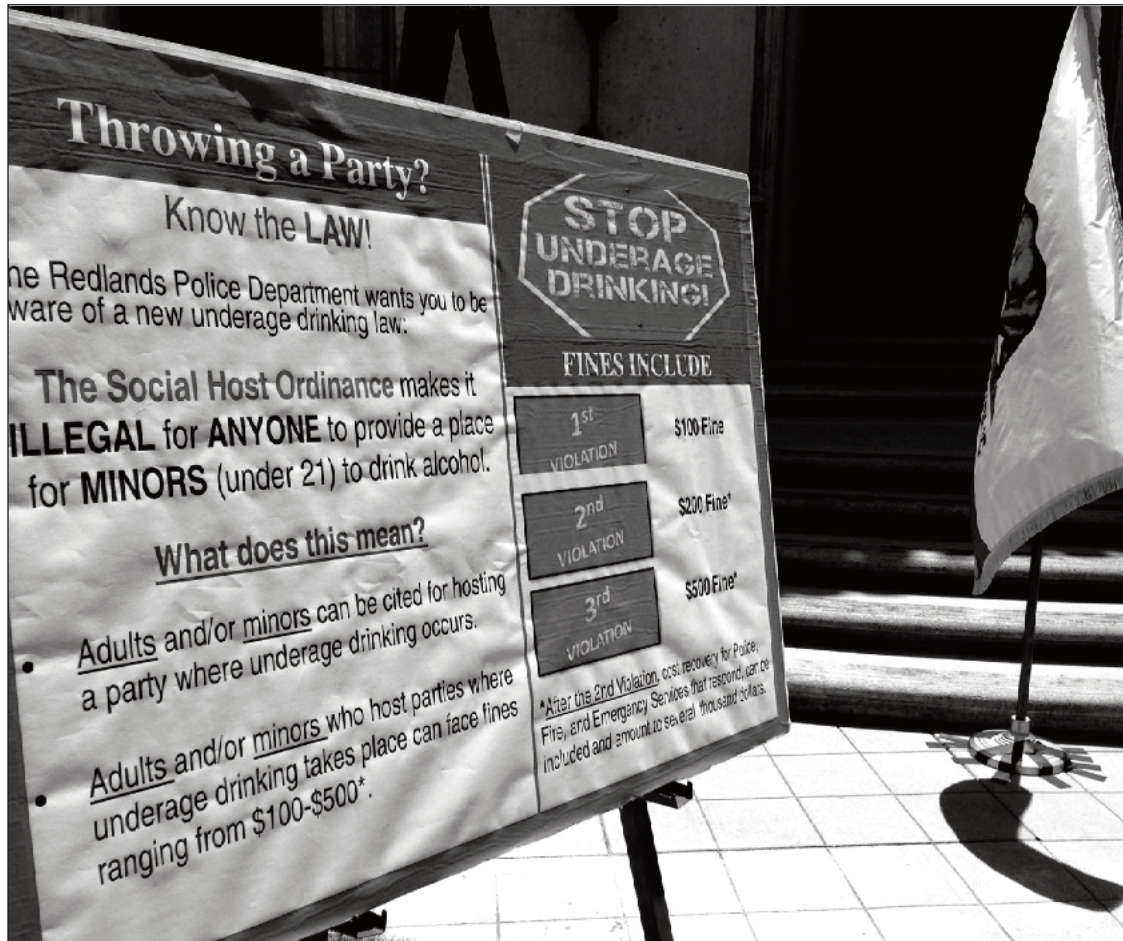
emonies continue throughout the remainder of the week, with Redlands High graduation taking place today and Citrus Valley High on Friday.

"If anyone is thinking of hosting a graduation party, we ask you, please ensure that you do not allow

underage drinkers to consume alcohol during those parties," Garcia said. "We want to make sure that we have the safest and most enjoyable graduation period that we possible could."

