

April is Social Host Awareness Month

WHEREAS, adults who provide alcohol to those below the legal drinking age of 21 are placing those youth at risk for health, safety and legal problems, and

WHEREAS, alcohol kills 6.5 times more young people than ALL illicit drugs combined, and usage among teens often accompanies traffic fatalities, suicides, unprotected sex, drug use, and other high-risk behaviors and illegal activity, and alcohol is a factor in the four leading causes of death among persons ages 10-24: motor vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide; and

WHEREAS, alcohol use by young people is dangerous, not only because of the risks associated with acute impairment, but also because of the threat to their long-term development and well-being, including damage to the memory and learning centers of the brain, which does not stop developing until the age of 25, and

WHEREAS, Michigan ranked 16th in the percentage of alcohol consumed by underage youth (with one being the highest), and

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth report, of 14 counties of Michigan who participated, an average of 26% of 9th graders and 52% of 11th graders have been drunk in their lifetime,

WHEREAS, in Michigan, it is estimated that underage alcohol use costs the citizens of Michigan \$2.1 billion, translating to a cost of \$2,084 per year for each youth or \$3.18 per drink consumed underage, and underage drinkers consumed 16.5% of all alcohol sold in Michigan, and

WHEREAS, one-hundred percent of any alcohol consumed by a minor came from an adult (at one time, an adult over the age of 21 was in control and a minor gained access to it), and

WHEREAS, it is illegal for adults to knowingly allow their child's friends to drink alcohol in their home, even with the permission of the friends' parents, and adults have the authority and should have the responsibility to take steps to reduce the likelihood that their homes will become venues for underage drinking,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Board of Education of Kalkaska Public Schools, of the county of Kalkaska, do hereby proclaim that April 2014 is Social Host Awareness Month. We also call upon all parents, citizens, homeowners and property owners to host gatherings responsibly and take measures to eliminate access of alcohol to persons under the age of 21.

Approved by the Board of Education, Feb. 10, 2014