



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, 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 2019

Next Meeting Wednesday, July 31 – 6:30 pm

Night to Unite Hosts / Block Captains Appreciation
Shoreview Community Center - Shoreview Room
4580 Victoria Street North, Shoreview MN 55126
Near intersection of Highway 96 West and Victoria

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Night to Unite registration deadline is July 19! Get your neighborhood event registered online

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate Night to Unite (National Night Out) with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts and visits from local police and fire departments.

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. Register your event so that deputies, firefighters, and public safety can plan to stop by for a visit.



2019 Night to Unite will take place on Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

Night to Unite goals are to:

- Strengthen neighborhood spirits and public safety-community partnerships.
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention and community policing programs.
- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- 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/NTU2019>

Registration helps the Sheriff's Office and Fire Departments with scheduling visits to your event!

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 31. More details and rsvp information will be sent when you register your event.

Minnesota's new hands-free law – August 1, 2019

Beginning August 1, 2019 drivers in Minnesota will be required to stay off their phones or have their phones in hands-free mode while their vehicle is moving, or at a stoplight.



**HANDS-FREE
MINNESOTA LAW**
HandsFreeMN.org

Any driver who is used to being on the phone should take the time now to start adapting to the new hands-free law, well before it takes effect and the strict enforcement begins.

What's the Law?

- The new law allows a driver to use their cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, but only by voice commands or single touch activation without holding the phone. Remember, hands free is not necessarily distraction free.
- You may not hold your phone in your hand.
- A driver may not use their phone at any time for video calling, video live-streaming, Snapchat, gaming, looking at video or photos stored on the phone, using apps, reading texts and scrolling or typing on the phone.
- Hand-held phone use is allowed to obtain emergency assistance, if there is an immediate threat to life and safety, or when in an authorized emergency vehicle while performing official duties.

During July and August, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety will lead an awareness campaign with the goals of educating all Minnesotans about the new law and to, over time, help contribute to a reduction in citations and crashes involving drivers on their mobile phones. Learn more at HandsFreeMN.org

After August 1 police can stop anyone they see holding a phone while driving, including while stopped at a traffic light. The penalty for violating the law is a petty misdemeanor, carrying a \$50 fine for the first violation and a \$275 fine for subsequent violations (plus court costs).



Hot Dog with a Deputy 2019

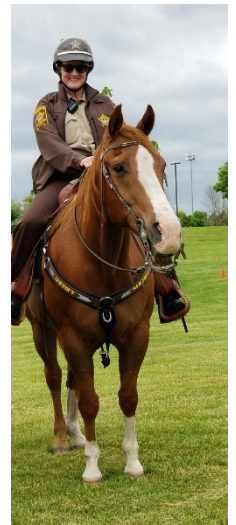
Hot Dog with a Deputy has been building community with the citizens we serve again this summer. We visited four parks in June. The rain didn't stop the enthusiasm in Shoreview, jackets came in handy in the Township, the combined draw of the community Ice Cream Social and great weather made the Vadnais Heights stop a "sell-out" in a hurry, and the Culver's custard and sun made for fun in Little Canada.

Only one month to go! On July 10 the action moves to Perry Park in Arden Hills. We again partner with an Ice Cream Social at Community Park in Falcon Heights on July 18. The season closes at a Concert in the Commons in Shoreview on July 24!

Bring the family and join your neighbors for **free hot dogs, chips, water, freeze pops**, 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:

- Wed, 7/10, Perry Park, 3700 New Brighton Road, Arden Hills
- 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, SWAT, Water Patrol, Reserve Deputies, Mounted Unit, Mobile Field Force and volunteers.

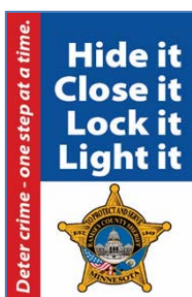


Troubling trend – early morning burglaries enabled by garage door openers

While warm weather often leads to increased crimes of opportunity – more ne'er-do-wells out and about looking for the easy steal – there has been a troubling trend toward more serious crimes that started with the easy steal. The trauma of people waking up to start their day only to find that their home has been entered, with items and vehicles stolen, have been reported to police throughout the twin cities, including all seven of our communities patrolled by the Sheriff's Office.

Since mid-May deputies have investigated multiple burglaries that started when the thief found a garage door opener in an unlocked vehicle in the driveway. The thieves then rummage through the vehicles in the garage, steal bikes and other easy items. If the service door is unlocked the thief will enter the home and steal purses, wallets, phones, backpacks, tablets, etc. When keys are available the thieves will steal a car, driving it right out of the garage.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the metro area are working to find these emboldened thieves. The Sheriff's Office has conducted extra patrols and is actively investigating leads.



A common denominator has been that neighbors who took simple precautions were not victimized. Reduce your risk with these steps:

- Bring garage door remotes into the house at night.
- Lock all vehicle doors.
- Lock house/garage service door.
- Report thefts and suspicious activity immediately to 9-1-1.

At the end of your day a double check that items are secure, doors are closed and locked removes temptation and prevents crime.

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:

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!



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