



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

**FRIDAY UPDATE: 05.31.24**

### **Scams**

05.28 I spoke with the reporting party by phone; she wanted to report an attempted scam. She said that Publishers Clearing House called her and said she won \$2 Million and a new Mercedes car. All she had to do was go to Wal-Mart and purchase gift cards and mail them to an address. She realized the scam and hung up before getting the address. The phone number that called her was 828-560-0735. She did not lose any money, she just wanted the incident reported.

05.28 The victim stated he was receiving threatening text messages from a person attempting to collect money. He stated that he had begun to receive unsolicited text messages from the number 856-505-6879. He indicated that the text messages claimed that he owed the sender money possibly for prostitution or something of similar nature. He stated that there was no legitimate reason for him to owe anyone money. He stated that he then began to receive graphic images of a deceased person and a picture that looked like it was taken off the internet of a home he owns in Florida. He indicated that these messages were intended to make him comply with providing money to the person sending the messages. At the time of the report he had not exchanged any money or suffered any financial loss. I advised him that I have received similar reports in the past and to discontinue any contact.

05.29 The victim stated that on 5.25 she saw a Facebook post regarding an estate sale. The post was made by a Tom L T L, who was a friend of a friend of the victim. She messaged her friend to verify that Tom was a real person and he did not respond. She messaged Tom and asked to look at a Honda Accord to potentially purchase it. Tom stated that they could set up a meet and mark the vehicle as sold after she paid a deposit of \$550.00. She paid the amount to a Jacqueline Torres at 607-393-8267 through Zelle. Tom then told her to contact John to set up a time to see the car. When she contacted John, he said he was busy that day. When John was contacted again, John said that he would need an additional \$200.00 to see the car. The victim stated that she knew it was a scam at this point and contacted her bank to try and stop the transaction. Her total loss was \$550 as she did not pay the additional \$200. She stated that her friend then got back to her and advised her that it was a fake account.

05.30 The victim said that on 5/29/24, he was on his computer when a message came up that he had been hacked. He called the number provided and talked to "Steve Johnson," who is most likely not his real name. The victim was transferred to a "Jacob" and was told that victim would be labeled as a pedophile if he didn't get gift cards. The victim bought \$12,000 in gift cards from Home Depot and Lowes. Scammers then asked for another \$19,000 in cash. The victim figured out that it was not legit and did not comply. The scammer hung up, and victim hasn't been in contact since.

05.30 The victim stated that he had worked with a company called SS Geek approximately two years ago and they left two icons on his computer when they were finished. He stated that he was contacted by a person who claimed to be Mike Cooper through one of the icons. Mike explained that SS Geek was refunding customers for their previous services and that the victim was owed \$800. The

victim provided Mike with his banking information and Mike accidentally sent \$8,000 to him instead of \$800. The victim checked his bank account and found the \$8,000 pending in his account. Mike explained to him that he would need to return the \$8,000 back to him, through gift cards, in order to receive the \$800.00 payment that he was allocated. Mike explained to him what to say to the cashiers, to allow the multiple gift cards, and where to purchase them. Total loss \$9000.

05.30 The victim advised that on 5/15/24, he made contact with a seller on Facebook Marketplace identifying himself as "Jimmy Steinbach." Jimmy's profile indicates that he resides in Park Falls, WI. The victim agreed to purchase (3) Lowrance HDS 12 fishing sonars for \$1,200. On 5/17/24, he used "Cash App" to send the money. He received a response from Jimmy that said "Awesome, I'll send the shipping/tracking info. Thank you." This was the last correspondence he has had with Jimmy. To this date, he has not received the property or any further communication with Jimmy. He has attempted contact via Facebook eight times with no success.

## **Andover**

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

05.30 16xx Crosstown Blvd NW – illegal dumping at the recycling center; suspect identified

### **Arrests**

05.26 Round Lake/157 Ave NW – DWI 4<sup>th</sup> degree; a deputy stopped a driver for suspicious activity (stopping at mailboxes and it was 10:25 pm). When he asked the driver to roll down his window, he rolled his back window down instead of front one. The deputy smelled alcohol and the driver stated he had about 6 beers. Field sobriety tests were failed. He was arrested. .09

05.28 152xx Bluebird St NW – Carrying of Weapons without Permit; a caller reported a male slumped over a steering wheel with a gun in his hand. Deputies arrived and located the male who was alert. He was removed from the vehicle and handcuffed for safety. After investigating, drugs were found in the car along with a handgun under the driver's seat. The male did not have a carry permit and has a case in court still waiting to be resolved. He was arrested.

05.28 155xx Dakota St NW – Disorderly Conduct; a client was lashing out at staff and deputies were called. Once on scene they were able to calm the resident, but he remained belligerent towards staff. He was arrested.

