



# Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

## Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

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Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities



## Block Captain News – July 2022

### Next event - Night to Unite Tuesday, August 2

Your neighborhood time & place  
Gatherings throughout all communities

#### *In this issue:*

Night to Unite Registration  
Fall CERT training  
Kia & Hyundai Auto Thefts  
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Community events list

### Night to Unite registration deadline is July 15!

– get your neighborhood event registered [online](#)

Register your event so that deputies, firefighters, and public safety can plan to stop by for a visit. More information about Night to Unite on Page 4 of this newsletter.

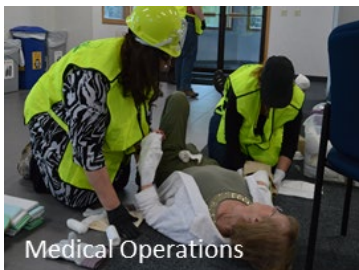
### Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training

Are you ready to help your neighbors and family in times of disaster? CERT is a program that is designed to train citizens to better prepare themselves and their families should their home or neighborhood be affected by a disaster.

CERT is a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) program offered through the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. The training includes classes on Disaster Preparedness, CERT Organization, Fire Safety, Light Search & Rescue, Disaster Psychology, Disaster Medical Operations, Terrorism and finishes with a final exercise and graduation.



Fire Safety



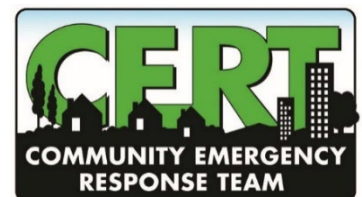
Medical Operations

**The 2022 CERT Academy training sessions will be held starting September 14 through November 9, 2022.** The sessions are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. for nine consecutive weeks. Applications accepted through Friday, August 5, 2022, on first-come-first-served basis. Classes are limited to 25 students. Equipment and materials will be provided at no charge.

If you have any questions regarding the CERT Academy, please [email the CERT program](#) or call 651-266-7333 and leave a voicemail.

### CERT Historical Information

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985. CERT became a national program in 1993. There are now CERT programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories. Each is unique to its community. All are essential to building a Culture of Preparedness in the United States. There are over 2,700 local CERT programs nationwide and more than 600,000 people have trained since CERT became a national program.



The CERT program was implemented at the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office in 2005 and has trained approximately 700 citizens. More info: [website](#) Registration [application](#).

## **Auto Theft Alert – Kia & Hyundai vehicles targeted by thieves**

A national trend of stealing Kia and Hyundai vehicles is now reaching the twin cities metro area.

Kias built 2011-2021 and Hyundai 2015-2021 are at risk. Kia and Hyundai, which are manufactured by the same parent company, have security vulnerabilities which allow the vehicles to be easily stolen. The back window of the vehicle is not connected to the internal alarm system. Thieves will shatter this window to gain access to the vehicle. Once inside, thieves will break or pull off the ignition column and use a screwdriver or other item as a key to start the car.

This method has been popularized in social media, particularly in videos out of Milwaukee where the self-named "Kia Boys" have made multiple videos showing members of their group stealing cars and joyriding in the stolen vehicles.

Due to the ease of theft, along with more suspects becoming aware of the method, it's likely thefts of these models will continue to increase in the coming months. Up to this point in time, most of the thefts were thought to have been conducted by juveniles. While many teens steal cars for the thrill, stolen vehicles are often used for other crimes such as robbery.



Hyundai and Kia have made changes beginning with their 2022 models by installing engine immobilizers and other fixes. Cars with push button start or an engine immobilizer are harder to steal.

### **Recommendations for Hyundai & Kia owners to prevent theft:**

1. Purchase and utilize a steering wheel lock (while not a perfect solution it is a visual deterrent).
2. Purchase and install a secondary alarm system for the vehicle.
3. Keep your vehicle in a secure location instead of parking on the street or in the driveway. If you must park on a public street, try to park under a streetlight.
4. Don't leave anything of value in your car — wallets, phones, personal identification, keys, title, power cords — take them with you when leaving your vehicle.
5. Lock vehicle doors when you are away from, and in the car.

No car is impossible to steal. Your only hope is to make your car more difficult so thieves will move on to the next. To help stop these and other crimes report any suspicious activity to 911. If you encounter a break-in or theft in progress, dial 911 immediately and do not approach.

## **CATGUARD Catalytic Converter Marking Kits Available**

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Minnesota Commerce Fraud Bureau in a pilot program to promote catalytic converter theft prevention by distributing self-install marking kits to residents of Ramsey County who have a high-risk for theft vehicle, or have had a catalytic converter stolen.

