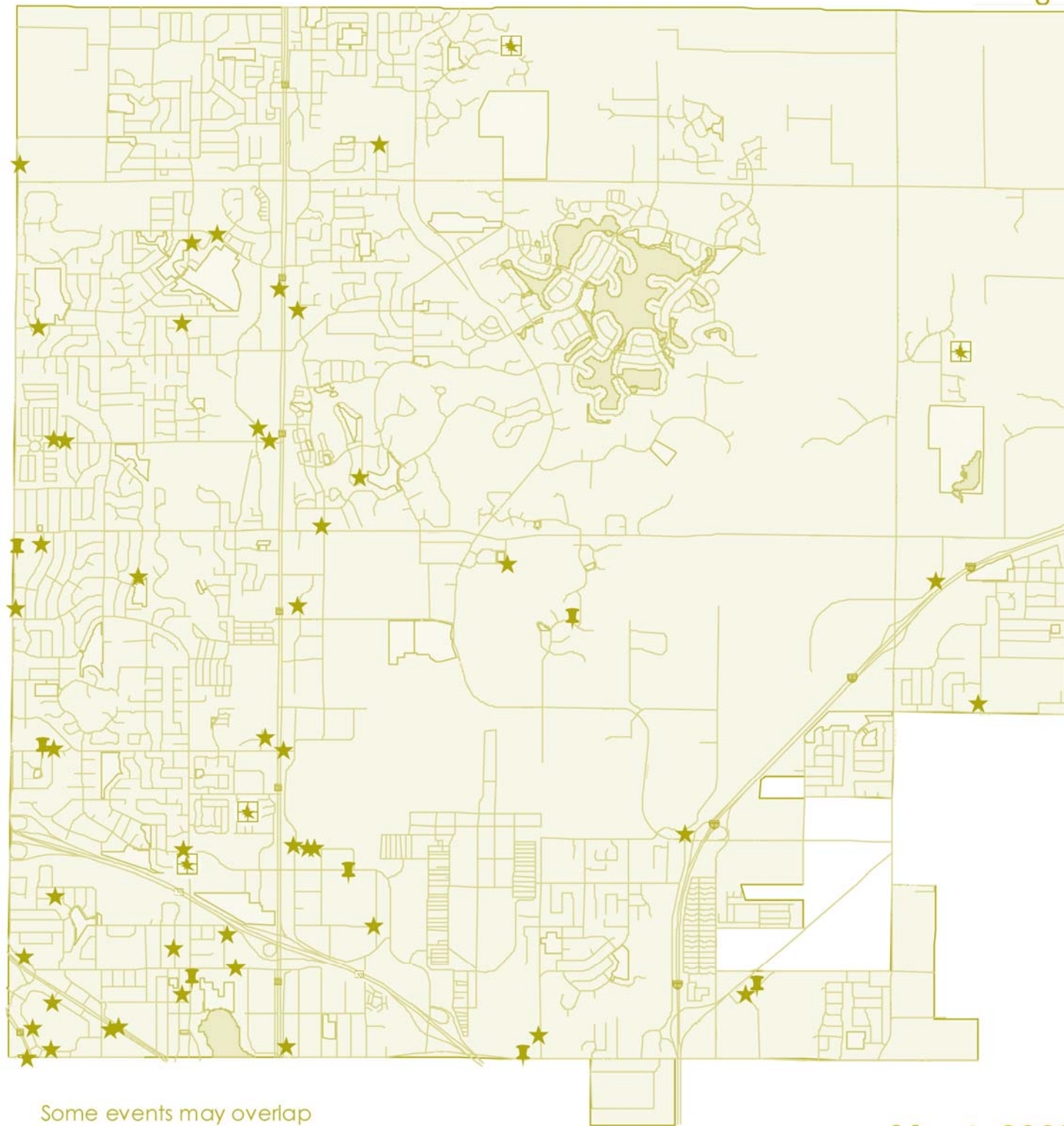


Theft From Motor Vehicle -- Theft From Yard Residential Burglaries



Spring/Summer
2008

Crime Watch Newsletter

this issue

Upcoming Events

Current Burglary and Crime Trends

Crime Map

Fire Safety Tips And Much More!



Summer Safety Tips Reminder

Theft from motor vehicle is on the rise. Always lock your car doors, remove anything of value to you and, if possible use the alarm system if your vehicle is equipped with one. Hide your garage door opener or just bring it inside.

Door To Door Solicitors

Blaine city code requires door-to-door peddlers and solicitors to carry city-issued photo identification, a city-issued license (pink for 2008), which is issued only upon favorable completion of a background investigation. Please check the expiration date on IDs and licenses. Allowable hours of solicitation are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Peddling/soliciting on Sunday is prohibited by city ordinance.

Peddlers and solicitors must carry licenses with them at all times and show it at the request of any resident. The license does not constitute an endorsement of the products or merchandise by the City of Blaine. Complaints about business practices can be registered with the Better Business Bureau of Minnesota by phone at (651) 699-1111.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS MAKING GOOD NEIGHBORHOODS BETTER.

Last year through a resident survey, Blaine residents conveyed that community standards and livability issues were important to them. Residents want a safe, clean and wonderful place to call home. Poorly maintained properties can reduce livability and property values within a neighborhood.

