



#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **City-wide  
Clean Up Day  
May 4th**
- **Trista Day  
May 18th**

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# Crime Fighter

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## Identity Theft

Scams and crooked deals are everywhere today, often where we least expect it. When you're home answering the phone, browsing the internet, checking the mail, or opening your door, scam artists and fraudulent operators look for ways to get your social security number and other private information. At every turn, you can protect yourself by following one easy principle. If someone contacts you and claims to need your private information, think twice and remember: **when in doubt, don't give it out.**

How it happens. Private information can be compromised in a number of ways. Most often, fraudulent operators pose as a legitimate source, such as your bank or a government agency. Some may even pose as a trusted local business, or as a friend or family member. All of these actors will try to get you to provide private information, such as your social security number, a bank account number, or a credit card number. Once you give it out, however, a scam artist may steal your identity and your money, opening lines of credit in your name or draining your accounts. Some crooked actors make deceptive

claims and try to scare you into giving up your banking information. A legitimate source should not contact you to ask for private information up front. If you are unsure of who is contacting you, remember: **when in doubt, don't give it out.**

Over the phone. Consumers report receiving calls from individuals who claim to be many things they are not. Some scam operators pose as Medicare, Social Security, or an insurance company, claiming to send new benefit cards and needing to "verify" private information. Other scam callers claim to be from "Card Services" or from a credit card company, asking to "verify" similar private account information. Even more troubling, many consumers report receiving calls from imposters who try to pose as a loved one, asking for banking information or an unsecure money transfer. All of these calls involve a scam artist who is trying to gain your trust and your private information in order to take your money.

Cellphone customers also experience scams. Consumers report receiving text messages from scam artists and fake organizations claiming a need to "verify" their bank

account, credit card, or other private information.

Telephone scams can be some of the most difficult to detect, because callers can seem very real and their need very urgent. Consumers must use caution whenever someone calls with a sense of urgency, needing their private information. Take time to verify the call with the help of a friend or through a trusted line of communication. Before providing any private information, remember: **when in doubt, don't give it out.**

For more information, visit the Minnesota Attorney General's website;

[www.ag.state.mn.us](http://www.ag.state.mn.us)



# Trista Day

Trista Day will be held on Saturday, May 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This annual public safety awareness event is sponsored by the City of Minnetrista and it features events for people of all ages including safety education displays, kids' activities, petting zoo & pony rides, balloon artist, product displays, promotional items, and free popcorn & water. We will also have food trucks

with items for purchase.

It takes many volunteers, vendors and donors to make Trista Day a success. Trista Day is a great opportunity for your business or organization to promote itself to the area residents through a booth. It is a great way to serve your community, promote safety awareness and have fun!

If you are interested in help-

ing make Trista Day a success by contributing as a vendor, entertainer, and/or booth-holder, 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.

*Temporary road  
restrictions are  
now in place*

## Minnetrista Road Restrictions

Temporary road restrictions were put into place on February 26th. Once the road is posted it becomes officially restricted. Restrictions will be in place until around mid May. Traffic limitations are necessary at this crucial time for the road system. Heavy loads can cause extensive damage to the base and surface of the street. Repairs to both gravel and bituminous roads are costly for city taxpayers. During this time, most of the City's roads are limited to 4

tons per axle with some roads having higher limits.

If you are having large trucks deliver to your home during the weight restriction months, please contact the City office to find out what the limit is on your road.

The Minnetrista Police currently carry scales in their patrol vehicles to measure trucks to ensure they are abiding by the weight restrictions. They do enforce these weight re-

strictions and will ticket anyone who does not meet the requirements.

For more information, visit the Public Works section of the City website:

[www.cityofminnetrista.com](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com)

## Winter Parking Reminder / Lake Access Parking

We would like to remind residents 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 and the dates the restrictions are lifted:

### MINNETRISTA

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

### ST. BONIFACIUS

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

Even if there is no snow on the ground, the ordinance is still in effect.

