

2 Charged With Underage Drinking

Police Called To Devonwood House, Scene Of Previous Beer Party

By GREGORY SEAY, Courant Staff Writer
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FARMINGTON -- Police over the weekend were back at the Devonwood house that in January was the scene of a large beer party at which underage drinkers were served alcohol.

Police said they received a report shortly after 11:30 p.m. Saturday of possible underage drinking at 8 Thatcher Terrace.

When authorities arrived, they spotted several minors drinking beer in the yard. Police also found minors drinking in the basement den and recovered several containers of alcohol. A total of 14 minors were at the house at the time, investigators said.

Joseph Bracone, 18, who lives at the house, was ticketed for violating the town's ordinance against possession of alcohol by a minor and for hosting an event for underage consumption of alcohol, police said.

Eric Barret, 18, of Farmington, also was cited for possession of alcohol by a minor.

The other youths were turned over to parents' custody.

Police said that no parents or adults were at home at the time. Authorities said Monday that it was unclear whether they knew the underage drinking was happening.

Last summer, parents Paul and Dawn Bracone each received one-year suspended jail terms and were ordered to undergo treatment for alcohol abuse for permitting the Jan. 13 beer bash at their home.

As part of their sentence, the couple was ordered to pay \$4,000 in two installments to the town schools to help finance a program teaching 10th-graders about the hazards of underage drinking and drug abuse.

In July, partly in response to publicity from the Bracone case, state lawmakers tightened restrictions on adults serving alcohol to minors.

A new state law, effective Oct. 1, makes it a crime to allow underage drinking on private property. Maximum punishment is one year in prison and a \$500 fine.

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