



## 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 – January 2020

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 4 – 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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### – a few facts about the process to avoid scams

The 2020 Census is a big deal, and like all big deals it could be misused by scammers. Here's some information about how the 2020 Census works, what questions will and won't be asked, and some red flags to help guard against potential census scams.

**What it is:** The Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories as of April 1, 2020. The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

**When it will happen:** In mid-March 2020, the Census Bureau will start mailing out (and, in some areas, hand delivering) invitations to participate in the 2020 Census. You should get yours by April 1. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

Starting in May 2020, census takers will start visiting homes that haven't responded to make sure everyone is counted. If you aren't home or can't come to the door, the census taker will come back up to six times. Each time, they'll leave a door hanger with a phone number so you can call to schedule a visit. Census takers must show a photo ID with the U.S. Department of Commerce seal and an expiration date.

### The questions:

- how many people are in the home at the time you complete the form (April 1, 2020)
- their sex, age, race, ethnicity
- their relationships to one another
- phone number
- and whether you own or rent the home

Why these questions are asked is explained at:

<https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>

**RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF**

### How to Spot a Census Field Representative

- 1 ID Badge**  
The field representative will present an ID badge that includes their name, photograph, a Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- 2 A Bag**  
A field representative will be carrying an official bag with the Census Bureau logo or a laptop for conducting the survey.
- 3 Letter**  
The field representative will provide you with a letter from the Census Bureau on official letterhead stating why they are visiting your residence.
- 4 Hours of Operation**  
Field representatives conduct their work between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm, local time.
- 5 Supervisor Contact Info**  
Upon request, the field representative will provide their supervisor's contact information and/or the phone number for the Census Bureau Regional Office.

Learn more at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

### The Census will never ask for:

- your Social Security number
- anything on behalf of a political party
- money or donations
- your bank or credit card account numbers
- Census 2020 will not ask citizenship status

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts you via email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate. More info visit [Avoiding Fraud and Scams](#).

### What happens to your answers?

Your personal information is kept confidential. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for statistical purposes.

Your responses are compiled with information from other homes to produce statistics, which never identify your home or any person in your home.

Make sure you have the latest and most accurate information about the 2020 Census. Visit [2020 Census Rumors](#) to fact-check and ask questions.



### Census Opportunities

Ramsey County has a wealth of diversity, including diverse racial and ethnic communities, thriving immigrant and refugee communities, a large student population, and many English-language learners.

However, the Census has disproportionately undercounted such communities in the past. Both past and projected response rates show that broad areas of Ramsey County, especially Saint Paul, are at risk of being undercounted. Low-wealth areas are particularly vulnerable. The 2020 Census represents an opportunity to have all our residents counted.

The U.S. Census Bureau needs to hire 8,500 census takers in Minnesota. Diverse candidates and candidates who know locally significant languages (Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Oromo, Amharic, Karen and Vietnamese) are encouraged to apply. Shifts are flexible with full-time, part-time, weekend and evening shifts available.

### Census takers earn \$22.00 an hour in Ramsey County.

[View job opportunities at 2020census.gov](#). If selected for a job interview, you may be contacted by phone or email.

### Scouting Day 2020: scouts get hands-on look at this multiple public safety agencies event

Scouting Day 2020 will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2019 from 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon at the Ramsey County Public Works facility in Arden Hills.

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, Youth Explorer Post, Community Support Services, County Public Works, Emergency Management, Allina Ambulance, Lake Johanna Fire Department, Army National Guard and more.

Scout leaders are encouraged to sign up by Friday, February 21, 2020.

