



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



News Release

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

May 21, 2004

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will be conducting operations in the upcoming week to ensure the safety of all of our drivers this coming Memorial Day Weekend.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Memorial Day weekend is historically one of the deadliest holidays in regards to alcohol related traffic fatalities. Research also shows that young people, ages 15 to 20, are more often involved in alcohol related crashes than any other comparable age group. In Virginia, 41% of all highway deaths are caused by alcohol related crashes.

In the next week and during the Memorial Day holiday, the Sheriff's Office will be addressing this serious issue with two strategies:

First, with funding from the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Board, officers will be conducting undercover operations at local retailers in an effort to curb sales of alcohol to underage buyers. Similar operations early in the year have yielded over 65 arrests for such offenses as selling alcohol to an underage buyer, buying alcohol for someone under the age of 21, and possession of alcohol by a person under 21 years old. These operations have also resulted in drug and firearm violations. It should be noted however that during these operations, a majority of the retail clerks checked ID's and obeyed the law. We offer our thanks to those individuals who are taking the extra effort to keep our young people free from harm.

Secondly, our patrol units will be conducting several traffic safety and D.U.I. checkpoints in the upcoming week. These operations are also grant funded with an award from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. In 2003, our patrol officers arrested 252 individuals for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So far in 2004, 129 people have been arrested, a 66% increase.

It is our hope that this Memorial Day weekend will be a safe and happy one for all and give us all an opportunity to remember those members of our armed forces who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

If you have any questions, please call Lt. Doug Goodman at 365-6312 or Deputy Kirk Shaffier at 215-1611.

Colonel V. Stuart Cook,
Sheriff