



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 2018

Next Meeting Tuesday, November 13 – 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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Night to Unite 2018

Thank you to all who made Night to Unite 2018 a very special evening for thousands of neighbors in our contract communities. Over 200 events were registered with the Sheriff's Office – thank you to all hosts and event organizers. We had 46 teams of Ambassadors out visiting events, listening, learning and sharing public safety concerns. The whirlwind of activities included the pre-event host dinner and the collection and distribution of school supplies.



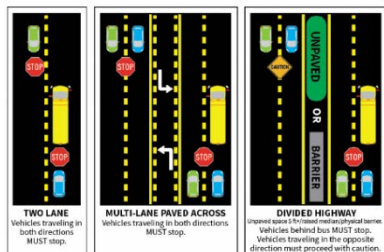
Share your thoughts on improvements at www.SurveyMonkey.com/r/NTU-Survey2018, and mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 6, 2019!



School Safety – something to think about every day!

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.

More discussion topics and resources for parents: <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety>

Add bullying prevention to your back-to-school checklist.

While you're getting the kids prepped to go back to lockers and classrooms and gym, don't forget to talk to them about bullying. Chances are that at some point in their life, your child will bully, be bullied, or be a bystander to bullying – and possibly all three. Which is why it's important to talk about it early and often. It doesn't have to be a formal sit-down discussion. Sometimes you learn the most about your kid in passing: casual conversations in the car or while getting ready for school in the morning.

Kids often don't want adults to know they're being bullied, for several reasons. They may not think an adult will believe them or do anything about it. They may worry that the person who bullied them will find out about their report and make the bullying worse. But research shows that bullying has serious emotional consequences, not only for the target of bullying, but for the bystanders who witness it. It can lead to low self-esteem, health problems, poor grades, even suicidal thoughts.

Keep the lines of communication open, and if your child tells you they're being bullied, here are few things you can do:

- Believe your child, stay calm and tell them they were right to report to you.
- Do NOT confront the child who bullied or their parents. Talk to school authorities instead. If necessary, follow up.
- Ask your child what they need to feel safe. This can be things like getting walked to the bus stop for a few days or making sure they have a buddy to eat lunch with.
- Keep checking in with your child about the incident. Has anything new happened? Do they feel safe?

As with anything, practice makes perfect, so you can even role-play what to do when your child witnesses bullying or is bullied: "Pretend I'm Mrs. Thompson. What will you say to me about seeing James take away Shasta's ball on the playground?" The more times your child has articulated their thoughts about bullying, the more comfortable they will be talking about it when the real thing happens. You can learn more about preventing and dealing with bullying at stopbullying.gov.

National Preparedness Month

Recognized each September, National Preparedness Month (NPM) provides an opportunity to remind us that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year in the case of disasters. NPM 2018 will focus on planning, with an overarching theme: **Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.**

Take time to learn lifesaving skills – such as CPR and first aid, check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face, such as flood, earthquakes, and tornados. Make sure to consider the costs associated with disasters and save for an emergency. Also, know how to take practical safety steps like shutting off water and gas.



Week 1: September 1-8- Make and Practice Your Plan

- [Make an Emergency Plan.](#)
- Sign up for [alerts and warnings](#) in your area.

Week 2: September 9-15-Learn Life Saving Skills

- Know basic home maintenance to protect your family and home.
- Learn how to [turn off utilities like natural gas](#) in your home.
- [Put smoke alarms on every level of your home](#), test them monthly, and replace them when they are 10 years old.
- Know the ways to [keep your home safe from cooking, heating & electrical fires](#).
- On National Day of Action, Saturday, September 15, educate yourself by participating in Community Emergency Response Team ([CERT](#)) training or volunteering with a [local disaster response or recovery agency](#).

Week 3: Sept 16-22-Check Your Insurance Coverage

- Insurance is the first line of defense; check your insurance coverage and review the [Document and Insure Property guide](#).
- [Flood Insurance](#) allows communities and families to recover more quickly and more fully. Visit [Floodsmart.gov](#) to learn more about flood insurance and how to protect your home or business.

Week 4: Sept 23-30-Save For an Emergency

- [Plan financially](#) for the possibility of disaster.
- Complete an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit ([EFFAK](#))
- Maintain emergency savings for use in case of an emergency



Seat Belt Enforcement: extra patrol efforts scheduled for September 13 – 23

A record percentage of front seat occupants in Minnesota are buckling up — 93 percent — yet about 40 percent of all motorists killed in crashes aren't belted — translating into an average of 105 deaths and more than 200 serious injuries each year.

You will never hear a person saying, "I'm glad I didn't wear my seat belt" when they are involved in a crash, but you will find story after story from survivors who credit their seat belts for surviving a crash.

Take the three seconds to fasten your belt – you win by avoiding a costly ticket and could save your life.

Child Passenger Restraint Law - All children under age 8 must ride in a federally approved car seat or booster seat, unless the child is 4'9" or taller.



For the safety of your children:

- Be an attentive driver.
- Always buckle up.
- Always secure your children in the proper restraint for their age, height and weight.
- Always have your children sit in the back seat.

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

Mark your calendars to attend the 22nd season of Fright Farm Haunted House. Since 1996, Fright Farm has provided frightening scenes in a blend of horror, local legend, and folklore for tens of thousands of audience members. Survivors of the haunted house can experience other activities on the grounds including attractions, selfie spots, food, beverages, and carnival games.



Fright Farm will open on Friday, October 5, 2018 from 7-11 p.m. Fright Farm will then be open every Friday and Saturday night during the month of October including October 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27. Open on Halloween, October 31.

Don't forget about the Low Scare event on Sunday, October 28, 2018 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 \$6 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 just one mile south of Highway 36 on White Bear Avenue in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Neighborhood Watch is simply Neighbors and Deputies working together.

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 mean that when you are away from home you can feel more secure about your property.

Involved neighbors are more likely to have open communication lines with each other, deputies, and the whole community. Information sharing on crime prevention, crime trends, and law enforcement issues is a key element to the Neighborhood Watch program of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

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!



Mark your calendars for 2018 Block Captain events:

Tuesday, November 13 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



@RamseyCountySheriff



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