The lake access parking restrictions are in effect all year long, which includes the winter months. Be sure to read all signs at the boat landings for parking restrictions and hours.

VIOLATORS WILL BE ISSUED CITATIONS.

# Drugged Driving

Personal possession and use of certain amounts of cannabis and cannabis products are no longer a crime as of August 1, 2023. The new state law allows people age 21 and older to possess or transport legalized amounts.

## What kinds of cannabis products does the legislation legalize?

The legalized products include edibles, topicals, concentrates and marijuana flower.

The 2023 legislation expands the legalization of THC-related products. In 2022, it became legal to consume lower-potency, hemp-derived THC edible products.

## How much cannabis or products like THC edibles can I legally have in my vehicle?

If you're age 21 and older, you can have up to 2 ounces of cannabis flower, 8 grams of concentrated THC and 800 milligrams of edible product (including lower-potency THC hemp-derived product).

## Can I use cannabis or products like THC edibles while driving?

Just like how drinking alcohol in a vehicle is illegal, it's very important to remember that while in a vehicle, it's illegal for:

Drivers or passengers to open any cannabis packaging, use marijuana or consume other cannabis products. Drivers or passengers to have an unsealed container of marijuana (for example, 2 ounces in a zip-close bag).

The driver to be impaired by marijuana or other cannabis products. Driving high is a DWI (Driving While Impaired).

Violating any of those rules can lead to you being charged with a traffic offense. You may keep opened product in the trunk of a car or another area not accessible by the driver or passengers.

Always plan ahead for a safe and sober ride if you're going to use marijuana or consume cannabis products.

## What is the legal limit for impairment with cannabis or products like THC edibles?

While there is no legal limit like with alcohol and the 0.08 BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) restriction, law enforcement can arrest a driver for DWI if they observe and document impairment.

Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-9 THC) is the substance that creates impairment from consuming cannabis. It becomes inactive once metabolized by the body, but that can take hours to happen and leaves you at risk for a DWI.

Impaired is impaired, regardless of the substance, and driving high is a DWI.

Our message will never change: Always plan ahead for a safe and sober ride and never drive while impaired by any substance or combination of substances.

## I'm a medicinal marijuana consumer. Can I still be arrested for DWI?

Yes. Even as medicinal consumer, if you are impaired by the product and driving, expect to be arrested for DWI. Impaired is impaired, regardless of the substance, from prescription medications to alcohol to cannabis. Always plan ahead for a safe and sober ride.

## What are some effects of cannabis impairment?

Cannabis has measurable effects that impair the ability to drive and react quickly in critical situations. People may think that they're safer drivers while high. That's wrong.

Research shows that driving high may increase your risk of a crash since your reaction time is slower, and your understanding of distance and speed is different. The effects of driving high can include:

Slowed reaction time.

Difficulties in road tracking and lane-position variability.

Decreased, divided attention.

Impaired cognitive performance.

Relaxed inhibitions.

Impaired executive functions, including route planning, decision making, and risk taking, or a combination of all of these factors.

We expect people to consume alcohol and cannabis together, and that can have an exponential effect on impairment. DWIs involving a combination of alcohol and cannabis are already a concern in Minnesota.

## What if I have THC in my system because I frequently consume cannabis, but I didn't consume it before I got behind the wheel? Am I still at risk of driving impaired?

It depends on when you last consumed the cannabis product. Impairment from cannabis is caused by active delta-9 THC, which becomes inactive over time. Its metabolites are stored in the body for longer periods. Delta-9 THC becomes inactive once metabolized by the body, but that can take hours to happen and leaves you at risk for a DWI.

Law enforcement can arrest a driver for DWI if they observe and document impairment. Impaired is impaired, regardless of the substance, and driving high is a DWI. Any level of active THC in your blood could potentially lead to a DWI arrest if there's observed, documented impairment.

