



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

BRADLEY D. ROGERS, SHERIFF



S E R V I N G E L K H A R T C O U N T Y

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Sheriff Rogers expands patrol resources in county

NEW PARIS — For many years, the southern half of Elkhart County has been staffed by just one officer from the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department. As population has grown, so have reports of burglaries, vandalism and fatal traffic crashes.

Sheriff Brad Rogers and his administrative team have reviewed the numbers, and today, the department is introducing new patrol regions to better serve all corners of Elkhart County.

"This is something this part of our community has needed, quite frankly, for some time," said Sheriff Rogers, who announced the news Monday in New Paris, part of the newly designated southeast patrol region. "To best serve the people, we need to be closer to the people. The addition of this fifth region allows us to spend more time directly in business districts and subdivisions, and building this network of community resources will help our law enforcement across the board as we address crimes proactively and through investigation."

Previously, unincorporated Elkhart County have been covered by four regions — two in the Elkhart area (divided by the St. Joseph River), one for northeastern Elkhart County, and one for all of the area south of C.R. 30 and S.R. 4. Today's announcement divides that 220-square-mile southern area into more manageable halves of about 100 square miles apiece. The boundaries for the new patrol region are C.R. 17 on the west, S.R. 4 to the north, and the county lines to the south and east.

In the past 10 years, Jackson and Benton townships have grown by more than 20 percent, according to the latest Census Bureau data. A third area in southern Elkhart County, Harrison Township, has grown at the same rate.

"We took into account more than population shifts, though," Sheriff Rogers said. "In the past three years, almost half of our 58 fatal crashes have been in this southern patrol region. The presence of our officers in these areas, particularly along U.S. 6 and our state highways, will increase driver awareness and safety."

Sheriff Rogers also noted crime, such as high-profile burglaries in the New Paris area, vandalism at River Preserve County Park, and convenience store robberies along S.R. 15, as another reason for the change.

The sheriff's department will continue to staff all regions, as well as have additional cars throughout the county for focused enforcement efforts or general patrols. And, as always, the public is encouraged to notify the police of all criminal activity, particularly by using the department's online reporting system, elkhart-countysheriff.com/reports.html.

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