



MARINE ON ST. CROIX

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026



RECOGNIZING TRUE EXCELLENCE

A correctional officer who prevented an inmate's self-harm. A deputy on an unrelated call who came upon a person lying unconscious on a cold sidewalk and stopped to help. A team that investigated a complicated sex-trafficking case that led to successful prosecution. These are just a few examples of the truly outstanding work honored at the annual Washington County Sheriff's Office Employee Recognition Ceremony on Jan. 29.

This year's ceremony featured eight Lifesaving Awards, with 25 recipients that included deputies, telecommunicators, correctional officers and a public citizen; two Exceptional Service Awards, presented to the Sex Trafficking Team and the Investigations Unit; a Unit Citation to the 14 members of the Courts Division; and three Meritorious Service Awards.

While all these individuals and teams deserve recognition, limited space means only highlighting the exceptional work of the Investigations Unit, along with a detective from the Coordinated Response Team and a K9 deputy. Using teamwork, quick thinking and fast action, WCSO detectives and the FBI were able to track down two brothers from Texas who had come to Minnesota in September 2025, held a family hostage at gunpoint and kidnapped one of them in a targeted attempt to steal \$8 million in cryptocurrency. The quick and excellent federal-county collaboration in this case was essential to the filing of federal charges.

Through their excellence and dedication, all of these award-winners are inspirational examples of what it means to serve the community. To learn more about these awards, please check out the [WCSO Facebook page](#).

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

9

LOCAL AREA CHECKS

14



WC26003458 WELFARE CHECK

16XXX ST. CROIX TRAIL N

Shortly after 3pm on Jan. 21, a deputy spoke with a mail carrier who had noticed mail piling up for about a week at a residence, with no tire tracks or footprints in the driveway. The deputy was able to find a phone number for the resident and called. The resident answered and reported being safe. The resident told the deputy about being widowed recently and having mobility issues, thus not being able to get the mail, clear snow or use a vehicle. The deputy told the resident that the Sheriff's Office could help if needed and could provide resources, but the resident declined for the time being. The deputy followed up with the mail carrier to provide an update on the situation.

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

As Sheriff, I get pulled in many directions throughout each day, so I rely on my team of professionals to be where I can't. On the streets, that's our dedicated deputies. In the office, it's our top-notch administrative team. We have two recent additions to that team that I'd like to introduce.

The first is Courtney Schroeder, who filled the role of Executive Assistant to the County Sheriff in late summer 2025. Courtney has been an invaluable asset to Washington County, starting in 2016 as a telecommunicator in the Emergency Communications Response Center and then joining the Records Division in 2022. Courtney keeps track of my schedule, keeps the office organized, helps manage community engagement (such as Shop with a Cop at holidays) and internal events (such as the recent recognition awards), and assists community members reaching out to the Sheriff's Office through emails and phone calls. She is also a driving force behind the Pink Patch Project, which has raised \$7,563 for the American Cancer Society. You may reach her at Courtney.Schroeder@washingtontcountymn.gov.

Next, toward the end of 2025, Pafoua Lo came on board as Public Information Officer. Pafoua was a reporter for KSTP-TV before joining the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office communications team. Here at WCSO, she has quickly become instrumental in establishing good relationships with our local media outlets, connecting with the public through engaging social media posts, and developing new strategies for promoting the Sheriff's Office mission of providing top-quality public safety services. She has already created several informative and entertaining videos! In addition to supporting my office and direct staff, Pafoua is available to collaborate in partnership with the cities and townships we serve to meet their communications needs. You may reach her at Pafoua.Lo@washingtontcountymn.gov.



We at the Sheriff's Office appreciate the skills and dedication they bring, and we look forward to everything they're sure to contribute to this organization.

In service,

Sheriff Dan Starry

Total for City MARINE ON SAINT CROIX: 9

Incident Date	Case#	Address	Event Description
1/6/2026 8:56:43 AM	WC26000895	17XXX Saint Croix Trl N, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	MEDICAL
1/7/2026 7:53:56 PM	WC26001219	XXX PINE ST, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	911 ABANDONED/HANGUP/OPEN LINE
1/14/2026 12:39:33 AM	WC26002265	XXX Judd St, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	ALARM-BUSINESS/RES/FIRE/MEDICAL/ETC
1/14/2026 5:22:35 PM	WC26002391	XXX 6TH ST, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	WELFARE CHECK
1/14/2026 8:15:46 PM	WC26002408	XXX 6TH ST, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	911 ABANDONED/HANGUP/OPEN LINE
1/16/2026 2:48:05 PM	WC26002714	XXX Pine St, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	CITIZEN/PUBLIC ASSIST
1/18/2026 10:21:40 PM	WC26003012	Unknown, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	WELFARE CHECK
1/19/2026 8:34:49 AM	WC26003058	Unknown, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	FOLLOW UP
1/21/2026 3:06:57 PM	WC26003458	16XXX SAINT CROIX TRL N, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX	WELFARE CHECK