



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Twenty-seven youths arrested for underage possession of alcohol and narcotics violations.**

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office arrested 23 individuals for underage possession of alcohol this past weekend as a result of an investigation into two local underage parties that occurred in separate parts of the County. Those arrested were comprised of a total of 12 juveniles and 11 adults who were under the age of 21. Several of the individuals arrested are students at local area high schools, primarily in Hanover County.

The first incident occurred on February 8 at approximately 1:30 a.m. in the 17300 block of Tyler Station Road, which is located in the Beaverdam area of the County. Here, officers encountered a group of individuals who were illegally consuming and/or possessing alcohol. As a result of the officers' investigation, a total of 6 juveniles and 7 adults were arrested.

Similarly, on the same night at approximately 4:00 a.m., officers responded to the 6300 block of Midnight Drive, which is located in the Mechanicsville area of the County. As before, they encountered a group of individuals who were illegally consuming and/or possessing alcohol. As a result of the officers' investigation, a total of 6 juveniles and 4 adults were arrested.

On a similar note, two Atlee High School students and two Hanover High School students were arrested this past Friday for Possession of Marijuana while attending school. These arrests were made after the Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with the Hanover County Public Schools and with the assistance of the Henrico Division of Police and the Virginia State Police, conducted a drug detection operation at each school. These operations, which are conducted annually and at random, utilized drug detecting canines.

The Sheriff's Office remains fully committed to its zero-tolerance policy towards underage possession and consumption of alcohol, as well as narcotics violations. These incidents underscore our resolve in ensuring that everyone in the community is protected against the many dangers associated with alcohol and drug use, particularly our youths. Accordingly, we will continue to work with the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) agents to make further progress in ensuring that only individuals of age are legally being sold alcoholic beverages by our retailers. In addition, we will continue to remain focused upon ensuring that our schools are as safe and drug-free as possible.

"While this remains an issue that we continue to focus upon, these incidents highlight the importance of parents being actively engaged in the lives of their children and reinforcing the dangers associated with illegally consuming alcohol. Such situations are never timely and I hope it will bring a much greater awareness to this issue as we quickly approach the prom and graduation season where these instances tend to be more prevalent," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff.

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