



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Neighborhood Watch

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive • Arden Hills, Minnesota 55112

Phone: 651-266-7339 • Fax: 651-266-7337

www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities



Block Captain News – May 2022

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 3 – 6:30 pm

Ramsey County Sheriff's Water Patrol Station
5 South Owasso Boulevard, Little Canada MN 55117

In this issue:

Animal Impound change
Night to Unite Registration
Catalytic converter marking
Email security threat
Curfew hours

In-person meeting –Tuesday 5/3/22

The Crime Prevention team has reserved the meeting room at the Ramsey County Sheriff's Water Patrol building in Little Canada for Tuesday, May 3, 2022, to host our Neighborhood Watch Block Captains quarterly meeting. This in-person gathering will include discussion of public safety issues facing our neighborhoods, boat & water safety, and a quick tour of the facility. We look forward to seeing those able to attend, the meeting will start at 6:30 pm and will run until 8:00 pm. Masks will likely be required. If you're planning to attend, please send us an email: CrimePrevention@ramseycounty.us

Animal Control – new impound location for strays/lost pets

Animal control services are focused on domestic animal issues and are provided by the Sheriff's Office to the seven contract communities of Arden Hills, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township. Among the most frequent calls are reports of dogs running loose in the neighborhood.

Effective Sunday, May 1, 2022, all domestic animals received/impounded by Animal Control (in the contract communities) will be brought to the [Animal Humane Society](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org), located at 9785 Hudson Road, in Woodbury, MN. The phone number is 952-435-7738 or 952-HELP-PET. Phone hours are 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday-Friday, and 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday. Search online for impounded animals at <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/strays>

Shelter pick-up hours are by appointment only. Call 952-435-7738.

Impound animals are kept for five business days, if they're not claimed they may become available for adoption. Owners claiming their pets will need to show photo identification; proof of ownership; and bring payment for fees.

Lost pets should be reported to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 651-767-0640 and can be posted on the RSCO [Facebook](#) page. Also search for and post your missing pet on [AHS-Found Pet Bulletin Board](#), [Nextdoor.com](#), [Lost Dogs Minnesota](#), and [Lost Cats Minnesota](#).

More information on Animal Control Services is available on the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office [website](#).

Night to Unite – Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mark your calendars, get together with your neighbors to make plans for participating in this annual public safety event. Register your event online with the Sheriff's office at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU2022>



CATGUARD Catalytic Converter Marking Pilot Program

Minnesota has one of the highest theft rates of catalytic converters in the nation. Criminals are stealing these specific parts because one can cut one off with a reciprocal saw in less than a minute, and the value of the precious metals in them can make them worth up to \$1,600.00. The challenge for law enforcement is catalytic converters often do not have serial numbers (those that do are generally not traceable to the vehicle they were installed on). The lack of identification numbers makes it extremely unlikely an officer will be able to link a detached catalytic converter to a crime scene.

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Minnesota Commerce Fraud Bureau in a NEW Pilot Program, which includes a self-install marking kit of catalytic converters.

The labels are installed by sticking the label onto a - cool to the touch - catalytic converter. A fluid is then painted onto the label, which, once a vehicle is started, causes the unique number to be etched into the metal. Once registered, the unique number allows law enforcement to trace a converter back to a specific vehicle if a converter were to be stolen and later recovered.

The law requires the labels be installed at no cost to vehicle owners. Businesses cannot charge for the installation of a program label, but they can require another service, e.g., oil change, be performed to install a label.

The marking kits are free and available to residents of Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township.

Residents can come to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Patrol Station, 1411 Paul Kirkwood Dr. Arden Hills, starting Monday May 9th from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. The Crime Prevention Unit will have someone in the lobby to assist you in starting the registration process. You will need to bring ID, vehicle's insurance card or VIN and plate number for your vehicle. **Supplies are limited as this is a pilot project.**

The marking kits are only for these vehicles most at-risk for catalytic converter theft:

Chevrolet Express	Honda Element	Mitsubishi Eclipse
Ford Econoline	Honda Odyssey	Mitsubishi Lancer
Ford F250	Hyundai Santa Fe	Mitsubishi Outlander
Honda Accord	Hyundai Tucson	Toyota Prius
Honda CRV	Kia Sportage	Toyota Tundra

If your vehicle is on this list consider participating in this pilot program.

