Sheriff’s department surveys public’s needs

Deputies canvass county areas starting today

By SAMANTHA YALE
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HANFORD — Citizens of rural Kings County should not feel alarmed, sheriff’s deputies are coming to their door during the next month.

Deputies will be conducting a survey of the citizens of rural Kings County to see what their concerns are, and to offer them a chance to give feedback to the sheriff’s department. The last survey of the county was about eight years ago, said Cmdr. Don Deeds with the Kings County Sheriff’s Department.

Deputies will be visiting residences across the county in the rural, outlying and unincorporated areas. They will not cover cities that have their own police departments. They will knock on door’s in uniform and ask a few questions of those adults who wish to participate.

Deputies will try to reach many residents in the county.

Deeds said the interviews will be brief. “I don’t expect it to take very long at all,” he said.

Today and Thursday, deputies will start in Armona.

“We want to do a survey in the community to find out what the community’s needs are,” said Deeds.

The sheriff’s department wants to learn about “problems in their community that involve crime or things that they feel need investigation,” he said. These problems may be very different from one city or town to the next, he added.

“Problems in Armona may not be the same as problems in Stratford,” Deeds said.

Deputies also want to ask residents if they feel their neighborhoods are safe, see if residents want to participate in the Citizens on Patrol program where they work with law enforcement to help protect their communities, and to ask them to rate the service of the sheriff’s department.

“It helps us reach that level of service they’re wanting,” Deeds said.

Sergeants will then take the surveys and evaluate them, so that they will know what each community feels are the major issues, and compare them to issues law enforcement currently focuses on.

“We can direct our attention to help solve problems,” Deeds said.

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