



ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF BRAD WISE

FRIDAY UPDATE: 01.12.24

Scams

01.10 I am sure this is one of the first AI scam patterns we are going to see. The victim told me that he was contacted by a random phone number on Whatsapp on his phone. The number (530-545-6752) demanded that he send \$7,000.00 or else they would photoshop his image in inappropriate ways and send them to his family and friends. He knew this was a scam and blocked the number. He was then contacted through Facebook by one of his friends. His friend had claimed to receive and inappropriate photo of him and asked him what was happening. He advised him of the scam. His "friend" then told him to call this random number, claiming the number (360-522-4517) belonged to a random police officer. He called the number and spoke to a man who did not identify himself with any agency and did not provide a name. He said the conversation made him uneasy and that the man did not sound like a police officer and he hung up. The victim later learned that these scammers had made a fake Facebook account of his friend, attempting to pursued the victim to send them money and also posed as the police officer. He has not had any inappropriate photos of himself sent to his actual family and friends. I asked him if he had any fraudulent activity on his bank account. He said that he is too scared to look. I advised him that he needs to check for fraudulent activity and immediately notify his bank and law enforcement if there is any. I advised him to block the phone number and delete Whatsapp (or at least change the password). I told him to inform his family and friends of the scam. I advised him to call with any other suspicious activity so it could be documented.

01.10 The victim said she received a voicemail on 1/9/24 from someone impersonating Sgt. Woitel – real ACSO employee. The voicemail said she was in contempt of court for failing to appear in federal court and that the matter was urgent. She called the number back later in the day but no one answered. On 1/10/24 she received a phone call from someone impersonating Woitel who explained in detail about how she missed a court date and she could handle it two ways. The first being as a civil matter (pay a fine of \$4,750) for each count or it would become a criminal matter. For the criminal matter she was handed off to someone impersonating Lt. Schilling – a real ACSO Employee. The person went on to say that she would be taken into custody for the violation if she didn't follow the civil route to handle this. She was told to get the amount in cash and to bring it to kiosk at Cub Foods so the funds could be converted into Bitcoin. Once Bitcoin was brought up the victim began to think this was an elaborate scam and didn't go any further with the transaction. The victim lives in Golden Valley and went to their police department to make a report. Golden Valley told her that she should report it to us since names of real employees were used.

Andover

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.08 14xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – theft of purse from an unlocked vehicle dropping off at daycare

01.11 9xx Andover Blvd NW – damage to mailbox

Arrests

01.06 Crosstown/135 Ave NW – DWI 4h degree; a caller requested a deputy check on a male in a vehicle that was parked on the shoulder with his hazards on. The deputy arrived and located a male who said he messed up his car by hitting a curb. The male appeared impaired. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. He stated he had nothing to drink, however he blew a .12. He was arrested.

01.07 Bunker Lake/Hanson Blvd NW – No Driver's License or Insurance; a deputy ran a plate and the registered owner came back without a license. He stopped the driver and his identity was confirmed. He was arrested.

01.07 237 Ave/Johnson St NE – DWI 4th degree - 11:15 pm – a deputy stopped a driver for speeding 56/35. When identifying the driver, her license had a no alcohol consumption limitation. She appeared to have had a drink. Being it was icy, field sobriety tests weren't safe to conduct but the driver PBT'd .11. She was arrested.

Bethel

No incidents that would be reflected in this report were reported in Bethel this week.

Columbus

Arrests

01.08 152xx Zurich St NE – Warrant Arrest; a deputy learned a male was at the location and he had a felony warrant out of Washington County. He went to the location and the male was located and arrested.

East Bethel

Arrests

01.06 9xx 189 Ave NE – Assault x2; deputies were called to two juvenile females out of control attempting to assault staff. When they arrived, the juveniles were handcuffed. After investigating, both were arrested.

Ham Lake

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.06 138xx Johnson St NE – theft of scrap metal from a business; suspect identified

01.09 45xx Constance Blvd NE - theft of purse from an unlocked vehicle dropping off at daycare

01.10 45xx Constance Blvd NE - theft of CC, cash, driver's license from an unlocked vehicle dropping off at daycare - \$2K was withdrawn from bank account in Maple Grove

Arrests

01.06 21xx153 Ave NE – DWI 4th degree – 9:20 pm; deputies responded to a rollover crash. When they arrived they observed a male crawling in the grassy area and he was also the driver. He appeared impaired. Due to injuries, he was taken to the hospital and a warrant for blood was obtained. Charges are pending the return of the blood kit.

01.11 6000 Block Bunker Blvd NW – Warrant Arrest; a deputy observed a vehicle traveling without headlights and stopped it. The driver did not have a license or insurance, he had a warrant. There were children in the vehicle so the mother was contacted and picked up the kids and the father was arrested.

Linwood

Thefts & Damage to Property

01.06 98xx 205 Ave NE – multiple stolen amazon packages found in area; victims notified

Nowthen

Arrests

01.05 224xx St Francis Blvd NW – Warrant Arrest; Wright County requested we go to the location and arrested a juvenile male with a warrant and transport him to the Regional Juvenile Center. He was located and arrested.

01.06 185xx Yakima St NW – Domestic; deputies responded to a boyfriend/girlfriend domestic. When they arrived, the boyfriend was walking away from the location. After investigating, he was arrested.

Oak Grove

Arrests

01.05 20500 Block Rum River Blvd NW – Drugs; a deputy stopped a vehicle for having expired tabs. He identified the driver and passenger, neither had a valid driver's license. The vehicle was searched prior to towing and meth was found. The suspects were searched – the female claimed to be having a panic attack while being searched so Allina was called to check her out and she was fine - and both had drugs on them. Multiple catalytic converters and torch heads were also found in the vehicle. Both were arrested.

01.08 22xxx Lake George Blvd NW – Domestic Assault – deputies responded to a report of a juvenile assaulting a step-parent. The juvenile had fled the home but was located in St. Francis and arrested.

01.09 Quapaw/Viking Blvd NW – Drugs; a deputy saw a male driving who had been stopped by Centennial Lakes PD earlier that day and told not to drive because he did not have a driver's license. The deputy stopped the male. While speaking with him, the deputy observed a batman themed bindle baggie which is known to be used for drugs. While searching the male prior to being put in the squad, meth was located on him too. He was arrested.

01.10 44xx 214 Ave NW – Assist Another Agency; the MN BCA requested we go to the location and arrest a male with a warrant. Deputies located the male and he was taken into custody.

****Information shared in this report covers crimes that may affect you - things like burglaries, thefts, damage to property, identity theft, etc. We only include a fraction of the calls that deputies regularly respond to.***

If you want to see data about what types of calls and how many we respond to log on to www.anokacounty.us/crimewatch and click on Crime Statistics on the left side. Stats are updated monthly.