



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Jack Serier, Sheriff

Neighborhood Watch

Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

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Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities

Block Captain News – January 2017

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 7 – 6:30 pm

Ramsey County Public Works Building - Marsden Room
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills MN 55112
Near intersection of Highway 96 and Hamline

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Home Security & Safety tops February Agenda

Safety and security education will be the subject matter focus of Block Captain meetings in 2017. Deputy Tim Schwab will examine three subject areas applicable to individuals this year; home, personal and internet.

The February 6 topic will be Home Security and Safety. The discussion will include: What steps can be taken to make a home more secure and less likely to be a target for criminals. A review of home security products and technology. Home safety considerations, and how to share this information with our neighbors to make our communities safer.

In May the focus will be on personal safety, and the November meeting will explore internet and cyber safety.

MAIL THEFT ALERT – Vadnais Heights Post Office

Deputies have been working with the US Postal Service to address a problem with mail being stolen from the mail drop box outside the Vadnais Heights postal station.

When deputies investigate check fraud – checks stolen from mailboxes that are 'washed' and then written out to different persons/companies – they trace back the location of where the mail was stolen from. Several victims reported that they had placed outgoing bill payment envelopes into the outside mail drop box in the parking lot of the post office on Centerville Road near Highway 96 in Vadnais Heights. The problem was that the box was full and the envelopes were not secured inside but rather were sticking out of the deposit slot. Thieves then stole the envelopes, opened them, washed the checks, wrote them out to a new payee, and then cashed them.

Postal authorities are aware of and working on resolving the problem of the too-full mail drop boxes at this busy and popular post office.

Meanwhile, this is a teachable moment for reminding our neighbors, family, friends, and co-workers to deposit outgoing mail securely into USPS drop boxes.

Coffee with a Cop:



Continuing the community engagement experience of Night to Unite and Hot Dog with a Deputy, the Sheriff's Office Public Safety Services Division will be holding the tenth Coffee with a Cop event in February.

The goal of a Coffee with a Cop event is to bring neighbors and deputies together in an informal, neutral space to chat. No speeches or agenda – just conversation.

The next Coffee with a Cop is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9 from 9-10:30 am at McDonalds, 1313 County Road E West, Arden Hills (Co Rd E at MN51, near Flaherty's Arden Bowl)

Tax Season Safety

Criminal minds are now thinking about how to use tax season to help them steal people's money.

Protect your tax returns and forms. These documents have personal information that criminals could use to steal your identity such as Social Security numbers, bank account routing numbers, income information, and addresses. When using the United States Mail to send in your returns always use a secured mail box or drop them off in person at the Post Office. When using the Internet use all the precautions you normally use for opening charge accounts with online businesses.

All months of the year are times to practice mail theft prevention and awareness. Avoid leaving outgoing mail with checks in an unsecured mailbox with the red flag up. If you are expecting a tax refund, consider the direct deposit option in place of having a check mailed to you. If you are waiting for a check in the mail, keep an eye on your mailbox and avoid a stack of unclaimed mail waiting unguarded.

Remember that the IRS, or any other government agency, does not call and ask you to pay fines or fees with a gift card, credit card or to wire money. Telephone scams with thieves pretending to be IRS agents are common at this time of year, if you get a call simply hang up.

If you do become a victim of fraud or identity theft, please call 911 and a Deputy will help with taking a report and beginning the process and paperwork needed to recover.

Operation Package Theft: patrol detail targeted doorstep thieves in December

During the holiday season mail and package deliveries left at a door step become an easy target to thieves. To address this issue, the Crime Prevention Unit again organized a collaborative operation with the assistance of UPS, Fed Ex, USPS, and Ramsey County Patrol Deputies.

Technology tools were utilized to expand the program this past December. In addition to plain clothed officers tracking and monitoring actual deliveries, several bait packages with GPS monitors were placed on doorsteps in neighborhoods that had recently experienced package theft.

