

Sheriff opens a new office Walkertown space bigger and better

**By Melissa Hall
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WALKERTOWN

Sheriff Bill Schatzman opened the new satellite office for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office on March 12.

About 50 deputies, residents and other guests stopped by for snacks and to check out the office, which is on Main Street, in the former Walkertown Fire Station.

Maj. Brad Stanley, a spokesman for the sheriff's office, said that the office is a joint venture between the town of Walkertown and the sheriff's office.

"It does great things for us," Stanley said. Having the office on Main Street gives the officers more visibility, he said. He said that the office is bigger than the old one and can allow the deputies to provide better service. Up to 20 deputies may use the office every week.

Lynn McKinnie, the town clerk and interim town manager, said that the town has provided space for the sheriff's offices for more than 10 years.

The deputies had been using an office in town hall, but town officials needed that space, so the office was moved to the old fire station, which was remodeled.

Stanley said that the office will not be staffed around the clock. If residents have an emergency, they should continue to call 911.

Sarah Welch, a member of the Walkertown Town Council, said that having the sheriff's office on Main Street is better than the previous offices. "They'll be out front where everyone can see them. It's a good thing," she said.

McKinnie said that the department and the town have had a good relationship and that having the office maintains that relationship.

The office has desks, telephones and computers for the deputies to complete their reports and return telephone calls during their work shifts. "It's a place for them to come in and catch up," McKinnie said.

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