



ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF JAMES STUART

FRIDAY UPDATE: 10.29.21

This week we had two "theft by swindle" incidents. Both involved home repair, one a roof, one a deck. Basically, the victims gave the contractors a 50% down payment to repair a portion of their home. The money was taken, and the work was never done. One case appears to be a straight-out scam and the other appears to be a former employee using his ex-employer's business card to scam work that he never does. No matter the circumstances please be diligent when picking someone to do work on your home – I recommend against hiring the person that knocks on your door to solicit work – both happened in these cases. Here are 8 Tips for Hiring a Contractor from *This Old House*. <https://www.thisoldhouse.com/21017791/top-8-pro-tips-on-how-to-hire-a-contractor>

Scams

10.22 Phone call; caller stated he was from Xcel and that victim was \$600 behind in payments. He instructed the victim to go to the Dollar General store in East Bethel and purchase a Vanilla gift card to pay the debt. The victim knew her account was current and called 911 instead.

10.22 Amazon scam; caller told victim that there were fraudulent purchases on her account. The victim got suspicious and hung-up and called deputies. This was a phishing scam.

10.22 McAfee virus scam; received an email that they were renewing the victim's internet protection plan through McAfee. The victim does not have McAfee and called deputies to see if it was a scam. It was.

10.25 I spoke to the victim who reported he had received an email from Amazon. The email contained a description of items sold and advised the victim to contact Amazon if he did not purchase the items in the email. He contacted the phone number in the email to report the items were sold incorrectly. The victim was eventually instructed to contact phone number 502-901-9691 to get a refund for the items. He provided his bank account information as well as credit card information to the male acting as a customer service representative. The male advised the victim that he would be depositing \$4,000 USD into his bank account, but he needed him to return \$2,500 USD to him through gift cards. The victim then went and purchased a \$1,500 USD Walmart gift card and a \$1,000 USD Target gift card. He then sent the money to the male. Once the victim became aware this was likely a scam, he cancelled his bank accounts and attempted to cancel the gift cards but the money had already been accepted and spent.

Andover

Thefts & Damage to Property

10.22 9xx 143 Ave NW – vandalism; mailbox and pumpkins smashed and fishing line strung

10.22 142xx Vale St NW – the victim was selling her Apple Iphone on FB Marketplace. A male came out to look at it. When she gave it to him, he took it, ran to his vehicle, and drove away.

10.25 147xx Bluebird St NW – vehicle drove through multiple yards in the area

10.27 21xx Veterans Memorial Blvd NW – American flag and sign stolen from the location

10.27 158xx Vale St NW – theft of package

Arrests

10.25 2000 Block Bunker Lake Blvd NW – 3rd degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for erratic driving. He made contact with the driver and she stated she just had a fight with her boyfriend and was driving home. She smelled of alcohol. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. She was arrested. .17

10.26 27xx 139 Lane NW – Warrant Arrest; a deputy observed a male he knew had warrants and went to make contact with him. When the male was advised he was under arrest, he claimed to have swallowed approximately 3.5 grams of meth. The suspect was transported via ambulance to the hospital, checked out, and then arrested when the medical staff said he was fine.

10.27 15020 Block Round Lake Blvd NW – DWI Refusal; a deputy was walking back to his squad car and he was almost hit by a vehicle. He caught up to the vehicle and stopped it. The driver appeared impaired and admitted to having multiple shots. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed; he blew .30. He was taken to the station for the official breath test, which he refused. He was arrested.

Bethel

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

Columbus

Thefts & Damage to Property

10.26 92xx Lake Dr NE – theft of mail; check cashed for \$2175 by thieves

Arrests

10.22 152xx Zurich St NE – Warrant Arrest; deputies responded to a call of cash being stolen out of a wallet. The victim was sharing a room with three people, two of which she did not know. When the deputies arrived, the two unknown males could not be identified but the third male in the room was and he had multiple warrants. He was arrested.

East Bethel

Thefts & Damage to Property

10.23 241xx Pierce St NE – vehicle drove through yard causing damage and hit a junction box

10.25 183xx Lakeview Point – wallet stolen from unlocked vehicle; CC used overnight multiple times

10.27 8xx 193 Lane NE – damage to multiple mailboxes in the area

Arrests

10.23 243xx Hwy 65 NE – Domestic Assault; deputies responded because a male the victim had an order for protection against was at the location. When they arrived, the deputies could see the male inside the home, but he refused to come to the door. Deputies had to kick in the door and the male was arrested. He also had two prior warrants for domestic assault.

Ham Lake

Thefts & Damage to Property

10.22 24xx 148 Lane NE – theft of packages from the front porch

10.24 139xx Coral Sea St NE – theft of mail; found in a trash bag laying in the neighborhood

- 10.25 7xx Bunker Lake Blvd NE – theft of a golf cart from location; details aren't clear yet
- 10.25 36xx 172 Ave NE – theft from an unlocked vehicle overnight; laptop
- 10.25 163xx Hwy 65 NE – license plate stolen off a vehicle parked in the lot overnight

Linwood

Thefts & Damage to Property

- 10.26 84xx Viking Blvd NE – broke window on a vehicle at work site; stole wire and AED
- 10.27 215xx Humber St NE – theft of medication from the mailbox

Nowthen

Burglaries

- 10.23 185xx Yakima St NW – broke window on pole barn to enter; misc. items

Arrests

- 10.26 Viking/St Francis Blvd NW – Recovered Stolen, Multiple Warrants; a deputy stopped a vehicle because its break lights were sprayed with paint and could not be seen. When the deputy identified the driver, he did not have a license but did have multiple warrants out of Washington County. When the deputy ran the VIN, it was discovered the van was stolen out of Minneapolis. The driver was arrested.

Oak Grove

Thefts & Damage to Property

- 10.25 9xx 221 Ave NW – theft of a sign from a yard, mid-day – captured on video

**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.