



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

PD and City Offices  
closed:

- September 5th

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## Deer—Vehicle Safety

### Don't Veer for Deer

Deer-vehicle crashes peak in the autumn months, but Minnesota's large deer population makes them a safety hazard on the road all year long.

An important safety tip for drivers is to never veer for deer—swerving can take a motorist into oncoming traffic or off the road.

Motorist Safety Tips to Avoid Deer Crashes:

- Drive at safe speeds and always be buckled up.
- Be especially cautious from 6 to 9 p.m., when deer are most active.
- Use high beams as much as possible at night, especially in deer-active areas.
- Don't swerve to avoid a deer. Swerving can cause motorists to lose control and travel off the road or into oncoming traffic.
- Don't count on deer whistles or deer fences to

deter deer from crossing roads.

- Watch for the reflection of deer eyes and for deer silhouettes on the shoulder of the road. If anything looks slightly suspicious, slow down.
- Slow down in areas known to have a large deer population—such as areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forest land; and whenever in forested areas between dusk and dawn.
- Deer do unpredictable things—they stop in the middle of the road when crossing and quickly recross back; and move toward an approaching vehicle. Blow the horn and urge deer to leave the road. Stop if the deer stays on the road; don't try to go around it.
- Any Minnesota resident may claim a road-kill animal by contacting a law enforcement officer. An authorization permit will be issued allowing

the individual to lawfully possess the deer.

- If a deer is struck but not killed by a vehicle, keep a distance as deer may recover and move on, or poses a public safety risk, report the incident to local law enforcement.

Information obtained from the MN Department of Public Safety

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



# National Night Out

National Night Out was held on August 2nd. Minnetrista & St. Bonifacius had 20 neighborhoods participate this year. We would like to thank everyone for coming out and inviting us into your neighborhoods.



For more information, please visit: [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

*We are always accepting applications for our Volunteer Reserve Unit*

# Distracted Walking

With more and more children and teenagers owning digital devices, it is crucial that children understand the importance of pedestrian safety. Findings from a study conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission show that in 2011, a total of 1152 people of all ages were treated in hospital emergency rooms in the U.S. for injuries sustained while walking and using a cell phone or other electronic device. And according to the statistics posted on [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org), 61 children are hit by cars every

day in the United States.

As children prepare for the new school year, they need to learn and practice basic safety tips while walking to and from school, around school buses and car, and to other activities. While it's important to keep these rules in mind during the school year, 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 First Student at:

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

Or the National Safety Council: [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

# 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 the Police Department at (952) 446-1131.

# “Talk. They Hear You.”®

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) national substance use prevention campaign helps parents and caregivers start talking with their children early about the dangers of alcohol and other drug uses.

The “Talk. They Hear You.” campaign aims to reduce underage drinking and other substance use among youths under the age of 21 by providing parents and caregivers with information and resources they need to address these issues with their children early and often.

Research suggest that one of the most important factors in healthy child development is a strong, open relationship with a parent. It is important to start talking to your children about alcohol and other drugs before they are exposed to them—as early as 9 years old.

The following are 5 conversation goals:

1. Show you disapprove of underage drinking and other drug misuse.

Over 80 percent of young people ages 10-18 say their parents are the leading influence on their

decision whether to drink. Send a clear and strong message that you disapprove of underage drinking and use or misuse of other drugs.

2. Show you care about your child’s health, wellness and success.

Young people are more likely to listen when they know you’re on their side. Reinforce why you don’t want your child to drink or use other drugs—because you want your child to be happy and safe. The conversation will go a lot better if you’re open and you show concern.

3. Show you’re a good source of information about alcohol and other drugs.

You want your child to make informed decisions about alcohol and other drugs with reliable information about its dangers. You don’t want your child to learn about alcohol and other drugs from unreliable sources. Establish yourself as a trustworthy source of information.

4. Show you’re paying attention and you’ll discourage risky behaviors.

Show you’re aware of what your

child is up to, as young people are more likely to drink or use other drugs if they think no one will notice. Do this in a subtle way, without prying.

5. Build your child’s skills and strategies for avoiding drinking and drug use.

Even if you don’t think your child wants to drink or try other drugs, peer pressure is a powerful thing. Having a plan to avoid alcohol and drug use can help children make better choices. Talk with your child about what they would do if faced with a decision about alcohol and drugs, such as texting a code word to a family member or practicing how they’ll say “no thanks.”

Keep it low-key. Don’t worry, you don’t have to get everything across in one talk. Plan to have many short talks.

If you would like more tips and information on this campaign, visit:

[www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov](http://www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov)



## 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 motor-

ists 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.

**For more information regarding bus safety, visit:**  
[www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov)



### Contact Information

### Minnetrista Public Safety Department

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Phone: (952)446-1131

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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](http://www.Minnesotasafetycouncil.org)