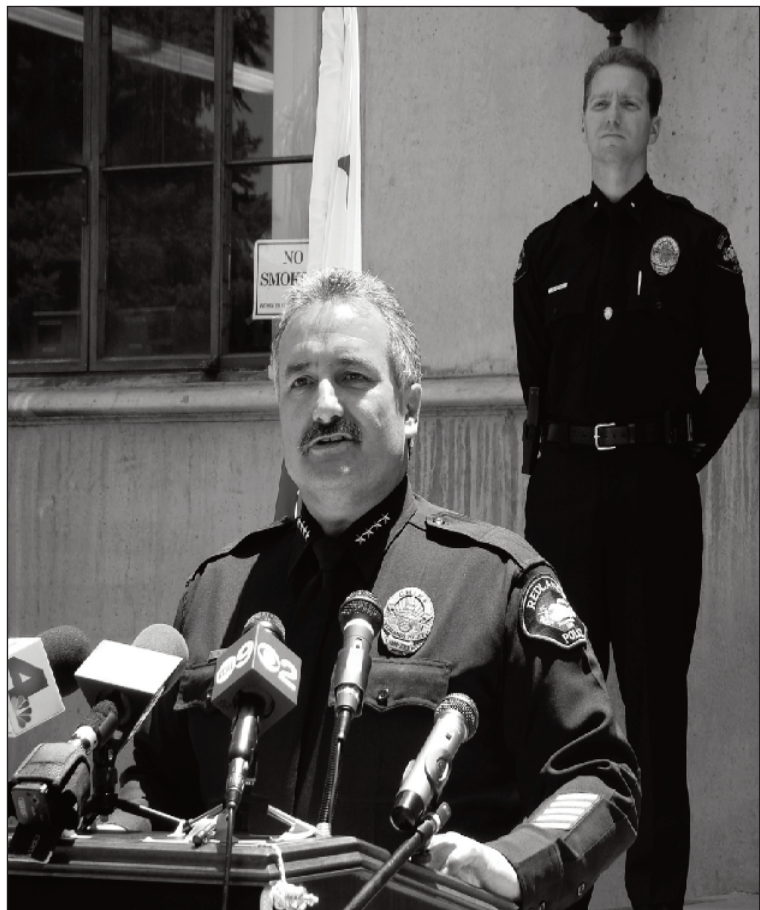
The extra Redlands "night-time party patrols and DUI saturation

patrols through Saturday" are funded through grants from the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and the California Office of Traffic Safety, authorities said Monday.



IECN PHOTO/YAZMIN ALVAREZ

Residents who host gatherings that allow underage drinking face a \$100 fine for a first offense; the fine for a second offense is \$200; and a third offense is \$500.



IECN PHOTO/YAZMIN ALVAREZ

Redlands Police Chief Mark Garcia said the department will be cracking down on underage drinking this week as graduation parties get underway. Authorities will be enforcing the city's social host ordinance, which holds a homeowner liable if alcohol is served to underage persons.

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Redlands Party Patrol doesn't see a lot of action on ride-along

City enters graduation week without incident

By Greg Cappis

gregory.cappis@ inlandnewspapers.com @TheFactsGreg on Twitter

Posted: 06/06/2013 05:25:13 PM PDT

REDLANDS >> Police work is not always black and white.

Cpl. Eddie Herrera was operating in the gray area while responding to a noise complaint Wednesday night.

"The way I look at my job," Herrera said while driving around Redlands, "is how can I solve the problem the best I can?"

Around 10:30 p.m., he was assigned to investigate a report of excessive noise.

A grant funded five nights of party patrol in Redlands to coincide with high school graduation ceremonies taking place Tuesday through Saturday in an effort to thwart underage drinking.

When Herrera arrived, his partner, Officer Matt Knudsen was already out of his car.

"Do you hear anything?" Herrera asked when he pulled up in front of a 20-foot gate.

Knudsen said he could hear voices from the top the hill where the house sat.

Herrera turned off his engine and laughter flicked his eardrum.

The two officers figured the noise was coming from the pool hidden from view by a building. They thought the person in that house may have filed the anonymous complaint and made their way toward the house.

"Push the green button," a voice shouted from above as Herrera fumbled with the intercom system.

The gate swung open, and the officers walked up the long, winding driveway and climbed stairs to the front door.

A couple explained their teenager was in the pool with some friends and walked back to show police.

The structure Herrera and Knudsen thought was a neighbor's home turned out to be a kennel for the family's German shepherds.

Because of the distance from neighbors, and lack of music and underage drinking, Herrera decided to issue a verbal warning.

If the children had been drinking, the parents could have been found in violation of the city's social-host ordinance, instituted in January.

Adults hosting a party with underage drinking can be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second and \$500 for the third. At least six social-host citations have been issued since January, according to police.

Herrera and Knudsen found no cases of underage drinking Wednesday.

The first call Herrera responded to was a complaint of juveniles smoking under the stairs of an apartment complex. Herrera turned into the facility and crawled his vehicle around the parking lot. He was unable to find anyone smoking under stairs, and reported that back to dispatch.

