



## Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

## Neighborhood Watch

### Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

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Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities

## Block Captain News – July 2021

### Night to Unite 2021 – Tuesday, August 3



The Legislature has officially ended Minnesota's coronavirus peacetime emergency effective July 1 bringing a close to the Governor's emergency powers that have been in place for 16 months.

#### **This means that Night to Unite / National Night Out is**

**back!** This annual celebration has occurred on the first Tuesday in August since

1984. Growing from front porch vigils and symbolic efforts amongst neighbors to send a message of neighborhood camaraderie to neighborhood block parties and community celebrations of public safety partnerships.

Night to Unite / National Night Out works because in the final analysis the best way to build a safer community is to know your neighbors and your surroundings.

**Night to Unite event registration deadline is July 16!**

**Get your neighborhood event registered online**

The Sheriff's Office is working on the details on supporting the registered events. Register your event so that deputies, firefighters, and public safety can plan to stop by for a visit. Crime prevention materials will be provided for distribution and more information will be sent when you register your event. This year will not have the big rally for hosts that we've sponsored in previous years. Event planning tools are available on the Ramsey County Sheriff's [website](http://www.RamseyCountySheriff.us).

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## Hot cars and pets

Warm weather can literally be a killer for a dog left inside a car. On warm days the inside of a car heats up very quickly. When it's 85 degrees out, the temperature inside a car – even with the windows left slightly open – can soar to 102 degrees in 10 minutes, and reach 120 in just half an hour.

Even leaving your dog for “just a minute” may be too long. A dog's normal body temperature ranges from 101 to 102.5 degrees. Dogs can withstand a body temperature of 107 to 108 degrees for only a very short time before suffering brain damage – or even death.

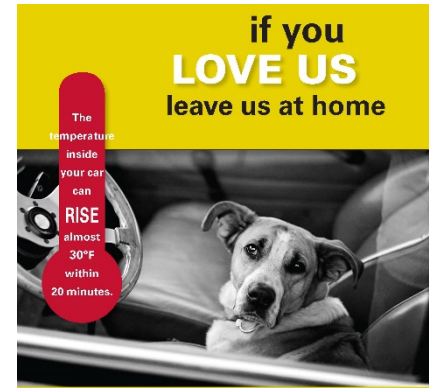


Then add the fact that most pets are not properly restrained while in the car, and you've got some dangerous situations – for people and pets alike. Unrestrained pets can be seriously or fatally injured, or could even hurt you, in a collision or sudden braking situation. In addition, they're a distraction for the driver, which increases the risk of driver errors.

Please don't become another statistic: only take your pets in the vehicle with you when you absolutely need to, and always properly restrain your

pets while in the vehicle.

**Hot pavement reminder.** Paved surfaces collect solar energy and become very warm (hot) quickly as the day progresses. Avoid walking your dog on hot paved surfaces – the pads on their feet can blister with the heat causing serious injuries.



The longer you wait, the higher it goes...and the more dangerous it becomes.  
Keep your pets safe - leave them at home.

## Firefighters and deputy to the rescue



On Wednesday, June 30 a deputy was dispatched to area of Brigadoon Ct and Brigadoon Dr in Shoreview on an assist to fire for ducklings in the storm sewer.

Deputy and fire were able to retrieve the lone duckling that fell in the storm sewer and reunite the family back together.



## Special instruction labels now offered to assist first responders

The Sheriff's Office Patrol Unit has a program to help residents that may have special needs and want to provide advance notice to first responders.

Some medical conditions impact a person's behavior and their responses to others, especially authority figures. While all patrol deputies have received crisis intervention training, when they respond to a call for assistance often there is not advance information about special needs they may encounter. To remedy this problem police agencies across the country have offered this voluntary program, where people place a sticker on their door to alert responders. Participants also provide more complete information that is accessible prior to deputy arrival.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Crime Prevention Deputy Mike Servatka at the Patrol Station in Arden Hills.