If your vehicle is not on the list an alternative to the labels is to engrave your converter with the VIN, a partial VIN (the last 8), or even the license plate number. It is recommended to apply some bright colored high-temperature paint with the engraving. Just painting without adding identification marks does not help with the issue of traceability.

Marking a catalytic converter will not prevent theft on its own. Follow safe practices and report thefts.

More information about the CATGUARD Label Solution can be found at:

[Catalytic Converter Pilot / Minnesota.gov \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov/commerce-stat/xls/cc-participation-city.xlsx) and <https://vehicleroadsafetysolutions.com>

For Non-Residence in Ramsey County Contract Cities, please see download link for other partnering Cities: <https://mn.gov/commerce-stat/xls/cc-participation-city.xlsx>



Photo of self-install marking kit



Photos of installed CATGUARD label



Security threat highlight - email thread hijacking

The Department of Homeland Security: Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has recently seen a rise in email thread hijacking attacks.

Threat actors are inserting themselves into email conversations between parties known to and trusted by one another. Email thread hijacking usually happens after a threat actor compromises an email account of someone that you have had correspondence with in the past. Once in, they use previous correspondence to engage new targets for attack. Threat actors exploit that trust to trick users to open a malicious document or click links that goes to a malicious site.

This is most common in workplace environments while also seen in personal communications.

How to spot a thread hijacking

- Name does not match the email address.
- Email address does not match the original in the thread.
- Email is responding to correspondence from several months ago.
- New correspondence is outside of normal business hours.
- New content has nothing to do with the original message.

The screenshot shows an email client interface with two messages. The top message is from 'John Smith' with a suspicious email address and a subject line 'Meeting tomorrow'. A callout box points to the 'From' field, stating: 'Name does not match email address. Email address does not match the original in the thread.' The body of this message contains a link to a 'maliciouslink'. The bottom message is from 'John Smith' with a legitimate email address and the same subject line. A callout box points to the 'From' field, stating: 'Email is responding to correspondence from several months ago. Does John usually email you at 11:09pm?'. Another callout box points to the body of the bottom message, stating: 'This content has nothing to do with the original message.' The body of the bottom message contains conference call information. The slide is titled 'Threat Highlight: Thread Hijacking Q1 2022' and includes the EI-ISAC logo. A footer note says 'Confidential & Proprietary' and the slide number is '28'.

What to do if you spot a thread hijacking

- Do not open any attachments that may be in the email.
- Do not click or visit any links that may be in the message.
- Do not respond to the threat actor or thread.
- If available, use the "Report Suspicious Email" protocols in your secure email provider system.
- Delete the email.

Tornado Season

Prepare for summer weather that may be threatening. Learn more about preparing for tornadoes and how to stay safe during and after an event. Check out the link to find out more information - [Tornadoes | Ready.gov](#) – about tornado and severe weather preparedness and recovery.



Deter crime - one step at a time.

Hide it
Close it
Lock it
Light it



Spring and Summer - prime time for garage thefts

The season for crimes of convenience seems to never end. With easier grab and go opportunities for thieves comes more theft. 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

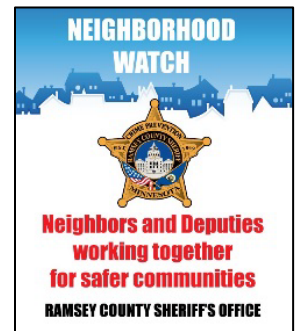
If someone calls you and asked to be paid with a gift card it is always a scam. Hang up the phone.

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!



Mark your calendars for 2022 events:

Tuesday, May 3 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, Water Patrol, 5 South Owasso Blvd, Little Canada

Tuesday, August 2 – Night to Unite events in neighborhoods throughout the community

Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



[@RamseyCountySheriff](#)



[@RamseySheriff](#)



[@RamseySheriffMN](#)

Deputy Alicia Ouellette
Crime Prevention Specialist
651-266-7339

Randy Gustafson
Crime Prevention Coordinator
651-266-7315

email address: CrimePrevention@co.ramsey.mn.us

website: www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

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