



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

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www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities

Block Captain News – March 2019

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 7 – 6:30 pm

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

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Distracted Driving – why it's in the news

What is "Distracted Driving"? Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving. This includes talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system—anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing. The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year, with nearly 390,000 injuries from accidents caused by texting while driving.

It is currently against Minnesota law to text and drive, and inattentive driving is also a chargeable offense. Bills prohibiting certain forms of cell phone use while driving are moving swiftly through the Minnesota Legislature this Session, some bills increase penalties among other changes. More will be known as the process continues at the Capitol, if lawmakers do make changes look for them to go into effect on August 1.

Current Minnesota motor vehicle cell phone use law is [§ 169.475](#):

Subd. 2. Prohibition on use; penalty.

- (a) No person may operate a motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device to compose, read, or send an electronic message, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.
- (b) A person who violates paragraph (a) a second or subsequent time must pay a fine of \$225, plus the amount specified in the uniform fine schedule established by the Judicial Council.

The Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Enforcement effort will be focused on Distracted Driving from April 8-30, 2019, with extra patrols throughout Ramsey County and statewide.



THE THREE TYPES OF DISTRACTED DRIVING AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

 VISUAL	 MANUAL	 COGNITIVE
		
Keep your eyes on the road. Pull over to read directions. Put your phone in "Do Not Disturb" mode.	Keep your phone out of reach. Make all adjustments before driving. Don't reach for items while driving.	Avoid phone calls, even hands-free. Stay focused on the road. Keep your emotions in check.

Coyotes – an urban reality

Ramsey County Sheriff's Patrol Unit provides animal control services for the seven contract communities. These services are focused on domestic animal issues. While Animal Control does not remove wild animals simply because they are on your property, we do provide education on coexisting with urban wildlife.

There have been coyote sightings throughout Ramsey County, with increased reports during the January and February mating season. While typically harmless to humans, coyotes are wild animals – employ caution in the case of a possible encounter.



The coyote is Minnesota's most abundant large wild predator, intermediate in size between red foxes and wolves. In Minnesota, coyotes average 30 lbs., and stand about 18" high at the shoulders. However, they may appear much larger due to their heavy fur coat, especially in winter. They are gray/brown in color, and somewhat resemble a small German Shepherd dog in appearance. Coyotes in Minnesota are loners, except when families are raising pups. Their primary foods are rabbits and mice, but they are very opportunistic, and will feed on other small mammals, deer, birds, carrion, and even melons.

Coyotes are an extremely adaptable wildlife species that can survive well in an urban environment. With our parks and unspoiled natural areas there is habitat. They may also raid garbage cans, compost bins, and kill domestic cats and small dogs. Contrary to popular belief, coyotes are not nocturnal and will be active anytime—day or night. Coyotes mate in late winter and whelp (birthing) in April or early May. This may lead to increased activity and sightings as they hunt to feed their pups.

While healthy wild coyotes avoid people, incidents have been reported in Minnesota and other states. Experts believe these incidents are more likely after a coyote has become accustomed to humans, or after being fed by humans.

Children of all ages should be taught to stay away from any wild animal. In a coyote habitat, small children should be kept under constant supervision. Cats should be kept indoors, and small dogs should be on a short leash when outside. When walking your dog keep it leashed and in sight.

Things to remember:

- Never feed a coyote
- Never run from a coyote
- Never leave small children or pets alone in a coyote habitat
- Keep your yard free of fallen fruit, vegetables and pet food
- Clean up brush piles before rodents move in
- Vaccinate all pets for rabies, distemper, parvo, and other diseases, as recommended by a veterinarian
- If you encounter a coyote that does not immediately run from people, harass it by:
 - Shaking a noise maker, such as a soda can with pennies
 - Make yourself larger by standing and waving your arms
 - Shout in a deep aggressive voice
 - Throw rocks or sticks at the coyote
- If you see a coyote behaving in an abnormal manner call 9-1-1



These simple suggestions should prevent most coyote problems. However, if depredation occurs or aggressive coyote behavior is observed, removal of the problem coyote may be necessary.

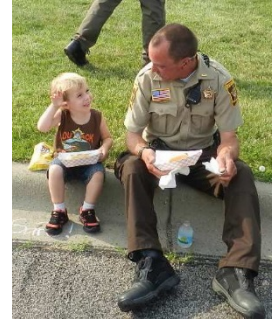
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does not trap, shoot, or relocate coyotes. Where necessary, removal of coyotes is the responsibility of the landowner or tenant. For information on pest control contractors or trapping techniques for coyote removal, contact your local DNR Wildlife office or Conservation Officer. In cities with ordinances prohibiting the use of certain traps and/or firearms, you may need a city permit, or assistance from the city police officers.