What: Scouting Day 2020

When: Saturday, February 29, 2020, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Where: Ramsey County Public Works

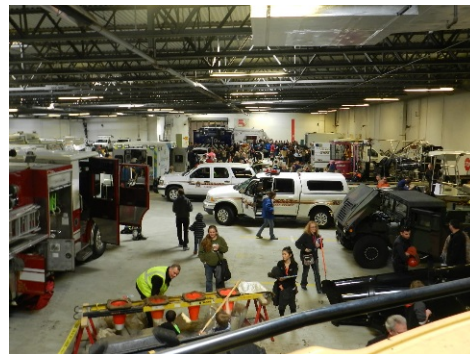
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

(just north of Highway 96 and Hamline Ave)

RSVP: By Friday, February 21, 2020

More information: 651-266-7332

Register online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ScoutDay2020>





## Valentine's Day is February 14

### Guard your wallet as well as your heart: Romance scams

Valentine's Day will soon be the focus of retail shelves and media ads. If you, your friends and family members are looking for romance, make sure to be choosy about that next sweetheart because anyone can become a victim of a romance scam.

In 2018, people reported losing \$143 million to romance scams — a higher total than for any other type of scam reported to the FTC. The median reported loss was \$2,600, and, for people over 70, it was \$10,000.

Millions of people turn to online dating apps or social networking sites to meet someone. But instead of finding romance, many find a scammer trying to trick them into sending money.

Perhaps your friend meets someone new and they both seem smitten quickly. After a few weeks, the new darling asks your friend to loan them money or wants control over your friend's bank account. And that's when you realize that your friend has fallen for a scam instead of a new love. These scams happen when a new love pretends to be interested in you just to get your money. In fact, they may not even be who they say they are. ([FTC tips](#))

Romance scammers focus on single people, often older adults who might be more trusting. Widows and widowers, LGBT elders, and isolated single adults are common targets, but scammers look for anyone eager for a new relationship. Romance scams can happen in person, but often happen online through social media or dating websites and smartphone apps.

Romance scammers create fake profiles and strike up a relationship with their targets to build their trust, sometimes talking or chatting several times a day. Often saying they're living or traveling outside of the United States. Then, they make up a story and ask for money.



Romance scams are not limited to Valentine's Day, so be smart about who you connect with, and save yourself the worry about Cupid's arrow striking your wallet instead of your heart!

Scammers ask you to pay by wiring money, with gift cards or reload cards because they can get cash quickly and remain anonymous. They also know the transactions are almost impossible to reverse.

Report crimes to 911 and suspected romance scams to the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint).

## Seasonal Safety Reminders

Warmer temperatures in December may have had an effect on ice thickness of local lakes. Please use caution if you're heading out on the ice and check the thickness at least every 150 feet. Visit <http://www.mndnr.gov/icesafety> for more safety tips.

Are you and your vehicle prepared for an emergency? Take the time to make sure you have an emergency kit in each of your vehicles. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/educational-materials/Documents/Winter-Survival-Brochure.pdf>

**Ice is Never 100% Safe!**

4"	5-7"	8-12"	12-15"
Skateboard	Snowboard	Motorcycle	Car
			Truck

Minimum Ice Thickness Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only

m DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES [mndnr.gov/icesafety](http://mndnr.gov/icesafety)

### Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight & Extra Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Blankets/Sleeping Bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Clothing Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots
<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Perishable Food Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand/Kitty Litter Used for Traction
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Shovel	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone & Charger
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Scraper with Brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Booster Cables	<input type="checkbox"/> Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects

## 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 11 and continue each Wednesday through May 6, 2020. 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 5.**

## Neighborhood Watch is about Neighbors and Deputies working together

Involved neighbors are more likely to have open communication lines with each other, deputies, and the whole community. 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 look out for each other.

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 2020 events:

**Tuesday, February 4** – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

**Saturday, February 29** – 9:00 am-Noon – Scouting Day, Public Works campus, Arden Hills

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

**Wednesday, July 29** – 6:30 pm – Night to Unite Hosts / Captains Appreciation Dinner

**Tuesday, August 4** – Night to Unite events in neighborhoods throughout the community

**Tuesday, November 10** – 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**