



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Neighborhood Watch

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www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities



Block Captain News – May 2021

Night to Unite 2021 – Tuesday, August 3



The Sheriff's Office is hoping that by August 3 we'll be able to have public gatherings and that deputies and public safety agencies will be able to visit neighborhood gatherings. Register your event at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU2021> and we'll get planning to make it happen!

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May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Each year, one in five adults in the United States will experience some form of mental illness. Even though mental health conditions are common and treatable like physical health conditions, many people are still afraid to talk about them due to feelings of shame, stigmas or fear of discrimination.

Ramsey County celebrates Mental Health Awareness Month as a great opportunity for the community to discuss and acknowledge the importance of mental health and wellness. It's now more important than ever to connect with each other to overcome the isolation of COVID-19 and continue to improve understanding of mental illness and promote access to services. We are stronger together, despite being physically separated.



Ramsey County has resources and events scheduled to engage in and share the message of awareness. Visit: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/content/may-mental-health-awareness-month-stronger-together-hope-change>

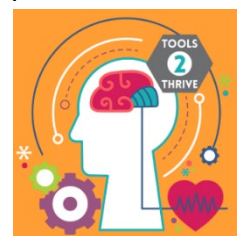
Throughout the year Patrol Deputies and School Resource Officers work with Northeast Youth and Family Services to help address mental health needs in the communities we serve. NYFS is in their 45th year serving our northern suburbs as a community-based, trauma-informed, nonprofit mental health and human services agency. Check out their website nyfs.org for more information.



On a national level, the organization Mental Health America in 2021 is continuing their theme of *Tools 2 Thrive*. Their website (<https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month>) provides practical tools that everyone can use to improve their mental health and increase their resiliency regardless of their personal situation.

Topics covered include: Adapting after trauma and stress; Dealing with anger and frustration; Getting out of thinking traps; Processing big changes; Taking time for yourself; Radical acceptance; and no-cost anonymous screening self-tests.

It's okay to talk about mental health and help people get the help they need.



Animal Control Corner: What to do about aggressive dogs and inattentive owners at the Dog Park

There is a certain level of understanding that there may be an occasional scuffle or miscommunication amongst dogs at the off-leash dog park. Unfortunately, when the disagreement escalates to one of the dogs getting bit, these incidents often go unreported, or the owner/handler of the aggressive dog leaves the scene before law enforcement arrives.

All dog bites should be reported to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office or local police department, especially if the bite breaks the skin. Regardless of whether the victim is human or another dog, the pet inflicting the injury must be **quarantined for the next ten (10) days** for rabies observation--even if the animal is current on rabies vaccinations (Reference Minnesota Rule: 1721.0570 & 1721.0580). If both dogs sustain injuries, then both dogs must be quarantined. Usually, the dog is quarantined in its home.

Another factor Animal Control considers when investigating the biting incident is should the attacking dog be designated a Dangerous Dog or Potentially Dangerous Dog as defined by Minnesota Statute 347.50. For example, an unprovoked attack that causes the immediate death of the victim dog, Animal Control would quarantine the attacking dog and officially designate her/him a Dangerous Dog and the owner is subject to the city or state requirements for the designation.

Dogs and their owner/handler could be trespassed from visiting all Ramsey County parks for one year by RC Parks & Recreation if they have a documented history or pattern of biting, fighting, or unacceptable aggressive behavior in the off-leash dog parks. Obviously, dogs that are designated Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous are prohibited from utilizing off-leash dog parks.

Always follow these steps whenever a dog bites your pet, you, or you witness an attack:

- **Immediately call 911** and request an officer come to the dog park for a dog bite.
- Take a photo of the vehicle and license plate of the attacking dog's owner/handler.
- Take a photo of the biting dog, and if possible, owner/handler too.
- Ask the owner/handler of the attacking dog to exchange contact information (i.e., name, address, and phone number, name and breed of their dog).
- Take photos of your dog's injuries or the person's bite injuries.
- Obtain a copy of the emergency care providers notes that record a dog bite was treated.
- Relay all information collected to the responding deputy or officer.

Have someone else do these things, if you are personally unable to do these things because you are tending to your pet or rushing her/him to the veterinarian.

RCSO Animal Control provides services to Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Township, and Ramsey County Parks.

OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS IN RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

CITY	AVAILABLE	PARK NAME	STREET ADDRESS
Arden Hills	Year Round	Perry Park	3700 New Brighton Rd
Arden Hills	Summer only	Hazelnut Park	3301 New Brighton Rd
Lauderdale	Year Round	Community Park	1885 Fulham St
Little Canada	Apr-Oct	Demont Hockey Rink	60 Demont Ave E
Maplewood	Year Round	Battle Creek Regional Park	2350 Upper Afton Rd 2357 Lower Afton Rd
Roseville	Year Round	Woodview Open Space	481 Larpenteur Ave
Saint Anthony	Year Round	St. Anthony Off-Leash Recreation Area	400 Saint Anthony Parkway, Minneapolis
Saint Paul	Year Round	Arlington/Arkrigh	400 Arlington Ave E
Saint Paul	Year Round	High Bridge	59 Randolph Ave
Saint Paul	Year Round	Meeker Island	486 N Mississippi River Blvd
Saint Paul	Year Round	Lowertown	340 Broadway St
Shoreview	Year Round	Rice Creek	5959 Lexington Ave N
Shoreview	May1-Nov1	Bucher Park Hockey Rink	5900 Mackubin St
Shoreview	May1-Nov1	Bobby Theisen Hockey Rink	3575 Vivian Ave
Shoreview	May1-Nov1	Wilson Park Hockey Rink	815 County Rd F W
White Bear Twp	Year Round	Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes	5750 Otter Lake Rd

