



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 – March 2022

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 22 – 6:30 pm

Ramsey County Public Works Building - Marsden Room
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills MN 55112
Near intersection of Highway 96 and Hamline

In this issue:

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- Barking Dogs
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In-person meeting – reserve Tuesday 3/22/22 on your calendar

The Crime Prevention team has reserved the Marsden Room at the Ramsey County Public Works building in Arden Hills for Tuesday, March 22, 2022 to host our Neighborhood Watch Block Captains quarterly meeting. It's been a long two years since we've held an in-person gathering to discuss public safety issues facing our neighborhoods. We look forward to seeing those able to attend, the meeting will start at 6:30 pm and will run until 8:00 pm. Masks will likely be required. If you're planning to attend, please send us an email: CrimePrevention@ramseycounty.us



Community Alert

CARJACKING & AUTO THEFT

Awareness & Prevention Tips

| Common Locations of Occurrence | Vulnerable Scenarios | Safety Tips |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Various locations have been more frequently targeted by carjackers and car thieves. Everyone should be extra vigilant at these locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Driveways • Parking Lots & Garages • ATMs • Gas Stations | <p>These scenarios have been regularly used by carjackers to create opportunities for thefts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unattended Running Vehicles • Bump & Run Involves a minor accident, a person from the other vehicle exits their vehicle and enters your vehicle, sometimes by force. • Stranded Motorist Do NOT Stop for stranded strangers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of your surroundings. • Park in well lit visible areas. • Keep doors locked and windows up. • Give yourself room to move in traffic. • Keep your cellphone on your person. • Do NOT leave keys in the ignition. • Do NOT leave spare keys or fobs in your vehicles when running or off. |
| <p>Please Use Extreme Caution Remain vigilant in and around your vehicles If you see something suspicious - DIAL 911 Immediately</p> | | <p>Ramsey County Sheriff's Office reach us 24/7 - call 911 www.RamseyCountySheriff.us</p> |

Preventing Motor Vehicle Thefts & Carjacking

One of the crimes that has caught the American public's attention in the past two decades is "CarJacking". Legally speaking, this is classified as Robbery (or Aggravated Robbery, if a weapon or threat of a weapon is used by a criminal against a victim), but it is often referred to by the public as "CarJacking".

Understanding CarJacking from a Criminal's Viewpoint

- Modern vehicles are often equipped with ignition systems requiring a coded key to start the engine. These vehicles are very difficult or impossible to "hot wire", and sometimes the only way to steal a vehicle (outside of towing) is to steal the ignition key from the vehicle's operator.
- Thieves, often traveling in groups and in a vehicle, will eye a vehicle they want. "Impulse shopping" at its very worst, they will approach a vehicle at a traffic signal, in heavy traffic, or when a vehicle operator is entering or exiting a vehicle and steal the vehicle. Often, these thieves use a weapon to secure control of the situation and take the vehicle.
- Gas stations and car washes are often the venue for a carjacking. Vehicle operators are distracted attending to their vehicle, and easily surprised by criminals.
- Criminals often watch ATM machines, especially drive up and drive through locations, and often at night. In many cases, criminals are able to rob victims of the cash they withdraw from the ATM as well as steal their vehicle.
- Shoppers loading packages into a vehicle are often targeted because they are distracted. A thief may escape with both the vehicle and the packages being loaded.

What YOU can do to help prevent from becoming a victim:

- **Parking:** Park your vehicle in a well-lit area, clearly visible to the public. An attended parking lot is ideal, as criminals hate having witnesses.
- **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.
- When in your vehicle and driving, keep your doors locked, and your windows rolled up.
- Drive in the center lane of a street (away from curbs and sidewalks).
- When stopping in traffic at a stop sign or stop signal, make sure you have room in front of you to maneuver and escape, if necessary. Rule of thumb: If you can't see the rear tires of the vehicle in front of you touching the pavement, you're too close.
- Keep your cell phone in your pocket. If your vehicle is stolen, you will have a way of contacting 911. If your cell phone is left inside the vehicle, you're stranded without a way to call for help.
- Keep your head on a swivel, and your eyes moving; be aware of your surroundings. Often, if a criminal senses that a victim has observed him ("made him"), they'll look for an easier victim.
- Be aware that some thieves will "bump" a vehicle from behind and steal a victim's vehicle when the victim stops to exchange information. Signal to the other vehicle's driver to follow you to a well-lit public area to exchange information. If you see a fire or police station, stop there, and summon aid from inside.

