



*Hanover County Sheriff's Office*  
*Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff*



*News Release*

Contact Lt. Doug Goodman (804)-365-6312

September 1, 2005

The Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the Department of Justice in the amount of \$12,643. All funding awarded by this grant will enable the Sheriff's Office to conduct enforcement activities aimed at reducing underage purchase and possession of alcoholic beverages.

The Justice Assistance Grant program provides funding to law enforcement agencies primarily according to the size of the population it serves. Funding from this grant will allow the Sheriff's Office to fund overtime patrols aimed at identifying sales of alcohol beverages to underage buyers, and taking the appropriate enforcement actions.

In instances where alcohol is sold to underage buyers, charges can be placed on the store clerk for selling the alcohol, the underage buyer for possession of the alcohol, and any adult who facilitated the purchase.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens, and over one third of those crashes were alcohol related. Mothers Against Drunk Driving states that 60% of traffic related fatalities involving teens during prom and graduation season were caused by drunk driving. **In 2004 alone, 15 people died in traffic related crashes in Hanover County. Four of those deaths were directly related to drunk driving!**

"Funds from this grant will enable my office to place an additional emphasis on this problem, and hopefully save lives in the process," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook. Enforcement operations conducted with these funds will focus on times of the year that have proven to be prone to underage consumption of alcohol, such as homecoming events, New Year's Eve, proms and graduations.

In the next few weeks, deputies will be making personal visits to all retailers in the county who are licensed to sell alcoholic beverages to provide them with prevention material and to make them aware of our efforts. "The goal of this project is to dramatically reduce the number of teens who are purchasing and consuming alcoholic beverages," said Colonel Cook.

If you have any questions please call Lt. Doug Goodman at 365-6312.