He saw a couple of kids walking off the property. Maybe they were the ones a person complained about and left when they saw his car, he said, but couldn't confirm. Regardless, the problem had been solved.

In some cases, showing up in the black-and-white vehicle is all it takes.

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on Thursday, June 6th, 2013 at 11:47 am



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REDLANDS – Police will be cracking down on underage drinking, an announcement coming on Monday in a week that five public high school graduation ceremonies will be held. Redlands police said that officers will be working overtime, with funding coming from state grants.

On Monday, Redlands Chief of Police Mark Garcia announced that parents should be aware that underage drinking at graduation parties will be targeted and that homeowners and responsible persons liable if such activity takes place.



Police Chief Mark Garcia wants everyone to know that grad parties will be under extra scrutiny

“If anyone is thinking of hosting a graduation party,” said Garcia, “we would ask that you please insure that you do not allow underage drinkers to consume alcohol during those parties.”

In Redlands alone, the five high school campuses – Redlands, Redlands East Valley, Grove, Orangewood and Citrus Valley – will be conducting graduation ceremonies. Like most communities across the state, there are likely to be parties.

“Underage drinking is a major threat to the health and safety of Redlands youth,” said Redlands Mayor Pete Aguilar, citing drinking and driving as a major cause of death among teens while also being linked to reduced academic performance, sexual assaults, unintended pregnancies, fights and other violence. Redlands police will also blend DUI saturation patrols all week.

Garcia cited an early portion of the patrols when a March 23 party on Brockton Ave. was investigated with six citations issued. At that party, officers found several underage people drinking alcohol and one had bought three kegs of beer.



Grants from the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and the California Office of Traffic Safety will fund the extra duty patrols, according to release by city spokesman Carl Baker.

Officers will be writing citations and issuing fines under the City's Social Host Ordinance rules – passed in January – between Tuesday, June 4, through Saturday, June 8, said Baker.

Residents who host gatherings that allow underage drinking face a \$100 fine for a first offense; the fine for a second offense is \$200; and a third offense is \$500. Beginning with the second offense, violators will also be responsible for administrative costs, which can add up to several thousand dollars.

Read More:

Redlands-LomaLinda Patch: **Police Plan Party Patrols to Crack Down on Underage Drinking**

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8. No arrests in Redlands for underage drinking on grad week
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10. Boy Scouts raise flag at Redlands YMCA

No arrests in Redlands for underage drinking on grad week

[Greg Capps, Staff Writer](#)
Posted: 06/10/2013 05:50:20 PM PDT

Within the city limits, it appears high school graduates and their parents behaved themselves during the past week.

Five nights of party patrols coinciding with five nights of high school graduations netted zero arrests for the Redlands Police Department, according to Carl Baker, city spokesman.

"We did not issue any citations pursuant to the Social Host Ordinance this week," said Carl Baker, city spokesman. "Officers did not observe any underage drinking parties during their patrols. In fact, it was a pretty quiet week for parties in general. The media blitz up-front must have worked."

Last Monday the city hosted a press conference to announce the party patrols.

At least two newspapers and multiple broadcast news stations attended.

There, RPD Chief Mark Garcia referred to the 6-month-old Social Host Ordinance as another "tool" to fight underage drinking.

The ordinance allows police to cite adults for hosting parties where underage drinking is present.

The first violation can result in a \$100 fine. A second citation carries a \$200 fine and the third, \$500.

A grant paid for the increased police presence.

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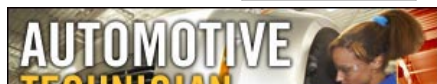
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Kudos to RPD for underage drinking crackdown

Posted: 06/11/2013 11:54:32 AM PDT

I was so pleased to read in the front page of the Redlands Daily Facts about the extra enforcement of the new social host ordinance law, "Redlands police to conduct party patrols,"(June 4).

This is exactly what Redlands needs.

I have seen first-hand what damage youth alcohol parties can bring and I am sick and tired of it.

My property and neighbors were seriously damaged by underage students and who were intoxicated.

I know alcohol causes even greater damage to kids themselves and long lasting hardships.

Nearly 5,000 young people die each year due to alcohol injuries.

Redlands residents -- youths and adults alike -- deserve better.

Let's put an end to the violence, death and destruction that underage drinking brings.

Three cheers for our Redlands police for seeing this through and preventing adults from supplying a place for youth to drink.

-- Ron Ynda