



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

Neighborhood Watch

Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

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www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities

Block Captain News – March 2024

Next Block Captain Meeting – Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, at 6:30 pm

Ramsey County Public Works Building - Marsden Room
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills MN 55112

Topic will include Ramsey County Sheriff Office Drone Unit presentation and demonstration.

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Day Light Saving

Sunday morning March 10th 2024 clocks move forward one hour.

Spring is Here

The ice has disappeared, and the weather has been mild this winter which has brought bicycles and motorcycles out earlier than normal.

Bicycles

When driving

- ✓ Be patient when passing a bicyclist - slow down and pass only when it's safe. Allow clearance of at least three feet.
- ✓ Look before you merge - check mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes.
- ✓ Be on the lookout - watch for and yield to bicyclists before making a turn.
- ✓ Use extra caution around young bicyclists - children's movements can be unpredictable.
- ✓ Be respectful - don't speed past a bicyclist to make an upcoming right turn. It's easy to misjudge how fast bicyclists are traveling.
- ✓ Exit your vehicle safely - look for bicyclists before opening your car door.
- ✓ Think before you honk - honking may startle a bicyclist and cause a crash.
- ✓ Stay alert and avoid distracted driving.



When bicycling

- ✓ Follow the law - obey all traffic signs and signals. Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- ✓ Ride predictable - maintain a straight course and avoid weaving between parked cars.
- ✓ Communicate your intent - look, yield to traffic and signal before turning or changing lanes.
- ✓ Use extreme caution near commercial vehicles - pass only on the left and recognize drivers' blind spots.
- ✓ See and be seen - wear bright colors, reflective gear and use head and taillights.
- ✓ Protect yourself - wear a helmet.
- ✓ Stick to roads and trails - sidewalk riding puts you at risk for crashes at driveways and intersections. Always yield to pedestrians.
- ✓ Avoid distracted bicycling - put away mobile devices and headphones.

[MN DOT Bike Safety](#)

[MN State Bicycle map](#)

Motorcycles

When driving a vehicle

- ✓ Always check your blind spot- keep your head on a swivel and looking over your shoulder before changing lanes.
- ✓ Take a second look before making left-turns.
- ✓ Be extra cautious when passing.
- ✓ Make sure to maintain an adequate following distance behind motorcycles.
- ✓ Stay in your lane.
- ✓ Use your signals to indicate your intention to turn before moving over.

When riding a motorcycle

- ✓ Practice your skills before heading out for the season.
- ✓ Consider safety equipment.
- ✓ Be realistic and assess your experience level on where and when you ride.
- ✓ Weather warnings- be prepared and have your gear.
- ✓ Night riding can be dangerous.
- ✓ Intersections are dangerous - always be alert especially behind you.
- ✓ Watch out for potholes, sand, and debris.

[MN Motorcycle Safety Center](#)



Potholes are Here Again



The time of the year is here so don't disappear. The spring season can be frustrating to many drivers as they go down the roads as they can be a bit bumpy. If you come across potholes that are deep, please take some time to report them to the appropriate agency so they can be patched.

First, determine the location and type of roadway the pothole is on, State, County, or City roadway? Next, go to that agency to report the pothole. Many can easily be reported online. See below for State and Ramsey County pothole reporting. For city streets, please go to your local city websites.

[MnDOT reporting pothole, graffiti or other roadside issue](#)

[Ramsey County- report a problem](#)

Home Safety Tip of the Month

Take away the opportunity for crime to occur by closing your garage doors. Whether we get home at night or go out for a walk, we may think our neighborhood is safe, but you never know when a crime may occur. Ramsey County Sheriff's Office sees an increase in vehicle break-ins and residential burglaries through open garage doors. By keeping your garage door closed anytime someone is not present can take away an easy opportunity for a criminal to gain access to your home, steal your vehicle or take your property from the garage. During the spring months, people welcome the breeze as they are in the garage getting yard work done. However, many forget to close the garage door as they get ready for bed. Get into the habit of adding to your bedtime checklist insuring the garage door(s) are closed and any interior door from the garage to your home is locked.

Neighborhood Watch is about Neighbors and Deputies working together



Involved neighbors are more likely to have open communication lines with each other, deputies, and the whole community. When neighbors know each other's names, normal patterns, and look out for each other, it is likely that they will report any activity that doesn't fit with regular schedules. Involved neighbors look out for each other.

Neighborhood Watch program [information and forms](#) to help your block organization are available on the county [website](#). **Please complete and return the [Block Captain registration form](#)** to ensure the Sheriff's Office has your most current contact information. THANKS!

Online information of activity in your neighborhood – [CommunityCrimeMap.com](#)

Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



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Remember – when you See Something, Say Something, Call 9-1-1