



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



News Release

Contact Lt. Doug Goodman (804)-537-6312

November 25, 2002

The Sheriff's Office would like to inform the members of the media and our citizens of the proactive measures that we will undertake to insure a safe holiday season. To supplement our existing patrol force, the Sheriff's Office is taking extra steps to protect our citizens and visitors of our retail businesses.

As in past years, citizens and shoppers will notice an increased uniform presence in the retail areas this season. Reserve Deputies, a dedicated group of highly trained volunteer law enforcement officers, will be conducting high visibility patrols during the peak shopping hours in the evening. Additionally, during the Christmas Break, all of our D.A.R.E Officers and School Resource Officers will be re-assigned from their school duties to patrol the retail corridors. These officers will be patrolling by both vehicle and on foot.

A small team of specially trained deputies will also be conducting patrols on mountain bikes. Members of the Bike Patrol Unit will be riding in the parking lots and along the corridors of our retail areas. Due to their method of travel, these officers will be able to move much quicker in congested areas, while remaining very approachable by citizens.

And for a fourth year, we will count on the services of 40 Hanover citizens who will make up the Volunteer Citizens Courtesy Patrol. Last year, volunteers logged over 400 hours of active patrol time walking in and around retail areas, greeting citizens and meeting business owners and employees.

These citizens, adorned in bright yellow jackets and fluorescent green vests emblazoned with "Hanover Volunteer Courtesy Patrol," will be visible in our shopping centers during the month of December from 10:00 in the morning to 8:00 at night. These volunteers will again be equipped with cell phones and note pads and will not only serve as ambassadors to our citizens and visitors, but also additional eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Office. It is hoped that their presence will instill comfort in our shoppers, and deter those individuals with criminal intentions. These volunteers will start their patrols the day after Thanksgiving and will continue through Christmas Eve.

To maximize the effectiveness of our resources, the deployment strategy is based on analysis of crime incident data and calls for service that indicate geographic areas and time frames that historically have problems during the holiday shopping season. These statistics will be used to assign our resources by location, day of the week, and time of day where their presence would best deter criminal activity.

In addition to safety in our retail areas, the Sheriff's Office will provide extra officers to ensure the safety of our roadways. Through a grant from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, overtime patrols will be conducted by our deputies to identify and apprehend intoxicated and reckless drivers endangering our county roadways.

On Friday, November 26, 2004, Sgt. Kirk Shaffier and members of the Citizens Courtesy Patrol will be available for interviews.

Our Crime Prevention Unit conducts safe shopping programs and will be happy to share crime prevention tips and safe shopping measures. If you have any questions, please call Lt. Doug Goodman at (804)-365-6312.

Colonel V. Stuart Cook
Sheriff