



## Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Jack Serier, 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 – July 2017

### Next Meeting Wednesday, July 26 – 6:00 pm

Shoreview Community Center - Shoreview Room  
4580 Victoria Street North, Shoreview MN 55126  
Near intersection of Highway 96 and Victoria

This meeting is also the Night to Unite Event Host  
Appreciation Dinner – RSVP is requested to help with  
planning.

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## Bike Rodeo – Rescheduled to Thursday, July 27

### Learn Bicycling Rules of the Road and Safety Tips

The Sheriff's Office will be conducting a **Bike Rodeo on Thursday, July 27, 2017**, at Island Lake County Park, 3611 North Victoria Street, Shoreview. The event will run from 9:00 am to noon, and is open to all Ramsey County residents.

This Bike Rodeo will have four components, including equipment check, safety instruction, rules of the road, and an obstacle skills course. It will take about 45-60 minutes to complete all the training, and sessions will start on the hour.

Bike rodeos are geared toward children, however adult riders are welcome to participate in the training too. Advance registration is appreciated, and can be done online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Bikerodeo2017>, or by calling 651-266-7332.



*Bring your bike and helmet for a morning learning about bicycle safety with Deputy Sheriffs*



## Get your neighborhood event registered by Friday, July 14

Night to Unite is a statewide event that builds and fosters community bonds between citizens, businesses, and public safety organizations. This annual celebration occurs on the first Tuesday in August and gathers neighborhoods and public safety personnel together for an evening to promote safe communities.



**2017 Night to Unite will take place on Tuesday, August 1, 2017.**

Night to Unite goals are to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention and community policing programs.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirits and public safety-community partnerships.
- Let criminals know that you are committed to keeping your neighborhood safe.

Night to Unite has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable opportunity to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in pursuit of safer communities. Community benefits often extend beyond this single evening event as neighbors get to know each other and the public safety agencies that serve them.

Register your event online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU2017>

Event planning tools are available on the Ramsey County Sheriff's [website](#). Materials and items for distribution at block parties will be distributed to Event Hosts at the combined Block Captains meeting on Wednesday, July 26. More details and rsvp information will be sent when you register your event.

## Pickpockets and Purse Thieves

Deputies have recently responded to several reports of women's wallets, and entire purses, being stolen from their carts while shopping at area stores. The stolen credit cards inside the wallets were then immediately used at other area stores. The suspects appear to be working in teams. They typically strike up a conversation with an elderly/older female and use that distraction to steal the wallet. Young parents have also become victims while distracted by a fussy infant and selecting grocery items at the same time.

Thefts like these serve as a reminder to safeguard personal possessions when in public places. Purse, briefcase, and backpack snatchers can hit anywhere, and a carry-all of any sort left unattended for even a moment is an invitation to the criminal-minded to help themselves.

To prevent such theft, stay with your purse or carry-all, at all times. Don't turn your back on these items. Placing them in the basket portion of the cart, using the child safety harness or a clip to secure the item to the cart can help slow down a thief. Or lock your purse in the trunk before you leave home and use a belt pack to carry your wallet, phone, and coupons when shopping.



Staying aware at all times is key to personal safety.





## Telephone and internet scams continue to hit Ramsey County

The Sheriff's Office has responded to an increasing number of scams and fraud committed against local residents so far this year. Senior citizens are frequent targets of the telephone scam thieves.

To threaten people with an arrest warrant is a common scam. Other current scams with a law enforcement theme include "you missed jury duty", "your grandchild is in jail/hospital needing help" (and please don't tell parents), and "you have unpaid taxes". Other current scams include "computer repair services", "credit card savings", "vacation deals", "time share relief", and "car warranty expiration" to name a few.

One certain way to know that you are faced with a scam is when the caller asks you to pay using a gift card. No government agency, including any Sheriff's Office in the country, will call you up and demand that you pay using a gift card. In almost all transactions with the government you will have received advance notice of any issues via the US Mail well before any phone calls are received.

If you receive a call that you think may be a scam, or a robo-call, simply hang-up. If they continue to call either keep hanging up, block the number, or don't answer.

The federal government is attempting to track down and stop these telephone scam operations, through an easy to fill out form at <https://www.ftc.gov/complaint>

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is working to combat internet crime. Victims can file complaints at <https://www.ic3.gov>

Remember to not provide personal information such as financial account information, social security number, and other identity items over the phone or internet - unless you made the call to a trusted number. Verify all email and phone inquiries before responding. The FTC.gov website has many resources and tips to protect yourself from becoming a victim of fraud.

If you do become a victim of a fraud or scam, please call 9-1-1 and have a deputy help you.

## Hot Dog with a Deputy 2017

Hot Dog with a Deputy is connecting the community and the Sheriff's Office this summer. At the first three evening events families have been coming out to the park for free hot dogs, equipment demonstrations, and conversation with deputies. We hope to see you!

**Join us for hot dogs, chips, bottled water and frozen fun pops served FREE of charge from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

- Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at Tony Schmidt Park in Arden Hills
- Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at Commons Pavilion in Shoreview
- Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at West Rec Center in North Oaks
- Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at Polar Lakes Park in White Bear Township



Free food made possible by a generous donation from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Foundation, a 501(c) non-profit.

## Coffee with a Cop: Thursday, July 6



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 a Coffee with a Cop event in July.

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.

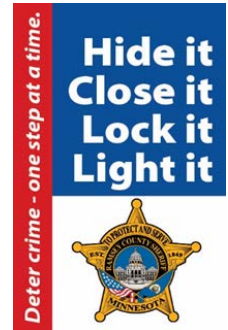
**The next Coffee with a Cop is scheduled for Thursday, July 6 from 9-10:30 am at Starbucks, 3833 Lexington Avenue, Arden Hills (across from Shoreview Target)**

## Summer continues to be prime time for garage thefts

The season for crimes of convenience seems to never end. Now is the time to remember to keep garage doors closed when working in the back yard, or when going on that healthy walk or bike around the block.

Summer also is a time when thieves target vehicles in parking lots, driveways, and streets. Unlocked vehicles have been a common theme in deputy reports. Please remember to not leave valuables in plain sight, close windows, lock doors, and park in well-lit areas.

Use [CommunityCrimeMap.com](http://CommunityCrimeMap.com) to stay up-to-date regarding police activity near your home.



## Mark your calendars for 2017 events:

**Wednesday, July 26** – 6:00 pm – Night to Unite Hosts / Captains Appreciation Dinner  
**Shoreview Community Center, Community Room**  
**4580 Victoria Street North**

**Thursday, July 27** – 9:00-noon – Bike Rodeo – Island Lake County Park, Shoreview

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

**Tuesday, November 14** – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills



### Night to Unite 2017:

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 1, 2017 for Night to Unite. The first Tuesday in August is only five Tuesdays away! [Register your event online.](#)

### Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



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