



# Crime Fighter

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MAY 3, 2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **City-wide Clean Up Day**  
May 8th—
- **Trista Day**  
May 15th—  
**POSTPONED**

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## Crosswalk or Trail Crossing? What's the Difference?

In recent years, we have experienced a lot of growth within our City as well as the surrounding area. As a result, traffic volumes have increased dramatically. With more population, there are more people using crosswalks and trail crossings.

This presents some challenging safety issues. The rules regarding crosswalks and trail crossings are very different and can be confusing for everyone. Crosswalks and trail crossings often times have similar markings making it difficult to tell the difference. While they may look similar, the rules regarding them are very different. The signage is the best way to tell if it is a crosswalk or trail crossing. Here are some guidelines to help clarify this topic.

The general rule is that pedestrians have the right of way within a crosswalk, while vehicular traffic has the right of way at trail crossings. The definitive difference is that the law requires motorists to stop for pedestrians within a cross-

walk. It does not require vehicular traffic to stop for trail crossings unless they are marked with specific traffic control devices. Most trail crossings are marked with stop or yield signs for the trail users. In other words, trail users are responsible for yielding to vehicular traffic. It is imperative that trail users obey the signs to ensure their safety.

Consistency is key to ensuring safety. By having clear rules and following them, people know what to expect and as a result they react predictably and appropriately. When people change or do not follow the rules, it creates inconsistency which results in unpredictability and increased risk.

For example, when motorists stop to allow trail users to cross the road even though the trail user does not have the right of way, it creates undue risk. While I respect the Good Samaritan, this scenario actually creates more danger than it prevents. Motorists that stop where it is not required or expected create the risk of being

rear-ended putting themselves and trail users at increased risk. Furthermore, oncoming traffic may not stop as they are not normally required to, creating additional risk to everyone. These risks can be avoided if everyone understands and follows the rules.

Remember that safety is everyone's responsibility. We can all make a difference by following the rules and exercising caution around crosswalks and trail crossings.

Respectfully,

*Paul A. Falls*

Director of Public Safety

## Trista Day

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Trista Day event scheduled for May 15, 2021 has been postponed indefinitely. Staff will continue to monitor the situation closely to determine if we can hold this event safely this fall. Stay tuned for more information.





# 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 Minnetrista Police. These services include traffic control, crime prevention, citizen and neighborhood watch programs, residence and business checks, security assignments, and emergency call-outs to disasters and crisis situations.

To qualify for the position, applicants must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a valid MN drivers license
- Pass an oral interview
- Pass a complete background investigation
- After acceptance, Reserves must successfully complete the Hennepin County Reserve Course

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



## Sprinkling Ordinance

Both Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius have sprinkling ordinances in place that restrict the days and times that sprinkling is allowed. The following are summaries for both cities:

### Minnetrista

- Sprinkling is not allowed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day of the week between May 1st through September 30th.
- This applies to new sod and seed as well as established lawns, vegetation,

shrubs, trees and gardens, unless a sprinkling permit (30 day grace) is obtained from the police department (for new sod or seed, new trees or shrubbery).

- Odd/Even rules apply, meaning if the property address ends in an even number, irrigation may take place on an even numbered day of the week. If the address ends in an odd number, irrigation may take place on an odd numbered day of the week.

### St. Bonifacius

- Sprinkling is not allowed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day of the week.
- Odd/Even rules apply
- A 30 day grace for new seed or sod from the date of planting can be obtained by written request to the St. Bonifacius City Hall.



## Distracted Walking

With more and more children and teenagers owning digital devices, it is crucial that children understand the importance of pedestrian safety. Walking while using a cell phone or other electronic device can pose risks if you become distracted.

As children prepare for school being out of session and being home this summer, they need to learn and practice basic safe-

ty tips while walking around town, around vehicles, and walking to activities. While it's important to keep these rules in mind during the summer, they should be practiced at all times.

- Do not walk, talk and text
- If you have to talk or text, move out of the way of others and to the side of the walkway.

- Do not cross or walk in the street while using an electronic device.
- Do not walk with headphones in your ears.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially in congested areas.

For more information, visit the National Safety Council

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

# 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](http://www.ftc.gov)

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

## Child Seat Inspections

Across the state, there are over 1,000 individuals who have successfully passed child passenger safety training. The Minnetrista Police Department has a Community Service Officer who is certified to inspect child safety seats. Should you have the need to have your child seat inspected to see if it is installed and used correctly, please contact our office to set up an ap-

pointment. The CSO will inspect your child seat and make recommendations to help keep your child safe while riding in the vehicle. **We must also remind you that this service is only offered to residents of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius.**

The Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety has also set up a feature on their website that will allow you to search for child seat in-

spection specialists by County.

Just visit their website:

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

*Call us at (952)446-1131 to set up an appointment*



### 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



Visit our website:

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

# Lost and Found Animals

The Minnetrista Police assist citizens with numerous animal calls each year. We hop that the following information will help you determine what to do if you ever find or lose an animal.

### LOST ANIMALS

Call the Police Department to see if your animal has been turned in. If not, we will take down your name, address, phone number and animal description. We will call you if your animal is found. You can also call the CrossRoads Animal Shelter at (763)684-1234 to see if someone may have turned your animal into their shelter.

It is also helpful to have identifica-

tion on the animal's collar or have the animal microchipped.

### FOUND ANIMALS

If you find an animal, please call the Police Department to see if we have information on who the animal belongs to. If not, we will pick up the animal and impound it.

It should be noted that the Police Department does not pick up cats. Should you find a stray cat, you can call the CrossRoads Animal Shelter for options.

If you should ever find an injured animal, please use caution when around the animal. They may be frightened and could be uneasy around people. Call the Police

Department immediately and we will handle the situation.

If an animal bites someone or another animal, contact the Police Department immediately so we can investigate the incident.

