



## 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

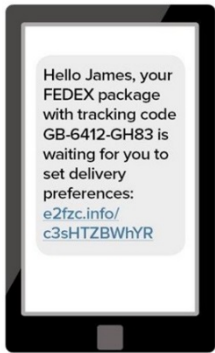
## Block Captain News – March 2020

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 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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### Is that text message about your FedEx package real or a scam?

There's a text message scam making the rounds. The FTC describes a text message people are receiving that claims to be a FedEx tracking notice. In variations on the scheme, fraudsters also are falsely invoking the names of UPS and the U.S. Postal Service.

In this version of the scam the link takes you to a fake Amazon website. There, you're invited to take a customer satisfaction survey. And you might just win a free prize. But to get it, you must give them your credit card number to pay for shipping. Bottom line: There's no package, no prize, it is another scam designed to get people to turn over their account information

### What to Do About Spam Text Messages

- If you get a text message that you weren't expecting and it asks you to give some personal information, don't click on any links. Legitimate companies won't ask for information about your account by text.
- If you think the message might be real, contact the company using a phone number or website you know is real. Not the information in the text message.
- It is okay to ignore and delete the text if it doesn't meet your personal "smell test".

### There are many ways you can filter unwanted text messages or stop them before they reach you.

On your phone	Your phone may have an option to filter and block messages from unknown senders or spam. Here's how to <a href="#">filter and block messages on an iPhone</a> , and how to <a href="#">block a phone number on an Android phone</a> .
Through your wireless provider	Your wireless provider may have a tool or service that lets you block calls and text messages. Check <a href="http://ctia.org">ctia.org</a> , a website for the wireless industry, to learn about the options from different providers.
With a call-blocking app	Some call-blocking apps also let you block unwanted text messages. Go to <a href="http://ctia.org">ctia.org</a> for a list of call-blocking apps for Android, BlackBerry, Apple, and Windows phones.

You can also search for apps online. Check out the features, user ratings, and expert reviews.

### How to Report Spam Text Messages

If you get an unwanted text message, there are three ways to report it:

1. Report it on the messaging app you use. Look for the option to report junk or spam. How to report spam or junk in the [Apple Messages app](#), [Android phone](#).
2. Copy the message and forward it to 7726 (SPAM).
3. Report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint).

## Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams

Scammers use email or text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information. They may try to steal your passwords, account numbers, or Social Security numbers. If they get that information, they could gain access to your email, bank, or other accounts. Scammers launch thousands of phishing attacks like these every day — and they're often successful.

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center reported that people lost \$30 million to phishing schemes in one year. But there are several things you can do to protect yourself against phishing attacks.

### The Bait

- Scammers use familiar company names or pretend to be someone you know.
- They ask you to click on a link or give passwords or bank account numbers. If you click on the link, they can install programs that lock you out of your computer and can steal your personal information.
- They pressure you to act now — or something bad will happen.

### Four Steps to Protect Yourself from Phishing

1. Protect your computer by using security software. Set the software to update automatically so it can deal with any new security threats.
2. Protect your mobile phone by setting software to update automatically. These updates could give you critical protection against security threats.
3. Protect your accounts by using multi-factor authentication. Some accounts offer extra security by requiring two or more credentials to log in to your account. This is called multi-factor authentication. The additional credentials you need to log in to your account fall into two categories:

- Something you have — like a passcode you get via text message or an authentication app.
- Something you are — like a scan of your fingerprint, your retina, or your face.

Multi-factor authentication makes it harder for scammers to log in to your accounts if they do get your username and password.

4. Protect your data by backing it up. Back up your data and make sure those backups aren't connected to your home network. You can copy your computer files to an external hard drive or cloud storage. Back up the data on your phone, too.

### What to Do If You Responded to a Phishing Email

If you think a scammer has your information, like your Social Security, credit card, or bank account number, go to [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov). There you'll see the specific steps to take based on the information that you lost.

## Phishing: Don't Take the Bait

Phishing is when you get emails, texts, or calls that seem to be from companies or people you know. But they're actually from scammers. They want you to click on a link or give personal information (like a password) so that they can steal your money or identity, and maybe get access to your computer.

### Avoid the Hook

#### Check it out.

- » Look up the website or phone number for the company or person who's contacting you.
- » Call that company or person directly. Use a number you know to be correct, not the number in the email or text.
- » Tell them about the message you got.

#### Look for scam tip-offs.

- » You don't have an account with the company.
- » The message is missing your name or uses bad grammar and spelling.
- » The person asks for personal information, including passwords.
- » **But note: some phishing schemes are sophisticated and look very real, so check it out and protect yourself.**



#### Protect yourself.

- » Keep your computer security up to date and back up your data often.
- » Consider multi-factor authentication — a second step to verify who you are, like a text with a code — for accounts that support it.
- » Change any compromised passwords right away and don't use them for any other accounts.

### Report Phishing

- » Forward phishing emails to [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov) and [reportphishing@apwg.org](mailto:reportphishing@apwg.org).
- » Report it to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint).

For more information, visit [ftc.gov/phishing](http://ftc.gov/phishing) or [aba.com/phishing](http://aba.com/phishing)

## Census 2020 in full gear in March & April

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. Make certain you and your neighbors get counted!!

United States  
**Census  
2020**



**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.

### 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.

## Ramsey County addressing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Ramsey County staff members across multiple departments are working closely with federal, state and local government, health care and community partners to respond to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) public health threat.

Currently, Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health is the lead agency for planning and response. The response is a multi-layered effort with county staff members connecting in daily meetings and conference calls with the Minnesota Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local emergency managers, local health care and community partners.

For current information visit this webpage: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/health-medical/current-health-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

## Ramsey County to host Job Fair – March 18, 2020

Ever thought about working for Ramsey County? The county is hosting its first-ever job fair in Maplewood. The four-hour event at the YMCA Community Center on March 18 will feature representatives from over 20 county departments and seven other organizations.

There will be information about dozens of current job openings at all levels, fields and areas as well as sharing about career opportunities. Human Resources will present three sessions that will provide attendees with all the “ins and outs” of how to apply for Ramsey County jobs here.



### [Ramsey County Job Fair](#)

March 18, 2020

Noon–4 p.m.

Maplewood YMCA Community Center

2100 White Bear Ave., Maplewood MN 55109

[Event information](#)



## Stopping Drunk Drivers with special enforcement efforts in March

The Ramsey County Traffic Safety Initiative, a coordinated effort of all law enforcement agencies in the county, will be conducting three Hi-Viz DWI Saturation in March. During these events there are many officers working together in a defined geographic area looking for impaired drivers. It's never okay to drink and drive the solution is to plan a sober ride.

## April is National Distracted Driving Month



Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from safe driving. This includes talking on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the entertainment or navigation system.

The Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Enforcement effort will be focused on Distracted Driving from April 6 to April 30. During this time there will be extra patrol efforts focused on hands free and wireless communication compliance.

Key prevention tip: don't hold your phone in your hand when driving, including while stopped at a traffic light.



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

## 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!



[@RamseyCountySheriff](#)



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