



## **ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF JAMES STUART**

**FRIDAY UPDATE: 08.12.22**

### **Scams**

08.05 Instagram, Snapchat Blackmail: Approximately two months ago the victim followed back an Instagram profile that had followed him first. He said he chatted with the person behind the profile until today. Today, the person added him to the Snapchat profile. The victim said he sent nude photos of himself to that profile that could possibly be identifiable. Within minutes of sending the photos he received three phone calls on Snapchat that he didn't answer. He then got messages through Snapchat threatening to send the photos to his parents unless he sent \$1000 to either Venmo or Cashapp. After he refused, the amount was quickly lowered to \$200. He did not send any money.

08.05 The victim reported meeting a female on Facebook approximately 4 weeks ago. They talked daily and he was eventually convinced to send her a picture of his driver's license and social security number. This female wanted the pictures to help him invest in bitcoin. A check for \$4973.00 was mailed to him for investing. The victim was advised to deposit the check in his banking account then transfer the money to the application "Cash" for a bitcoin purchase. The victim deposited the check at U.S. Bank and became suspicious afterwards. He explained the situation to his bank, and they froze his account and opened an investigation into the incident. I also advised him to contact the major credit companies for fraud alerts. At this point, he has not suffered a monetary loss and the suspect is unknown.

08.08 The victim told me that someone was threatening to take \$50,000 from his bank account and had taken the money out but then put it back into his account. When I asked him what had happened, he told me that his computer had something wrong with it. The computer would freeze on a screen and a link popped up on the computer to a computer security service. He stated that he purchased the security service from Windows Tech support in Santa Clara, California for \$350. After the purchase, he said that his computer worked fine for a month or so. Then he received a phone call from a Jason Clark saying that his computer was no longer compatible. Jason said he needed to buy a bigger service for \$700. I informed him that I did not think Jason Clark was a real name with a real company and it was a scam. I also advised him to block any calls received from Jason. The victim stated that in order to get a refund for the services, he gave access to Jason Clark remote access to his computer. He stated that Jason got his banking information through having remote access to his computer. He also stated that Jason said if he did not pay him \$50,000, he would take all the money in his bank account. The victim advised that he had hundreds of thousands of dollars in his bank account currently. I advised him to contact his bank.

08.08 The victim applied for a job via Indeed. She did not receive a reply from the employers she applied with but received an email from Michael Washington asking if she would like to be a personal assistant. She replied to the email saying she was interested, she was asked to confirm her name, address, and phone number. Over the weekend, she received a Priority Mail package from Turner Land & Hay LLC in Fort Hood, TX. Inside the package was a check for \$5,960.00. The victim then received a phone call from Michael who asked if she had deposited the check yet? Michael told her she needed to deposit the check and send money to an orphanage; Michael was going to have her use Money Gram to send the funds. She told Michael she did not deposit the check yet. She felt this was a fraud and wanted to check with her mother who agreed and told her this did appear to be a fraud. I agreed.

08.09 I contacted the victim and she told me that she had gotten \$8,500 stolen from her. I asked her what happened, and she stated she had received notice from Amazon saying that someone had bought a computer using her social security number. She called 410 756 8494 and spoke with Ted. Ted told her that her accounts were compromised, and she needed to go to the bank and withdraw her money and buy Bitcoin with it. She said that she told the bank that her withdraw of the money was for a family emergency. She also stated she was told to deposit the funds in the cloud machine at Cub Foods.

## **Andover**

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

08.05 14xx 154 Lane NW – multiple ding-dong-ditch complaints in the area between 11- midnight

08.06 149xx Osage St NW – shrubbery and yard plants vandalized

### **Arrests**

08.06 18xx Bunker Lake Blvd NW – Disorderly Conduct; deputies were called to five disorderly juveniles in the store trying to scare the employees. This group comes in on weekends and wreaks havoc. The juveniles said they were making TikTok videos. All were trespassed from the store.

08.07 7xx 142 Ave NW – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a mother/son domestic. The son was arrested.

08.09 168 Lane/Crocus St NW – 4<sup>th</sup> degree DWI; a deputy responded to a single vehicle crash. The driver fled the scene and witness statements lead the deputies to the suspect. When they made contact the suspect appeared impaired and has a history of drug arrests. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. A warrant for blood was obtained and he was arrested.

## **Bethel**

### **Arrests**

08.10 239xx University Ave NE – 3<sup>rd</sup> degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for blowing a stop sign. The driver smelled like alcohol. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. He was arrested. He had a child in the vehicle and the mother was contacted and asked to pick him up. .09

## **Columbus**

### **Burglaries**

08.07 147xx Lake Dr NE – metal drum thrown through glass window; keys to vehicles at business

08.10 65xx Broadway Ave NE – forced entry through garage service door

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

08.08 152xx Zurich St NE – motorcycle parked on side of the road was stolen

08.10 66xx 167 Ave NE – vehicle stolen out of a garage; garage door was open and keys in it

### **Arrests**

08.06 Lake Dr/Zurich St NE – Warrant Arrest; a deputy ran a plate and the registered owner came back with no driver's license. The deputy stopped the driver who stated he did not have a license or insurance. He was arrested.

08.12 8000 Block 20<sup>th</sup> Ave – Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver for not having taillights. When the driver was identified he had two warrants. He was arrested.

## **East Bethel**

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

- 08.08 234xx 7<sup>th</sup> St NE – two unlocked vehicles overnight in driveway went through; mag light, knife  
08.08 233xx 7 St NE – theft from an unlocked vehicle overnight; coat, speaker, chargers  
08.08 233xx 7 St NE – unlocked vehicle rummaged through overnight; nothing stolen

### **Arrests**

08.06 6xx 238 Lane NE – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a father/son domestic where the father was intoxicated and creating a stand-off with the deputies. The father also let a dog out to attack the deputies. Eventually the victim escaped the house and the suspect complied with orders to exit the home. The father was arrested.

08.10 191xx Staples St NE – 2<sup>nd</sup> degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver in a construction zone for speeding. When he made contact with the driver, he could smell alcohol. The driver stated he had three drinks. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. He was arrested. .19 Charges were elevated due to two prior DWI convictions.

## **Ham Lake**

### **Burglaries**

08.10 44xx 176 Ave NE – broke window to enter; stole handgun and cash

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

- 08.05 136xx Van Buren St NE – vandalism; boat seat and cover cut with a knife  
08.11 44xx 176 Lane NE – theft of mail; located in ditch nearby

### **Arrests**

08.09 21xx 175 Ave NE – Warrant Arrest; deputies received information of a male at the location with a warrant. When they arrive, the male was laying in the front yard. He was arrested.

08.09 12xx 157 Ave NE – Warrant Arrest; a deputy located a suspicious male at the park. When he was identified, he had a warrant. He was arrested.

08.10 Lexington/155 Ave NE – Assault; deputies responded to a shooting incident where shots were fired from a BMW sedan at a group of motorcyclists. The vehicle fled but a deputy was able to locate it. The suspects rammed the deputy's vehicle but eventually they were taken into custody.

## **Linwood**

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

## **Nowthen**

08.10 219xx Cleary Rd NW – a grenade was found while cleaning out a home; the Minneapolis Bomb Squad was called to the property to dispose of it.

### **Arrests**

08.05 224xx St Francis Blvd NW – Damage to Property; a client at the facility broke windows when she was told about the electronic policy. She was arrested and brought to the Lino Juvenile Facility.

## **Oak Grove**

### **Arrests**

08.10 25xx 182 Ave NW – No Contact Order Violation; a victim reported her ex-boyfriend had violated a no-contact order by emailing her. The suspect was located and 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.*