## Water Safety – stay safe when staying cool

Water is one of Minnesota's great resources. We have our lakes and rivers, and our pools and hot tubs, providing multiple water sport opportunities in, on and around the water.

There's nothing like spending an afternoon splashing around in the water and enjoying being together. Unfortunately, many people don't realize how dangerous boating and swimming can be without careful preparation.



In the United States, someone dies from drowning every 10 minutes. One out of every five drowning victims is a child, and, for every child who drowns, another five children get treated with injuries related to being submerged in water. Overall, drowning is the No. 2 leading cause of death for kids aged 5 to 14.

This year in Minnesota we have seen a higher-than-average number of drownings at places like beaches and swimming pools, and many boating fatalities.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the people who've drowned so far this season span the age, gender, and swimming ability spectrum.

### ***DNR safety officials offer the following tips for staying safe around the water:***

- **Wear a life jacket.** All children, and adults should wear a life jacket anytime they're around the water. Each year even adults who are good swimmers go under the water and never resurface.
- **Avoid alcohol.** Its effects are magnified on the water and the consequences can be deadly. About 40 percent of boating fatalities include alcohol.
- **Designate a "water watcher."** This person puts down their cell phone or other distractions and focuses only on watching the water to ensure everyone is safe.
- **Wade feet-first into the water** to avoid jumping into an area where the current, depth and other conditions are unknown.
- **Constantly supervise children while they're in or near the water.** Looking away even for a moment is enough time for tragedy to strike. Drowning often doesn't involve yelling, screaming, and waving of the arms. Rather, it often occurs silently.
- **Swim only in designated swimming areas.**

For more information about staying safe on the water, here are some resources:

- [DNR's boat and water safety pages: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html)
- National Safety Council: Recreational Boating Stay Safe on the Water <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/summer/boating>
- ARAG Legal: 7 Boating Safety Tips You Need to Know <https://www.araglegal.com/individuals/learning-center/topics/home-and-property/summer-boating-safety-tips>
- Nationwide Insurance: 10 Essential Boat Safety Tips <https://blog.nationwide.com/boating-safety-tips-checklist/>
- YMCA water safety tips: <https://gwymca.org/blog/water-safety-tips>
- National Drowning Prevention Alliance <https://ndpa.org/10-open-water-safety-tips/>

## What to do if you were scammed

Scammers can be very convincing. They call, email, and send us text messages trying to get our money or our sensitive personal information — like our Social Security number or account numbers. And they're good at what they do. Here's what to do if you paid someone you think is a scammer.

### Did you pay with a credit card or debit card or an unauthorized transfer from your account?

Contact the company or bank that issued the credit card or debit card. Tell them it was a fraudulent charge. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back.

### Did you pay with a gift card?

Contact the company that issued the gift card. Tell them it was used in a scam and ask if they can refund your money. Keep the gift card itself, and the gift card receipt.

### Did you send a wire transfer through a company like Western Union or MoneyGram?

Contact the wire transfer company. Tell them it was a fraudulent transfer. Ask them to reverse the wire transfer and give you your money back.

### Did you send money through a money transfer app?

Report the fraudulent transaction to the company behind the money transfer app and ask if they can reverse the payment. If you linked the app to a credit card or debit card, report the fraud to your credit card company or bank. Ask if they can reverse the charge.

### Did you pay with cryptocurrency?

Contact the company you used to send the money and tell them it was a fraudulent transaction. Ask to have the transaction reversed, if possible.

### Did you send cash?

If you sent it by U.S. mail, contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 and ask them to intercept the package. To learn more about this process, visit [USPS Package Intercept: The Basics](#).

### Report a Scam to the FTC

When you report a scam, the FTC can use the information to build cases against scammers, spot trends, educate the public, and share data about what is happening in your community. If you were scammed, report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#). [What to do if you provided personal information \(link\)](#).

## 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**