



## **ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF BRAD WISE**

**FRIDAY UPDATE: 02.02.24**

### **Scams**

01.26 The victim was selling a dresser on FB Marketplace. She was messaging an individual with the FB name of Sandra Johnson. The victim said she made a deal with Johnson to sell her the dresser. Johnson was to Venmo her the money. The victim said that Johnson claimed her Venmo account was a business account and could not send a small increment of money of \$75 so she said she would send her \$375 with her then sending \$300 back. The victim was contacted by Johnson who said she sent an additional \$300 because the first \$300 did not go through and Johnson was wanting money returned. The victim noticed a \$300 transaction on her Venmo that she said she did not authorize.

01.31 The victim stated she purchased a chair for \$95 on Facebook Marketplace on Monday and it was supposed to be delivered yesterday and never showed up. She stated that she realized she was scammed when she looked up the address the seller gave, and it came back to a storage place. She said that the seller said they were from Better Bargain Minnesota. I tried to look up the business but was not able to locate one. She said she used Google Pay and notified her bank of the transaction.

01.31 The victim stated on 1/11/2024 she saw a post on Facebook from a "Ginney Anderson" who was selling 4 Morgan Wallen tickets. She agreed to purchase the tickets for \$800.00. The suspect told her that she had to Venmo her "partner" "Micheal Kessler" the money. The victim did send the money however, the next day the suspect told the victim that he isn't sending the tickets or giving her a refund. She realized that she got scammed.

02.01 The victim advised that on Monday, he received a text from a company called Adjuvant Partners LLC telling him that they liked his resume and wanted to set up an interview for a position. An interview was setup later that day and was conducted over Microsoft Teams and was a text only interview with no phone call or video. On Tuesday, the victim received a check for \$2100 via email from careers@adjuvantpartner.info (no s after partner unlike other email) and advised the victim that the money was for equipment purchases and instructed him to buy apple and visa gift cards with the money. He sent pictures of receipts and gift cards back to the email address. Later on the same day, the company then sent him a check via email for \$1500 and advised that the money was to be used for computer software. He then purchased apple gift cards and again sent pictures of the receipts and cards back to the email. On 02-01-24 at 0700hrs, he reached out to the company via the email address he received, and they explained that they had to start the background process with them. He provided basic information and provided his DL to them, but stopped when they started to ask for SSN number information. He then located the number for Adjuvant Partners LLC online (which is a real company) and found out through them that scammers were using their company to scam people as they were not involved. He then notified his bank, who informed him that the checks that were deposited were not going to clear, and the loss was \$3600.

02.01 The victim sold a chair on craigslist for \$950. A person agreed to purchase the chair and mailed the caller a check for \$2,950. This person instructed the caller to put the check in her account

and then go to a money machine in Forest Lake where he would give her instructions on what to do. The call has not gone to this money machine yet. I advised the caller that this is a scam and that check will not clear the bank.

02.01 I spoke with the victim who was scammed out of \$12,000 through a Bitcoin transaction. He stated that on 01/30/2024 he received a pop-up message on his computer from Microsoft reporting that his computer was frozen and to call 877.592.0759. He called the number and spoke to a male named Eddie Wilson of the fraud department at Microsoft. Eddie told him there would be an investigation as to how his computer was hacked and connects the victim with Mr. Alex from the Wells Fargo fraud department. Mr. Alex advised the victim that his business and personal accounts have been compromised so he needed to withdraw all the money in each account and protect it in a "Federal Reserve Bitcoin". The victim then withdraws his money and deposits the money at a Bitcoin Depot located in Blaine. The victim was given a QR code to scan from Mr. Alex which then transfers the money to an electronic wallet with Bitcoin. Total loss was \$12,000.

02.01 The victim received two phone calls from two different males stating they were deputies with Anoka County Sheriff's Office and they were calling to notify him that he failed to show up for jury duty and now has a warrant out for his arrest. The victim agreed to settle the warrant and paid a fine over the phone which was \$175 per citation, and he had two. He explained he now lives in California but used to live in Anoka County so he thought it was possible he could have missed being subpoenaed to jury duty. I informed him if something ever sounds suspicious, he can always call the law enforcement agency himself and request to speak with a licensed peace officer for confirmation.

## **Andover**

### **Thefts & Damage to Property**

01.27 17xx 148 Lane NW – multiple tires slashed, vehicles vandalized in the area; suspect arrested

01.31 22xx 133 Lane NW – theft of mail; credit card that was stolen is being used

### **Arrests**

01.27 17xx 148 Lane NW – 1<sup>st</sup> degree Damage to Property; residents reported a male slashing multiple tires and vandalizing vehicles. He was also yelling he was going to kill the police. Multiple deputies searched the area and followed evidence that led them to a home nearby. The deputies were let inside, and the home was searched. The suspect was found hiding in a crawl space and arrested.

