



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



News Release

Contact Sergeant Michael J. Trice (804) 365-6819

July 3, 2006

The following additional information is related to the Mechanicsville couple that was found dead inside their home just after midnight on July 1, 2006.

Based on the preliminary results of the Medical Examiner, the cause of death for both Douglas R. Harper Jr. and Donna M. Harper were from gunshot wounds. Although there were no witnesses in the room during the domestic dispute, based on physical evidence at the scene, Donna M. Harper was shot prior to Douglas R. Harper receiving his, apparent self inflicted, fatal injury.

This incident is obviously a tremendously difficult situation for the family involved. However, in addition there are friends in the neighborhood and community that are also attempting to cope with this tragedy. It is important for those having difficulty to express their feelings, communicate their needs, and seek support. Hanover County Community Services can be contacted at 365-4200 for additional resources and information.

###