



# Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

# Neighborhood Watch

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

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Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities

## Block Captain News – September 2021

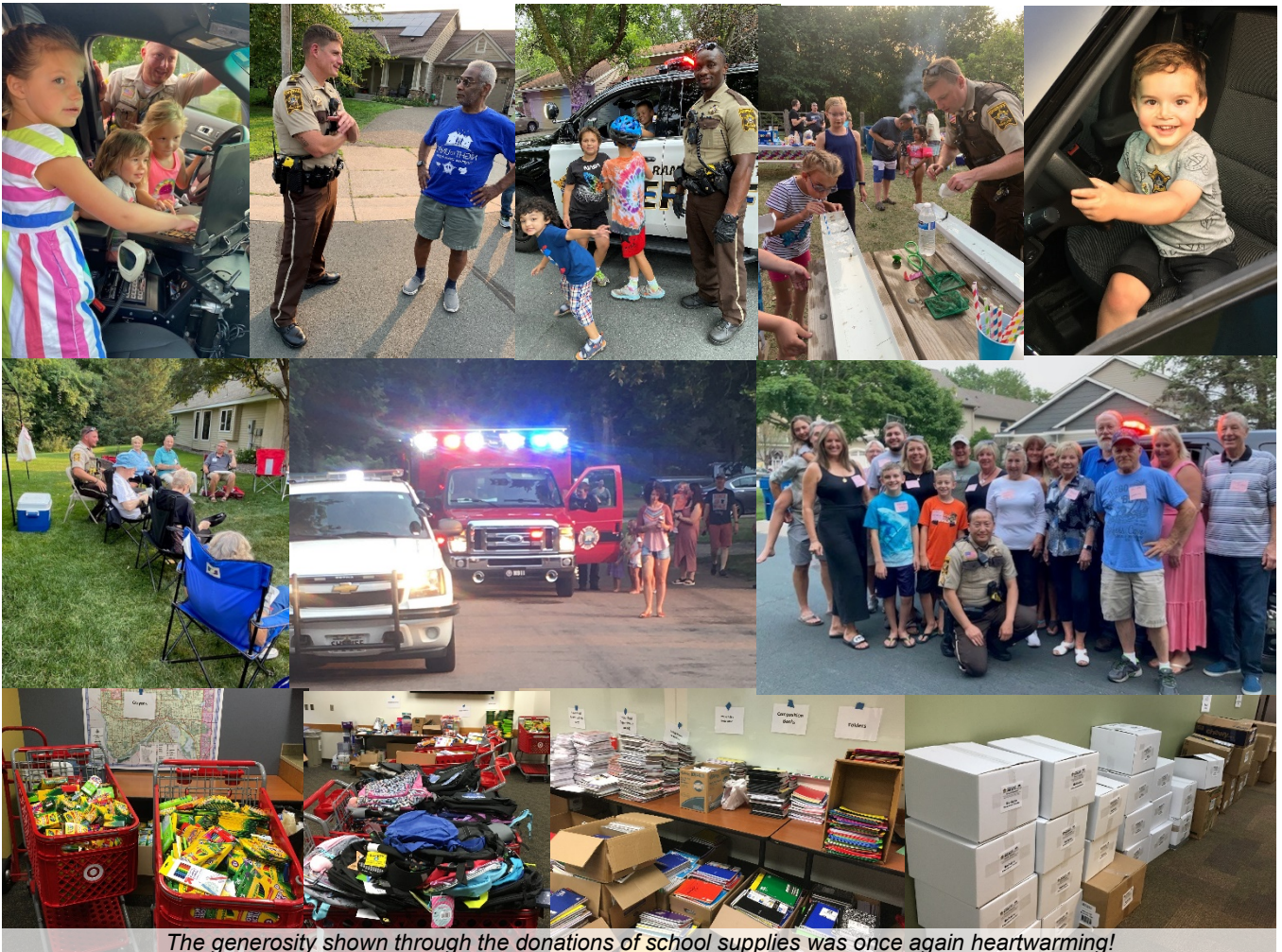
### Night to Unite 2021 – Thank You!

It was a great night of neighbors getting together to celebrate public safety and connecting with each other. Thank you, event hosts and organizers who made it happen! The 40 teams of Ambassadors who visited the 155 registered parties returned to the patrol station enthused about their adventures listening, learning, and sharing with residents.

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Share your thoughts on improvements at [www.SurveyMonkey.com/r/NTU-Survey2021](http://www.SurveyMonkey.com/r/NTU-Survey2021) and mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 2, 2022!



The generosity shown through the donations of school supplies was once again heartwarming!

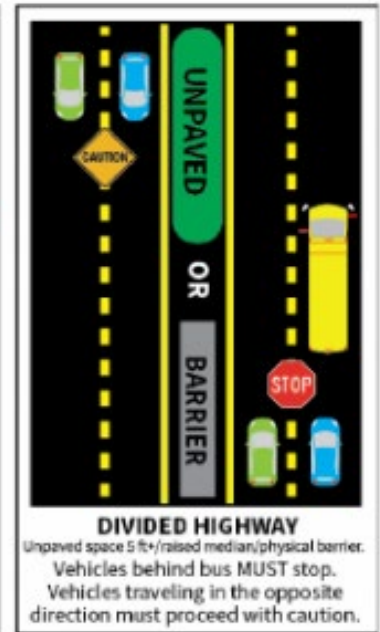
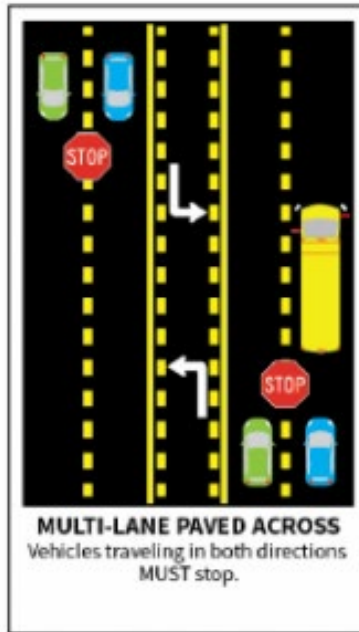
## School Bus Safety – something to think about every day!



