



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

**FRIDAY UPDATE: 08.25.23**

### **Scams**

08.18 The victim stated that he has been harassed in an attempt to extort him. He said he had been talking with a female online and they eventually exchanged nude photos. Today, an unknown person has been threatening to share his photos on social media if he didn't pay \$500. He stated that he didn't send any money so he's not out a loss. He was advised to not cave to the scam and just to stop responding to the messages and block the number.

08.18 The victim said a random screen appeared on his computer advising him to call Apple tech support. He looked up the number and called. The male he was speaking to was telling him to go to his credit union and transfer \$25,000 into a private bank account. He arrived at the bank and advised bank staff about the fraud. The bank staff told him to call us. He froze all his bank accounts. He lost no money during the incident.

08.18 The victim reported being blackmailed on Instagram. He stated that someone with the username of "amanda\_hidrogo20" added him and started direct messaging him. The user of the account sent him some pictures he recognized as nude pictures of himself. The user then demanded \$300 from him or they would send those pictures to his followers. He stated the photos were from when he was either 19 or 20 years old. He sent \$20 to the Venmo account "kaylind5" to see what happened. They then demanded \$600 instead of the original \$300. At that point, the victim stated he blocked the person on all accounts and decided to call law enforcement. He did not wish to pursue any criminal charges and was not concerned about the \$20 which was lost.

08.18 The victim was scammed on Snapchat. He told me he had been messaging a girl on Snapchat, who asked for inappropriate pictures of him. He sent the pictures. The account user then threatened to leak the photos to his Instagram followers if he did not send money. He sent a small amount of money and then told his mom about it. I told him this is a common scam and to stop all communication. I told him it is unlikely for a random girl on the internet to start messaging him, and it was most likely a boy in a different country trying to scam him. He said he understood and would stop communication.

08.21 The victim advised she has sent 22 gift cards worth up to \$540 to a male that she has been talking to for a couple weeks. I could partially identify the male. She showed me an abundance of messages between the two that had both personal topics along with the suspect attempting to get money. The victim stated it started by a scam email getting sent to her that had a fake check worth \$2,000. I advised her to block the suspect.

08.21 The victim's daughter advised 'Publisher Clearing House' contacted her mother telling her she won a contest. 'Publisher Clearing House' stated they would be showing up at her home to award her a check. Before the individuals would show up at the residence, they told her to get a American Express gift card. The individuals stated they would pick up the gift card at her home. She stated she

did not tell them her address but was worried that they would show up. She was assured that it was unlikely they would show up, but to call if she noticed any suspicious activity. The victim was advised to ignore the number if it called back.

08.22 The victim stated he was scammed out of \$800 on Instagram. He stated that he responded to an Instagram about painting a photo and he was sent two \$1000.00 checks to his email address. He deposited one of the checks and thought it went through so he sent the unknown scammer \$800 through Apple cash. He then realized the \$1,000 check did not clear. He also advised that he received phone calls and emails that were threatening in nature if he did not send more money. He deleted all the emails and phone numbers except for one from 650-250-2475. In checking that phone number, it is no longer valid. I advised him to check with his bank and Apple cash to see if there is anything they can assist him with.

08.23 The victim has sent approximately \$40,000 to someone that he met online. The person scammed him into believing that they needed the money to help them gain access to other money which they would then give him back more than he gave them. He sent this person money over Cashapp after they reached out to him on Google Chat and asked for help with their situation. Over the last three months he has sent payments of up to \$2000 dollars at a time to a person with the phone number 530-236-3305 who goes by the name Issabella. This person said they live in California. The victim told me that he just wanted to report the incident to law enforcement in case when he followed up with Cashapp and the bank, they told him that he had to contact law enforcement first.

## **Andover**

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

08.20 141xx Orchid St NW – unlocked vehicle parked on the street was rummaged through

08.21 152xx Hanson Blvd NW – an unsecured bike stolen from the Y

### **Arrests**

08.19 Round Lake/South Coon Creed – DWI Refusal; a driver was stopped for speeding 75/45. The deputy asked the driver why he was going so fast and he said he was "fxxxxx up." The male appeared impaired. The driver refused to do field sobriety tests; he said there was "no point" and to just take him to jail. He was arrested.

08.20 136xx Crosstown Blvd NW – No Contact Order Violation; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. When he identified the driver, the deputy learned he had a No Contact order against him. When the deputy asked the female her name, she lied. It was determined after investigating the female was the one he had the no contact against. He was arrested for that, she was arrested for lying about her identity.

## **Bethel**

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

## **Columbus**

### **Arrests**

08.19 152xx Zurich St NE – Obstructing Legal Process; the business called deputies because a male patron they asked to leave earlier returned and was refusing to leave. Deputies arrived and he was arrested.

## **East Bethel**

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

08.20 6xx 217 Ave NE – suspicious activity; 2 males caught on Ring using the homeowner’s hose to wash out the back of the vehicle while the homeowner was gone

08.21 17xx Viking Blvd NE – vandalism; wires cut on excavator’s at the business

### **Arrests**

08.19 Viking/5<sup>th</sup> St NE – Driving Offense; a deputy stopped a driver because the tint on his vehicle was too dark. The deputy smelled alcohol. It turns out the driver wasn’t impaired but he did have a liquor restriction on his driver’s license from the state of MN stating he cannot drive after consuming alcohol. He was arrested.

## **Ham Lake**

### **Arrests**

08.18 7xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – DWI Refusal; deputies responded to a call of a male that crashed a golf cart. The male kept walking away from employees. Deputies made contact with the male who was confused and didn’t seem to know what happened. He smelled like alcohol and stated he was driving the golf cart and had fallen out at some point. He refused to take any sobriety tests. He was arrested and a warrant for blood was obtained.

08.21 167 Ave/Lexington Ave NE – Driving After Cancellation; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a license plate. The driver’s license was cancelled. He was arrested.

08.24 153xx Fillmore St NE – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a mother/son physical fight. The son was arrested.

## **Linwood**

### **Arrests**

08.18 Fawn Kale/Lyons St NE – Warrant Arrest; a deputy ran a plate and the registered owner had an extraditable warrant to WI. He stopped the vehicle and the male’s identify was confirmed. The male originally disregarded requests to step out of the vehicle. The deputy said to step out or you will be taken out and have an additional charge of obstruction. The male cooperated.

08.18 22400 Block Martin Lake Rd NE – Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver for poor driving conduct. The driver was identified, and the deputy knew the passenger. He also knew the passenger had a warrant. He was asked to step out of the vehicle. He was arrested.

## **Nowthen**

### **Arrests**

08.19 55xx Viking Blvd NW – Drugs; a deputy observed a male driving and knew he did not have a driver’s license. He stopped the vehicle. The deputy asked the driver if he knew he was suspended and he said yes. While searching the vehicle prior to towing it, meth was found. He was arrested.

## **Oak Grove**

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

08.18 191xx Lake George Blvd NW – bike stolen from yard

08.21 34xx 194 Lane NW – lock cut on gate, items stolen from storage unit

08.24 227xx Cedar Dr NW – motorcycle stolen from an unsecured shed

*\*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.*