

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is holding the next in its series of sponsored meetings around the county regarding nuisance properties and ideas for combating the attendant crime and environmental problems associated with them. The meeting will be held Monday evening February 22 at 6 p.m. at the Columbia County Courthouse in Room 308.

"More than 70 people attended the first meeting in Rainier," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "We are hoping to continue the effort to gather information and ideas for combating this county-wide community problem."

The Rainier meeting took place January 28 at Alston Corner, with 71 people in attendance. Many in attendance pressed for more teeth in county ordinances to address chronic crime properties and the public nuisances they become.

"The Sheriff's Office, in its role as conservators of the peace in Columbia County, has an earnest interest in improving measures to address these community problems," the sheriff said. " We believe the best ideas for dealing with these issues can often come from the community that has to live with them. We also are aware of the efforts in other places to address these issues and improve conditions in their communities. Together, we can work to improve our situation in Columbia County, too."

This is the second of three planned community meetings to address nuisance properties in Columbia County. Additional town hall meetings are also being contemplated for later in the year on a wide variety of public safety issues affecting the sheriff's office.