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# Muskegon Chronicle

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## Teen drinking party lands host parents in jail

Friday, June 30, 2006

By Lisa Medendorp  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The party guests ran through yards, tried to climb out a basement window and hid in the attic -- all to escape police, who were called to a Norton Shores home late Sunday after receiving a complaint about underage drinking at a high school graduation party.

Norton Shores officers wound up getting a search warrant for the home of Lance and Mary Broersma, 1162 W. Sternberg, and then took the couple to jail.

Officers also cited four teens for underage drinking, including the guest of honor, Broersma's son, Nathan, 18.

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All of the teens who were cited had blood-alcohol levels of 0.02 percent or greater, according to police.

If they had been driving, the teens would have been considered intoxicated under the state law that applies to drivers under age 21. Police believe at least some of the teens drove to the party.

Lance and Mary Broersma, both 41, were arraigned Monday before visiting

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60th District Judge Richard J. Pasarella on misdemeanor charges.

Each faces a charge of attempted resisting and obstructing police along with two counts of selling or furnishing alcohol to minors. They posted \$500 cash bond each.

Norton Shores Police Chief Daniel Shaw called it "an unfortunate event," but added that "it hopefully will send a message throughout the whole community." Underage drinking "is a real problem, not just in Norton Shores, but in other communities as well," he said.


Attorney David Shafer, who appeared with the couple at arraignment, said, "Mr. and Mrs. Broersma take the position they never furnished any alcoholic beverages to any minors at their home at the party.

"If any of the young people at the party consumed alcohol, it is believed that they procured it on their own and consumed it without the knowledge of Mr. and Mrs. Broersma," Shafer said. "It is not difficult for young people under the age of 21 to procure alcohol."

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