



## Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

## Neighborhood Watch

### 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](http://www.RamseyCountySheriff.us)

Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities



## Block Captain News – May 2020

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 5 – 6:30 pm

### May Block Captain Meeting

Ramsey County Public Works Building - Marsden Room

1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills MN 55112

Near intersection of Kirkwold and Highway 26

**CANCELLED**

**due to COVID-19 response**

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## NEW DATE for Night to Unite – Tuesday, October 6, 2020

COVID-19 pandemic prompts change of date for nationwide event celebrating community

For over thirty years communities across America have gathered for an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The first Tuesday in August was the date for millions of neighbors in 49 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide, (Texas and some select areas celebrated on the first Tuesday in October).

With the COVID-19 pandemic discouraging large gatherings for the near future, the Sheriff's Office is joining other member agencies of the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association and rescheduling the 2020 Night to Unite / National Night Out date to Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

We have time in the coming weeks to figure out how our communities will celebrate Night to Unite. Ideas range from a remake of the original National Night Out display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils to fully embracing recent traditions of block parties, cookouts and celebrating a message of neighborhood camaraderie. Put those creative hats on and let's get the conversations started. Look for more information as it becomes available.



## Governor directs Minnesotans to Stay Home extended to May 18



To slow the spread of COVID-19 across the state Governor Walz issued a series of Executive Orders directing Minnesotans to limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs.

All Minnesotans are urged to voluntarily comply with Executive Orders. The state is working with local law enforcement to support the order. Locally, deputies are seeking compliance through education while patrolling parks, community gathering spaces and talking with people when appropriate. Minnesotans may leave their homes to pick up essential items such as groceries or food, prescriptions, and gas, to relocate for safety reasons, or go to work if their job is deemed essential in a sector. If you leave your home practice social distancing measures keeping six feet between you and those around you, wearing a facemask is recommended. Everyone is encouraged to stay active outside during this time, provided they practice safe social distancing. Executive Order 20-48 extending the Stay at Home to May 18 also allows some retail businesses to open using curbside pick-up and delivery.

The list of Executive Orders is on the [Governor's website](http://mn.gov/stayhomemn). More details and FAQs: [mn.gov/stayhomemn](http://mn.gov/stayhomemn)

## **COVID-19 impact on Sheriff Office operations**

The Sheriff's Office has continued to operate during the coronavirus pandemic while taking necessary safety precautions to protect the health of the public and staff. The Patrol Station lobby has remained open and deputies have remained on patrol responding to calls 24 hours a day, wearing PPE and maintaining distancing when possible. We have had to limit our community gatherings, presentations and volunteer programs during Stay at Home.

Our county-wide operations have also adapted. Information on the justice system response is on this webpage: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/covid-19-info/justice-system-collaboration-response-covid-19>

## **Sheriff's Office forms COVID "Help Team" to assist with pandemic response**

For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic the Sheriff's Office has formed a COVID "Help Team" to assist those in the community who are most at risk and vulnerable during this time. The Help Team serves anyone in Ramsey County who requires assistance or support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19, has affected all of us. Times like this can bring a lot of uncertainty and leave people wondering where to turn for help. To support the efforts of government and community organizations alike at this great time of need, the Sheriff's Office is implementing a Help Team.

### **Services Provided by the Help Team:**

- Picks-up and delivers prescription medication
- Picks-up and delivers pre-paid food and groceries
- Delivers food, medication, and other essentials that have been donated
- Coordinates the collection of donated items based on current community needs
- Provides resources and referrals, including social services, financial assistance, medical assistance, mental health, and others

The Help Team also coordinates services with local government(s) and service providers.

### **Help Team Current Hours of Operations:**

- Monday through Friday: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

### **There are three ways to request help:**

- Call: 651-448-3874
- Text: 651-448-3874
- Email: [HelpTeam@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:HelpTeam@co.ramsey.mn.us)

The Help Team supplements the services already provided by Ramsey County, which remains open and continues to provide services. Please visit [www.ramseycounty.us/coronavirus](http://www.ramseycounty.us/coronavirus) for more information about county services.

## **Everyone can work to reduce the spread of COVID-19**

- **Cover your coughs and sneezes** with your elbow or sleeve, or a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands afterwards.
- **Washing your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds**, especially after going to the bathroom or before eating. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Avoid touching your face** – especially your eyes, nose and mouth – with unwashed hands.
- **Stay home if you have cold- or flu-like symptoms**, for seven days after your illness onset or three days after your fever resolves without fever reducing medicine, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Up-to-date guidance from the Department of Health on recommended community mitigation strategies can be found at: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

## Scam emails demand Bitcoin, threaten blackmail

April 29, 2020 by Bridget Small, Consumer Education Specialist, Federal Trade Commission

The FTC uses the information it gets from people who report scams to keep close watch on trends, so we can alert you to changes.

