



# 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

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www.RamseyCountySheriff.us



## Block Captain News – September 2024

**Next Block Captain Meeting – Tuesday, October 15th, 2024, at 6:30 pm**

Ramsey County Public Works Building - Marsden Room  
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills MN 55112

### Up Coming Events:

**RCSO Explorers Open House – Sept. 10th, 2024**

Ramsey County Patrol Station- Large Conference Room  
1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills MN 55112

**TRIAD Senior Picnic- Sep 21, 2024 “FREE Lunch for SENIORS” 11:30 until food is Gone**

Podvin Park- At the Pavilion

1700 9th Street, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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**Calling all Teenagers...**

**Are you interested in Law Enforcement?**

**YOUTH EXPLORER** Informational

**OPEN HOUSE**

1411 Paulkirkwold Dr,  
Arden Hills, MN 55112

Presentation starts at **6:30PM**

**September 10, 2024**



Get "hands on" experience in various law enforcement topics and careers. Give back to the community while gaining interpersonal growth.

For more information visit  
<https://tinyurl.com/RCEExplorers>  
or Contact:  
Danielle.Hodges@Ramseycounty.us

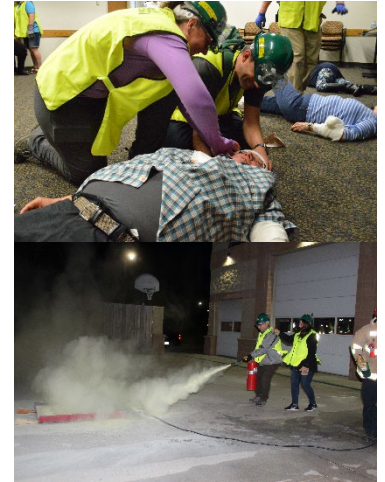


## September is National Preparedness Month



National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time summer, fall, winter or spring.

The Ready.gov is a great place to learn more about the simple ways to be prepared and “ready” when disaster strikes. As Minnesotans this can be anything from severe weather, flooding, extreme heat or cold. What would you do if a tornado hit your house tonight? Do you have an emergency kit? Do you have an emergency plan? Do your kids know the plan? There are so many questions that people ask only after disaster strikes. Take a few minutes today to learn more at [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) !



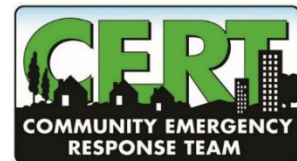
**What better way to stay prepared** then to join us at the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office for our **36<sup>th</sup> Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy**. This FEMA designed class teaches you crucial survival skills for you, your family, and your community in the event of a disaster! Not only is the class FREE but you get hands on practical application along with tools, resources, and knowledge that can never expire.

The Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office is still taking applications no later than September 9, 2024 and there are only a few spots left.

- Starting September 18, 2024, through November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The sessions are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 pm for nine consecutive weeks.
- The CERT Program is available to all residents of the State of Minnesota who are 18 years and older. Participants must pass a criminal background check.
- Participants must commit to the entire nine-week session.

For registration information go to the [RCSO Community Emergency Response Team page](#)

Questions may be directed to the CERT mailbox: [cert@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:cert@co.ramsey.mn.us)



## Traffic accidents to avoid

While talking to RCSO patrol deputies, they noted how often they find themselves at common intersections for accidents. There are two standout spots entering onto Hwy 96 that those in the accident stated they “just didn’t see the car in front of them.” Two examples are Southbound Lexington taking the right turn onto Hwy 96 and Northbound Hamline taking a right onto Hwy 96. Both have a concrete sidewalk island that makes cars pull farther up while turning their vehicle at an angle, causing them to drastically turn their head to see if traffic is coming. It also allows more vehicles behind them to pull farther into the turn, past the intersection. The problem occurs when the second vehicle in line sees an opening and moves forward *forgetting* there is a vehicle in front of them or *assuming* the vehicle in front of them is moving (as fast as they are). The drivers don’t remember to turn their heads back in front of their vehicle first before stepping on the gas.

Just like when we were kids, our parents told us to look both ways, and then again. As drivers, we should do the same when entering an intersection. Always double check and triple check that all vehicles have moved, and you have enough time to safely enter the roadway.



