

PUBLIC RELATIONS

March 3, 2022 Sheriff's Community Meeting located at Spencer Lake Restaurant

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Colleen Spurling

Mrs. Spurling opened the event by announcing that Chief Spurling was in Eastern Washington on business. She announced that Chief Spurling has scheduled his kick-off event for a get to know Chief Spurling and why his 31 years in law enforcement makes him a strong candidate for Mason County Sheriff replacing the end of the year retirement of Sheriff Casey. The event is on March 20th between 1 and 3 p.m. at the North Mason Eagles in Belfair. Food and drinks will be provided. Donations will be greatly appreciated. Also announced is that Chief Spurling will be starting another Sheriff's Community Meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month located at the Burger Claim Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. and hopefully on the 3rd Thursday a meeting in Hoods Port when a meeting location can be determined. Note: no changes to the 1st Thursday of the month meetings at the Spencer Lake Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Investigator Rhodes of the Detective Unit talked facts about the unit. There are currently officers who run all criminal investigations regarding patrol and internal issues, 911 calls, rapes, robberies, homicides and burglaries. Sheriff shootings require an independent investigation. In 2020 there were 114 sex offender cases requiring 2 detectives for investigations. 2021 had 40 more cases from 2020. Felony cases were up by 50%, property crimes were up 57%. Individual case load per person is approximately 20. Large increase in commercial burglaries, a rash of stolen vehicles primarily in the north end of county. F150 and F250 trucks are being stolen to use as weapon to help break in and steal ATM machines and then abandoned. Safeway parking lot in Belfair has large increase in F250 and F350 thefts. The internet cybercrimes are coming from outside USA. All law enforcement agencies involved with current crime wave are totally over whelmed!!! Staffing in the jail is a big problem. Have been trying to operate with 6 open positions. No one seems to want to work nights or weekends. New Jail is still a huge issue. Need approximately \$70 million to buy land and construct. It takes 6 million a year to run jail. Meeting adjourned 9:45 a.m..