



Bonner County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE



COMMUNITY FORCE

February 9, 2016

Traditional law enforcement efforts have been primarily a reactive response to crime - after a crime has been committed. The Bonner County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) is utilizing proactive response programs (emphasizing crime PREVENTION), including Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch and Community Watch. Community-involved policing, with citizens working side by side WITH law enforcement (being eyes and ears "on the ground" in neighborhoods) instead of solely RELYING ON law enforcement has proven to be statistically more effective in reducing crime than reactive policing. BCSO has found that people want to assume a more active role in making their communities safe. Nationwide, Watch programs have been credited with reducing the rate of burglaries as much as 77%, along with reducing the rate of other crimes.

Sheriff Daryl Wheeler, Undersheriff David Hale, Sgt. James Cotter, and Deputy Kimberly Kempton strongly supported the BCSO Community Force to ignite and expand a resurgence of community-involved policing in Bonner County – neighbors watching out for neighbors, working with law enforcement. Four retired public safety officers (pictured below) have graciously volunteered to assist their efforts.



Jay Dudley



Jerry Gore



Jim Corcoran



Craig Nelson

Since last July:

- BCSO has fielded 25 calls on its Community Watch program
- BCSO volunteers and/or law enforcement met with and disseminated Community Watch information to citizens from the Idaho/Montana border to Hope, Sandpoint, Priest Lake, Edgemere, Bottle Bay, Priest River, Oldtown, etc.

- Sergeant Cotter and/or Deputy Kempton have met with Community Watch groups to address crime trends and questions of concern
- Sheriff Wheeler, Undersheriff Hale and/or Captain Lakewold have met with citizens to hear their concerns and answer questions in a series of Coffee With Cops forums across Bonner County; they also have spoken to various grange, civic and church groups about the BCSO Neighborhood/Community Watch program, crime trends and crime prevention
- BCSO has been gathering resources to expand its Business Watch component of community policing
- BCSO has developed emergency response plans with area schools and other facilities

If you have questions about the BCSO Community Force, would like to start a Community Watch in your area, or would like someone to speak to a group about Community Force issues, contact Sheryl Kins at (208) 263-8417, Extension 3049.



Captain Ror Lakewold - Public Information

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