



# News Release

March 29, 2006

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The Sheriff's Office will be utilizing underage buyers, to gauge the compliance of clerks responsible for the sale of alcohol at retail establishments throughout the county.

This **Underage Buyer Program** has been utilized in Hanover County since 1990 to raise awareness and determine the accessibility of alcohol to those citizens not of legal age to possess it and to eliminate stores in Hanover County as a source for youth to acquire alcohol.

In preparation for spring break in Hanover, April 7-15, 2006, this program, along with other measures, will be active over the next two weeks. Other operations, including surveillance in the area of ABC locations to enforce any secondhand alcohol transactions and strict enforcement of youth parties where alcohol is present, will be a focus.

Also later in April, the Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the retail establishments, Hanover Schools, Hanover Community Services Board, and the ABC Board, will place stickers on beer and wine, reminding the buyers of the consequences of providing alcohol to underage citizens. This program is called **Operation Sticker Shock**.

The underage buyer program is NOT an initiative to charge clerks with a criminal offence or to impact their livelihood, but to validate that the administrative measures in place are working. It is the responsibility of the establishments and their employees to conduct alcohol transactions according to the law. If this program identifies any problems, this intervention will mitigate any lasting negative impact.

"Youth alcohol consumption will result in one thing, tragedy. These programs are aimed at eliminating the accessibility of alcohol at its source. However, even with all of our efforts and resources, it will take the entire community to do their part to keep our children safe," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook.

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