# Office of Prosecuting Attorney

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, MISSOURI

H. MORLEY SWINGLE
Prosecuting Attorney

ANGEL M. WOODRUFF
First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

JULIE A. HUNTER
JOHN N. KOESTER JR.
JULIA M. KOESTER
FRANK E. MILLER
Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys

JOHN L. VOLKERDING
Investigator

Courthouse
100 Court Street, Suite 204
Jackson, Missouri 63755
Telephone: 573-243-2430
Fax: 573-204-2318
Bad Check Unit
573-243-2469

Dear Parent:

The coming of spring means that prom and graduation parties are not far off. Local, state and national data demonstrate that high risk behaviors related to alcohol consumption increase at this time of the year. Underage drinking often causes young people to make poor decisions, leading to driving while intoxicated prosecutions, traffic accidents, injuries and even death. The consequences can alter young lives forever.

**Because parents are the first line of defense in deterring a young person's dangerous behavior**, the Cape Girardeau Prosecuting Attorney's Office, along with the Southeast Missouri Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, would like to share some information with you:

* ***Young people are more likely to drink alcohol or experiment with illicit drugs when there is no adult supervision.***
* ***Under Missouri law, your child's license will be suspended if he or she is caught driving with a blood alcohol content of as little as two-hundredths of one percent.***
* ***Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to become alcohol dependent than those who do not drink until age 21.***
* ***Many young people obtain alcohol from their own parents' homes.***
* ***It is illegal to host or allow underage drinking parties in your home, and adults who host such parties will face criminal prosecution. Hosts may also be sued in civil court.***

We have included a pamphlet entitled: "Wasted Lives." Please read and share this information with your son or daughter. Hopefully, parents, the schools and the community can join together to make a difference in reducing underage drinking and other high rist behaviors for our most precious community resource – your child.

For more information contact the SEMO Youth Substance Prevention Coalition at mychildourfuture.org or (573) 587-1921.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Angel M. Woodruff