Neighborhood Services is responsible for enforcing a wide range of community and neighborhood nuisances, ranging from outdoor storage of inoperable vehicles/junk to housing maintenance issues. Last year the City of Blaine responded to more than 600 complaints from residents regarding exterior property issues. It is our mission to work in partnership with residents and business owners to improve the general appearance and quality of neighborhoods

Neighborhood Services utilizes a variety of tools in an effort to achieve voluntary code compliance. For example, if you have a car with a flat tire parked on your lawn, it's likely that your neighbors will grow tired of looking at the eyesore and call the City with a complaint. Once a complaint is received, we will work with the responsible person and provide a time frame to resolve the code issue without penalty.

If education does not resolve the condition, we may issue a municipal court citation or abate the nuisance. In most instances, residents are simply unaware of the code and correct the situation immediately. Typically, most complaints get resolved within a two week time frame.

In addition to providing complaint-based enforcement, we also conduct proactive inspections in which City staff performs routine exterior inspections of selected neighborhoods. The properties are only viewed from the public street for possible nuisance code violations.

You can help keep Blaine a great place to live by learning more about Neighborhood Services and the community standards that we enforce. To get more information, visit the city website at www.ci.blaine.mn.us or call 763-785-6187 to request a copy of the "Residential Guide to Community Standards".

We appreciate your help in keeping our community safe and clean.



Burglaries

- 1/08 3xx 107th Ave
- 1/08 17xx 119th Ave
- 1/09 95xx Quincy St
- 1/12 116xx Monroe St
- 1/14 3xx Oak Park Dr
- 1/17 130xx Baltimore St
- 1/18 120xx 3rd St
- 1/19 101xx Lever St
- 1/24 1x 91st Ave
- 2/03 18xx 129th Ave
- 2/06 115xx Terrace Rd
- 2/07 110xx Jefferson St
- 2/11 103xx Taylor St
- 2/14 11xx 96th Ln
- 2/18 2xx 91st Ln
- 2/18 21xx Cloud Dr
- 2/27 3xx 93rd Ave
- 3/09 44xx 118th Ave
- 3/24 131xx Taconite Ct

Totals:

Daytime	3
Night	9
Unknown	8
Force Used	11
No force	9

Do you lock the door between the home and the garage? This is an easy entry point for any thief. By eliminating all possible entry points, you've made your home safer.

Upcoming Events

Check the City website at:

www.ci.blaine.mn.us for current Parks and Recreation offerings.

May 6—Bike Helmet Sales and Fitting. 4-8 p.m. at Blaine City Hall. No appointment is necessary, first come, first serve.

If you missed our Bike Helmet Sales and Fitting event, the Fridley Police Department will be hosting a similar event on **May 7**, 4-7 p.m. located at 6431 University Ave NE in Fridley. No appointment is necessary, first come, first serve.

Safety Camp. July 22 & 23 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 785-6164 for more information.

National Night Out. Tuesday, August 5 from 5 p.m. until dark. More information coming to the City website soon.

SAFE KIDS Anoka County hosts child passenger safety clinics. The next clinic is set for August 12, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Anoka Police Department, 275 Harrison St. NE in Anoka. To make an appointment, please call 576-2850. Sponsored by the Anoka Women of Today.

Crime Prevention Reminders

- Be particularly alert and responsive to noises or activity in your neighborhood. CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY if you see or hear unusual activity. All calls are prioritized and you will be put on hold if necessary, so don't worry about "bothering the police."

- Make sure doors and windows are securely closed and locked at night. **Keep purses out of sight** of view from windows. Pull drapes/shades on the first floor.

- Turn on outside lights from dusk until dawn with an even, low-level light that doesn't glare toward the street too much. Lighting discourages prowlers, assists patrolling police officers, and allows neighbors to see each others' houses.

- If you wake up and hear an intruder in your house, get out of the house if possible. If not possible, stay quiet until it is safe to get to a phone to call 911. If you are unable to speak because you are afraid of making noise, call 911 and leave the phone off the hook. Generally, in these types of burglaries the intruder does not want to confront anyone and will flee if discovered.

- If you come home to find a burglary, do not enter your house; instead call 911 immediately from a safe location. Do not wait to report the burglary, and please do not clean up the burglary before police arrive.

A Better Candle Solution

Rebecca Booker

Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department

Facts about candle fires:

- In Minnesota, 11% of all fires are due to an open flame.
- Families in 70% of homes nationwide burn candles; they should be aware that there are more than 17,000 candle-caused fires reported annually.
- Candle fires in the U.S. accounted for an estimated 4% of all reported home fires in 2005.
- 38% of home candle fires start in the bedroom, resulting in 41% of the associated civilian deaths.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires begin with decorations, compared to 4% the rest of the year.
- More than half of all candle fires start when something that could burn – such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains or decorations – was too close to the candle.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 26% of the associated deaths.

The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, New Year's Eve and Halloween. There is a safe alternative. Fire-safe flameless candles look like regular candles but don't have an open flame. They operate for hundreds of hours on batteries. Most flameless candles have the same glow, are wax and have a scent. Because there is no flame, these candles are safe enough to use in places where traditional candles are not an option. Flameless candles can be used for emergency lighting. Flameless candles can give light to those looking for ambience and fragrance. No more worrying about kids attracted to open flames or pets knocking over candles with flameless candles. Teens can use these candles in their bedrooms without parents fearing for their safety. Look for the flame-free candles at local retailers or online at <http://cfsi.org>. They are all powered by AA, C or watch-sized batteries. The winter holidays are the top season for candle fires. This is a great time to re-think our love of candles and go with a flameless solution.