

Underage Drinking

**Not a Minor
Problem**

Five Years Later

Sally Yageric, CPP

Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and
Substance Abuse

4255 Harlem Road

Amherst, NY 14226

(716) 839-1157 – Sally@eccpasa.info

Underage Drinking Campaign Amherst Task Force

- Parent/ school representative
- Courts
- Students
- Youth Board
- Police Department
- Judges
- Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Religious Community
- Youth Serving Organizations
- Service Clubs

Making A Difference

- Party Patrols
- Letters to Parents – from law enforcement and schools
- Underage Drinking Brochure
- Now It's Your Turn – Parent Video
- It's Your Choice - Youth Video
- 2 Town Meetings
- SafeHomes Promotion
- Safe Prom
- Mandated Parenting Programs
- Monthly Newspaper Column
- Sticker Shock



AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

500 JOHN J. AUDUBON PARKWAY
AMHERST, NEW YORK 14228
716-689-1322
FAX 716-689-1310

July 14, 2008

Parent/Guardian of

Amherst, NY 14051

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to advise you that your son, _____, was at a party at _____ Dr. Amherst, NY, on Friday, April 25, 2008, where alcoholic beverages were being consumed by underage youth. Police Officers from the Amherst Police Department responded to the above-mentioned location and took appropriate action to resolve the matter.

This is to further advise you that Sec. 65-C of the New York State Alcoholic Beverage Control Law prohibits possession of an alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume by persons under the age of twenty-one years. Any person who unlawfully possesses an alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume may be summoned before the Amherst Town Court.

Alcohol possession by a youth less than twenty-one years of age is a major concern of the Amherst Police Department. I trust that this information will be used in a constructive manner to assist you and your children to make the right choices concerning alcohol consumption.

If you require any additional information concerning this incident, please contact the Amherst Police Youth Bureau at 689-1344.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Askey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

John C. Askey
Chief of Police

Dear Parent(s),

With the onset of summer nights and no-school days, teen parties will be popping up all over. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you and your young people of the dangers of underage drinking.

So you were legal to drink when you were 18! Why can't young people today have that same privilege?

Think about it. Just because you may have driven without a seat belt, or rode a bike without a helmet, would you encourage your young people to do that today? Of course you wouldn't. We are more knowledgeable today about the importance of prevention. Awareness campaigns and modern science has also increased our knowledge of the negative effects that drinking can have on young people. For instance:

- Alcohol can permanently alter the balance of chemicals in a teen's brain
- Young people who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21
- As reported in the Partnership for a Drug-Free America survey, teenagers who reported that their parents talk to them regularly about the dangers of drugs (including alcohol) were 42% less likely to use drugs than those whose parents didn't talk to them. Only one in 4 of those teens reported having those conversations with their parents.

The facts are in. Adults need to be adults and take the responsibility that comes with it seriously. We are enclosing some information for you to share with your children, your children's friends, your neighbors and anyone else who you feel will benefit from it. After all, our kids are our future. It is every adult's responsibility to protect him or her.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Williamsville Central School District

Erie County Council for the
Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Sally Yageric, CPP
Parent Program Coordinator

Underage drinking

Not a **minor** problem

KNOW THE LAW.... PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING.

***It is illegal for any person 21 or older to purchase or provide alcohol to minors!
Fines are up to \$1000 and/or 1 year in jail.***

This message courtesy of:



For Information contact

800.415.7

UNDERAGE
DRINKING
Not a **minor** problem

KNOW THE LAW... PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING.
IT IS ILLEGAL FOR ANY PERSON 21 OR OLDER TO

Then and Now – Drinking Stats

- Reports attending 1 or more parties in the last year “where other kids your age were drinking”
- **1997 62% yes 2007 51% yes**
- It is against my values to drink alcohol while I am a teenager
- **1997 39% agree 2007 49% agree**
- How many times have you had alcohol to drink in the last 30 days
- **1997 55% 2007 65%**
responded “0”

Then and Now, continued

- How many times have you had alcohol to drink during the last 12 months?

- **1997 33%** **2007 46%**

Responded "0"

- How many times have you had alcohol to drink in your lifetime?

- **1997 23%** **2007 35%**

Responded "0"

- How many times have you had 5 or more drinking in a row (binge) over the last two weeks?

- **1997 74%** **2007 79%**

Responded "0"