*Yield to traffic on the roadway. You don't have the right of way until traffic is clear; you may have to stop and safely check the intersection. Always double check all angles and roadways before stepping on the gas. If you are the second vehicle, you must still yield to vehicle in front of you and give them a safe distance between both your vehicles.*

## **Sports and Concert Ticket Scams**

With the end of summer approaching there are still a lot of events out in the community to take part in. As you get ready to purchase your football, hockey, basketball, end of the year baseball tickets, or go to a concert or play that's coming into the cities, what should you be looking for to keep yourself safe from being scammed when purchasing tickets?

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) give some of the best tips for buy tickets for this now common and growing scam.

- **Purchase from the venue whenever possible.**
- **Consider your source.** Know the difference between a professional ticket broker (a legitimate and accredited reseller), a ticket scalper (an unregulated and unlicensed ticket seller), and a scammer selling scam tickets.
- **Check out the seller/broker.** Do the research to look them up on BBB.org or other trusted sources to learn what other customers have experienced. Check to see if they are a member of the National Association of Ticket Brokers (NATB) or VerifiedTicketSource.com to confirm you are buying from a NATB-member resale company.
- **Buy only from trusted vendors.** Buy online only from vendors you know and trust. Look for the lock symbol in the web address to indicate a secure purchasing system. Don't click through emails or online ads; a common ticket scam trick is to create a web address that is similar to a well-known company.
- **Know the refund policy.** You should only purchase tickets from a ticket reseller that provides clear details about the terms of the transaction. Sellers should disclose to the purchaser, before purchase, the location of the seats represented by the tickets, either orally or by reference to a seating chart; and, if the tickets are not available for immediate access to the purchaser, disclose when the tickets will ship or be available for pick up.

- **Use payment methods that come with protection.** Always use a credit card so you have some recourse if the tickets are not as promised. Debit cards, wire transfers, or cash transactions are risky; even PayPal, Zelle, Venmo and other cash apps don't have the same protections as credit card; if the tickets are fraudulent, you won't be able to get your money back.
- **Be wary of advertisements.** When you search the web for online tickets, advertisements for cheap tickets will often appear. Use good judgment; some ads will be ticket scams, especially if the prices are low.
- **If you're unsure, verify your tickets.** Pay a visit to the arena where the event will be held. Present your ticket to "Will Call" (customer service), and they can verify if your ticket is legitimate and show you how to tell if it is fake.

For the full article go to [BBB Tip: buying tickets to the big game or concert? Don't get scammed](#)

## Suspicious Activity or Behavior

We frequently hear in society and in our community, especially from Law Enforcement, "if you see something suspicious call 9-1-1!" As a deputy I frequently get the response, "but what is Suspicious Activity?"

### Definitions:

**Suspicious behavior** or activity can be **any action** that is out of place and does not fit into the usual day-to-day activity of your community.

**Suspicious activity** is any observed **behavior** that could indicate a person may be involved in a crime or about to commit a crime.

When we are in our community's and close to home, we start to understand our specific community norms. Things that are not within our community norms will naturally stand out. So, when you are observing an activity or someone with a behavior that could lead or be criminal in nature, you should call 9-1-1. The sooner Law Enforcement responds to the area, they can determine if a crime was committed and action. If you don't call no action can be taking at deterring future incidents and crime in your community.

Many people ASSUME someone else will call but the reality is more people talk themselves out from calling because they don't want to bother Law Enforcement. What many don't know is that your call could be the only call that Law Enforcement gets, and your information is important.

For example, last week dispatch received a call from a community member in the city of Shoreview who had just witnessed two juveniles attempting to go through a neighbor's vehicle. They were able to give a good description on the suspect and last known direction they traveled. Deputies were able to get into the area quickly and arrest one of the suspects, who was later charged.

**HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

WHO did you see → WHAT did you see → WHEN you saw it → WHERE it occurred → WHY it's suspicious

TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES and describe specifically what you observed. If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

SEE/SAY logo and Minnesota State Police logo.

"If you see something, say something," is a common phrase we hear in today's society. Don't talk yourself out of things you observe but phone a neighbor, a friend, or make the call sooner rather than later to 9-1-1.

For general questions about this topic please reach out to [Crimeprention@mn.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Crimeprention@mn.ramsey.mn.us) or 651-266-7339

## Celebrating Night to Unite 2024

For many in our communities that came out this year for the 2024 Night to Unite event, you truly have made it one of the best years. From the weather to the great conversations, there was nothing better than to see our communities celebrating together and promoting a safer community.

