

**LANCASTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE
Monday, April 26, 2010**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Sgt. W.C. Tolly #175
(740) 687-6680 ext. 42
wtolly@ci.lancaster.oh.us**

**Lancaster Police Department and Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
Conduct Alcohol Compliance Checks**

In a joint effort to combat the sale of alcohol and tobacco to underage persons, members of the Lancaster Police Department and Fairfield County Sheriff's Office teamed with the Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County Coalition to conduct compliance checks with Lancaster and Fairfield County area businesses on Thursday, April 22, 2010.

Underage confidential informants (CI's) were used to purchase alcohol and tobacco products. The CI's appropriately represent their age and were purposely instructed not to alter their appearance to look older. During the latest operation, five (5) out of eight (8) local businesses sold alcohol and/or tobacco to undercover operatives. The following are a list of those businesses that were checked during the latest operation:

- Bottle Cap Bar and Drive-Thru located at 401 S. Broad St. Lancaster, OH sold beer and cigarettes.
- Marathon Oil (22 Drive-Thru) located at 602 Lincoln Ave. Lancaster, OH sold cigarettes. They passed the alcohol compliance check.
- Greg's Marathon located at 1020 W. Fair Ave. Lancaster, OH sold beer.
- Ameristop Food Mart at 1826 W. Fair Ave. Lancaster, OH passed both the alcohol and tobacco compliance check.
- Star Beer Wine Drive-Thru located at 825 W. Fair Ave. Lancaster, OH sold beer and cigarettes.

- Rich Oil located at 525 W. Fair Ave. Lancaster, OH passed both the alcohol and tobacco compliance check.
- P.T.'s Beverage Station at 522 N. Main St. Baltimore, OH sold beer.
- Sunoco – Fast Max located at 950 Baltimore-Somerset Rd. Baltimore, OH passed the alcohol compliance check.

The sale of alcohol products to underage persons (Ohio Revised Code – 4301.69) is a misdemeanor of the first degree, which carries a maximum penalty of six (6) months in jail and a maximum fine of \$1,000.00. The sale of tobacco products to underage persons (Ohio Revised Code – 2927.02 (B) (1)) is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, which carries a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail and a maximum fine of \$250.00. Additionally, businesses and owners found in violation of the law are reported to the Ohio Department of Public Safety Investigative Unit and may face additional administrative fines, fees, or sanctions.

Sergeant William C. Tolly #175
Community Services Unit Supervisor