



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 – May 2023

Next Event Tuesday, August 1 – Night to Unite

Your neighborhood or one near you
Usually conducted sometime between 5-9pm
Deputies, Firefighters, others visit registered events

In this issue:

Night to Unite registration open
Correctional Officer & Police Week
Mental Health Awareness Month
Pedestrian Safety
Reaching the Dispatch Center
Identity Theft precautions

Night to Unite – Tuesday, August 1, 2023

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/NTU2023>

Registration helps the Sheriff's Office and Fire Departments with scheduling visits to your event! Registration deadline is Friday, July 14, 2023.

Event planning tools are available on the Ramsey County Sheriff's [website](#). Materials and items for distribution at block parties will be distributed in mid-July to Event Hosts at meetings at local city halls. More details and rsvp information will be sent when you register your event.



May 7-13, 2023 - National Correctional Officer's Week

We celebrate National Correctional Officers Week in the first week of May — from May 7 to 13 this year. Former President Ronald Reagan established this week on May 5, 1984. He saw the need to create a week for correctional officers to thank them for their services and celebrate their contributions to society. Locally, COs protect people in our Adult Detention Center and Adult Correctional Facility.

May 15-21, 2023 - National Police Week

National Police Week is celebrated on whatever week May 15 falls in, under President Kennedy's 1962 decree to honor the men and women who risk their lives every day in the line of duty — it takes place from May 15 to 21 this year. It is also a time for police officers to honor their fallen colleagues, make sure those surviving them are supported, as well as to remember their commitment to keeping people safe.

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association will be standing guard at the Memorial on State Capital grounds beginning at 6pm on May 14th for 24 hours leading into a remembrance ceremony at 7pm on May 15th.



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.

Each of us can play a role in promoting good mental health by reaching out virtually to a friend, family member or a loved one. Ramsey County provides a variety of mental health resources. Visit the [Mental Health Services & Crisis](#) webpage for detailed information.



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 47th 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 2023 is focused on how surroundings impact mental health, and is calling for individuals **to look around, look within**. Their website (<https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month>) addresses the topics of Safe and Stable Housing; Healthy Home Environments; Neighborhoods and Towns; The Outdoors and Nature. Information to help people understand how these topics impact mental health, provide tips for actions people can take to change their surroundings in favor of their well-being, and suggestions for how to cope if change isn't realistic are covered.



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

Special instruction labels available 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. This program is available to residents of the cities of Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township.

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 Alicia Ouellette at the Patrol Station in Arden Hills.



Everyone is a pedestrian sometime

As the weather warms more people will be out and about. Everyone has different preferences when it comes to transportation, but anytime one is not a driver or passenger they are a pedestrian. When you drive to the grocery store and park in the lot you become a pedestrian when you leave your car and walk into the store.

Pedestrian safety is a responsibility shared by drivers and pedestrians.

When drivers maintain safe speeds and practice other safe driving behaviors, safer walking environments are created for you, your loved ones, and others in your community. When pedestrians maintain awareness of their surroundings and practice safe behaviors it helps everyone.



Know the Basics—Pedestrian Safety

8 Safety Tips for Drivers

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop too.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
- Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

8 Walking Safety Tips

- Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections. Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely; continue watching for traffic as you cross.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.
- Embrace walking as a healthy form of transportation - get up, get out and get moving.

How to reach Ramsey County Dispatch when you're out of town

For several years our message has been to dial 911 to reach the Emergency Communication Center because the same Telecommunicators answer both 911 and non-emergency number calls. The Telecommunicators expertly ask the right questions to get the right resources to people in need and 911 reaches local public safety wherever you call from.

What about when you are in another state watching your home security video and see something happening to report to law enforcement in Ramsey County? This is when you call 651-767-0640 and reach your Ramsey County telecommunicator to get response started in a timely manner. Put this number into your cellphone contacts so you'll have it available when you need it.

You can also call the non-emergency number to report minor issues such as incidents that happened yesterday and you want to make a report for insurance purposes, and the like.

Current phone scam – borrow your phone and take your money

In Shoreview and Vadnais Heights, we've had people lose significant money to this scam. Person/s approach victim in store parking lot and ask to borrow their phone so they can call a tow or insurance company because of car trouble. The victim hands over their phone and the thief accesses their Venmo or cash app and takes money. Avoid this crime and still be a helpful person: If a stranger asks for help and to borrow your phone, you can help them by offering to make the phone call yourself on their behalf. Be aware of your circumstances and don't hand over an unlocked phone.

Ten items to leave out of your wallet to minimize Identity Theft

Packing light resonates beyond suitcases and vacations. It can also apply to your wallet, especially if it gets stolen. Despite every precaution to avoid becoming a victim of theft - it can happen. Thinking ahead to minimize the additional identity theft impact of a lost purse or wallet consider carrying only what you will need on your current trip or errand, and leave these items home in a safe place:

Social Security Cards – a gateway to identity theft.

Birth certificates – make it easy for identity thieves to impersonate you.

Receipts – more than bulky, they contain information that can help a thief guess your account numbers.

Gift cards – are the first thing a thief will use from a stolen wallet. Leave them at home unless you plan to use them.

Extra credit cards – provide thieves more opportunities to steal your money and information.

Blank checks – are effortlessly forged and cashed.

Passports – contain vital information that make it simple for thieves to steal your identity.

Medicare cards – could carry your Social Security number. If so, carry a photocopy and black out the SS number.

Spare keys – make it too convenient for a thief who has your address to now access your home.

PINS and passwords – give thieves carte blanche to steal money directly from bank accounts and more.

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!

Online information of activity in your neighborhood – [CommunityCrimeMap.com](#)



Mark your calendars for 2023 events:

Tuesday, August 1 –between 5pm to 9pm dependent upon neighborhood – **Night to Unite**

Details for 3rd & 4th quarter meetings and distribution of Night to Unite materials are under construction

Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



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