05.29 138 Ave/Xavis St NW- DWI Refusal; a deputy was called to a single vehicle accident where a car hit a tree. When she arrived, she spoke with the driver who appeared impaired. The male refused to exit the vehicle. Eventually he was removed and was belligerent. A warrant for blood was obtained. He refused to test. He was arrested.

## **Bethel**

### **Burglaries**

05.29 235xx Kumquat St NW – attempted; male rang bell no one answered so he went to the back of the home and tried to force entry but was scared away by the homeowner confronting him.

### **Arrests**

05.26 University/Main St NW – No Driver's License; a deputy stopped a driver for not having break lights. When the driver was identified he stated he did not have a license. He was arrested.

## **Columbus**

### **Arrests**

05.24 Lake Dr/Zurich St NE – Warrant Arrest; a deputy ran a plate and got a hit on a warrant out of Ramsey Count and the driver matched the description of the registered owner. The deputy stopped him, confirmed his identity, and he was arrested.

05.28 50xx 182 Lane NE – Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a physical assault between a mother and daughter. The mother was arrested.

## **East Bethel**

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

05.25 183xx Lakeview Point Dr NE – a bullet was located in some particle board inside a garage

05.29 211xx Polk St NE – porta-potties vandalized

### **Arrests**

05.26 9xx 189 Ave NE – Assault; deputies responded to a client who was breaking items in the facility. They located the female and she was arrested.

05.28 Viking/Sandhill Parkway NE – No Insurance, No License; a deputy stopped a driver for expired tabs. When the driver was identified, he said he did not have any insurance or a driver's license. He was arrested.

## **Ham Lake**

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

05.29 8xx Crosstown Blvd NE – vehicle parts stolen from a property; unsecured

05.30 46xx Lexington Ave NE – theft from a business; suspect located and identified

### **Arrests**

05.24 Hwy 65/157 Ave NE – Warrant Arrest; a deputy stopped a driver for having a headlight out. The driver was identified and he had a felony warrant out of Hennepin County. He was arrested.

05.28 14xx Crosstown Blvd NE – Domestic Assault; a deputy was writing reports in a parking lot and observed a male running and a female screaming. She made contact with the male who was evasive. She then went to the location of the female and learned she was assaulted by the male (boyfriend/girlfriend). The boyfriend was located by other deputies and arrested.

05.30 15xx Constance Blvd NE – Drugs, Assault; deputies were called to a physical altercation where one male walked up to another and started punching him through an open vehicle window. The suspect knew the victim. When deputies arrived the suspect was located. While speaking with him, he was trying to hide something in woodchips. Deputies found a bag of meth. The male was arrested.

05.30 137xx Johnson St NE – Drugs, DWI 4<sup>th</sup> degree; a deputy was called to a suspicious woman in a running vehicle who appeared to be tweaking. When the deputy arrived he made contact with the woman who appeared impaired. Field sobriety test were failed and she was arrested. A warrant for blood was obtained. While searching her vehicle prior to towing, drugs and paraphernalia were found.

## Linwood

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

## Nowthen

### Thefts & Damage to Property

05.27 187xx St Francis Blvd NW – vehicle vandalized; tire slashed, glitter thrown inside

## Oak Grove

### Thefts & Damage to Property

05.28 208xx Yellow Pine St NW – theft from an unsecured vehicle overnight; cash, jewelry

### Arrests

05.24 University/Sims Rd – Traffic, Drugs, No Insurance; a deputy observed a male driving with expired tabs. The male has been warned multiple times to get new tabs but he has purposefully not. The deputy stopped him and he was arrested. Meth was found when searching the vehicle prior to towing.

05.25 Rum River/185 Lane NW – DWI 3<sup>rd</sup> degree; a caller reported a possible drunk driver. The deputy located the vehicle and stopped it for poor driving conduct. The driver smelled like alcohol. She had a history of fighting with law enforcement so she was asked to step out of the vehicle and she was placed in handcuffs. When asked how much she had to drink, she told the deputy “don’t worry about it” and “none of your business.” Field sobriety tests were failed. She refused the final breath test. She was arrested. Charges were elevated due to a prior DWI. There was a dog in the vehicle and a deputy returned it to its home.

05.25 38xx 219 Ave NW – DWI 3<sup>rd</sup> degree; a woman reported her husband whom she has an order for protection against came to her home and walked inside. When she said she was calling the police, he left. He was located in his vehicle and stopped. He appeared impaired. Field sobriety tests were failed and he was arrested. .16

05.26 Viking/Cedar Dr NW – Warrant Arrest; a caller reported he hit a deer with his vehicle. A deputy went to assist. When the driver was identified, he had a warrant. He was arrested.

05.28 196xx Yellow Pine St NW – Stalking; a husband was stalking his wife who recently had a restraining order lapse. He 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.***