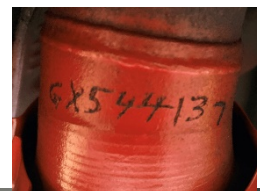
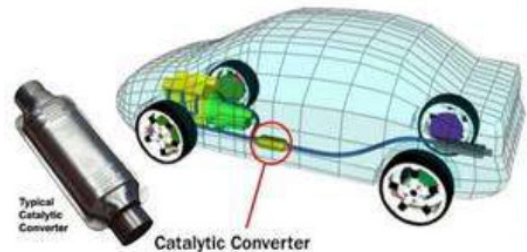
Catalytic converter theft prevention tips

There has been an increase in catalytic converter thefts in Ramsey County, the entire metro area and nationwide. Targeted vehicles include Toyota Prius, Mitsubishi Outlander Sport, all types of Hondas, and trucks/sport utility vehicles with higher ground clearance.

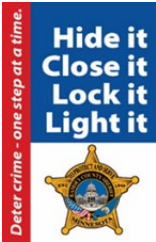
Required on all fuel-powered vehicles manufactured after 1974, catalytic converters are designed to act as a line of defense against harmful exhaust system emissions by turning pollutants into harmless gasses. Thieves target catalytic converters because they contain precious metals, like platinum, palladium or rhodium, that are valuable to metal dealers. Thieves can sell them to scrap yards for \$50 to \$200, while it can cost the victim \$800 to \$5,000 to replace. Catalytic converter theft has become popular because of their value, relative ease to steal (unbolt or cut out), and their lack of identifying markings. The lack of identification makes it difficult to identify victims and successfully apprehend and prosecute criminals.

Theft of catalytic converters is hard to stop, but the following tips help to deter & prevent catalytic converter theft:

- Park in your garage or enclosed, secured parking area. If you park your vehicle in the driveway, motion detector lights or continuous lights illuminating your driveway will be a deterrent.
- Always park in well-lighted areas.
- At shopping centers and other similar parking lots, park close to the entrance of the building or near the access road where there is a lot of traffic and pedestrian activity.
- If you own or work at a business or factory, park within a fenced area that is busy during the day and secured at night.
- Purchase a vehicle security system and make sure it is set to trigger with just the slightest motion. Use your alarm system.
- Visit a local muffler shop and have the converter secured to the vehicle's frame with a couple of pieces of hardened steel welded to the frame.
- Check out the different types of catalytic converter theft deterrent systems at your local auto parts store or online.
- Engrave your license plate number or VIN on the converter to make it traceable.
- Paint your converter using a high-temperature fluorescent orange or bright paint, such as those sprayed on barbecue grills, on your catalytic converter and then inscribing your vehicle identification number in the painted surface. This makes it traceable, and in theory at least, a reputable scrap metal dealer might decline to buy it.
- Educate your friends and neighbors about catalytic converter theft so they can be a look-out too.
- When you see suspicious activity, call the police right away. If you see a suspicious person under a vehicle, chances are they are attempting to steal the catalytic converter. Get the suspect(s) and/or suspect vehicle descriptions if possible. Write down the license plate if you can safely.
- If you become a victim of theft, please call 911 and report it.



Having your vehicle's license plate number etched onto your Catalytic Converter is the only way to help police to identify & prosecute criminals in the event of a theft.



Spring and Summer - prime time for garage thefts

The season for crimes of convenience seems to never end. Now is the time to remember to keep garage doors closed when working in the back yard, or when going on that healthy walk or bike around the block. At the end of your day a double check that items are secure, doors are closed and locked removes temptation and prevents crime.

Curfew ordinances are the same in all cities county-wide

The curfew ordinance requires juveniles age 15 and younger to be home by 10 pm every night of the week, and those age 16-17 to be home by midnight. Curfew applies to any public space, such as streets, parks, highways, and schools. Curfew also applies to public establishments, such as movie theatres, restaurants, and bowling alleys. Teens accompanied by a parent or guardian may be out after these deadlines (see exceptions below).

The curfew ordinance contains several exceptions, including if the juvenile is:

- With a parent, guardian or other responsible adult
- At work or in the process of going to or coming from home or work
- Involved in an emergency
- Going to, attending, or coming home from a supervised school, church, or recreational activity
- In front of his/her own residence

Curfew compliance and enforcement is essential for prevention and intervention. To protect youth from becoming a victim, or in trouble with the law, all public safety agencies enforce the Ramsey County Curfew Ordinance.

Scam reminder: Gift Cards are for giving – NOT for payments

If someone calls you and asked to be paid with a gift card it is always a scam. Hang up the phone.

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!



Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



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