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NEWPORT NEWS NOTEBOOK

## CNU students on Barbour Drive may soon face harsher punishments

BY SABINE HIRSCHAUER

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Christopher Newport University students who live off campus were diligently smoothing out ruffled feathers with their neighbors on Paddock Drive last year after concerns about too many loud parties and unkempt rental homes came to a head earlier in the year.

While peace has finally returned to Paddock Drive, now it's residents of Barbour Drive, also near CNU, who still aren't happy with some students. In particular, one home infamously known for its excessive partying and noise has neighbors riled.

In the last seven months, police officers knocked at the door of the Barbour Drive house on six different occasions, responding to complaints about loud noise. And a community resource officer from the central police precinct spoke to the students living at the house several times.

On Feb. 23, city officials, including a codes compliance inspector, came and cited the property for trash and debris.

City Manager Randy Hildebrandt contacted the York County property owners to get them to persuade the students to become better neighbors.

From now on, according to a memo by Hildebrandt and Police Chief James Fox, police will no longer just issue warnings, but people may face harsher punishment, including charges that can carry jail time.

For comments or complaints about rowdy students, call the city's hot line at 926-8450 or e-mail [neighbors@nngov.com](mailto:neighbors@nngov.com).

### City jail third in region in mentally ill inmates

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine recently appointed Newport News Sheriff Gabriel A. Morgan to the Interagency Civil Admissions Advisory Council, which studies issues related to temporary detention, admission and involuntary treatment of people who battle mental illness.

The council will propose recommendations to help the mentally ill and will improve the coordination and effectiveness of the recommendations.

Mental illness is an issue not only close to Morgan's heart, but also to his professional life.

In 2007, the Newport News City Jail accounted for the third-highest percentage of mentally ill inmates among the 13 city and regional jails in the area. The Newport News jail trails only the much larger Hampton Roads Regional Jail in Portsmouth and the Chesapeake City Jail.

In 2007, almost 30 percent suffered from mental illnesses, ranging from mild depression and bipolar disorder to major depressive disorder and schizophrenia.

In 2008, the Sheriff's Department spent the largest percentage of its money for medication on psychotropic drugs to help mentally ill inmates, Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Lt. Kathleen Carey said Tuesday.

### For the love of books

If you love words, stories and tales to be told, there's an opportunity to help those who love them just as much but can't afford books.

This month, Books-A-Go Go, an international nonprofit organization and book drive, is teaming up with Drive Time car dealerships nationwide and also in Newport News to collect new and used books for children of low-income families.

Throughout the month, people who want to donate their children's books can drop them off at the Newport News Drive Time location on 11292 Jefferson Ave.

All books collected will be distributed through local schools and organizations that help disadvantaged children.

For more information about the drive, please visit [www.booksagogo.org](http://www.booksagogo.org).

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