The results of the operation this year was a 'good news – bad news' situation. The bad news was that the bait packages were never stolen and no arrests were made. The good news was that there were no reports of any packages being stolen in the contract cities during the timeframe of the operation. These results could also be attributed to people taking measures to avoid being victimized. Thanks to all who spread prevention tips to their block clubs.



Sheriff's Office to Host Scouting Day

Scouting Day 2017 will be held on **Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon** at the Ramsey County Public Works facility in Arden Hills, Minnesota.

Scouting Day is a special event where Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts learn about the work performed by public safety agencies in Ramsey County. The annual event includes educational activities, equipment displays and demonstrations. Youth and families can interact with deputies, officers, and volunteers from Crime Prevention, DARE, K-9 Unit, S.W.A.T. Team, Water Patrol Dive Team, Youth Explorer Post, Community Support Services, County Public Works, Emergency Management, Allina Ambulance, Lake Johanna Fire Department, Army National Guard and more.

Please let those you know who are involved in Scouting about this event! Youth attending this event must be involved in a Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or Cub Scouts troop. An adult must supervise youth at all times.

Scout leaders are encouraged to sign up by Friday, February 10, 2017.

Register online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Scout2017>

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Scheduled

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program brings community members and emergency services personnel together for coordinated responses following a catastrophic disaster. During such disasters, communities may not have immediate access to emergency services because of the size of the area affected, lost communications, or unusable roads. CERT trained citizens can help their neighbors and neighborhood.

The Sheriff's Office and emergency personnel train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, and businesses in disaster preparedness and basic disaster response skills. The next training session will begin on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 and continue each Wednesday through May 10, 2017. Class locations will alternate between Arden Hills, Vadnais Heights and Little Canada.

The nine-week training course outline includes:

Disaster Preparedness	CERT Organization	Fire Safety
Light, Search and Rescue	Disaster Psychology	Disaster Medical Operations (Part 1)
Disaster Medical Operations (2)	Terrorism	Final Exercise / Graduation

Upon graduation, CERT members are prepared to assist in their neighborhoods and workplaces following an event when emergency responders are not immediately available.

Requirements

The CERT Program is available to all residents of the State of Minnesota who are 18 years and older. Residents must commit for the entire nine-week session. Classes are limited to 25 students. Equipment and materials will be provided at no charge, thanks to a generous donation by the Sheriff's Foundation.

Links: [Application](#) (pdf) or [Additional Information](#)

Applications will be received through Friday, February 24, 2017.

Mark your calendars for 2017 events:

Join the Crime Prevention Unit at the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain meetings to be held at Ramsey County Public Works, Marsden Room, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills:

Tuesday, February 7 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting

Tuesday, May 2 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting

Tuesday, June 6 – 5:00-7:00 pm – Hot Dog with a Deputy – Bobby Theisen Park, Shoreview

Tuesday, June 13 – 5:00-7:00 pm – Hot Dog with a Deputy – Polar Lakes Park, White Bear Township

Tuesday, June 20 – 5:00-7:00 pm – Hot Dog with a Deputy – Berwood Park, Vadnais Heights

Tuesday, June 27 – 5:00-7:00 pm – Hot Dog with a Deputy – Pioneer Park, Little Canada

Wednesday, July 5 – 5:00-7:00 pm – Hot Dog with a Deputy – Commons Pavilion, Shoreview

Tuesday, July 11 – 5:00-7:00 pm – Hot Dog with a Deputy – Tony Schmidt Park, Arden Hills

Tuesday, July 18 – 5:00-7:00 pm – Hot Dog with a Deputy – West Rec Center, North Oaks

Tbd, July 25 or 26 – 6:00 pm – Night to Unite Hosts / Captains Appreciation Dinner

**Shoreview Community Center, Community Room
4580 Victoria Street North**

Tuesday, August 1 – Night to Unite events in neighborhoods throughout the community

Tuesday, November 14 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting

Night to Unite 2017:

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 1, 2017 for Night to Unite. Seems like the first Tuesday in August is a long ways off as the Crime Prevention Unit begins planning for this year. Ideas are welcomed for materials to have for distribution at the neighborhood gatherings. Send us an email to help get the party started!



Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



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