



# Crime Fighter

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

MARCH 1, 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **City-wide Clean Up Day**  
May 14th
- **Trista Day**  
May 21st

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## 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](http://www.forbes.com)

# Trista Day



Trista Day will be held on Saturday, May 21st 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 and pony rides, product displays, promotional items, and free food! However, 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 helping make Trista Day a suc-

cess by contributing as a vendor, entertainer, boothholder, and/or volunteer, 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, 2022.

*Temporary road restrictions are typically in place until May*

## Minnetrista Road Restrictions

Temporary road restrictions will be posted beginning in March. 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)

## St. Patrick's Day Safety

Don't test your luck by driving drunk this St. Patrick's Day. Plan for a safe and sober ride home to avoid the serious consequences that come with a DWI.

St. Patrick's Day is historically a dangerous day on Minnesota roads, as it's the second leading holiday for DWI arrests per hour, only behind Labor Day.

The number of people arrested for DWI on St. Patrick's Day typically goes up when the holiday falls on a week-

end.

Drunk drivers are risking the lives of everyone on the road when they get behind the wheel.

Prevent Drunk Driving

- Plan for a sober ride—designate a sober driver, use a cab/public transportation or stay at the location of the celebration.
- Speak Up—offer to be a designated driver, or be
- available to pick up a love one anytime, anywhere.
- Buckle up—the best defense against drunk driving.
- Report drunk driving—call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and observed dangerous behavior.

# Embedded Social Worker Program

Hennepin County is expanding its new program to embed social workers in police departments as the debate over policing reforms continues across the state.

Seven suburban departments serving cities around Lake Minnetonka will join the program in early 2022, bringing the total number of departments in the county that use the social workers to 21. County officials launched the program in 2019 to tap the skills of mental health experts on crisis calls and allow police to focus on crime instead.

With next year's expansion, the program will embed 12 social workers across the 21 departments that serve 29 cities in Hennepin County.

"People suffering from mental health crises aren't criminals. They need our help. They need to be given treatment, not put in jail cells," said Hennepin County Sheriff David Hutchinson, who was flanked by city and county leaders during a news conference Tuesday outside the newly renovated Minnetonka police headquarters.

Hutchinson said the program fills gaps in police departments with social work-

ers like Jessica Angeles, who splits her time between the Minnetonka and Plymouth police departments, which were among the first departments to join the program.

Angeles said that most people who call police are dealing with psychiatric crises and described her role as identifying "the cause of the crisis and coming up with clear solutions to help the person get back to their normal functioning." That could be rent assistance, therapy or case management.

"Every day, I see situations where people have issues that just don't need police work," she said.

Officials say the embedded social worker program helps reduce the number of repeat calls related to mental health. In Brooklyn Park, about 30% of mental health calls were coming from the same 25 residents. After assigning a social worker to engage with those residents over a period of six months, calls dropped by 85%.

Of the 40,000 calls that Minnetonka police received in 2020, about 450 were mental health calls, said officer Scott Marks, a trained social worker

who serves as Minnetonka's community engagement officer. Minnetonka and Plymouth police have a joint mental health unit to reduce repeat calls and track data for better outcomes.

Marks said that he has trained 20 officers in crisis intervention, which is becoming more common in police work. Even then, he said, "Law enforcement isn't always the right answer."

Minnetonka Police Chief Scott Boerboom said he hoped that his department can get a full-time social worker on staff rather than the part-time help now offered through the program.

The new cities to be served by the program next year are Corcoran, Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Long Lake, Medina, Minnetonka Beach, **Minnetrista**, Mound, Orono, **St. Bonifacius**, Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Wayzata and Woodland

*Article obtained from the Star Tribune*

## 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 be-**

**tween 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.**

**Winter parking restrictions are still in effect for both Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius**



### 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



# National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

## These 3 Numbers Can Save A Life

When you're truly in the middle of a crisis, it's hard to remember anything, let alone a 10-digit phone number. That's why the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules in the summer of 2020 to establish a three-digit number that connects people in mental health crises to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The new phone number, **988**, will be much easier to remember and dial quickly, getting help that much faster to anyone considering suicide.

The current **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** number, 800-273-8255 (or 800-273-TALK) will remain in effect until July 16, 2022, at which point it will switch to **988**. In the meantime, the FCC is requiring people in certain area codes to switch to 10-digit dialing by also including the area code for any local call.

At first glance, it may seem like the new Suicide Prevention Lifeline and

local calls in certain area codes have nothing to do with each other. But phone numbers in some area codes – like 218 and 952 here in Minnesota – have 988 prefixes. Which means that, once 988 goes into effect as the emergency number for mental health crises, anyone starting a run-of-the-mill local phone call that begins with 988 without including the area code first, could end up accidentally reaching the National Suicide Hotline, thus possibly making it inaccessible to people who really need it. Using the area code before dialing any number with a 988 prefix will prevent accidental hotline calls and keep 988 available for those in need of immediate mental health crisis assistance.

This may take some getting used to for those who are accustomed to dialing only seven digits to make local phone calls, which is why this change took place in stages. On April 24, 2021 10-digit dialing in the 218 and 952 area codes became possible, but if you accidentally dial seven digits instead of 10, your call will still go through.

Starting Oct. 24, 2021 you had to dial the area code plus the telephone num-

ber for any local call in the 218 or 952 area codes. If you only dial the seven-digit telephone number, you'll get a recording saying your call cannot be completed as dialed. In that case, you'll have to hang up and dial again, this time using the area code.

Keep in mind that if you encounter a suicidal or otherwise agitated person, you can use Text-to-911 to report it. And you can still call 911 to get help in other emergencies—that won't change.

So if you have 218 or 952 area code, you will need to use 10-digit dialing for local numbers now. And come this summer, rest assured if you or someone you're with experiences a mental health or suicide crises, you'll only have to remember three numbers – **988** – to get the help you need.