

## 50 arrested in underage booze bash at business

Michael Gannon , Register Staff  
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NORTH BRANFORD — Fifty young people, mostly current or former Branford High School students, are facing criminal charges after police raided a raucous booze party at a local business late Friday.

The arrests marked the latest chapter in a recent effort by police to crack down on underage drinking in town.

Acting on an anonymous tip, officers approached the building, which they said is being rented by the Kidds Cave Landscaping Co. Police said the first officer on scene witnessed a large number of youths scattered about the building holding open containers of alcohol.

After summoning backup, police said officers spotted a male, subsequently identified as Douglas Papuga, 18, of 2 Kidds Cave Road, emptying an entire garbage can full of empty alcohol containers into an outdoor trash bin. Police said Papuga confirmed that he was the host of the party and that the property was being leased by his father.

Police charged 50 people ranging in age from 15 to 20 with possession of alcohol by a minor. One person also was charged with possession of marijuana. Police said officers found more than 130 unopened containers of beer from the building and suspects' vehicles, along with several liters of hard liquor such as vodka and whiskey.

Police said officers also found more than 100 empty containers on the premises.

Police said between 15 and 20 suspects appeared to be wearing varsity athletic jackets from Branford High School.

Six North Branford High School athletes were disciplined after being charged with underage drinking at a similar party in North Branford Oct. 20. A 20-year-old volunteer North Branford High School football coach was terminated less than two weeks later after he too was arrested on charges of underage drinking.

One of the football players arrested Oct. 20 was arrested 17 days later for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

The homeowner in the Oct. 20 incident was one of the first people in the state charged under a new law that holds property owners responsible for stopping underage drinking that is taking place on their properties with their knowledge. The law went into effect Oct. 1.

Police said the business owner has not been charged since he was not present and there is no evidence that he knew of Friday's party.

Police withheld the identities of nine of the students arrested Friday night because they are under the age of 18.

All others arrested are Branford residents except where noted. Police identified the suspects as Thomas McGwire, 19, of 37 First Ave.; Emile Fazekas, 18, of 51 Knollwood Drive; Samuel S. Barnes, 18, of 87 Quarry Road; Richard Healy 18, of 675 Townsend Ave. in New Haven; Brian G. Monack, 18, of 32 Riverside Drive; Benjamin Miccinello, 18, of 8 Fir Tree Drive; Joseph Goglia, 18, of 29 Wilford Road; Paul Raucci, 18, of 97 Montowese St.; Elizabeth Fiskio, 18, of 11 Frank St.; Benjamin Danker, 18, of Millwood Road; Allison Castellan, 18, of 4 Knollwood Drive; Meghan Saunders, 19, of 57 Avon Road; Stephanie Pellegrino, 18, of 28 Apple Tree Lane; Jeffrey Cannon, 18, of 17 Apple Tree Lane; Nicole Eriante, 18, of 3 Sandra Drive; Nicole Gerosa, 18, of 25 Linden Ave.; Spencer Brady, 20, of 181 Little Fox Lane; Kurt Degan, 19, of 2 Clark Ave.; Carl Furino, 19, of 12 Hampton Park; David Deangelo, 18, of 10 Spice Bush Lane; Matthew Hamilton, 18, of 17 Far View Drive; Jeffrey Seaman, 18, of 19 Richill Road; Michael Olt, 18, of 23 Griffing Pond Road; Meredith Prior, 18, address unavailable; Joseph Solevo, 18, 101 Flat Rock Road; Daniel Albis, 19, of 15 Knollwood Drive; Kina Gargano, 18, of 14 Old Hickory Road; Eliza Demarseilles 18, of 45 Silver St.; Katherine Donovan, 18, of 32 Woodvale Road; William Ruptolo, 18, of 2 Rich Hill; David Felce, 19, address unavailable; Millan Whitfield, 19, address unavailable; John Marquis, 19, of 6 Sunset Manor; Anthony Jones, of 28 Millwood Drive; Michael Belilacqua, 19, of 65 Red Hill Road; Michael Kauffman, 18, of 24 Peddlers Drive; Doug Papuga, 18, of 2 Kidds Cave Road; and Thomas Nolan, 18, of 76 Queeach Road.