



# HUGO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2025



## IMPROVING 911 SERVICE

When you call 911, every second counts. But so does giving telecommunicators the best possible information to send the right kind of help when you need it most. In 2024, more than 97 percent of 911 calls coming into Washington County Sheriff's Emergency Communications Response Center were answered within 10 seconds. And now ECRC telecommunicators have a new tool that will allow them to assist first responders reach people faster and with better information of how to help once they arrive on-scene. The ECRC recently launched TotalResponse CACH (Computer-Aided Call Handling), a system that provides structured, real-time guidance during emergency calls. After several years of planning and testing, this powerful new system will first be used for all medical-based emergency calls, with plans to gradually expand its use to all types of incidents over time. "This upgrade is another way the ECRC is investing in cutting-edge technology and top-tier training to keep our community safe," said Darlene Pankonie, ECRC Division Manager.

## TRICK-OR-TREAT SAFETY

To help keep our young ghosts and goblins safe and happy this Halloween, consider these tips:

- Carry glow sticks or flashlights, use reflective tape or stickers on costumes and bags, and wear light colors to help kids see and be seen by drivers.
- A responsible adult should join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating.
- Drivers: Slow down and be alert! Excited kids may dart into the street. Turn on headlights early to spot kids from further away.
- Remind kids to cross the street at corners or crosswalks.
- Trick or treat only in well-lit, familiar areas and stick with friends.
- Don't eat any treats until coming home to help avoid allergic reactions or spot unsafe items.

Check out more [Halloween safety tips](#) to help your trick-or-treaters have the most fun, safely.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

333

TRAFFIC STOPS

160

CITATIONS

64



## WC25052044 UNDERAGE DWI

15XXX FAIROAKS AVENUE N

At 11:13pm on Sept. 27, deputies arrived at a residence where neighbors were complaining about loud music and a possible party with underage drinking and no parents at home. As deputies arrived, they saw several young people outside and many vehicles parked on the road. One deputy noticed a car parked on the wrong side of the road, engine running, with a young person at the wheel. The youth appeared to slump down as if trying to hide as the deputy approached. The youth turned off the ignition and got out of the car. As the deputy spoke to the youth about the parking violation, the deputy noticed signs of drinking, including bloodshot eyes and the odor of consumed alcohol. The youth admitted to being younger than 21 and to drinking four beers at the party. The deputy also saw a closed can of an alcoholic drink and an open bottle of liquor in the car. For these reasons, the deputy administered standard field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test. The deputy disposed of the alcohol in the car and cited the youth for underage drink and driving, underage consumption of alcohol and a parking violation. The youth was picked up by a sober driver. The teen host of the party was advised to shut down the party, and the deputies waited for all the teens to leave.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

The continued safety of our communities relies on the encouragement and support that we provide now for the next generation of peace officers and law enforcement personnel. To that end, the Washington County Sheriff's Office will once again proudly participate in the Law Enforcement Scholarship program. Sponsored by the Minnesota Sheriff's Association, the scholarship fund has the privilege of awarding up to 18 scholarships of \$2,000 in 2025.

To be eligible for these scholarships, applicants must meet one of the following requirements: Be enrolled in a mandated POST Skills Program, be in their second year of a two-year law enforcement program or be in their third year of a four-year collegiate criminal justice program.

If you're interested or know someone who might be, applications can be turned into the Washington County Sheriff's Office records department through Friday, Nov. 28. The scholarships will be awarded by Dec. 30. For more information and to start an application, please go online to [mnsheriffs.org](http://mnsheriffs.org).

We wish these recipients a bright future as committed public servants.



In service,

*Dan Starry*

Sheriff Dan Starry