

"AROUND THE BLOCK"



Northfield Police Department Weekly Update

January 18, 2005

The following information is representative of calls received by the Northfield Police Department from January 7th through January 13, 2005. It is not inclusive and is intended for informational purposes only.

Property Crimes:

Officer Jim Frie responded to the 1500 Block of Roosevelt Drive on January 10th at 1:04 p.m. Upon arrival Officer Frie learned that the tenant was separated from his wife. They had been involved in a fight the night before where the reporting party in this incident had been arrested for domestic assault. Upon his arrival, he was upset because his wife had taken a number of items from the apartment. Because they were still married it was questionable as to who owned what. Officer Frie spent extra time to assist in contacting both parties to try to mediate some type of mutual agreement. Officer Frie later took a call from the estranged wife who wanted police to take a report after she received a call from her estranged husband's girlfriend threatening to harm her.

Officer Mark Barlau responded to the 200 Block of Madison Street South on a report that a vehicle had been ransacked overnight on January 13th at 8:51 a.m. According to Officer Barlau's report, the vehicle was parked in a detached, unlocked garage. Person or persons unknown entered the unlocked vehicle and took a small amount of change in the vehicle. There appeared to be no damage to the garage or vehicle. Officer Barlau noted that he suggested that the resident secure the garage and vehicle in the future.

Officer Mark Barlau spoke to a resident at 11 Park Drive who had their house egged overnight on January 13th at 11:07 a.m. Barlau noted on the initial complaint report (ICR) that the egg was frozen on the house. Barlau indicated there were no suspects named.

Fraud:

Officer Craig Sammon responded to the 400 Block of Union Street after Dispatch received a call of a person wanting to report unauthorized use of a credit card. The call was received on January 12th at 10:34 a.m. Upon arrival, Sammon determined that the resident had received a call from someone posing as a representative of EarthLink Internet services asking the person to confirm their credit card number which they did. The report indicates that after the reporting party "woke up a bit" they called EarthLink back and found out they do not call and verify credit card numbers. The person cancelled the credit card number.

Note: Reputable businesses do not email or call you and ask for information they already have. If you get a call like this tell the person you will not give them the information and hang up. You can then contact the business using the numbers you have from their statements to verify if they in fact called you.

If the call is bogus, call the police department at 507-645-4477. If you have caller ID make sure to note any number if displayed.

Alarms:

Six alarms were received during this time period, much better than past weeks. All four were false alarms triggered by operator error.

Traffic Stops:

A number of traffic stops were conducted during this past 6 days. Officers Steve Klostermeier, Rich Bailey, Kevin Tussing, Josh Laber and School Resource Officer Thad Monroe were responsible for the traffic contacts.

Juvenile Matters:

Officer Scott Johnson took a report of a runaway juvenile from the 1300 Block of Jefferson Road on January 10th at 9:44 p.m. The juvenile was later reported as having returned at 11:08 p.m.

The same juvenile was reported as a runaway again on January 11th. It turns out that when the parents cancelled the missing juvenile report on the 10th they had received a call from the juvenile stating they would be returning but never did so they wanted the juvenile reported missing again.

This is why I prefer officers return to the location to verify the return of the juvenile, interview the juvenile to determine the circumstances of why they left. One cannot simply assume that the child left because they were angry. We need to be very sure they were not abducted or lured away by a predator.

The initial call could have just as easily been a forced call by the child by a pedophile or other unsavory person.

Our department utilizes a policy and guidebook approved by both the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. If you are interested in learning more about this process, give me a call at 507-645-4477 or email me at Gary.Smith@ci.northfield.mn.us.

Administrative:

CSO Kris Wilson responded to the Safety Center after a person came into the office and asked to be fingerprinted. The request was received on January 10th at 3:28 p.m.

Officer Jody Spinner fingerprinted a person who came to the Safety Center on January 12th at 1:54 p.m. at their request.

Officer Jim Frie assisted with a City Hall escort on January 8th at 9:49 a.m.

Disturbances:

A report of a domestic disturbance was received on January 10th at 6:08 p.m. in Viking Terrace. Officers Craig Sammon and Bill Houts responded. Upon arrival they determined it was an issue between a parent and a child.

Sergeant Ted Berg and Officers Jim Frie, and Mark Dukatz responded to the 1500 Block of Roosevelt Drive on January 9th at 2:44 p.m. on a complaint of a fight going on in one of the apartments.

It turned out to be a domestic assault and one male subject was transported to Rice County Jail for domestic assault.

DUI:

Officer Kevin Tussing assisted a Dundas Police Officer on a DUI stop at Highway 3 and Jefferson Parkway on January 8th at 1:17 a.m.

