



Crime Fighter

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

PD and City Offices
closed:

- September 6th

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Welcome

Staffing a Growing Community

The city of Minnetrista has experienced significant growth in recent years and that trend is expected to continue well into the future. While a growing community is exciting and has many benefits, it also presents many challenges.

One of the most significant challenges associated with growth is maintaining the appropriate level of staffing and city services. With that said, it is vitally important to monitor and evaluate staffing as growth increases the demand for city services.

As the Director of Public Safety, I am specifically concerned about increased levels of traffic, calls for service and investigations. We have to grow along with the population in order to meet the increasing demand for services.

So how do we determine when it is appropriate to add additional staff? There are a number of factors we consider when determining the appropriate time to add additional staff. Those factors include

but are not limited to; population, calls for service levels, response times, and specific needs of the community. As part of this process, we also survey similar cities from time to time to see how we compare.

We have been monitoring and evaluating our staffing levels for years. As a result, we have made appropriate adjustments and additions to meet the needs of our community. In 2016 we added an officer to the West Metro Drug Task Force in response to a dramatic increase in drug related issues directly affecting our community. In 2017, we added a detective to address the increasing demand for investigative time and expertise. Social media crimes, which are very time consuming, are a good example of how investigations has become much more challenging over the past several years.

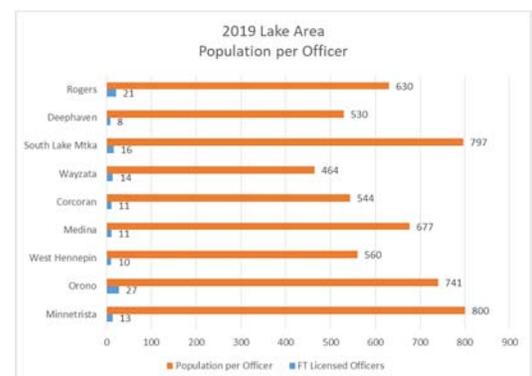
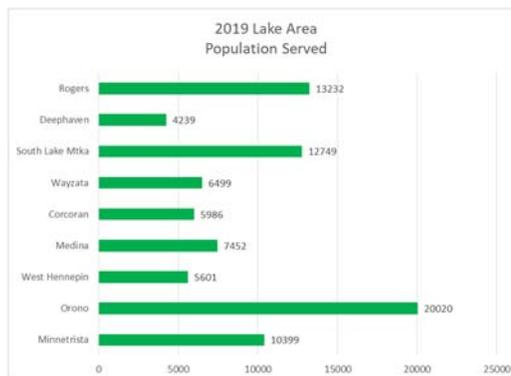
The city of Minnetrista has a large geographical area (31 square miles) and has developed in pockets scattered around the entire city. This creates some challenges from a patrol and response time perspective. Additional patrol staff would definitely help in-

crease coverage, reduce response times and reduce overtime costs.

We currently serve a population of just over 10,000 residents, which includes St. Bonifacius & Minnetrista combined. Our current officer to population ratio is 800 residents per officer, which means that we are currently staffed at a lower level than any of the other agencies listed. I believe adding one additional patrol officer in 2022 is a step in the right direction and will serve our community well.

The charts below are based on estimated 2019 LMCIT population estimates.

Chief Paul Falls



National Night Out

National Night Out was held on August 3rd. Minnetrista had 18 neighborhoods participate this year. We would like to thank everyone for coming out and inviting us into your neighborhoods.



For more information regarding bus safety, please visit:

www.dps.mn.gov

We are always accepting application for our Volunteer Reserve Unit

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—every corner is a crosswalk.

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 Community Service Officer Walsh at (952)446-1131.

Poisoning Prevention Tips

Let's face it, sometimes kids get into things that they probably shouldn't. Here are a few tips to keep little explorers from finding their way into household items that could be dangerous. But just in case, we'll also show you what to do if your child accidentally ingests something harmful.

Keep cleaners and other toxic products out of reach

- Store all household products out of children's sight and reach. Young kids are often eye-level with items under the kitchen and bathroom sinks. So any bleach, detergents, dishwasher liquid or cleaning solutions that are kept there should be moved to a new storage location.
- Install child safety locks on cabinets where you have stored poisonous items. It only takes a few minutes, and it gives you one less thing to worry about.
- Read product labels to find out what can be hazardous to kids. Dangerous household items include makeup, personal hair care products, plants, pesticides, lead, art supplies, alcohol and carbon monoxide.

- Don't leave poisonous products unattended while in use. Many incidents happen when adults are distracted for a moment on the phone or at the door.
- Keep cleaning products in their original containers. Never put a potentially poisonous product in something other than its original container (such as a plastic soda bottle) where it could be mistaken for something else.
- Throw away old medicines and other potential poisons. Check your garage, basement and other storage areas for cleaning and work supplies you no longer need and can discard.

Check your purse for potential hazards

- Be aware of any medications or makeup that may be in your handbag. Store handbags out of the reach of young children.

Use original, child-resistant packaging

- Buy child-resistant packages when available.
- Keep products in their original

packages to avoid confusion.

Keep medicines up and away

- Make sure that all medications, including vitamins, are stored out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Even if you are tempted to keep the medicine handy because you have to give another dose in a few hours, don't leave it on the counter between dosing. Always put medicines and vitamins away after every use.

Have Poison Control on speed dial

- Program the toll-free number for the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) into your home and cell phone and post it near your phone or on your refrigerator for the babysitter. Hopefully, you'll never need it, but it's nice to have just in case.
- If you suspect your child has been poisoned, call poison control. If your child has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911.
- Do not make the child vomit or give them anything unless directed by a professional.

For more information visit:

www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org

Half of the 2.4 million calls to Poison Control Centers in 2010 involved children ages 5 and under. In fact, 9 out of 10 poisonings occur at home.

Fire Prevention

Fire and burns are the third-leading cause of unintentional death among children 1 to 14 years old—and 84% of fire deaths occur in the home.

A fire can happen in an instant and devastate a family forever. Plan ahead—keep these fire safety tips handy, and use them:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. A working smoke alarm reduces the change of

dying in a fire by nearly half.

- Test smoke alarms once a month; change batteries once a year and when the alarm "chirps" to warn that the battery is low.
- Make sure you have two exits (doors and/or windows) out of every room.
- Make and practice an escape plan with your family. Choose a safe meeting place outside.

- Never leave burning candles unattended and keep matches/lighters out of children's reach.
- Never smoke in bed.
- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Keep children away from cooking and heating appliances
- Turn off space heaters whenever you leave the room.

Information obtained from the Minnesota Safety Council



Contact Information

Minnetrista Public Safety Department

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Fight Crime. Promote Safety



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