



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 – September 2017

Next Meeting Tuesday, November 14 – 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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Kids are back in school – get them there and back home safely

After Labor Day, our families will be experiencing cheers and tears as the school year starts again. Time again for the reminders for all of us to help the kids get safely to and from their classroom tasks.

Minnesota Department of Public Safety tips:

School bus safety for motorists

- In Minnesota, motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights or a stop arm when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.
- The best way to be aware of your surroundings (always) is to put the distractions away.
- School bus safety requires participation from students as well as drivers. Parents, it is important to educate your children about proper school bus safety.



Tips for children

- When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with motorists before proceeding.

The School Safety Patrol, crossings and buses, will be assisting fellow students throughout the year on the journey to and from school. Look for those bright orange traffic flags when driving in the morning and evening hours. The 900+ School Patrol students in suburban Ramsey County are recognized by the Sheriff's Foundation with a roller skating party in December and a big event in May at Aldrich Arena.

Coffee with a Cop – Wednesday, September 6

Join local deputies to chat over a cup of coffee. There is no agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in the neighborhood.

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Vadnais Kwik Trip

3278 Hwy 61 (at Buerkle Rd)

Vadnais Heights, MN 55110



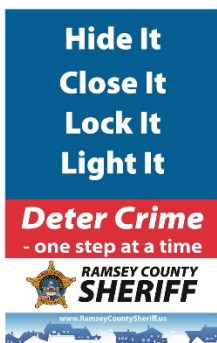
Wednesday, October 4, 2017

National Coffee with a Cop Day

Locations & Times
to be determined



Crime lowlights (Use CommunityCrimeMap.com to stay up-to-date regarding police activity near your home.)



Deputies continue to respond to theft reports and are finding many of the victims had left their vehicles unlocked, loaded with valuables, and sitting outside on a driveway or the street. A few bold thieves this summer have entered vehicles and homes through open garages and unlocked doors. Please remind your neighbors to take valuables out of sight, close doors or windows, lock doors, and park in well-lit areas. Prevention is about taking a few steps to make it difficult for the criminals.

The smooth-talking swindlers are continuing to scare people into sending them money to get grandchildren out or keep themselves out of jail. Efforts by our block captains to warn people about these phone scams has had some success, with reports reaching deputies that some seniors did avoid becoming victims because they heard that scammers ask to be paid with gift cards – a method of payment NOT used by government.

Q: The best way to deal with a phone scam? A: Hang up.

Report those phone scammers who call, and you avoid, online at www.ftc.gov. If you, or someone you know, falls victim and loses money to a scam please call 9-1-1, for a deputy to help.

Internet and online security will be the in-depth topic of the November 14 Block Captains meeting.



Fright Farm Haunted House: the legendary horror experience of October!

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend the 21st season of Fright Farm Haunted House. Back and scarier than ever with new thrills and chills! Since 1996, Fright Farm has provided frightening scenes in a blend of horror, local legend, and folklore for tens of thousands of audience members.



Fright Farm will open on Friday, October 6, 2017 from 7-11 p.m. Fright Farm will then be open every Friday and Saturday night during the month of October including October 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, and 28. Open on Halloween, October 31.

Don't forget about the Low Scare event on Sunday, October 29, 2017 from noon-4 p.m. This is a tamer version of the haunt that includes free prizes, fun activities, and family-friendly costumes. Low Scare has a \$5 admission price for all ages.

Tickets to Fright Farm are just \$12 for all ages. All proceeds from Fright Farm benefit the nonprofit Ramsey County Sheriff's Foundation which supports important public safety and community programs.

Visit www.frightfarm.org for more information.

Located among the relics of the Ramsey County Poor Farm and Cemetery in a massive, historic barn, Fright Farm takes place in the heart of the east metro at the intersection of White Bear and Frost Avenues in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Opioid overdoses and drug abuse prevention

The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis asked the President on July 31 to declare the opioid crisis a national emergency. President Trump declared the emergency in August.

Earlier this year the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office launched a drug abuse prevention campaign called #NOOverdose to build a broad coalition of stakeholders who will assist with educating the community about current drug dangers and trends.



The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office was at the Minnesota State Fair for a day of helping this effort.

Law enforcement is one part of the effort being undertaken to find community wide solutions to address the real and growing problem of drug abuse impacting families throughout Ramsey County.

One effective step to help prevent future drug abuse is to properly dispose of unwanted and unused medications. Safely dispose of unwanted, expired and unused medicines for free at one of six public drop boxes in Ramsey County ([map link](#)) including the Sheriff's Patrol Station. Safe disposal of unwanted medicine helps prevent crime, drug abuse and accidental poisoning. Not flushing medicines down the drain or disposing of them in the trash helps protect our environment as well.

Night to Unite 2017 recap

The weather was one of the top "likes" from event survey responses, along with getting together with neighbors and meeting new people in the neighborhood. It was a great night of promoting safe communities. There were 184 events in our seven contract communities (a record) and thanks to volunteers from throughout the Sheriff's Office, the County Attorney's Office, Emergency Management, Emergency Dispatch, County Commissioners, Target, etc. Ambassador Teams could stop by and visit them all. Thanks to all who shared photos of the action.



The generosity of those participating in the School Supply Drive filled the Patrol Station Conference Room to overflowing. The donations were distributed to our local schools at prep time, so the kids in need will have supplies for the new school year. THANK YOU!

Mark your calendars for August 7, 2018 – the first Tuesday in August – for another great night for neighbors to gather together with public safety personnel to promote safe communities.





Mark your calendars for 2017 events:

Wednesday, September 6 – 8:00-9:30 am – Coffee with a Cop

Vadnais Heights Kwik Trip

Wednesday, October 4 – National Coffee with a Cop Day – local schedules to be determined

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

Topic: Internet & Online Security

Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



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