

PUBLIC RELATIONS

May 21, 2022

Sheriff's Monthly Community Meetings at Burger Claim Restaurant

(2nd Thursday of each month)

Chief Spurling starts the meetings with a request for feedback from the community. He wants to know specifically what information is most important to report at meetings. Stolen cars/trucks within Mason County is up 80%. Law enforcement has actually been recovering a lot of the stolen vehicles. The local government restriction of law enforcement usage of shot guns for reasonable suspicion has been reinstated. Still can not perform high speed pursuits. Thus suspected criminals are free to flee!! Increased major crime of shootings, beatings, knifing is up 70%. The day before the April meeting there were 130/911 calls for 5 officers to try to cover.

Tagging within Mason County is increasing by want-a-be gang members. Gangs within the high school have been beating students in the rest room. Numerous South American groups are increasing and forming.

Sheriff's canine named Caliber has received 2 major surgeries regarding a twisted intestine. Note: the canine officer program is financed strictly with private donations.

Six officers are retiring this year. Officers are now allowed to drive their patrol car privately 20 miles outside Mason County otherwise a private vehicle must be used.

Deputies are now able to work outside of Mason County Sheriff's Department to support private security. An approved new position has been approved for a Community Service Office to take phone calls which frees up a certified officer. Looking into "texting" to notify 911 needs.

Criminals are actively using cell phones to monitor sheriff movement to enhance their opportunity to commit crimes. The no lock up of criminals is currently the biggest road- block for law enforcement to recruit and maintain officers.

Officers are now driving more often through Belfair. Albertsons Grocery Store has installed a new tower to monitor activity within the area and the Sheriff's Office wants access to the information.

New Humane Society has opened in Allyn. Featuring spaying and injection services. 5 acres have been purchased close to the High School for a new shelter.

Submitted by Maureen Allen