



Crime Fighter

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

PD and City Offices
closed:

- September 4th

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National Night Out

National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 1st. Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius had 18 neighborhoods participate. We would like to thank everyone for coming out and inviting us into your neighborhoods.



Online Safety for Teens

You have tons of opportunities to share all kinds of information when you're online—about yourself, your family, and your friends. Before you do, remember:

Your online actions can have real-world consequences.

The pictures you post or send and the words you write can affect the people in your life.

Once you post something online, you can't take it back.

That goes for sending mes-

sages, too. Even if you delete it, older versions may exist on other people's devices. That means that photo or comment you really don't want people to see anymore could be living somewhere—permanently.

What you post could have a bigger "audience" than you think. Even if you use privacy settings, it's impossible to have complete control over who sees your pictures, videos, profiles, comments, or texts. Before you post or send, think about how you will feel if your family, teach-

ers, coaches, or neighbors find it.

Get someone's OK before you share photos or videos they're in. It can be embarrassing, unfair, and even unsafe to send or post photos and videos without getting permission from the people in them.

For more information and tips, visit the Federal Trade Commission website:

www.ftc.gov

Always lock your vehicle and do not leave valuables inside

We are always accepting applications for our Volunteer Reserve Unit

Theft from Vehicles

Any vehicle having items left in plain view will draw the attention of a thief. A gym bag, backpack or purse left in plain view could be enough of a temptation for a thief to break the window, hoping there is something of value inside. Identity thieves frequently target vehicles, knowing that it is a good source for finding personal information from wallets, purses, briefcases, and the like.

Reduce your risk:

- **Always** lock your vehicle, including when it is

parked in your garage or driveway.

- **Never** leave valuables in your vehicle. If you have no choice but to leave items behind, try to hide them from view.
- If you hide items in the trunk, disable the automatic trunk release.
- Remove garage door openers and keys from your vehicle if it is left unlocked in your driveway. The best option is just to

lock your vehicle at all times.

- Immediately call 911 if you observe suspicious activity; such as someone tampering with or looking into vehicles.

Minnetrista Police Reserves

The Minnetrista Police Department is accepting applications for positions with the Volunteer Reserve Unit. The purpose of the Reserve Unit is to provide support services to the citizens we serve and to the members of the Min-

netrista Police. These services include traffic control, crime prevention, citizen and neighborhood watch programs, residence and business checks, security assignments, and emergency callouts to disasters and crisis

situations.

If you would like an application or have questions regarding the Reserve Program, please contact the Police Department at (952) 446-1131.

Cyberbullying Tips for Teens

Cyberbullying is bullying or harassment that happens online. It can happen in a text message, an online game, or on a social networking site. It might involve rumors, comments, or images posted on someone's profile or passed around or other people to see.

Bullying is a lose-lose proposition. It often makes the person being harassed feel bad—and it always makes the bully look bad. It also might lead to punishment from school authorities or the police.

What to do about cyberbullying:

If you witness cyberbullying, tell the bully to stop. Most kids don't bully, and there's no reason for anyone to put up with it. This mean behavior usually stops pretty quickly when somebody stands up for the person being bullied.

If someone harasses you online, keep a cool head, and don't respond. Most people realize that bullying is wrong. Sometimes you can stop bullying if you ignore or block the person. You also can report abuse to the website where it's taking place. Save the evidence and ask for help from an adult you trust.

As you text, chat, or post comments, remember that it's really no different than talking with someone in person. If you wouldn't say

it to someone's face, it's not OK to type it.

Politeness counts.

Quick texts can lead to misunderstandings—so think about how your message might be read and understood before you send.

Take it easy.

Using all CAPS, long rows of exclamation points, or large bolded fonts is the same as shouting. AND NO ONE LIKE TO BE YELLED AT!!!!

Send group messages with care.

Think about who needs to see your message before sending it to multiple people. And double check that you're replying to the person or people you intend to see your message.

Don't stand for bullying—online or off. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Remember what's real.

When you're playing a multi-player game or exploring a virtual world where you can create a character and interact with others, keep in mind that real people are behind those characters on the screen. Respect their feelings just like you would in person.

Don't impersonate.

It's wrong and can be hurtful to create profiles, comments, or posts that seem to come from someone else—like someone in your class or a teacher at your school.

Speak Up.

If you see something inappropriate on a social networking site or in a game, let the website know and tell an adult you trust. Using "report abuse" links can help keep sites fun for everyone.

For more information and tips, visit the Federal Trade Commission website:

www.ftc.gov

*If you wouldn't
say it to
someone's
face, it's not
OK to type it.*

School Bus Safety

In Minnesota, school buses make at least 10,000 bus trips daily. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, school buses are the safest mode of transportation of children—children are eight times safer riding in a bus to school than any other vehicles.

More children are killed outside of a school bus than they are as bus occupants. Motorists must anticipate children in a school bus "danger zone" - the area around a bus where most injuries occur.

- Motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights and/or its stop arm is extended when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.
- Red flashing lights on buses indicates students are either entering or exiting the bus.
- Altering a route or schedule to avoid a bus is one way motorists

can help improve safety. In doing so, motorists won't find themselves behind a bus as a result, potentially putting children at risk.

- Watch for school crossing patrols and pedestrians. Reduce speeds in and around school zones.
- Watch and stop for pedestrians—the law applies to all street corners, for both marked and unmarked crosswalks.

*For more
information
regarding bus
safety, visit:
www.dps.mn.gov*



Contact Information

Minnetrista Public Safety Department

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Email: police@ci.minnetrista.mn.us

Fight Crime. Promote Safety



Visit our website:

www.cityofminnetrista.com

On August 21st, Chase Dwinell was sworn in as a Minnetrista Police Officer.

Prior to Minnetrista, Chase attended Ridgewater College to pursue a degree in Law Enforcement and worked as a Loss Prevention Officer. Chase began his employment with the City of Minnetrista as a Community Service Officer in July of 2022. Since then, he has completed his SKILLS training, successfully completed his POST exam, and was promoted to a full time Police Officer with our department! Officer Dwinell began his field training at the beginning of August.

It is always exciting when we get to recognize and promote Officers within our department. Congratulations, Officer Dwinell!



Keeping Kids Safe on Halloween

Halloween is an exciting holiday for children, but they can be vulnerable to injury on this night. To ensure trick-or-treaters stay safe, Safe Kids recommends that children:

- Always trick-or-treat with an adult until age 10
- Only trick-or-treat in familiar areas that are well lit
- Cross streets at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Look left, right and left again when crossing; always walk, don't run, when crossing streets
- Make eye contact with drivers and watch for cars that are turning or backing up
- Walk on sidewalks or paths; if there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible
- Never dart out into the street or

cross in between parked cars

- Wear light-colored, flame-retardant costumes decorated with retro-reflective tape or stickers
- Wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes to prevent trips and falls
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick to increase visibility to drivers
- Wear face paint and makeup; a mask can restrict a child's vision

Drivers need to do their part to keep trick-or-treaters safe from harm. FedEx reminds motorists to be extra careful this Halloween and recommends that drivers:

- be especially alert in residential neighborhoods
- Drive more slowly and anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic on and near the road
- Be sure to drive with your full

headlights on so you can spot children from greater distances

- Take extra time to actively look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Remember that costumes can limit children's visibility and they may not be able to see your vehicle
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Remember that children are excited on this night and may move in unpredictable ways
- Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are during the typical rush-hour period, between 5:30-9:00pm
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and pedestrians.



For more information, visit:

www.Minnesotasafetycouncil.org