



Thoughts . . . FPD 2013

I watched the Fake Patty's day proceedings all day and well into the night. I have one of those new smart phones and can follow stuff on Twitter, on the web, YouTube etc. Only problem is my fat fingers sometimes get in the way. I also have the ability to take some on high video with my recorder so I took a couple of sweeps through the area to give you a true feel for what did or did not take place (video is posted below the article on my OM page). Rumors always seem to out weight the facts, and exaggeration is the order of the day in many news stores.

Some aspiring pilot with great hand and eye coordination was operating a remote control helicopter over Moro street. It had green and red lights and was only about 24 inches long. In the night sky it was hard to tell what the object might have been. Rumors are that it may have been an RCPD drone, searching for evil doers. Others thought it was an eye in the sky camera recording crimes for future arrest. For all of you conspiracy theory lovers, sorry, just a toy remote control helicopter; RCPD does not have any drones yetbut maybe it has merit.

So what really took place on Fake Patty's day? WIBW was quick to report on its' website that Fake Patty's Day in Manhattan had reached a record number of arrests. They also stated that a flood of green swarmed the streets of Aggieville. But what did the statistics really show by 7 PM? Arrests were up by SIX over last year and calls to the police up by SEVENTEEN. A lot of hype in the news stores, but the reality is that it looks to me like the mayhem may have peaked back in 2011. Calls for police service were about the same as last year and so were arrests. If arrests and calls for service go up; it should be expected due to the heavy inclusion of law enforcement. More enforcement will always result in more arrests. Those enforcement statistics are a positive number. RCPD was reinforced for the event by police officers from KSU, Geary County, Pott County, Salina and even help from units as far away as Emporia.

How many more arrests would we see on KSU football game days if the city and RCPD flooded that area with enhanced law enforcement? Just the immediate Aggieville area had over 97 enforcement folks working, Manhattan Fire Department overcrowding teams, bike patrol officers, foot patrol officers and even the State Police.

The majority of the party goers were well- behaved, but as usual a few were inebriated, bombed, loaded, wasted or just plain drunk. EMS and various courtesy patrols from Fort Riley and other groups helped those that were incapacitated. DUI is always a problem and aTa

SafeRide and Riley Ride helped keep many from motor vehicle operation. I noticed that several city officials were out observing the event to include the Mayor and City Commissioners. Even the Director of RCPD did a bit of bike and foot patrolling of the area.

In the mists of the party a group of KSU students were actually not drinking (can you believe it)? Instead of getting *"trashed"* these students for Environmental Action participated in the second annual Fake Patty's recycling event. They picked up the refuse from the bars, got it all in the proper bins and made a positive statement. I was impressed by their efforts.

A mess is always the end result of any large party. Manhattan Good Neighbors has the right idea –

"There's nothing fake about the mess we make." Help us clean up the neighborhoods surrounding Aggieville by picking up trash and recyclables in public places. Free t-shirt!

They were out in force this Sunday morning around 10 AM. Thanks for picking up that stray bud bottle that was at my feet.

I think that some form of Fake Patty's Day is here to stay for Manhattan. It – the Fake Day - was voted by some sources as one of the Top 10 College Parties in America. Progress has however been made in mayhem reduction. As the website Cjonline.com posted:

So take heed, Fake Patty's revelers. The city isn't fakin' when it comes to enforcing the rules.

I would applaud the work of the MFD, RCPD and local government, but would most likely get a noise pollution ticket – have you seen the size of these hands?

Mr. K.

