



BIRCHWOOD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2023



CRYPTOCURRENCY AND SCAMS

What you need to know

by Detective Anthony Jaring

Scams, we've seen them all - from gift cards to lottery winnings, a family member in jail, or a warrant for your arrest, scammers will stop at nothing to get their hands on your money. In Washington County, our investigations unit has noticed a surge in cryptocurrency-related scams. Cryptocurrency, such as "Bitcoin," is a decentralized digital currency that utilizes cryptography for transactions, making it extremely difficult to track and recover funds lost to scams. Washington County victims are typically contacted by phone by individuals claiming to be investment managers or using other traditional scam tactics to request cryptocurrency transactions. Protect yourself and your information by being cautious when answering calls from unknown numbers, avoid giving out any personal information over the phone, and trusting your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

7

TRAFFIC STOPS

5

WC23006102

911 HANG-UP

14XX LAKE AVENUE

On February 12th at approximately 9:45pm, a deputy was dispatched to a 911 hang up. Upon arrival at the address on Lake Avenue, it was discovered that the number used to dial emergency services did not belong to anyone at the address, and there was no emergency. As the deputy was walking back to his squad car, he noticed young people in the area entering a vehicle. The deputy contacted the individuals in that vehicle and found that the number that dialed 911 did in fact belong to one of the passengers. The group indicated that there was no emergency and that it was an accidental emergency button press.



MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

February was a busy month at the Sheriff's Office, and I continue to be proud of the exceptional work carried out by our deputies, correctional officers, 911 telecommunicators, and support staff on a daily basis. They responded quickly to a homicide in Newport and worked together with the community and other law enforcement partners to identify and arrest the suspect in just 12 hours. Their professionalism and dedication to public safety continues to impress me.

In addition, we celebrated the graduation of three newly certified D.A.R.E. deputies, braved the icy waters and raised over \$6,000 in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, and rolled out 80 brand-new grant-funded AEDs to our entire patrol division.

We appreciate your continued support in our efforts to maintain public safety, and we wish you good health and safety in the upcoming month.

In service,

Sheriff Dan Starry