



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

Neighborhood Watch

Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive • Arden Hills, Minnesota 55112

Phone: 651-266-7339 • Fax: 651-266-7337

www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities



Block Captain News – January 2019

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 5 – 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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Social Security Phone Scam Alert

If you get a call that looks like it's from the Social Security Administration (SSA), think twice. Scammers are spoofing SSA's 1-800 customer service number to try to get your personal information. Spoofing means that scammers can call from anywhere, but they make your caller ID show a different number – often one that looks legit.

What can you do if you get one of these calls? Hang up.

Remember:

- 1) SSA will not threaten you. Real SSA employees will never threaten you to get personal information. They also won't promise to increase your benefits in exchange for information. If they do, it's a scam.
- 2) If you have any doubt, hang up and call SSA directly. Call 1-800-772-1213 – that really is the phone number for the Social Security Administration. If you dial that number, you know who you're getting. But remember that you can't trust caller ID. If a call comes in from that number, you can't be sure it's really SSA calling.
- 3) If you get a spoofed call, report it. If someone calls, claiming to be from SSA and asking for information like your Social Security number, report it to SSA's Office of Inspector General at 1-800-269-0271 or <https://oig.ssa.gov/report>. You can also report these calls to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

Please click the link below to hear what a SS scam sounds like!

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/.../what-social-security-scam-so...>

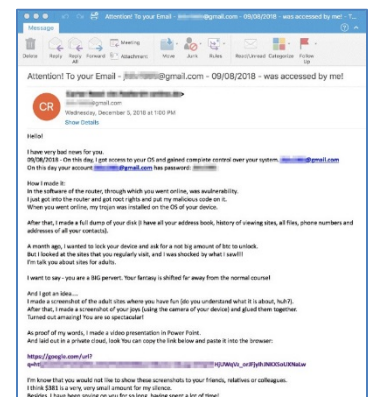
New email phishing scam includes extortion attempt

There are reports of people receiving a new type of email phishing scam. The emails can claim various things - none of which are true. The fraudulent sender will ask for money in exchange for not releasing certain types of information, including:

- The recipient's internet cache data that the scammer claims to have intercepted.
- The recipient's online accounts or phone records that the scammer claims to have hacked.
- Video from the recipient's webcam that the scammer claims to have recorded. The scammer will include a link to what they say is the video, but will actually link to a computer virus.

The extortion themes vary on almost a weekly basis, as scammers professionally test different tactics to determine what is most effective at scamming people out of money.

Be on alert and vigilant for suspicious emails - Be very cautious of links within emails - think before you click!



Bob Fletcher wins 2018 Sheriff election – announces staff leadership positions

Bob Fletcher will be returning to lead the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office on Monday, January 7, 2019 following winning the election in November. The initial conditional leadership team appointments include:

Chief Deputy: Dave Metusalem Dave is the current Executive Director of the Minnesota Police & Peace Officer Association (MPPOA) and previously served at the Sheriff's Office as Chief Deputy, Undersheriff, Director of Planning & Policy, Sergeant, and Deputy Sheriff.

Undersheriff, Community Relations: Bill Finney Bill joins the Sheriff's Office with over 30 years of experience in public service. At the Saint Paul Police Department, he held the positions of Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Chief of Police.

Undersheriff, Court & Security Services: Tina McNamara Tina is currently the Senior Commander of the Homicide and Robbery Unit with the Saint Paul Police Department where she has served for over 25 years. During her service to Saint Paul, Tina has served as an Officer, Sergeant, Commander, and Senior Commander.

Undersheriff, Public Safety Services: Jeff Ramacher Jeff has served Ramsey County for 21 years and held the positions of Deputy, Sergeant, Commander, and Inspector. He currently serves as a Commander in the Public Safety Services Division, leading patrol services.

Undersheriff, Regional Services: Mike Martin Mike is the current Assistant Director of Emergency Management at the University of Minnesota and previously served at the Minneapolis Police Department as an Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Precinct Commander (Inspector).

Superintendent, Adult Detention Center: Steve Lydon Steve joins the Sheriff's Office with over 30 years of experience in corrections and public safety. He served 22 years at the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) and held the positions of Correctional Officer, Sergeant, Supervisor, Director of Special Investigations, and Associate Warden. Steve also served nine years at the Sheriff's Office.

Director of Planning & Policy: Kyle Mestad Kyle has served Ramsey County for nearly 10 years and held the positions of Planning Specialist, Planning Manager, and Director of Planning & Policy with the Sheriff's Office.