It looks like the kids will be back in the classrooms this fall after experiencing disruptions these past two school years. Also, back will be children waiting on the side of our roads for those big yellow buses to pick them up and deliver them back home safely. Many students will also be walking and biking to and from school – let's help make those journeys safe too!

### School bus safety for motorists

- In Minnesota, motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights or a stop arm when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.
- Drivers who violate the law face a \$500 fine. Criminal charges are also possible.
- Motorists should slow down, pay attention and anticipate school children and buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones.
- The best way to be aware of your surroundings is to put the distractions away.
- School bus safety requires participation from students as well as drivers. Parents, it is important to educate your children about proper school bus safety.



### Tips for children



- When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- When crossing the street to get on the bus or to go home, make eye contact with motorists before proceeding.

The School Safety Patrol (crossings and buses) will be assisting fellow students throughout the year on the journey to and from school. Look for those bright orange traffic flags when driving in the morning and evening hours. The 900+ School Patrol students in suburban Ramsey County are recognized by the Sheriff's Foundation with a roller-skating party in December and a big event in May at Aldrich Arena.

**More discussion topics and resources for parents:** <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety>

For 2021 information from your school district regarding transportation options, bus passenger rules and parent responsibilities visit your district website:

- **Roseville ISD 623:** <https://www.isd623.org/our-district/district-services/transportation>
- **Mounds View ISD 621:** <https://www.moundsviewschools.org/Page/130>
- **White Bear Lake ISD 624:** <https://www.isd624.org/departments/transportation>

## Cops Don't Call for Cash – Phone Scam Awareness Program

On August 30, 2021 Hennepin County Sheriff David Hutchinson announced a new program dedicated to fighting a common type of phone scam: individuals posing as law enforcement agencies and demanding payment for a missed court date, jury duty, or other legal matter. Called “Cops Don’t Call for Cash” the program is focused on educating the public on the fact that law enforcement agencies will never contact individuals via phone or email to ask for any kind of payment.



“For years, criminals have been posing as law enforcement and demanding payment for some non-existent legal issue,” said Sheriff David Hutchinson. “These scams are often quite sophisticated and are designed to make people feel panicked. Fortunately, this is one of those issues for which education is really the answer. That’s why we gave this program the title Cops Don’t Call for Cash. Simply remember the name and you’ll be able to instantly spot a phone scam.”

In these types of phone scams, criminals tell the recipient that there is a warrant out for their arrest because they missed a federal court appearance and are in contempt. The phone scammers tell residents that they will be arrested unless they pay a fine. The scammers often encourage residents to purchase prepaid money transfer cards, such as MoneyPak or iTunes gift cards, call the scammer back, and read them the numbers on the cards. These scammers often have technology to make it appear that they are calling from a legitimate law enforcement agency phone number.

Law enforcement agencies will only contact individuals who owe a monetary fine via mail and will never contact individuals via phone or email to ask for any kind of payment. If individuals receive such a call, they should remember the phrase “Cops Don’t Call for Cash,” refuse to provide any personal information or make any payments to the caller.

Individuals should not rely on caller ID or recorded messages to verify the origin of a phone call. In some cases, phone scammers can use technology to appear as if they are calling from a legitimate law enforcement or government agency number. Scammers have also been known to create fraudulent recorded messages that identify their number as originating from law enforcement.

If you are uncertain about the identity of a caller, hang up the phone, locate the official phone number of the agency, and call the number directly.

The Cops Don’t Call for Cash Campaign will be using social media to get the word out and hopes to partner with law enforcement agencies nationwide to spread the word.

## Special instruction labels now offered 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.

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 Mike Servatka at the Patrol Station in Arden Hills.



## What to do if you were scammed

Scammers can be very convincing. They call, email, and send us text messages trying to get our money or our sensitive personal information — like our Social Security number or account numbers. And they're good at what they do. Here's what to do if you paid someone you think is a scammer.

### Did you pay with a credit card or debit card or an unauthorized transfer from your account?

Contact the company or bank that issued the credit card or debit card. Tell them it was a fraudulent charge. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back.

### Did you pay with a gift card?

Contact the company that issued the gift card. Tell them it was used in a scam and ask if they can refund your money. Keep the gift card itself, and the gift card receipt.

### Did you send a wire transfer through a company like Western Union or MoneyGram?

Contact the wire transfer company. Tell them it was a fraudulent transfer. Ask them to reverse the wire transfer and give you your money back.

### Did you send money through a money transfer app?

Report the fraudulent transaction to the company behind the money transfer app and ask if they can reverse the payment. If you linked the app to a credit card or debit card, report the fraud to your credit card company or bank. Ask if they can reverse the charge.

### Did you pay with cryptocurrency?

Contact the company you used to send the money and tell them it was a fraudulent transaction. Ask to have the transaction reversed, if possible.

### Did you send cash?

If you sent it by U.S. mail, contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 and ask them to intercept the package. To learn more about this process, visit [USPS Package Intercept: The Basics](#).

### Report a Scam to the FTC

When you report a scam, the FTC can use the information to build cases against scammers, spot trends, educate the public, and share data about what is happening in your community. If you were scammed, report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#). [What to do if you provided personal information \(link\)](#).

## 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!



Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



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