



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Captain Michael J. Trice (804) 365-6292 (w)
(804) 389-4501 (c)

During the holiday season, the Hanover County Sheriff's Office is taking extra steps to protect citizens and visitors in Hanover's retail areas.

Starting November 27 and continuing through December 31, the Uniform Patrol Division will be supplemented by several other units in the daily delivery of services to high-traffic areas. The intent is to establish a strong presence aimed at deterring criminal activity, efficiently controlling the flow of traffic, quickly responding to calls for service, and identifying and apprehending violators.

The increased uniform presence will include Reserve Deputies, trained volunteer law enforcement officers, who will conduct patrols during the peak shopping hours. In addition, all of the Sheriff's D.A.R.E. and School Resource Officers will be re-assigned from their school duties during the Christmas break to patrol the retail corridors. These officers will be patrolling in vehicles and on foot.

And for the 8th year, the Sheriff's Office will count on the services of approximately 40 dedicated Hanover citizens who make up the *Courtesy Patrol*. These citizens, adorned in fluorescent green vests emblazoned with "Hanover Volunteer Courtesy Patrol," will be visible in shopping centers from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. They will be equipped with cell phones and notepads and will serve as additional eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Office, as well as ambassadors to citizens and visitors.

"We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated corps of citizens who graciously sacrifice their personal time in order to provide such a valuable service to those who live, work, and shop in Hanover County," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook.

In 2008, the volunteers logged nearly 350 hours of active patrol time walking in and around retail areas, greeting citizens, and meeting business owners and employees. They are all graduates of the Sheriff's Citizens Police Academy. Anyone interested in learning more about this program is encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office at (804) 365-6110.

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