## What are the penalties if I get arrested for DWI due to cannabis or THC-related products?

The penalties follow what a driver would receive with an alcohol DWI. It

does not matter what the substance is with a DWI.

A first offense DWI will be a misdemeanor, and it will go up from there on subsequent offenses. Penalties can include, but are not limited to, license plate impoundment, driver's license revocation and vehicle forfeiture. As always, it's best to plan a safe and sober ride, keeping yourself from the risk of receiving a DWI.

## What could a driver face if the cannabis products they have in their vehicle exceed the legal possession and transportation limits?

It depends on the amount. Potential consequences could range from a citation to an arrest for felony possession or sales crime.

## Can law enforcement still search a vehicle if there's a marijuana smell?

The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that a law enforcement officer cannot search a vehicle solely based on the odor of marijuana.

However, it's important to remember that it's illegal for marijuana and other cannabis products to be used, open or unpackaged in a vehicle. If a law enforcement officer smells burned marijuana in a vehicle, it may be a factor to continue investigating to determine the source and/or whether the driver is impaired. A strong, raw smell may also indicate a violation of the new "open package law" and result in further investigation.

## How is law enforcement trained to recognize impairment by cannabis or other substances besides alcohol?

Law enforcement regularly looks for driver impairment of any kind. If a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, they will be able to detect it.

Most licensed peace officers are trained on standard field sobriety testing. They are trained to look for clues of impairment from alcohol or drugs. They look for things such as body tremors, failure to control speech, change in pupil size and other clinical effects.

In addition, if they detect drugs, officers have the option of requesting a Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE). The DRE can assist with the investigation by performing a scientifically validated evaluation.

## Will there be a way for law enforcement to specifically detect cannabis-only impairment like how a preliminary breath test (PBT) is used to detect drunk drivers?

Law enforcement regularly looks for driver impairment of any kind. If a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, they will be able to detect it.

Regarding cannabis-only impairment, we plan to learn more through efforts such as an oral fluid roadside testing pilot project. We're planning to begin that project in the fall of 2023.

For more

information,

visit Minnesota

Office of Traffic

Safety website:

[www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov)



## 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](mailto:police@ci.minnetrista.mn.us)

### Fight Crime. Promote Safety



Officer Tyler Anderson was sworn in on February 5th at the City Council meeting as the 15th Minnetrista Police Officer.

Anderson graduated from Vermillion Community College with an Associates Degree in Police Science, where he also completed his law enforcement SKILLS program. He started out his career with Lake County Sheriff's Office as a 911 Dispatcher/Jailer and then was hired in 2016 as a Police Officer for Two Harbors Police Department. Most recently, he was a Deputy in St. Louis County for two years before coming to Minnetrista. Officer Anderson officially started in Minnetrista on January 2, 2024 and is already nearing the end of his field training.

We are grateful that Officer Anderson brings nearly seven years of law enforcement experience to the Minnetrista Public Safety Department, and we are excited to have him on board!



## Night Driving Safety Tips

These tips were obtained from the National Safety Council. For more information, visit their website at:

[www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

- Prepare your car for night driving. Clean headlights, taillights, signal lights, mirror faces and windows once a week. All windows should be cleaned on the inside as well as the outside.
- Have your headlights properly aimed. Misaimed headlights blind other drivers and reduce your ability to see the road.
- Don't drink and drive or consume any medications which warn about operating a motor vehicle while taking them.
- Avoid smoking when you drive. Smoke's nicotine and carbon monoxide hamper night vision.
- If there is any doubt, turn your headlights on. Lights will make it easier for other drivers to see you. Being seen is as important as seeing.
- Reduce your speed and increase your following distance.
- When following another vehicle, keep your headlights on low beam so you don't blind the driver ahead of you.
- If you have trouble, pull off the road as far as possible. Turn on your flashers and the dome light. Stay off the roadway.