



## Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

## Neighborhood Watch

### Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

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www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities

## Block Captain News – November 2024

**Next Block Captain Meeting – Tuesday, Jan. 21st, 2025, at 6:30 pm**

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

### *In this issue:*

Taking a walk can stop a crime  
Winter Parking Reminders  
Coffee with a Cop  
New Explorers  
Motor Vehicle Theft  
Ice Safety  
Holiday Safety Tips  
Mental Health Awareness

### **Taking a walk, can stop a crime**

In a recent incident this past month, a community member took a walk in the late evening hours, well past dark. While on the roadway walking a routine route, they observed a suspicious vehicle that did not fit the norms, parked in a gravel turn around that had no lighting. As they approached the entrance to a walking path that went behind homes in the neighborhood, was a middle-aged male standing by the entrance and farther down the path was another male. Neither male had a flashlight nor appeared to be a “evening walker”. The community member attempted to be courteous and spoke to the gentlemen. Both respond in unison with the same answer and when asked where they are from, gave an address that did not exist in that neighborhood.

The community member walked a bit farther and turned around to return home where they had left their cell phone. While walking back, they noticed the men were gone and the suspicious vehicle driving off. The community member returned home and called Ramsey County Dispatch.



**What to Learn:** As a community member you are vital at deterring crime each day through your actions. Criminals are less likely to commit a crime if they feel like they are being watched or have been seen by someone. In this incident, a community member took a walk and noticed something out of their community norm and found it to be suspicious. The act of the community member being in the right place at the right time most likely deterred the men from committing possible crimes in the neighborhood, scaring them off. Be a presence in your community and deter crime!

[Walking at Night Safety Tips](#)

## Winter “NO PARKING” Reminders

With our first snow fall here for the season it brings reminders to our community drivers. When the snow does fly, local communities have ticketing and towing after snowfalls (ranging from 1” to 2”), and snow removal policies. Many of our Ramsey County Cities have seasonal parking or overnight “NO PARKING” ordinances. Please go to your city website to review your local city ordinances so you don’t come out to your vehicle with an extra present on your windshield.

Some cities do have temporary parking permits on case-by-case bases to help give communities options with the season gathering. Please check with your city for any special request.

## Coffee with a Cop is popping up around you!

The Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office will be popping up around the contract cities at various venues to throughout the winter season. Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative that brings police and community members together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee.



### ***Upcoming Scheduled event:***

**Wednesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 9:00am to 10:30am**

Panera Bread, 959 Co. Rd E, Vadnais Heights

**Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 10am-11:30am**

Target/Starbucks, 3800 Lexington Ave N, Shoreview

## Congratulations New Explorers



Over the last six weeks, our Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office hosted a Explorers Post 2 academy. They learned the basic skills of handcuffing, searching, room clearing, code of ethics, by-laws, and much more to set the foundation. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, nine cadets graduated and have joined the ranks of their fellow 5 Explorers. Over the next 6 months all the explorers will receive weekly training on Law Enforcement skills that they will be able to utilize and demonstrate their knowledge at the 2025 Explorer Conference in Rochester, MN.

Explorers will be out supporting Sheriff’s Office Events throughout the year and will be out in the community fundraising for the 2025 Explorer Conference fees. If you would like to support the Explorer Post 2 program, please contact Lead Advisor, Deputy Hodges at