Here's one: **reports of Bitcoin blackmail scams have taken a big jump in the last few weeks (including Ramsey County)**. The emails say they hacked into your computer and recorded you visiting adult websites. They threaten to distribute the video to your friends and family within hours, unless you pay into their Bitcoin account. Stop. Don't pay anything. Delete the message. It's a scam.

Based on the timing of this spike, you may get one of these messages because your email was exposed in a recent data breach. The scammers may say they have access to your computer or webcam, or installed clever software to defeat you. That's all talk. But they may really know one of your old – or recent – passwords, and they include it in the message to prove it. When you see that, you know it's time to update your password on that account, and consider updating other passwords, too.

If you, or someone you know, get a message like this, please report it to the FTC at [www.FTC.gov/Complaint](http://www.FTC.gov/Complaint).

More related info:

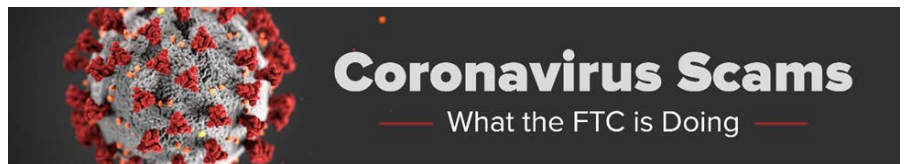
Bitcoin blackmail: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2018/08/how-avoid-bitcoin-blackmail-scam>

Updating password: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2018/03/its-national-password-day>

## Avoid Coronavirus Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus. Here are some tips from the Federal

Trade Commission to help you keep the scammers at bay:



- **Hang up on robocalls.** Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using [illegal robocalls](#) to pitch everything from scam Coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it might lead to more robocalls, instead.
- **Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits.** Scammers are trying to get you to buy products that aren't proven to treat or prevent the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores. At this time, there also are no FDA-authorized home test kits for the Coronavirus. Visit the [FDA](#) to learn more.
- **Fact-check information.** Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified. Before you pass on any messages, contact trusted sources. Visit [What the U.S. Government is Doing](#) for links to federal, state and local government agencies.
- **Know who you're buying from.** [Online sellers](#) may claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning, household, and health and medical supplies when, in fact, they don't.
- **Don't respond to texts and emails about checks from the government.** Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer. If you have questions about the federal government's economic impact payment, go to [irs.gov/coronavirus](http://irs.gov/coronavirus).
- **Don't click links in unsolicited text messages.** Clicking could expose you to scams, download malware, or get your phone number added to lists that are then sold to other bad actors.
- **Don't click on links from sources you don't know.** They could download viruses onto your computer or device.
- **Watch for emails claiming to be from** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the

Coronavirus, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO).

- **Do your homework when it comes to donations**, whether through [charities](#) or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

Visit [ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://ftc.gov/coronavirus) for the FTC's most up-to-date information about Coronavirus scams.

## Census 2020 – local communities self-reporting rates

The Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories as of April 1, 2020. The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency.

United States  
**Census  
2020**

Self-Response Rate	4/29/20
Nation as a whole	54.6%
Minnesota	65.2%
Ramsey County	69.5%
Arden Hills	77.5%
Falcon Heights	78.4%
Little Canada	68.3%
North Oaks	78.1%
Shoreview	79.9%
Vadnais Heights	75.6%
White Bear Twp	81.5%

Forms were mailed to everyone in the U.S. in March providing people with the ability to self-report and be counted. Many in our communities took a few minutes of time to fill out their census form.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. Make certain you and your neighbors get counted!!

Make sure you have the latest and most accurate information about the 2020



Census. Visit [2020 Census Rumors](#) to fact-check and ask questions.

## 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 2020 events:

**Tuesday, October 6** – Night to Unite events in neighborhoods throughout the community

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



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Deputy Mike Servatka  
Crime Prevention Specialist  
651-266-7339

Randy Gustafson  
Crime Prevention Coordinator  
651-266-7315

email address: [CrimePrevention@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:CrimePrevention@co.ramsey.mn.us)

website: [www.RamseyCountySheriff.us](http://www.RamseyCountySheriff.us)

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