Public Information Officer: Roy Magnuson Roy is currently a Teacher and Coach at Saint Paul Public Schools with decades of service in teaching, coaching, and supporting youth, including 19 years of running Night Moves outreach programs.

Inspector, Legislative Liaison: Dave Titus Dave joins the Sheriff's Office with 24 years of experience in public safety, including 17 years engaging in legislative and labor relations. Since 2001, Dave has served as President of the Saint Paul Police Federation.

Inspector, Youth Crime Prevention Programs: Chy Nou Lee Lee has worked for the Sheriff's Office since 2001. He has held the positions of Community Service Officer (CSO) and Deputy Sheriff.

Administrative Assistant: Jim Moody Jim has served Ramsey County for over 30 years and held the positions of Records Clerk, Community Service, Dispatcher, and Account Clerk.

Program Administrator, Professional Development: Mike Whisler Mike joins the Sheriff's Office with 20 years of experience in public safety, training, and supervision. He served three years as a Ramsey County Deputy in the Adult Detention Center before joining the Saint Paul Police Department. Over the last 17 years, Mike has worked as an Officer and Sergeant.

Sheriff Serier receives Board of County Commissioners highest award

At the December 18 meeting, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners bestowed an incredible honor on outgoing Sheriff Jack Serier, awarding him the Vision of Peace statue.

This prestigious statue is awarded by the Commissioners to individuals or entities to recognize distinguished or exemplary leadership and service to Ramsey County; it is the Commissioners' highest level of recognition.

The Commissioners also thanked Sheriff Serier for his leadership and service, proclaiming, "During Sheriff Serier's tenure, the Sheriff's Office has become a trusted and professional leader in public safety by providing safety through community policing, domestic violence reduction, mental health service improvements, and improving service through the usage of technology. Sheriff Serier has taken the initiative by collaborating with community and justice partners, encouraging diversity to reflect the community, and connecting with youth to build a better future for themselves."



[Watch video of Sheriff Serier](#)

Winter Driving & Motor Vehicle Thefts

Tis the season for snow, cold, bad roads, and thieves driving off in vehicles left running unattended with the keys in the ignition.

Here's a few quick winter driving safety reminders:

- Under Minnesota law, it is illegal to leave the car unattended and running with the keys in the ignition. But, if you have a remote starter installed, you can start your car without putting the keys in the ignition.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Clear all snow and ice from windshield and all windows before driving.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Never mix radial tires with other tire types.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.
- Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

Tips To Prevent Auto Theft:

1. Don't leave your unsupervised car running.
2. Don't leave valuables where easily visible.
3. Park in secure and well-lit areas.
4. Always leave windows up and doors locked.
5. Keep registration and insurance information with you and not in the car.



Resources for winter driving tips: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/winter/>; <https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips>; <http://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/winter-driving-tips/#.WlY5s03ruUk>

Sheriff's Office to Host Scouting Day

Scouting Day 2019 will be held on **Saturday, February 23 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, Mobile Field Force, 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 Scout or Girl Scout program. An adult must supervise youth at all times.

Scout leaders are encouraged to sign up by Friday, February 15, 2019.

Register online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ScoutDay2019>



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 family, 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 13 and continue each Wednesday through May 8, 2019. Class locations will alternate between Arden Hills, Vadnais Heights and Little Canada.

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.

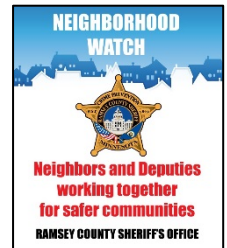
Links: [Application](#) (pdf) or [Additional Information](#)

Applications will be received through Wednesday, February 6.

Neighborhood Watch is simply Neighbors and Deputies working together.

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 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 2019 events:

Tuesday, February 5 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

Saturday, February 23 – 9:00 am-Noon – Scouting Day, Public Works campus, Arden Hills

Tuesday, May 7 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

Wednesday, July 31 – 6:30 pm – Night to Unite Hosts / Captains Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, August 6 – Night to Unite events in neighborhoods throughout the community

Tuesday, November 12 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



[@RamseyCountySheriff](#)



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Deputy Mike Servatka
Crime Prevention Specialist
651-266-7339

Randy Gustafson
Public Communications Coordinator
651-266-7315

email address: CrimePrevention@co.ramsey.mn.us

website: www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

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