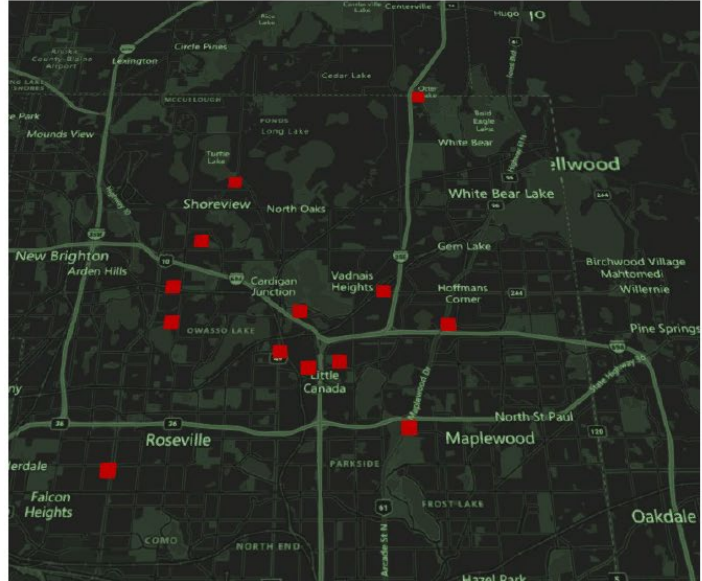
[Danielle.hodges@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Danielle.hodges@co.ramsey.mn.us).

## Motor Vehicle Thefts in the Contract Cities

Motor vehicle theft is still an issue in our communities but has gone down since the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office started the Car and Auto Theft Unit. They have been vital at proactive measures to go after suspects. But they do need your help each day to take action in order to deter criminals from taking your vehicles. From July, August and September of 2024 in our contract cities, there was 13 motor vehicle thefts. Almost half of them were in the month of August with just two in the month of September. Some of the area's most targeted were close to high traffic roadways, large parking lots close to shopping areas, businesses, and multi-housing.

Quarter 3  
7/1/24 – 9/30/24

Contract City/Per Month	# Of Stolen Vehicles
<u>July</u>	
Little Canada	2
Arden Hills	1
White Bear Township	1
Shoreview	1
<u>August</u>	
Vadnais Heights	2
Arden Hills	1
Shoreview	1
Falcon Heights	1
Little Canada	1
<u>September</u>	
Vadnais Heights	1
Little Canada	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13</b>



### Tips to deter becoming a victim of Motor Vehicle Theft:

- ✓ Never leave your vehicle running unattended.
- ✓ Do not leave a key or fob in your vehicle at ANYTIME (vehicle running or off).
- ✓ Always lock your doors and close your windows, even in the garage.
- ✓ Park in well lit visible areas, or in areas visible to pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- ✓ Don't leave anything of value in your vehicle - wallets, phones, personal identification, title, power cord - take them with you.
- ✓ Use your alarm if you have one.

### Safety tips to avoid carjacking:

- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings, remain vigilant in and around your vehicles.
- ✓ Give yourself room to move in traffic and when stopping at traffic sign or signals.
- ✓ Keep your cellphone on your person.
- ✓ Entering Your Vehicle: have your keys in your hand, ready to enter. Keep your eyes moving and your head "on a swivel"; know your surroundings. Trust your instincts: If you "feel" something is wrong, turn around and leave the area. Once you reach your vehicle, unlock, quickly enter, then re-lock the doors. Get the vehicle moving as soon as you can.
- ✓ Be wary of people near your vehicle asking for directions or asking for money to help with gas ("I'm from out of town and lost my wallet..."), or other possible distractions. They may be working with a partner who will attempt to take your keys, and your vehicle.

## Ice Safety



As the seasons change and the cold winter weather is fast approaching, it's a good time to review ice safety information and tips. Since the 1980s we have seen a trend in less Ice deaths but in the 2023-24 winter we saw a rise in ice fatalities. December 2023 set a record for the warmest on record since 1877 which brought more calls for help on Minnesota Lakes and more fatalities. Do not become one of those statistics this year and ask questions before going on or around the ice.

It is especially important to teach children and youth about ice safety as they are one of the top three most at risk for ice fatalities. Educating yourself, and your kids, can be done in a fun way that can make winter activities more exciting than ever.

[How to go Ice Fishing in MN](#)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has a great "[Ice Safety](#)" page that has information with videos, pictures and links to help make it easy to learn about ice safety.

