



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Neighborhood Watch

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

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 – September 2023

Next Block Captain Meeting – Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 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

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Walk and Bike Safety Education for K-8 students now required.

Effective August 1, 2023, the State of Minnesota mandated that all students in public schools must receive age-appropriate education related to safe walking and bicycling during the first few weeks of school. This legislation is like the law that requires students to receive bus safety education at the beginning of each school year. There's more in the legislation that required this training, but the most important highlights are:

- Students in grades K-3 must receive pedestrian safety education including crossing roads.
- Students in grades 4-8 must receive pedestrian safety education including crossing roads using the searching left-right-left for vehicles in traffic technique; as well as bicycle safety, including relevant traffic laws, use and proper fit of protective headgear, bicycle parts and safety features, and safe biking techniques.
- In most cases, students must receive this education by the end of the third week of school.
- Non-public schools may provide this education but are not required to do so.

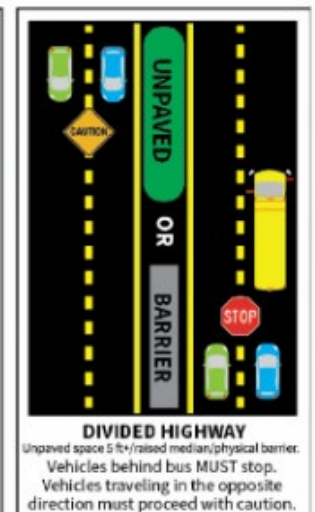
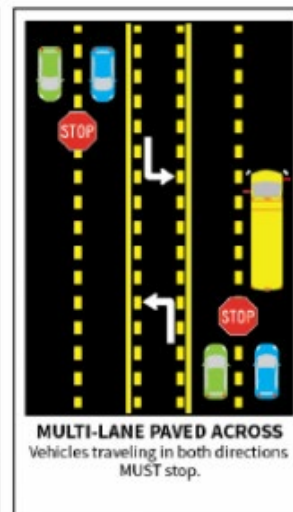
More information: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/at-safety-education.html>

School bus reminders 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.

More information:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/school-bus-safety>



THANK YOU Night to Unite event hosts!

Once again, the first Tuesday in August brought neighbors together to celebrate and promote safe communities. We at the Sheriff's Office thank the Fire Departments and City/Community resources that attended events and the great conversations our deputies and ambassadors had with residents.



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. [Complete the survey](#) or [drop us an email](#) with your thoughts and ideas (by Friday, September 29 please).

Mark your calendars for Night to Unite 2024 – Tuesday, August 6, 2024



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.

The Ready Campaign's 2023 National Preparedness Month theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3". The campaign will focus on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.

Learn more at: <https://www.ready.gov/september#2023>



Fire Prevention Week™ 2023 is October 8–14

This year's Fire Prevention Week™ campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™," works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safer when cooking. (trademark: National Fire Protection Association)

Learn more at: <https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week>

Make sure your donations count when weather disasters strike.

Throw a dart at a map of the U.S. and chances are you'll land on a community that suffered severe weather this year. Whether it's landslides on the West Coast, extreme ice storms in the South, spring tornadoes across the Midwest, recent flooding in the Northeast, or the wildfires consuming the Hawaiian island of Maui, communities have experienced

devastating losses — and many are still recovering. With any weather disaster, you may consider a charitable donation to help those affected. But how you can avoid charity scams?

First, know that when there's a natural disaster, scammers are quick to follow. Some research and planning before you donate will help make sure your money helps people in need, not charity scammers.

- **Donate to charities you know and trust** with a proven track record with dealing with disasters.
- **Research the organization yourself** — especially if the donation request comes on social media. Search the name plus "complaint," "review," "rating," or "scam." And check out the charity on the Better Business Bureau's (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, Charity Watch, or Candid. If the message was from a friend, ask them if they know the organization themselves. Find out exactly how much of every dollar you donate goes directly to the charity's beneficiaries.
- **Be cautious about giving to individuals on crowdfunding sites.** If you're considering it, giving to someone you personally know and trust is safest. Also, review the platform's policies and procedures. Some crowdfunding sites take measures to check out postings asking for help after a disaster. Others don't.
- **Don't donate to anyone who insists you can only pay by cash, gift card, wiring money, or cryptocurrency.** That's how scammers tell you to pay. If you decide to donate, pay by credit card, which gives you more protections.
- **Confirm the number before you text to donate.** Go straight to the charity. Is it their number?

To learn more, go to ftc.gov/charity. For advice to help you prepare for, deal with, and recover from severe weather and the scams that follow, visit ftc.gov/WeatherEmergencies



Prepare but be aware, Fall clean up can be a Nightmare!

Cities, county, and law enforcement receive many complaints during fall clean up that cause issues in our community. There are many things to remember when you start getting busy but first check with local city websites for proper fall cleanup and clean up days. Many of the cities have cleanup days to support community preparedness for the upcoming winter storms. Other important things to note:

DON'T

- Don't blow Leaves, dirt, clippings into the street or neighboring properties. Why? Drivers/pedestrians can get blinded by debris; clogs drains; impedes stormwater flow.
- Do not burn leaves in your yard.
- Do not throw them in the trash.
- Don't blow leaves at the crack of dawn or late at night due to local noise ordinances.
- When driving to compost sites, secure your load of flyaway items.
- Just because the sweeper is coming, doesn't mean they can pick up your leaves.



DO

- It's important to keep the drains clear before the ice dams appeared, both in the road and your gutters
- Know your local compost locations and hours. Ramsey County operates seven yard waste collection sites. All sites are free and open to Ramsey County residents.
 - <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/collection-sites/yard-waste>



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!

Online information of activity in your neighborhood – [CommunityCrimeMap.com](https://www.communitycrimemap.com)



Mark your calendars for 2023 events:

Tuesday, October 17 – 6:30pm – Captains Meeting, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills

Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!



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