

ISU sees fewer large house parties after 15 years

Written by Jennifer Novoseletsky, Daily Vidette Staff Writer
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The ISU and Normal Police Departments recently noticed a significant change in the number of people attending parties in the area.

“From my experience, there are fewer large parties. I don’t know that there are actually fewer parties, but they’re definitely smaller,” Robert Cherry, Normal Police Sgt., said.

According to Cherry, past parties would disperse onto sidewalks and streets, making them noticeable and easy to shut down.

In years past, there used to be more houses on campus which could fit people on multiple floors. However, houses in the last decade have been torn down and replaced with apartment buildings. Current apartments only have so much space.

“Again, parties still happen, but nothing like the volume that used to be 10 to 15 years ago,” Aaron Woodruff, ISU Chief of Police, said.

Officers mostly respond to parties due to noise complaints. Neighbors may complain about too much noise and that is what will draw officers there, Woodruff said.

However, some parties do not need to be called in by neighbors, but are scoped out by officers themselves.

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“We’re proactive with the parties; we’ll get out on foot and just patrol,” Cherry said.

Officers are additionally drawn to students who post things on Facebook, students who register kegs, and public urinary problems, Woodruff explained.

“When cops know of a keg registration, they can do a follow-up and check with those students that are having those parties and remind them what the ordinances are, and what the law is in regards to selling alcohol, so they can’t sell out alcohol because they’re subject to significant fines,” Woodruff said.

To control bigger parties, there are ordinances for mass gatherings and lease permits. DJs and performances require Town of Normal permits.

“Alcohol is still a significant factor. It’s what students do during their non-academic time, we know it’s still occurring,” Woodruff said.

Late night programming is another alternative for those who choose to not drink.

“Anytime we can get some activities going, late at night or during the day, if it’s alcohol-free, it’s the more the better in my opinion,” Cherry explained.