



# BIRCHWOOD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2024



## WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

While we may wish for a winter wonderland for the holidays, the inevitable appearance of snow and ice on our roads means we'll need to reacquaint ourselves with driving in these seasonal conditions. Here are some reminders, thanks to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

- Don't drive distracted. This applies to all seasons!
- Slow down to a safe speed for current conditions.
- Turn on your headlights, wear your seat belt and turn off the cruise control.
- Stay alert for snowplows, which turn or exit frequently and may travel over centerlines or partially in traffic to further improve road conditions.
- Stay back at least 10 car lengths behind snowplows. Don't drive into a snow cloud.
- Be patient and remember snowplows are working to improve road conditions for your trip.

Also, be sure to check with your community about winter parking restrictions, which generally prohibit parking on designated streets from October through May. No matter the weather, Washington County deputies will be out on your roads, helping to keep our communities safe.

NUMBER OF  
INCIDENTS

12

TRAFFIC  
STOPS

3

LOGGED  
AREA CHECKS

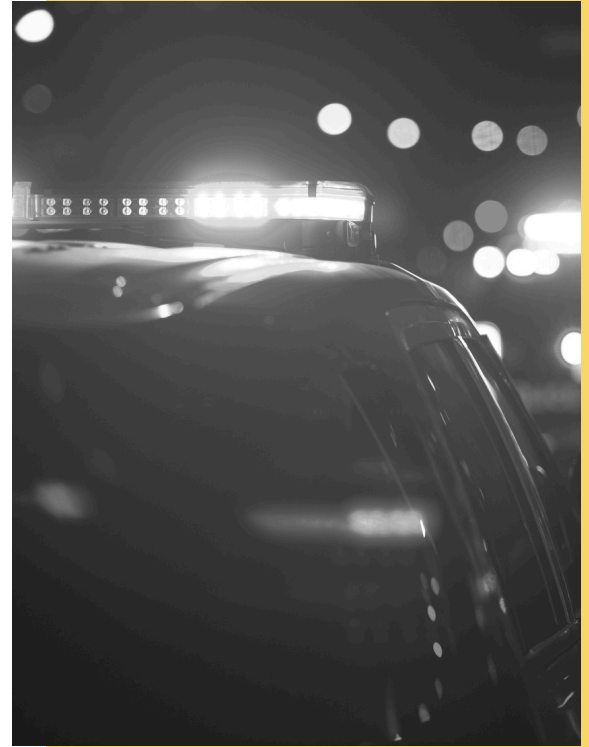
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## THEFT

2XX CEDAR STREET

At 6:40pm on Nov. 1, a deputy spoke with a Birchwood resident reporting the theft of a double-headed ax at a repair shop in Grant. The caller had dropped it off for sharpening, but upon returning to pick it up in the communal pick-up spot at the business, it wasn't there. The business had contacted the caller a week prior to say the ax, estimated to be valued at \$20, would be waiting in the pick-up spot, but the caller wasn't able to get there until Nov. 1. There are no cameras at the pick-up location and no known suspects. The caller understood the likelihood of recovery was low but wanted it documented.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



November may have passed by quickly, but it was filled with meaningful moments. On Nov. 9, we ushered in a new tradition of having Washington County Correctional Officers take an oath of public service before receiving their badge. COs commit to treating all people in their custody with respect, dignity and impartiality, and to be role models of decency and good conduct on behalf of the Sheriff and the citizens. We have a great new group of new COs who recently completed the Jail Academy. Congratulations to all!

On Nov. 11, we saluted the 53 veterans who serve as part of the Sheriff's Office team. From Patrol to 911 Communications to the Jail, they served their country, and they are still serving their community today. We thank them and all veterans for protecting our country and our freedom.

Finally, in late November, heavy equipment arrived and construction officially began on Washington County's new Emergency Housing Services Building, located on the southeast corner of the Government Center campus. This spot was chosen for its proximity to essential services that will support county residents in working toward permanent housing. We can watch the progress from our windows! Public parking will remain open during construction.

In service,

Sheriff Dan Starry