The marking kits include:

- a label to be installed on a "cool to the touch" catalytic converter and then painted with a special fluid that causes a unique number to be etched into the catalytic converter after the vehicle is started.
- two warning labels that your vehicle has a marked catalytic converter.
- information on "how to register the label's unique code number" and "information updates" which allows law enforcement to trace the marked converter back to a specific vehicle if the converter is stolen and later recovered.



For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/RCatGuard>

## Spotting the FTC's most reported crypto scams

By Andrew Rayo, FTC

If the cryptocurrency craze feels like a tempting way to make money, or you think you're missing out, read on. Because, according to the FTC's new data spotlight, scammers are banking on what you **don't** know about cryptocurrency — or scammers' tricks. And that could cost you serious money.

The [FTC's new data spotlight](#) shows crypto is a common way for scammers to steal money, with over 46,000 people reporting losing more than a billion dollars in crypto to scams since the start of 2021. Many crypto scams begin with ads, posts, or messages on social media. And most crypto is lost to [investment scams](#), where scammers get you to "invest" money, promising they'll make you more — quickly. **That's a lie.** You won't make money and you'll lose your initial "investment."

Scammers lurk in [online dating apps and on social media](#), too. These scams might also involve an investment: your new love interest might boast about being rich and offer to help you get started in crypto investing. **Don't do it** — those "investments" go straight into their pockets.

Scammers also [impersonate major companies and the government](#). They'll use messages or pop-ups to claim there's a problem with your accounts, or a security breach, and the only way to "protect" yourself is to put your money in crypto. **Don't.** It's a scam.

To steer clear of crypto cons:

- **Know that only scammers guarantee big payouts or fast, easy money.** These lies get you to "invest" — but you won't get any of your money back.
- **Don't mix online dating and investment advice.** If a new online love interest wants to show you how to invest in crypto, it's a scam.
- **Spot the scammers asking you to send crypto.** Real companies and government agencies will never tell you to buy cryptocurrency to sort out a problem or protect your money.

For help spotting crypto scams, [visit ftc.gov/cryptocurrency](#). And report scams at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#).

Topics [Money-Making Opportunities and Investments](#)

Scams [Business Impersonators](#), [Government Impersonators](#), [Romance Scams](#)



## Community events this summer season

**Arden Hills** – Lake Johanna Blvd Trail Study Open House on Thursday July 7 from 5 - 7 pm, Arden Hills City Hall info: [city-weblink](#) or [county-weblink](#)

**Falcon Heights** - Ice Cream Social on Thursday July 21 from 5 - 7 pm, Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave

**Little Canada** - Canadian Days July 29 - 31 <http://www.littlecanadamn.org/229/Canadian-Days>

**North Oaks** - Rummage Sale September 17 - 18 <http://www.northoaksrummagesale.org/>

**Shoreview** - Slice of Shoreview Days July 22-24 @ Island Lake County Park <https://www.sliceofshoreview.com/>

**Vadnais Heights** - Heritage Days August 19 - 21 <http://www.cityvadnaisheights.com/459/Heritage-Days>

**White Bear Township** - Township Day Saturday, September 17 from 2:00-8:00 pm, Polar Lakes Park <https://whitebeartownshipevents.org/township-day/>

## Night to Unite registration deadline is July 15! – get your neighborhood event registered online

This annual celebration occurs on the first Tuesday in August and gathers neighborhoods and public safety personnel together for an evening to promote safe communities.



It started in 1984 with the display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils.

Through the years Night to Unite (also known as National Night Out) celebrations in cities, towns, and neighborhoods grew to include a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts and visits from local police and fire departments.

**2022 Night to Unite will take place on Tuesday, August 2, 2020.**

Night to Unite goals are to:

- Strengthen neighborhood spirits and public safety-community partnerships.
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention and community policing programs.
- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Let criminals know that you are committed to keeping your neighborhood safe.

Night to Unite has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable opportunity to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in pursuit of safer communities. Community benefits often extend beyond this single evening event as neighbors get to know each other and the public safety agencies that serve them.

Register your event online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU2022>

Registration helps the Sheriff's Office and Fire Departments with scheduling visits to your event!

Event [planning tools](#) are available on the Ramsey County Sheriff's website. Materials and items for distribution at block parties will be distributed to Event Hosts by your Crime Prevention Unit in the week before the event. More details and rsvp information will be sent when you register your event.

If you've got questions give us a call or drop us an email: [CrimePrevention@ramseycounty.us](mailto:CrimePrevention@ramseycounty.us)

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

**Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!**



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