



BIRCHWOOD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2023



DEER VS. CAR COLLISIONS

Buckle up! The peak of white-tail deer mating season is in November, which for Minnesota drivers typically means it's also the peak month for deer-versus-car collisions. The good news is that the [Highway Loss Data Institute](#) reports the rate of November crashes over the past decade is lower in Minnesota compared to neighboring states, with the November 2022 rate the lowest in the past 10 years. Even so, as you're on the road this month, it's worth keeping in mind these tips from the [Humane Society of the United States](#):

- Be especially attentive during peak deer hours, two hours before sunset and two hours before sunrise.
- Remember that deer seldom run alone.
- Use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic.
- Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.
- Don't swerve to avoid a deer, as you could hit other motorists.
- Wear your seat belt at all times.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

10

TRAFFIC STOPS

6

WC23051827 TRESPASSING

2XXX CEDAR STREET

On Oct. 8 at around 8:30pm, deputies were called to a home that was supposed to be unoccupied, but appeared to be occupied by several juveniles with flashlights. Deputies arrived and saw a person at a sliding glass door and gave commands to come outside, but the person disappeared back inside. Deputies made several announcements and eventually entered the residence, when finally a door from the garage opened and three teens came inside. One of the teens reported they used to live at the home and was trying to gather belongings. Deputies advised the teens that not responding to police announcements was ill-advised, as was using flashlights instead of turning on lights in the house. The former resident was advised to call the non-emergency number to speak with law enforcement about proper procedure to enter if they needed to gather belongings. The teens left for the night. This was one of several calls regarding trespassing at this address.



MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



Recently, the Sheriff's Office took an evening to recognize the accomplishments and service of our employees — and of our citizens. I was honored to help present these awards that featured the recipients' amazing accounts of heroism, bravery, and dedication at the WCSO Recognition Ceremony on Oct. 26. Four Citizen Life Saving Awards were presented, including Kent Wohler, who followed 911 instructions to perform CPR on his wife. She made a full recovery and was able to attend the ceremony. Medals of Valor were awarded to Deputy Keith Land, for discovering and saving a couple unconscious from CO2 poisoning, and to Deputy Chris Majeski, who helped a truck driver escape from his burning vehicle seconds before an explosion that would have been fatal.

And Deputy Derek Schweich received a Life Saving Award for his efforts to revive a victim, whose parents were then able to donate his organs that saved five other people. Touchingly, the parents were able to be with us that evening.

While the names and awards are too many to list here, we thank all of these everyday heroes for their unflagging efforts. Watch the full ceremony [HERE](#) (presentation begins at 5 minutes).

In service,

Sheriff Dan Starry