



Allendale Police Department

News Release

May 18, 2014

Allendale Police Dept. to host *Coffee with a Cop* on June 6 Program offers opportunity to meet local officers, discuss community issues

ALLENDALE—On June 6, officers from the Allendale Police Department and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee.

All community members are invited to attend. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. on June 6 at Allendale Eats, 101 West Allendale Ave.

Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Allendale.



The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies, or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community and some community members may hesitate to approach officers on the street. *Coffee with a Cop* breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

“We hope that residents will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns, or simply get to know our officers,” said Allendale Police Chief George Scherb. “Our primary goals are to break down barriers and further those interactions which are the foundation of community partnerships. There is no agenda and there will be no speeches, just casual conversations about our community with those who serve it.”

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the county, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

In addition to the *Coffee with a Cop* event, officers will also be collecting unused and expired medications. A generous donation by a resident has enabled the department to offer anyone dropping medication off to receive a gift card to Dairy Queen. We will be kicking off our “Chills for Pills” program June 6 at our *Coffee with a Cop* event.