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## Heavener Hosting Reality House

How many parents would love to know what goes on when their teen attends a “party”?

This is exactly what the City of Heavener in collaboration with local organizations is offering to parents of Heavener Public Schools.

The City of Heavener has collaborated with Heavener Schools, LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living, Choctaw Nation and Oklahoma Regional Prevention Center to offer tours called “reality house” in which adults will be allowed to walk through typical high school party scenes, Thursday, April 17th at 5:30 pm and continuing at 20 minute intervals through the evening.

The tour will portray various party scenes with youth actors voicing their concerns expressed by teens and adults.

“Unfortunately, spring is the time of year when many teens begin experimenting with alcohol and drugs, and it is becoming a typical event any given weekend throughout the state,” says Bill Slater of LCC4HL.

“It almost seems when the weather warms up, we see a spike in alcohol and drug related incidents in our local young people, and parents are unaware of the consequences of these parties: unplanned sexual encounters, fights and even arrests. The Heavener City Commission adopted a Social Hosting Ordinance in June 2009.

On June 8, 2011, Governor Fallin signed into law the Amended Oklahoma Social Host Law, also known as “Cody’s Law.”

Heavener and Oklahoma’s Social Host Law puts a shared responsibility for underage drinking on the person providing the location for the gathering. Adults or minors can be cited and fined under the Social Host Law.

The law is clear: if kids under age 21 are drinking alcohol at a gathering and you’re providing the location for that gathering, you’re responsible. Fines for the first offense are up to \$500.00.

Heavener City Manager, Mike Kennerson is encouraging the residents of Heavener to attend this event, to get a firsthand look at the dangers of underage drinking for all local teenagers.

The Heavener “Reality House” will take place April 17th 5:30-8:30 at the Heavener Agricultural Building.

Dinner will be provided along with incentives for all students who participate and attend this event.