To learn more about living with and avoiding creating problems with coyotes, the Roseville Police Department held a "Coyote Clinic" and has a video available on their website (<https://webstreaming.ctv15.org/viewer.php?streamid=1130>). The MN DNR [website](#) is another resource.

Hot Dog with a Deputy 2019

Hot Dog with a Deputy returns this summer to build community relations with the citizens we serve. On Tuesday evenings, beginning in June, bring the family out to the park for free hot dogs, equipment demonstrations, and conversation with deputies. "Hot Dog with a Deputy" will take place from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on the following nights:


- Tue, 6/4, Island Lake Park, 3691 Victoria St, Shoreview
- Tue, 6/11, Polar Lakes Park, 1280 Hammond Rd, White Bear Township
- Wed, 6/19, Berwood Park, 780 Berwood Ave, Vadnais Heights
- Tue, 6/25, Pioneer Park, 2950 Centerville Rd, Little Canada
- Wed, 7/10, Perry Park, 3700 New Brighton Road, Arden Hills
- to be determined, North Oaks
- Thur, 7/18, Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave W, Falcon Heights
- Wed, 7/24, Commons Pavilion, 4580 Victoria St, Shoreview





Staff and equipment at these events could include Patrol Deputies, K-9, Water Patrol, SWAT, Mobile Field Force, Reserve Deputies, Mounted Unit and volunteers.




Around the contract communities:



Vadnais Heights LIONS BELGIAN Waffle Breakfast

RON RABINOVITZ
Letters From Jackie



Professional Baseball player Jackie Robinson and Ron

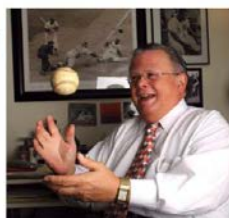
"We were so different, but we developed this bond that I can't even explain."

Ron's story is of a kid, his larger than life hero, and the lessons he learned. His story is that of dreams coming true, mutual respect, and "paying it forward". It's a beautiful story of a friendship between a baseball legend and a boy.

MONDAY, MARCH 18 AT 7PM

**Location: Falcon Heights City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Ave. W.**

**if you have any questions, please
Call City Hall 651-792-7600 or
mail@falconheights.org**



FREE KIDSIGHT VISION SCREENING



Lions KidSight USA Foundation is a nationwide program to safeguard the vision of children aged 6 months through 6 years

Bake Sale
Variety of delicious Lions baked goods

Balloon Twister
Entertaining the kids 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Seniors	Adults	Kids	Li'l Kids
\$6 ⁰⁰ 63+	\$7 ⁵⁰ 15-62	\$4 ⁰⁰ 6-14	Free 0-5

**Diabetes Awareness Info
Can-Do-Canines
Used Eyeglass & Hearing Aid Collection**

**Fire Truck Tours
Smoke House
Blood Mobile
Blood Pressure Testing
Ramsey County Sheriff
- K-9
- Lakes & Trail Unit**



**Vadnais Heights Commons
655 East County Road F**

Little Canada Lending Library

The Little Canada History Center's new lending library is now open to members! Local history books are available for check out on many topics including the history of Minnesota, St. Paul and other MN Cities and Counties, the local Military, early Fur Trade in the area, Native Americans, and others.

The History Center also has many other books and material that can be reviewed at the Center.

Books can be checked out by History Center members for up to 2 weeks at a time. If you are not a member yet, please [consider applying for membership](#) at only \$10/year (or lifetime memberships are available at \$100 and only \$50 for seniors age 65+).

Shoreview Environmental Speaker Series

The 2019 Environmental Quality Commission speaker series has four presentations scheduled through May.

March 7: [Improving Water Quality & Conserving Water at Home](#)

March 20: [Should We Care About Carp in the Owasso Chain of Lakes?](#)

April 17: [Managing Soil Fertility in Urban Vegetable Gardens](#)

May 15: [Talking Trash with Eureka Recycling](#)

Presentations will be held in the city council chambers and will be broadcast live on Channel 16

For more details, call 651-490-4665. The Shoreview Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) hosts the annual Environmental Speaker Series.



White Bear Township - 2019 Annual Town Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 - Otter Lake Elementary – 7:00-9:00 pm

Your voice will be heard as residents in attendance will vote on the Town's 2020 Preliminary Tax Levy. The Annual Town Meeting will also, provide updates on Township activities and you will hear comments from public officials in attendance. Hope to see you there!

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, 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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[@RamseySheriffMN](#)

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651-266-7339

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Public Communications Coordinator
651-266-7315

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website: www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

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