



BIRCHWOOD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2023



SAFE TRICK-OR-TREATING

By Commander Tim Harris | Patrol Division

The beginning of October officially signifies that “spooky season” is here, and many youngsters have already started dreaming about their costume and a bottomless bucket of candy. Halloween is a time of fun and excitement, but it’s also essential to prioritize safety. Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car on Halloween than on any other day, with most child pedestrian accidents happening between 6 and 7pm. To help keep our young ghosts and goblins safe, consider these top tips for Halloween safety:

- Carry glow sticks or flashlights, use reflective tape or stickers on costumes and bags, and wear light colors to help kids see and be seen by drivers.
- A responsible adult should join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating.
- Drivers: Slow down and be alert! Excited kids may dart into the street. Turn on headlights early to spot kids from further away.
- Remind kids to cross the street at corners or crosswalks.
- Trick or treat only in well-lit, familiar areas and stick with friends.
- Don’t eat any treats until coming home to help avoid allergic reactions or identify unsafe treats.

Check out more [Halloween safety tips](#) to help your trick-or-treaters have the most fun, safely.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

12

TRAFFIC STOPS

2

WC23045324

MAIL THEFT

CEDAR STREET & HALL AVENUE

Just before 8am on Sept. 2, a deputy on patrol observed many mailboxes that had been left open. Mail was found throughout the city by multiple individuals. The addresses of the mail included Birchwood Village and White Bear Lake. Mail that was collected included envelopes, cards and a package, which was opened with a shirt still inside. All items were taken to the White Bear Lake Post Office. One homeowner reported having a Ring doorbell and agreed to review footage and send in any that may have captured the incident.



MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



Our first responders, from the people answering 911 calls to the EMS and deputies arriving on scene, often see their fellow community members during times of crisis and trauma. They help people get through the immediate challenges of accidents, medical events, violent incidents and natural disasters, and we salute their bravery as our first line of defense in so many crises. Additionally, the Washington County Emergency Management team, which is part of the Sheriff's Office, partners with local agencies, schools and community members to prepare for a variety of potential hazards year-round. But a sudden traumatic event can change the course of someone's life, whether they're ready for that change or not. That's why we've worked to get the word out about National Preparedness Month, which happens each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for sudden emergencies. This means having a safety plan, of course, but also a plan to reach family, to access important documents, and to get needed medications. There are many details to consider, which you can find at [Make A Plan | Ready.gov](https://www.fema.gov/make-a-plan) through FEMA.

We hope you'll take the time to create your own emergency plan to help get through any crisis – and we also hope that you'll never need to put that plan into action.

In service,

Sheriff Dan Starry