If you are a victim of Carjacking, cooperate with the suspect. Give him what he wants, and don't argue. Make a mental note of the suspect(s) description, their vehicle's description (if they have one), and report to 911 as soon as possible. Your safety, and your life, are far more important than a car.

Remember that YOU are an important partner in the fight against crime.

Animal Control Corner – Frequent Dog Related Questions

Animal control services are focused on domestic animal issues. Among the most frequent calls are reports of barking dogs and dogs running loose in the neighborhood. The Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officer takes a community-based approach with an emphasis on education and finding solutions that help make dogs and cats good neighbors. An enforcement approach is taken when public safety is at stake, such as a dog bite or dangerous animal is reported.

Dogs at large:

Here are some precautions you can take to prevent your furry friend from running away.

- Have your pet microchipped.
- Put dog on leash or harness indoors with house, garage, and vehicle doors closed.
- Always check yard gates are secure before letting dogs out.
- Be mindful that children and visitors may unintentionally leave doors and gates ajar.
- Spay or neuter your dog to curb drive to wander.
- Teach pet basic verbal commands, most importantly, teach her/him the commands "come" and "stay."
- Provide adequate exercise opportunities.
- Keep your pet safe from loud noises.



Barking dogs. Training and handling tips:

The longer your dog has been practicing the barking behavior, the longer it will take for them to develop other means of communication. *www.humanesociety.org

- Don't yell at your dog to be quiet—it just sounds like you're barking along with them.
- Keep your training sessions positive and upbeat.
- Be consistent so you don't confuse your dog. Everyone in your family must apply the training methods every time your dog barks inappropriately. Consistency is key.
- Remove the motivation--Your dog gets some kind of reward when they bark; figure out what they get out of barking and remove it.
- Ignore the barking (reward them for being quiet for just a few seconds, then work up to longer periods of quiet).
- Desensitize your dog to the stimulus--gradually get your dog accustomed to whatever is causing them to bark. You want your dog to learn that the appearance of the stimulus leads to good things (treats)!
- Teach your dog to react to barking stimuli with something that inhibits them from barking, such as lying down on their bed.
- Keep your dog tired, and well exercised.
- If unsuccessful, hire a certified professional dog trainer.



Report an animal control problem:

You can report an animal control problem by calling the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Services Division, non-emergency dispatch at 651-767-0640. If animal control services are not available, a deputy will respond to the call.

When reporting an animal control problem or concern, the following information is helpful:

- Your name and phone number.
- Location of the complaint.
- Description of the complaint.
- Description of the animal.
- Possible animal owner information.

National Consumer Protection Week – March 6-12, 2022

National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) 2022 is offering several virtual events. NCPW is a time when the FTC joins with local, state, and national partners to bring information and advice on scams, identity theft, and other consumer protection issues.

All week - Follow the FTC on social media for quick, shareable consumer tips all week long.

- Facebook: [Federal Trade Commission](#) Twitter: [@FTC](#), [@LaFTC](#)

Wednesday, March 9

- **12pm CST:** Join the FTC and the National Student Employment Association for a [webinar about college students and cryptocurrency scams](#). You'll learn the basics of cryptocurrency and common scams — and how they're affecting college students.

Thursday, March 10

- **12 pm CST:** Join the FTC, CFPB, and Diverse Elders Coalition for a [webinar about financial caregiving](#). You'll learn about free resources to help caregivers and older adults plan for financial caregiving. We'll also share information about how to spot, avoid, and report scams.
- **1 pm CST:** Join the FTC, SAGE, and AARP's Fraud Watch Network for a [webinar about how to recover from fraud](#). This interactive discussion will highlight possible ways to recover money lost to scammers, as well as how to cope with the emotional impact of scams and fraud.
- **6pm CST:** [Join a Facebook Live](#) with the FTC and the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Office of the Inspector General. You'll learn how to spot and avoid government impersonator scams. Please join and bring your questions!

For more information, and to get involved, check out ftc.gov/NCPW.

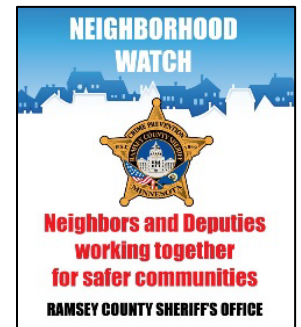


Neighborhood Watch is about Neighbors and Deputies working together

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, March 22 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

Tuesday, May 2 – 6:30 pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

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