Narcotics:

A person called in a report on January 10th that he smelled what he thought was marijuana in a trailer in Viking Terrace at 15:24 p.m. When the adult had arrived home, the juveniles fled the scene but the person did obtain a license plate that will be turned over to drug investigators. The juvenile that resides at the address was taken into custody and transported to the safety center after officers received permission from the owner of the trailer to search it for drugs. Officers Jim Frie, Mark Barlau, and Mark Dukatz responded to the initial incident.

Officers Scott Johnson, Josh Laber, Craig Sammon and a drug investigator responded to the location of Highway 3 and 5th Streets on a drug investigation. The incident took place on January 10th at 2:54 a.m.

Security Issues:

January 12th seemed to be the night everyone forgot to lock their doors. Officers Klostermeier and Tussing found a number of unlocked doors at businesses in the late hours of the 12th and early morning hours of the 13th.

Sergeant Bill Olsen and Officer Steve Klostermeier responded to the 700 Block of 4th Street East on January 12th at 9:17 p.m. The complaint report from Dispatch does not indicate who the reporting party was but officers were unable to locate the problem until the address was corrected to the 700 Block of Ford Street. The complaint was that there was someone in the dumpster with cars parked nearby with lights on near new town homes. Officers were unable to locate anyone when they arrived.

Crimes Against Persons:

A past action assault report was taken by Officer Thad Monroe on January 13th at 12:27 p.m., in the 1400 Block of Division Street South. The matter is under investigation.

A report of criminal sexual conduct was investigated by Officer Craig Sammon on January 8th at 7:55 p.m. The incident involved two juveniles.

ICR Log:

A personal injury accident was reported on January 8th at 10:49 p.m. Officers Craig Sammon, Scott Johnson, Josh Laber, and Bill Houts responded to the 500 Block of St. Olaf Avenue. The initial report stated there was a person on the ground in the street. The subject refused treatment and was turned over to a sober adult. Apparently this person and a friend had been crossing in the middle of the street when a vehicle came by and struck them. The subject was taken back to St. Olaf and later transported to the hospital by officials there.

Unwanted Visitor:

A resident in the 2000 Block of Lake Drive called on January 9th to report there was a Husky dog on their porch that they wanted removed. Officer Josh Laber coaxed the dog into his squad and put the dog in Dr. Garlile's facility for the evening.

It's All About Communication:

A business person in the 200 Block of Water Street was upset because some juveniles had been harassing him. The most recent incident took place on January 9th at 4:58 p.m. Officer Bill Houts learned from the reporting party the kids in question were at The Key so we went over to The Key, found the kids and asked them to go over to apologize to the offended business person. According to Officer Houts' closing statement: "All is good for now."

It's Not New Years Eve Anymore

Officers Scott Johnson, Bill Houts and Craig Sammon responded to 210 4th Street East on January 9th at 12:22 a.m. after a neighbor called to complain about loud music, loud yelling and people trespassing on the reporting party's driveway and back yard. Upon arrival, officers contacted a number of individuals, sober and not. Officers dispersed those who could leave and quieted down those who stayed. A return call will net the resident a citation. The incident will be noted the property is owned by Vern Ripley and notice sent to Community Development for consideration when the rental license comes up for renewal in the future.

Nauseating Experience:

Dispatch notified officers of a complaint of a vehicle with the occupants hanging out of the car vomiting, heading east on St. Olaf Avenue on January 7th, at 10:52 a.m. Officers Josh Laber and Scott Johnson checked the area but were unable to locate the vehicle. The reporting party did get a valid plate however, so officers certainly can follow up on the incident at some point.

Homemade Round-a-bout:

Officer Bill Houts went to the 800 Block of Forrest Avenue on January 9th at 6:59 p.m. on a report of someone sticking a "Christmas Tree in the Middle of the Road." The officer arrived and removed the offending tree from the middle of the street. Unfortunately with the discarded trees near the curbs, they make inviting targets; however, it is no laughing matter if someone strikes one. Hopefully they will be removed soon.

No Snowmobiles, Instead ATVs:

Improvising was probably the result of the complaint on January 10th at 11:37 a.m. when Dispatch received a call of a person wearing a red hat with a "camo" snow suit, probably a teenager, driving a 4-wheel ATV, "racing up and down the street." The location given was the 700 Block of East Ridge Drive. Officers Jim Frie and Mark Dukatz checked the area but found no ATV.

Inconsiderate Driver:

A resident called on January 11th at 3:20 p.m. from the 400 Block of Prairie Street that a Blue Chevrolet

truck drove through his lawn. The caller said it had a loud muffler and a large supersized Chevy symbol in the back window. The vehicle was last seen eastbound when the caller reported it to Dispatch. Officer Barlau noted there was no damage to the lawn and was unable to locate the vehicle.

Have A Good Week!

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