



Apple Valley Police Weekly Digest

February 21, 2024

Service Highlight — The Ultimate Sacrifice

February 18, 2024, 1:50 am

Apple Valley Officers were dispatched to assist the Burnsville Police Department with a domestic violence call in their community. It's typical for officers to back up other jurisdictions for dangerous calls for service and those that take an extended period of time. Several Apple Valley officers were on hand assisting with the Burnsville call when at approximately 5:30 AM, the suspect fired shots at first responders. Tragically, the suspect killed Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge and Burnsville Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth. Apple Valley officers remained on scene assisting with the situation until the home was secured and crime scene processing took place. Our hearts go out to the Burnsville Police Department, Fire Department, and the loved ones of the fallen. Our officers responded, without hesitation, to help where they could; we couldn't be prouder of them. And dozens of other first responders from the region responded in support of this highly dangerous and violent incident – that is the definition of service in public safety. Our ask as a department is to honor the service of public safety officials not just in the wake of this deadly incident but continue to honor and respect this service in the weeks, months, and years to come.





OUR MISSION

Protecting our community and improving quality of life through **service, education, and enforcement.**

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From the Log

Education Highlight — Phone Scam

February 16, 2024, 10:48 am

Officer Athmann was dispatched to call a man who was reporting a possible phone scam. The man told Officer Athmann he received a call from a phone number he did not recognize. It turns out the number originated in Illinois. The man reported the caller was male and had a heavy Indian accent. He stated he was from Homeland Security and told the man his name was found on a package that contained drugs. The caller asked the man to confirm his name and address which he did. At the time of the report, the man was not out any money, but Officer Athmann advised him to watch his bank accounts closely and report any loss or suspicious activity. She also advised the man to not answer any phone calls from numbers he does not know and avoid giving out personal information to strangers.

Enforcement Highlight — Carjacking Results in Juvenile Arrest

February 18, 2024, 4:50 pm

Apple Valley officers responded to an armed robbery call in the 900 block of Cortland Drive. The caller owns a locksmith company and was responding to a service call, which was placed by the suspect, who he did not know. The victim stated that shortly after arriving at the scene, the suspect pointed a weapon at him and forcefully took his vehicle, vehicle key programmers, and his cell phone.

The suspect was described as a younger black male, approximately 6'1" wearing all black and a hooded jacket. Officers worked with the victim to track his cell phone, which they found was abandoned a short distance away. The phone was recovered, and using an app on the phone, the victim was able to track the location of his vehicle.

The victim's vehicle was tracked to a location on Fuller Avenue in Saint Paul. Apple Valley officers provided information to Saint Paul officers who apprehended the suspect after a foot pursuit. Saint Paul Police Officers recovered a loaded handgun that was discarded by the suspect as he fled from officers. The suspect was identified as a 16-year-old male from Saint Paul. He was taken to the Dakota County Juvenile Services Center on felony robbery charges.



FROM THE LOG

Officers have daily contact with citizens for various reasons. Most are responses to calls received by our dispatch center, and some are self-initiated by officers themselves. All officer responses are recorded in a daily log of calls for service. Below are noteworthy comments from officers responding to recent calls:

- 2/16/24, 1:08 pm – Motorist Assist
 - Dispatcher: Caller asking for assistance with a vehicle unlock. The vehicle is not running but a 16-month-old is inside.
 - Officer: I arrived on scene and observed the vehicle pulling out of the parking lot. Female driver advised her 16-month-old son opened the door for her. No other assistance needed.
- 2/16/24, 11:10 pm – Traffic Stop
 - Officer: Driver passed my squad which was stopped on the side of the road with my emergency lights on. The driver stated he was unaware he had to move over for emergency vehicles with their lights on. Cited.

PREVENTION INFORMATION

Although very rare in Apple Valley, car jackings have been on the rise as of late across the metro area. Crimes such as these are crimes of opportunity. Remember these tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim. Always keep your vehicle doors locked and windows up, especially when stopped for traffic or in a parking lot. Utilize tracking technology on phones and vehicles that allows you to track your property remotely and know how to use them. When stopped in traffic, keep at least one car length between you and the car in front of you to allow for space to maneuver and escape if necessary. Keep valuables in the trunk or out of sight. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Beware of individuals approaching your vehicle. Keep your cell phone charged and on you. NEVER leave your vehicle running and unattended with the keys inside. If you are a victim of a carjacking, do not argue or fight with the carjacker. Immediately leave the car and your belongings and call 911. Be a good witness and give the best description of the offenders. Remember, your safety and the safety of your passengers comes first!



Buzz with the Fuzz

- Check out the Department's podcast! In our second episode we chat with Crime Prevention Specialist Pam Walter and learn about what the Police Department is doing with regards to outreach and prevention!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 2024 – Autism Acceptance Month
 - April is Autism Acceptance Month, and our officers will be wearing special Autism Acceptance patches on their uniforms in April. In addition, we will be hosting several events for kids with sensory issues or on the spectrum. Stay tuned for more information.
 - March 30 – Sensory Friendly Easter Egg Hunt
 - April 8-12 – Police Patch Hunt
 - April 26 – Galaxie Library Event
- April 2 – 23, 2024 – Teen Police Academy
 - The Apple Valley Police Department is again partnering with the Rosemount Police Department to offer a Teen Police Academy to high school students in Apple Valley and Rosemount. For more information and registration visit the City's [website](#).

