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Police: Dad wrong to host party

By [Danielle Williamson](#)/ Daily News Staff

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FRANKLIN -- A Franklin father will have to answer to charges of providing alcohol to minors at a graduation party he hosted last weekend, which resulted in 35 teenagers being summoned to court, police said.

Thomas Leonard, 43, of 258 Washington St., will be summoned to Wrentham District Court on a charge he furnished alcohol to minors, police said.

"He's a really nice man," said Franklin resident Michele Burns, whose sons Justin Coots, 19, and Nicholas Coots, 18, attended the party Saturday. "He thought he was doing a good thing for his son by having a party and a band, and it turned into a court appearance."



Leonard did not return a call seeking comment.

According to Detective Edward Clifford, the Police Department's court prosecutor, Leonard hosted a high school graduation party Saturday night at his home, where alcohol was made available to dozens of underage attendees.

"The thought that you can just take everyone's keys and allow everyone to drink is wrong," Clifford said. "It's still against the law. Alcohol and 16-, 17-year-olds just isn't a good mix."

Leonard's children, Natasha Leonard, 20, and Thomas Leonard Jr., 18, will also be summoned for furnishing alcohol to minors as well as being minors in possession of alcohol, Clifford said.

Police responded to the Leonards' Washington Street home at about 10 p.m. Saturday, after a neighbor reported a large party with loud music, Clifford said.

Upon arriving at the house, police broke up the party and made the teenagers call their parents for a ride home, Clifford said.

Burns said her sons, who she dropped off at the party earlier in the night, called her at about 11:15 p.m. to tell her police broke up the party and they needed a ride home.

Burns said her sons were sober and did not smell of alcohol when they got in the car.

"Just because there's alcohol doesn't mean all the kids drank it," Burns said. "But I do think it was a good idea for police to make the kids call their parents. It's better to be safe than sorry."

Clifford said Saturday's bash was the largest of three parties involving underage drinking that police have broken up this graduation season.

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In addition to the Coots brothers and the Leonard siblings, the following teenagers will be summoned to court at a later date, Clifford said: Caitlin Hurley, 17, of 6 Byrons Way, Franklin; Wade R. Getchell, 18, of 21 Moore Ave., Franklin; Cacie P. Dow, 17, of 6 Farm Pond Lane, Franklin; Alexandra L. Kinney, 17, of 44 Skyline Drive, Franklin; Kyle P. Courtemanche, 19, of 3 Pearly Lane, Franklin; Brandon M. Shields, 18, of 47 Newell Drive, Franklin.

Also, Sandra M. Salazar, 17, of 208 Glen Meadow Road, Franklin; Nicole A. Hayes, 17, of 20 Mohawk Path, Bellingham; Daniel J. Williams, 18, of 672 Pond St., Franklin; Matthew L. Arcaro, 18, of 16 Gallison St., Franklin; Ryan M. Darcy, 17, of 20 Tia Plane, Franklin; Kael Hardin Garrey, 18, of 39 Fuller Plane, Franklin; Brian P. Kelley, 18, of 31 Benjamins Landing, Franklin; Harry D. Dery, 18, of 71 Skyline Drive, Franklin; Burton E. Lueth, 17, of 601 Pleasant St., Franklin; Robert L. White, 18, of 11 Mill St., Franklin; John J. Lorusso, 19, of 14 Concetta Way, Franklin; Matthew B. Thomas, 18, of 258 Washington St., Franklin; Heather Dereamus, 19, of 258 Washington St., Franklin; Joseph R. Mancini, 19, of 273 Country Way, Franklin; Paul G. Marzoratti, 18, of 19 Green St., Franklin; and Colin J. Spotts, 18, of 9 Marthas Way, Franklin. [\[continue\]](#)

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