*MN DNR Ice Safety Key Topic (click to go to page):*

- [Ice formation & conditions](#)
- [Ice safety gear](#)
- [Ice thickness guidelines](#)
- [How to check ice thickness](#)
- [Traveling on ice](#)
- [Vehicle escape](#)
- [Survival plan](#)
- [Helping someone else](#)
- [Carbon monoxide poisoning in ice shelters](#)
- [Ice fatality statistics](#)
- [Resources](#)



According to the Minnesota DNR there really is no sure answer to when is ice safe. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors in addition to the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.



The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol and Dive Team assisted the MN DNR last year in demonstrating the risks of driving a vehicle on thin ice. Please take a few minutes to watch the video and learn a little about vehicles and thin ice.

[What to do if your car goes through the ice-KARE 11 2024](#)

## **HOLIDAY Season Safety Tip!**

With every season comes another wave of seasonal crime trends begin that can ruin the holiday spirit. Take a few moments to refresh yourself with some helpful information and share with your family and friends.

### **Package theft prevention:**

- Ask a trustworthy neighbor to watch for and/or retrieve your package when it is delivered.
- Request “signature required” service from the delivery company.
- Place a lock box, bench with hidden seat container or other creative container to have deliveries placed into so they are not readily seen by people driving/walking by.
- Place a note on front door asking delivery driver to leave packages on the back steps or behind pillars.
- Have packages delivered to your work or a business address, if possible.
- Pick up at: UPS or FedEx pick-up spot or Amazon Locker (especially if you live in a Apartment complex with no safe lockbox)
- Track your package (get the updates for arrival)
- Bring the package in as soon as possible upon delivery.



### **Prevent theft from your vehicle:**

- Make your most valuable shopping trip last so items don't get left in your vehicle at a later stop (making them prime targets for theft).
- When running errands, shopping, or traveling, make an extra stop before arriving at your destination to lock valuables in your trunk (out of sight).
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle at ANYTIME.
- Always lock your car, and park in a well-lit and well-traveled area.
- Be observant in parking lots. Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle, ready to unlock the door.
- Be mindful of people following you after a large or expensive purchase.

### **Financial cards & online shopping:**

- If you go to an automatic teller machine for cash, check for people around you and make sure it is well-lit and in a safe location.
- Carry only the credit cards you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Be mindful if you are being followed leaving the bank or local ATM.
- Check Your Devices: Before making any online purchases, make sure the device you're using to shop online is up-to-date. Next, take a look at your accounts and ask, do they each have strong passwords? And even better, if multifactor authentication is available, are you using it?
- Only Shop through TRUSTED SOURCES: Think about how you're searching online. How are you finding the deals? Are you clicking on links in emails or going to trusted vendors? Are you clicking on ads on webpages? You wouldn't go into a store with boarded up windows and without signage – the same rules apply online. If it looks suspicious, something's probably not right.
- Use Safe Methods for Purchasing: If you're going to make that purchase, what information are you handing over? Before providing personal or financial information, check the website's privacy policy. Make Sure you understand how your information will be stored and used.
- [CISA Holiday Online Shopping Tips](#)

## Home security and safety tips:

- Don't display wrapped boxes under a lighted tree in the front window for thieves to see as they drive past your home.
- Don't pile up-empty gift boxes from your new computers, televisions, game systems and other electronics in front of your home on garbage day. Instead, break down boxes and conceal the advertising when setting them out for recycling.
- Do NOT post your activities (gifts or plans to be away from home) on social media pages.
- Turn on outside lights to deter burglars and help your neighbors and law enforcement be able to keep a close eye on your home.
- Stop your mail if gone for more than a week.
- Have someone check on your home while you're away and clean up the snow as it falls.



Unsafe



SAFE!!!!

## Holiday Self-Care



**If you know someone struggling with mental health now or any time, please consider taking a step to find some help.**

In a crisis? Get help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with Ramsey County Crisis lines.

**Children's Mental Health Crisis Line:**

**651-266-7878**

**Adult Mental Health Crisis Line:**

**651-266-7900**

Ramsey County's mobile crisis team provides stabilization services, de-escalation, crisis intervention, mental health assessments and initial crisis plans. Walk-in crisis services are available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at [Urgent Care for Adult Mental Health](#).

## 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**