01.28 14xxx 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NW – Disorderly Conduct; deputies responded to a domestic involving a former ex playing music to loud inside the home while a child was trying to sleep (3:12 am). The situation escalated and the ex was arrested.

01.27 152xx Bluebird St NW – Assault; deputies responded to a call of a fight between a customer and employee over a car wash. The two males started fighting and a gun fell to the floor. The male's wife picked up the gun and the two left the store. They were located and pulled over. After hearing both sides of the story, the male was issued a citation for 5<sup>th</sup> degree assault.

01.29 23800 Block Bunker Lake Blvd NW – Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver because she was on her cell phone. The driver was identified and she had a warrant. She was arrested.

## **Bethel**

### **Arrests**

01.30 237xx Cooper Ave NW – Warrant Arrest; a deputy learned there was a male at the location with a warrant. He went to the home and was invited in by the homeowner. The male was located and arrested.

## **Columbus**

### **Thefts & Damage to Property**

01.26 8762 165 Ave NE – spraypainted graffiti at the park; two suspects caught (24yo M, 22yo F)

### **Arrests**

01.27 94xx Lake Dr NE – DWI 4<sup>th</sup> degree – 1:20 am – a deputy stopped a driver because as he was going around the round-about, he was hitting the curbs. The driver appeared impaired and stated he had a couple beers. Field sobriety tests were failed and he was arrested. .148

## **East Bethel**

### **Arrests**

01.26 1xxx 231 Lane NE – Assault; deputies responded to a physical altercation between roommates. One male fled the scene. After investigating, an attempt to locate and arrests was put out.

01.27 22xxx Hwy 65 NE – Domestic; deputies responded to an open line 911 call. When they arrived there was a physical altercation between a boyfriend/girlfriend occurring. After investigating, the boyfriend was arrested.

01.29 204xx Hwy 65 NE – Drugs/Theft; a deputy stopped a vehicle for being suspicious. There have been business thefts in the area and we were conducting extra patrol. The male's story of what he was doing did not make sense. He agreed to have his vehicle searched and stolen items were located. Prior to searching the male before putting him in the squad, meth was found.

01.30 181xx Hwy 65 NE – Assault; deputies responded to a roommate physical altercation involving two females. One was arrested.

## **Ham Lake**

### **Thefts & Damage to Property**

01.26 23xx 154 Lane NE – a meter stolen off a new construction home

01.29 175xx Hwy 65 NE – wheels and tires stolen off a vehicle overnight

01.31 35xx Woodland Dr NE – theft of a truck from the driveway; unknown about keys

### **Arrests**

01.26 70xx Birchview Lane NE – Warrant Arrest; a deputy learned a male with a warrant was at the location. He arrived, located the male, and he was arrested.

01.28 Hwy 65/Andover Blvd NE – DWI 2<sup>nd</sup> degree; a deputy stopped out with a vehicle because it was parked halfway in the right-turn lane and not moving. Due to the dense fog, the deputy thought there may be a problem. When he made contact with the driver, he was slumped over the wheel. He appeared impaired and eventually woke-up. The deputy told him to turn off the vehicle. The driver refused to participate in field sobriety tests. Three open alcohol bottles were located in the vehicle. A warrant for blood was obtained and he was arrested. Charges were elevated due to a prior DWI.

01.29 50xx Ivy Lane NE – Assault; deputies responded to a landlord/tenant physical altercation. One male was arrested.

## **Linwood**

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

## **Nowthen**

### **Thefts & Damage to Property**

01.28 91xx 205 Ave NW – multiple garbage cans hit in the area by a vehicle

01.30 199xx Iguana St NW – lock cut on storage unit; multiple tools, generators stolen

## **Oak Grove**

### **Arrests**

01.26 221 Ave/Nightingale St NW – Traffic/Drugs; a deputy stopped a driver because he knew he did not have a driver's license. While searching the male prior to arrest, drugs were also found. He was arrested.

01.28 228xx Lake George Blvd NW – Trespassing; a male was on the property and he had previously been issued a trespass notice. This time he was arrested.

01.30 University/229 Ave NE - DWI 3<sup>rd</sup> degree – 12:09 am – a deputy was dispatched to a vehicle on fire in a wooded area. When he arrived, the vehicle was engulfed, and he met the driver who stated he almost hit a deer. He appeared impaired and was traveling in the wrong direction according to the story he told deputies. Field sobriety tests were failed, and he was arrested. .181

02.01 2xxx 200 Ave NW – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a call of a physical domestic between family members. One male was arrested.

***\*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](http://www.anokacounty.us/crimewatch) and click on Crime Statistics on the left side. Stats are updated monthly.***