



UPCOMING EVENTS:

PD and City Offices
closed:

- January 15th
- February 19th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Trista Day	2
Winter Parking Reminder	2
Minnetrista Police Reserves	2
Cooking Safety	3
Ice Safety	3
Snowmobile Op- eration	4

Crime Fighter

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2, 2024

Securing Your Home

1. Always Lock your Car Doors

Thieves will often walk through a neighborhood just checking vehicle doors. When one is found unlocked it can take just seconds to remove valuables. And if there is a garage door opener in the vehicle, that can be utilized to gain entry into the garage and sometimes the home.

2. Keep the Doors Locked and Garage Shut.

It's not just during times of extended departures that you should be on guard. If doors are left unlocked or the garage is open, fast-moving burglars can strike when you go out on a walk, or even are just in the yard. According to home security company ADT, 34% of burglars enter through the front door, 22% come in through the back door and 9% walk through the garage. With 23% of burglars coming in through a first-floor window, it's also worth keeping your windows locked, and don't forget any windows to the basement.

3. Install a Smart Lock

Even with the best of intentions and good habits, anyone can forget to lock entry doors to their home on occasion. Many smart lock systems will allow you to check the status of your doors' locks remotely, and lock anything that wasn't secured. With smart locks available at a variety of price points, this is a good option for homes in which residents frequently come and go.

4. Invest in a Home Security System

The gold standard when it comes to home security measures is installing a reliable home security system. From ones that can be professionally installed and monitored, to DIY options that still offer great protection against home invasions, there are numerous top home security systems available that will allow you to find one which

suits both your security needs and budget.

5. Get Motion-Sensing Lights

With options available for less than \$20, motion-sensing floodlights will shine an unwelcome light on anyone who trespasses outside your home, which is a good deterrent against unwelcome trespassers. Inside the home, you can set motion-sensing smart lights to activate when you are out of the house and an uninvited guest enters. If you're on vacation, this can also signal to any helpful neighbors who are keeping watch that something isn't right.

6. Don't Broadcast Upcoming Departures

With so much uninterrupted time and a delay before the resident can report the crime, residents' vacations are best-case scenarios for burglars, so don't make their jobs any easier. As tempting as it may be to share upcoming travel plans on social media, it's not worth the risk. Even telling a friend about your itinerary when you are in a public place can be ill-advised as you don't know who else may be eavesdropping on the conversation.

7. Develop a Vacation Strategy

Before going on a trip, create a game plan to help your house continue to look occupied while you're gone. This includes putting your mail and deliveries on a hold. Additionally, consider asking a trusted neighbor to handle your trash day duties and check in on the house. If snow is in the forecast, you may want to line up a snow removal service to clear your driveway. Similarly, if you will be away from home for an extended period of time during the summer, consider scheduling routine lawn maintenance.

8. Don't be Obvious With Routines

There's a reason the majority of break-ins occur during the day. That's when residents are most likely to be away from the home. Although your work schedule may

be consistent, try to keep your comings and goings unknown as much as possible. Also, try not to widely share your whereabouts, even with people you know. According to the FBI, among 2019 burglaries with identified offenders, at least one-in-three of the burglars were known to the victim—such as the victim's friend, neighbor or family member. (An additional 47% of the incident reports did not share the relationship between the offender and victim.)

9. Look Out for Neighbors (and Vice Versa)

What's good for your neighborhood is good for your home. By making it clear to burglars that you live in a place where neighbors look out for each other, they may be deterred from trying their chances. Many local police departments offer resources for Neighborhood Watch programs. Even with an informal program, you can look out for neighbors and ask them to look out for you. If you decide to make a house key available to a neighbor, give it to them directly rather than leaving it in an outdoor hiding place.

10. Consider Your Curb Appeal to Burglars

We all like our homes to look good on the outside—but burglars have a different set of criteria. They may be attracted by shrubs that conceal entrances, personal items left around the yard and expensive landscaping features that may indicate there are pricey possessions on the inside of the home.

Information obtained from:
www.forbes.com

Trista Day



Trista Day will be held on Saturday, May 18th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. This annual public safety awareness event is sponsored by the City of Minnetrista. It features events for all ages including public education displays, kids' activities, product displays, and promotional items.

This year we will have food trucks with items for purchase

along with free popcorn and water. There will also be a free petting zoo, pony rides, balloon art, and bounce houses.

