



ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF JAMES STUART

FRIDAY UPDATE: 05.20.22

Scams

05.13 The victim received a suspicious text and email from a number listed as Google voice, 734-519-0968. The message said, "Hey, ### let me know if you get my text? Can't talk now but need you to go do an urgent task. I need you to go to Walmart and get gift cards." The person sending the text said they were the victim's boss. The victim confirmed with his boss that he was not the person sending the text. The victim said this was a fraud and did not give any personal information or get the gift cards.

05.17 The victim received a phone call from 612-389-9865 the unknown person said they were a police officer and told him his daughter had just been involved in a car crash near Walmart. The victim asked if it was the Blaine Walmart, and the caller said yes the Blaine Walmart. He said the caller said his daughter was okay but she was very emotional and needed him to come to the location. The victim said the caller put a female on the phone who was crying and saying I am sorry Dad, I am so sorry. The victim said the female was crying and he thought it was his daughter. The male caller got back on the phone and said he would stay on the phone with him in case his daughter needed him. The victim told the caller he was on the way. At some point, the caller told the victim this was not a car crash this was a kidnapping. The caller told him that his daughter would end up dead in the trunk of a stolen car if he hung up the phone or if he did not follow instructions. The caller told the victim that he needed to get \$1000 cash and come to Walmart. He remained on the line and did not hang up. He had to drive home and get \$1,000 cash. Once he had the cash he drove to Walmart in Blaine. Upon arriving he was still on the phone with the caller. The caller told the victim to go inside and use Money Gram. The MoneyGram was to be sent to Mexico to a Juan Manuel Zermenio Hernandez. The victim followed the instructions and sent the money. He kept the receipt and then asked what was next as he believed his daughter was still kidnapped. The caller told the victim he would meet him in the parking lot of Walmart but then said Walmart was too busy, so he needed to go to a restaurant nearby. The victim followed the instructions given by the caller. Upon arriving at the secondary location, the caller told him to rip up the receipt and put it into the trash. The victim quickly took a picture of the receipt before following the instructions and throwing it away. The caller then told him they would hang up and he was to call his daughter and she would tell him where she was. As soon as the caller hung up the victim called his daughter who was oblivious to the situation. She was currently shopping; she was not in a crash, and she was not kidnaped. He knew he had been the victim of a scam.

05.19 I was dispatched to a phone call regarding suspicious texts messages that involved threats. I made contact with the reporting party and he described that he received 8 text messages from the number +1 (737) 249-6667 stating he was to pay for escort services or they would send people to his house to kill him and his family. The victim denied knowing of this phone number prior to these messages and denied using any escort services. The victim wished to just file a report for this incident. He also stated he did reply back 5 times with the context of asking who it was, he had no idea about escort services, and that he was contacting the police. I advised him to block the number and report any suspicious activity at his home or place of work.

Andover

Thefts & Damage to Property

05.13 24xx 154 Ave NW – sign stolen from yard; caught on home security video
05.15 147xx Bluebird St NW – arson; porta-potty set on fire at the park

Arrests

05.14 18xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – Shoplifting; deputies responded to a call of a male fleeing a store with stolen merchandise. The male was located across Bunker in a parking lot getting into a vehicle. The male was removed from the vehicle and arrested.

05.16 17200 Block Hanson Blvd NW – 3rd degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding 97/55. When the deputy made contact, the driver appeared impaired. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The driver stated he had two drinks. He was arrested. .27

05.16 Verdin/161 Ave NW – Drugs; a deputy stopped a vehicle for being suspicious. When he made contact with the occupants, their stories of what was happening did not match. The vehicle was searched and paraphernalia and fentanyl were located. One male was arrested.

05.17 21xx Andover Blvd NW – Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle; deputies responded to a family domestic call involving a mother and a son. The son took a vehicle and fled. He was located and brought back to the scene. After investigating, he was arrested.

05.19 18xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – Warrant Arrest; a caller reported two suspicious people in a vehicle, possibly doing drugs. The deputy arrived. The male in the vehicle lied about his identity. When the deputy figured out who he was, he had a felony warrant. He was arrested.

05.19 18xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – Narcotics; a person reported a female in a vehicle doing drugs in the parking lot. A deputy arrived and made contact with the female who had a straw, piece of tinfoil, and heroin in her hand. She was arrested.

05.19 139xx Yukon St NW – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a call of a physical assault occurring. When they arrived, they located a male who had abused an immobile female in the home. He was arrested.

Bethel

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

Columbus

Thefts & Damage to Property

05.17 140xx W Free Dr NE – 3 catalytic converters cut off RVs parked at the business

East Bethel

Thefts & Damage to Property

05.14 12xx 185 Ave NE – gas siphoned from vehicle

Arrests

05.15 243xx Hwy 65 NE – 3rd degree DWI; a deputy received a call of a possible drunk driver. He located the vehicle and observed poor driving conduct and stopped the driver. The driver appeared impaired and failed field sobriety tests. He was arrested. .175

05.15 16xx Viking Blvd NW – DWI Refusal; a deputy was dispatched to a property damage crash. When he arrived, the driver was out of the vehicle and said she was the one driving. She refused to do field sobriety tests. She was arrested. .228

Ham Lake

Thefts & Damage to Property

05.14 12xx 157 Ave NE – ATV stolen from a secured shed; it was located impounded in Anoka

05.14 149xx Aberdeen St NE – catalytic converter and battery stolen from a vehicle on the sales lot

Arrests

05.14 16000 Block Hwy 65 NE – Drugs; a deputy observed a driver and he knew he had a felony warrant out of Aitkin County. She was asked to step out of the vehicle and multiple items of paraphernalia were observed. A K9 came to assist, and meth was found hidden in a floorboard. She was arrested.

05.15 Crosstown/Chisom St NE – Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for failing to signal her turns. When he made contact, he smelled marijuana and he asked her to step out of the vehicle. When she did, a make-up back with meth and paraphernalia was discovered concealed in her shirt. She was arrested.

05.17 134xx Hwy 65 NE – Stolen Motorcycle, Warrant; on routine patrol a deputy ran a plate on a motorcycle and it came back as stolen out of Minneapolis. Through investigation, the male who drove the vehicle to the location was identified and he had two warrants. He was located in the hotel and arrested.

Linwood

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

Nowthen

Arrests

05.14 St Francis Blvd/189 Ave NE – Controlled Substance; a deputy stopped a driver for suspicious driving behavior and having taillights out. The driver stated he didn't have a license or insurance. When the deputy ran him, he came back with a warrant. He was arrested. While searching the vehicle prior to towing it, meth was found.

Oak Grove

Thefts & Damage to Property

05.16 211xx Butternut St NW – catalytic converter cut from an RV parked at the location

05.17 217xx Lake George Blvd NW – unattended compound bow stolen from park

Arrests

05.15 221/Holly St NW – Drugs; a deputy stopped a driver for speeding 71/55. The driver could not provide proof of insurance. When the deputy ran his identity, he was found to have a warrant out of Scott County and was arrested. While searching the vehicle prior to towing it, THC wax was located.

**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.