We at the Sheriff's Office appreciate all our party host who took the time to host the events along with our local Fire Departments and City/County/Community resources who also attended many of the Night to Unite celebrations.

We were excited to have sponsors this year from local businesses who supported the Night to Unite event. Many thanks to Land O Lakes, Walmart, Cub Foods, Kowalski's, Raising Cains, Culvers, and Target.

A big thanks to community generosity for the school supplies donated and collected! They have been distributed to our local community schools and students in need.

We have a short survey to help review this year's efforts and help us plan for next year. Please feel free to complete the survey if you have not done so already by September 27, 2024.

**2024 Night to Unite Post Event Survey.** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QH7C2KY>

**Mark your calendars for Night to Unite 2025 – Tuesday, August 5, 2023**



## Halloween Safety

In just less than two-month, Fall will be upon us and another Halloween season will be here. Safety is not always the first thing that comes to mind when we are out trick-or-treating with kids, staying home to hand out candy, or going to a party. Many of us hope that no Trick will be played on us that night but just in case, here are some safety tips to keep in mind:



### Kids

- Have kids Cross the street at street corners, intersections, and crosswalks.
- Be visible. Bring fun glow sticks or festive flashlights; add reflective or material that glows to the costumes, where light or bright colors.
- Costumes: make sure the costume fits to prevent trips and falls, limit items that limit good vision for kids (face paint vs mask).
- Stay with the kids under the ages of 12 (and walk them to the doors). Over 12 and out with friends, have a safety plan.
- Put Emergency number on kids' costume or wrist.
- Inspect all candy or gifts upon return.
- DRIVERS beware! Remember to slow down and be alert during dusk. Keep alert and limit distractions during the Halloween evening.
- [SAFE KIDS:Halloween Safety Tips](#)

### Home safety

- Keep pathways and sideways clear of decorations that can be a trip hazard.
- Only hand out sealed store-bought candy or trinkets.
- Don't leave lit candles unattended.
- Keep your pets safe and keep the kids safe. (keep your dogs away from doors even if friendly)
- If you don't want trick-or-treaters, unscrew your door light, or put a sign up but keep other lights on for home safety.
- Lock and move your vehicles.



### Other safety tips

- Don't drink and drive. Call for a ride if out at a party or plan to stay over.
- Limit driving if possible.
- Find family friendly or other seasonal events on weekends and during the day in your communities.
- [NHTSA: Halloween Safety Tips](#)

## Approaching Community Events

There are many events happening in our local communities throughout the year. This season offers fun events for the whole family. Here's a few that might be worth checking out:

**Falcon Heights** - Citywide Recycling Drop-Off Event Saturday Sept 14, 8am-1pm at the MN State Fairgrounds info/link [Recycling Drop-Off Event](#)

**Little Canada** - LC Farmers Market Tuesdays June-Oct 7, 2 – 6pm 2920 Rice Street (Hardware Store Parking Lot) **Movie in the Park Sept 26, 7:30pm** at Pioneer Park

**North Oaks** - Rummage Sale September 14-15 info/link: [North Oaks Rummage Sale](#)

**Shoreview** - Farmers Market Tuesdays Sept 3 - Oct 8, from 3-6pm Lower parking lot for Community Center **Culture in the Commons Sept 15-Oct 6, 2:30-4pm** at Haffeman Pavilion **Touch-a-Truck Saturday Oct 5, 9am-Noon** at Shoreview Community Center- Lower Level Kids **Garage Sale Saturday Oct 5, 9am-Noon** at Shoreview Community Center- Haffeman Pavilion **Boo Bash Saturday Oct 26, 3pm-6:30pm** \*Registration Required at [BooBash 2024](#)

**Vadnais Heights** – Lions Belgian Waffle Breakfast Sunday Oct 6, 8am-1pm at the Vadnais Heights Commons **Scarecrow Trail Oct 24 - Nov 1** open during park hours at Community Park **Halloween Party Friday Oct 25 5pm-7pm** at Community Park

**White Bear Township** - **Movie in the Park Sept 14**, at dusk, Polar Lakes Park info/link: [Movie in the Park](#) **Township Day Saturday, Sept 21 from 2-8pm**, Polar Lakes Park info/link: [Township Day Celebration](#)

## 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.

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](#)

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



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