Trista Day is a great opportunity for your business or organization to promote itself to area residents through a booth. It is a great way to serve your community, promote safety awareness and have fun! If you are interest-

ed in helping make Trista Day a success by contributing as a vendor, entertainer, boothholder, or donor please contact the Police Department at (952)446-1131 or police@ci.minnetrista.mn.us. You can also visit our website for information and for the vendor booth registration form. Booth applications must be received by April 30, 2024.

Winter Parking Reminder

We would like to remind the citizens of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius that the winter parking rules are still in effect.

The following is a summary of the rules for each city:

Minnetrista

No parking on streets between 2am and 6am, November 1st through March 31st.

St. Bonifacius

No motor vehicle parking on streets between 3am and 7am, November 1st through April 1st.

Even if there is no snow on the ground the ordinance is still in effect. Also, even if the road is not posted for winter parking, the ordinance is still in effect.

In addition, please keep all items, including recycling and

garbage containers, off the street to prevent them from getting hit by snowplows.

Also, it is very difficult to see children playing in large piles of snow that accumulate at the ends of driveways. Please keep children away from these piles so that they are not injured.

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 cri-

sis situations.

If you would like an application or have any questions regarding the Reserve program, please contact Officer Johnson at (952)446-1131.

We are always accepting applications for our Volunteer Reserve Unit

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

"Cook with Caution"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts,

wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains—away from your stovetop.

If You Have A Cooking Fire

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 911 after you leave.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Cooking And Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Facts

- The lead cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.

Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website,

www.firepreventionweek.org



Ice Safety

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has set up guidelines for the recommended minimum ice thickness for going onto the ice. The following are the guidelines for new, clear ice only:

UNDER 4": STAY OFF

4": Ice fishing on foot

5"-7": Snowmobile or small ATV

7"-8": Side-by-side ATV

9"-10": Small car or SUV

11"-12": Medium SUV or small truck

13": Medium truck

16"-17": Heavy duty truck

20"+: Heavy duty truck with wheelhouse shelter

- Many ice drownings involve children. When your child is near the ice, you should be near your child.
- Carry 2 large nails to use as ice picks to pull yourself out if you fall through the ice.
- Never drive on ice at night.
- Avoid pressure ridges, and

areas with currents is you have chose to drive on the ice.

- Drive with your windows and doors partially open to avoid becoming trapped if your car breaks through the ice.

Avoid alcohol when you're on the ice. It can slow down your reaction time in case of an ice emergency.



Contact Information

Minnetrista Public Safety Department

7651 County Road 110 W
Minnetrista, MN 55364

Phone: (952)446-1131

Fax: (952)446-1623

Email: police@ci.minnetrista.mn.us

Fight Crime. Promote Safety



We would like to thank everyone who donated a toy for our Toys for Tots drive. It is greatly appreciated and we enjoy delivering the toys to KARE 11 every year.

Snowmobile Operation

There are specific rules and regulations for operating a snowmobile in Minnesota; and Minnetrista alike. We have mentioned a few of those regulations below, but all of the laws regarding snowmobile operation can be found at the Minnesota DNR website (link at end of article).

Youth operation requirements:

- Anyone under 18 years old must wear an approved helmet.
- To register a snowmobile you must be at least 18 years old.
- Any resident of Minnesota born after December 31, 1979 must have a snowmobile safety certificate to operate a snowmobile in Minnesota.
- With a snowmobile safety certificate: anyone 12 & 13 years old can operate a snowmobile on

public lands, public waters, and grant-in-aid trails. They may operate on private land with permission. They may **NOT** cross state or county roads. Anyone 14 years old and older can operate a snowmobile in Minnesota, including crossing state and county roads.

General operation:

Where you may ride—public areas

- In the bottom or outside slope of a ditch of a COUNTY or STATE road.
- In the same direction as road traffic in the ditch from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise. Other than this time, you can ride in either direction.
- On a bridge in order to avoid obstructions to travel when

absolutely necessary. But, the snowmobile must be operated in the extreme right-hand lane.

- On state and local trails.
- On iced-over waters that have legal access.
- On public lands that are open to motorized vehicles.

You may NOT ride on the roadway, shoulder or the inner slope of the ditch for a STATE or COUNTY road.

You also may NOT ride on any CITY road or ditch in Minnetrista.

For more information visit the DNR website at:

www.dnr.state.mn.us