



BIRCHWOOD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2024



SCAM ALERT!

Washington County Sheriff's Office continues to receive many calls from people reporting scammers posing as deputies or detectives from our agency and others. While we can't say that citizens will never receive a call from law enforcement, the likelihood of this is generally low. Typically, real calls from law enforcement would relate to ongoing cases, or they may be aimed at gathering information about a specific matter, ensuring a certain level of context.

Remember that no law enforcement agency will contact citizens directly for payment related to outstanding warrants or court dates, back taxes owed to the IRS, requests for personal financial information or payments via methods like gift cards or prepaid cards, or any attempt to gather sensitive information like social security numbers. Phone scams continue to advance, including deceitful tactics such as "spoofed" phone numbers to appear legitimate and using real deputies' names. Anyone who suspects a fake call should hang up and contact the 911 communication center directly at 651-439-9381 to confirm whether an officer or deputy is in fact making the call. We hope you'll help get the word out!

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

9

TRAFFIC STOPS

3

WC24010874 SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

2XX CEDAR STREET

At 7:15am on March 1, a deputy on patrol responded to a report of a suspicious dirty red truck at a home known to be in foreclosure and the subject of many trespassing and vandalism calls over several months. While approaching the address, the deputy saw a truck matching the description driving the opposite direction. Given the description and that there was unspooled wire in the truck bed, the deputy initiated a traffic stop. The deputy was able to identify a passenger, who had an invalid driver's license and said they had been at the house to look for a friend and was unaware it was vacant. The driver provided a name but no ID, and the deputy was unable to verify the name or several others the driver provided. One name came up with a revoked license, so the deputy arrested the driver for false information and driving while revoked. A subsequent search of the truck yielded drug paraphernalia as well as a legitimate license with a photo of the driver. This resulted in discovering the driver had a warrant from Chisago County. The driver was arrested and taken to Washington County Jail.



MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



As you may have heard, law enforcement agencies across Washington County launched Crime Mapping in mid-March, giving the public a user-friendly web-based way to view information about recent crime activity in their neighborhoods. Crime mapping is a valuable tool for law enforcement and residents alike, as it helps to identify patterns and trends within an area. Crime mapping allows for easy access to data on incidents like arson, assault, burglary, disturbing the peace, drugs/alcohol violations, DUI, fraud, homicide, motor vehicle theft, robbery, theft/larceny, vandalism, vehicle break-in/theft, and weapons offenses. Date, time, location and case numbers are available for up to 180 days. For more information or to check out Washington County's new public-access platform, visit CrimeMapping.com. We're excited about this new tool and hope your citizens find it useful!

In service,

Sheriff Dan Starry