



# T.I.P.S.



## "TIPS AND INFO FOR PUBLIC SAFETY"

Volume 26, Issue 2

Fall-Winter 2017

### Holiday Safety?

I'm sure my English teacher would be mortified by this adaptation, but I hope these will stick with you if you are intending any drinking, driving, decorating (with or without fire) or shopping any time in the future.

#### Road Safety:

- Check that wipers and tires are there, in excellent shape, and have good tread and air.
- If holiday drinking should occur, make sure there's no driving for safety of him and her. (and the rest of us out on the road)
- Have non-alcoholic choices, but if alcohol is abreast, be prepared to offer transportation or sleeping bags for guests.

#### Prevent holiday fires:

- Planning a huge light display? Overloading outlets is a risk not to take.
- If you find your lights are damaged and frayed? Don't use them that way, fix, or throw them away.

- If candles are used - proper holders are required. Proper location is also important to keep your valuables from being fired.
- Keeping candles and fire away from children and pets, is also, or course, a very good bet.
- If decorations go up high, using the right type of ladder on firm level ground can help limit the need for Doctors to make rounds.
- When hanging your stocking (or your laundry) by the fireplace with care, make sure there is a non-flammable label on there.
- By placing a live tree away from the fireplace, heaters and stove, you are doing your part to help prevent 911 overload.

#### Crime Prevention:

- When stuck with some gifts inside the car, hide them real good where thieves can't see them thar.
- Do you have oodles of lots of new stuff? Mark it, photograph it, and hide the evidence (boxes) inside the can to make stealing it tough.
- I'm running out of space, but maybe just one more. When you get home, bring valuables in, and then lock the door!

**Congratulations to the  
Chalk Art Winners 2017  
"Wear Your Helmet"**



**CONTACT US:** [www.ci.new-hope.mn.us](http://www.ci.new-hope.mn.us)

**New Hope Police Department  
4401 Xylon Avenue North  
New Hope, MN 55428**

**Records or Information 763-531-5170**

**Community Services 763-531-5140**

**Animal Control Questions 763-531-5161  
(for response call 911)**

**Police, Fire, or Medical Response 911**

**MAIL THEFT**

As a neighborhood watch member you have agreed to work together with your neighbors and police to prevent crime. Mail theft occurs all year long, but there may be even more risk during the holiday shopping season. Here are some examples of what you can do to prevent mail theft on your block:

- Ask a trusted neighbor to watch for and pick up your package.
- Only the mail carrier (putting items in) or the homeowner (taking mail out) should be in the mailbox. If someone else is tampering with your or your neighbor's mailbox, call 911 to report this.
- Use your neighborhood contact list to reach neighbors if you notice a crime risk. (Garage is left open late at night)
- If you see suspicious activity that could be a burglary or package theft, call 911 to report it to police.
- Keep in touch with neighbors year-round in whatever means your group has set up.
- Have a Neighborhood Watch meeting at least twice a year to catch up with neighbors and get updated crime information from the police department.

Many homes have sold in New Hope in recent months. Make sure to welcome new residents to your neighborhood watch group and update your contact list so all can participate!

**NEXT T.I.P.S. ISSUE**

The next issue of T.I.P.S. will be out in the Fall. If you have concerns, or would like more information on any topic featured, please contact Officer Korth at 763-531-5140.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**November 15**      **Holiday Toy and Food Drive Begins**

New Hope Police will accept new, unwrapped toy donations through December 15. Cash or Checks will also be accepted to help support the toy drive and the "Shop With a Cop" event.

**June 3**      **City Day (open house) New Hope City Hall**

**August 7**      **National Night Out, New Hope's Night to Unite**

**CRIME PREVENTION TIP**

**Take a Holiday Inventory**

The holidays are a good time to update (or create) your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, or suffers a natural disaster, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.

Make sure things like TVs, power tools, stereo equipment, cameras, jewelry, silver, computers, and home office equipment are on the list.



**IT'S THE LAW!**

**HENNEPIN COUNTY CURFEW FOR JUVENILES**

AGE	WEEKDAYS	FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Under 12	Home by 9:00 p.m.	Home by 10:00 p.m.
12-14	Home by 10:00 p.m.	Home by 11:00 p.m.
15-17	Home by 11:00 p.m.	Home by MIDNIGHT



---

## Data Breach

### What Can You Do?

It seems we hear daily about a new data breach that may impact our risk of becoming a victim of identity theft. With the recent breach to Equifax, and all the others, it is a safe bet that your sensitive personal and financial information was compromised and now it is just a matter of how and when that information may be used by someone. So what can you do right now? Most of the information below is compiled from the FTC Consumer Information Blog dated September 8, 2017, and updated on October 5, 2017. It can be found in it's entirety at: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2017/09/equifax-data-breach-what-do>

- First, make the assumption that someone has your information and plans to use it to steal from you or someone else
- Second - take action.
  - ◊ DO: Change your account passwords, and don't use the same password for many accounts.
  - ◊ DO: Monitor your existing credit and bank accounts closely for any fraud.
  - ◊ DON'T: give out your social security #, credit card #, or bank account information to anyone who contacts you via phone, email, text, or other means.
  - ◊ DON'T: leave your purse or wallet sitting unattended.
  - ◊ DON'T: carry your social security card or other cards you don't need.
  - ◊ DO: store financial records securely and shred them when you no longer need them.
  - ◊ DON'T: post your date of birth, mothers maiden name, first pets name or other security question information on Facebook, or other social media sites.
  - ◊ DO: File your taxes early to prevent someone else from filing for a tax refund using your SSN.
  - ◊ DO: Respond immediately to letters from the IRS, but beware of phone scams who pretend to be the IRS collecting past due tax.
  - ◊ DO: Use a [secure computer](#) and [encrypted network connections](#) when you visit the Equifax website, [www.equifaxsecurity2017.com](http://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com) to verify whether your information was affected by the breach. Click here for the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
    - \* Even if your information was not compromised, U.S. consumers can get a year of free credit monitoring and other services. The deadline to enroll has been extended to January 31, 2018.
  - ◊ DO: Check your credit reports on [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com). This can be done online (be prepared with your personal and financial information to verify your identity), by phone, or by mail. Instructions for each are available on the site
  - ◊ If you find accounts that you don't recognize: visit [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov) for information on what to do, or call New Hope Police Community Services at 763-531-5140 to request a hard copy of "Identity Theft, A Recovery Plan".

#### Credit Freeze or Fraud Alert?

- A [Credit Freeze](#) on your accounts locks down your credit and will make it harder for someone to open a new account in your name. (It does not keep a crook from making charges to your existing accounts) There is a fee for the credit freeze service and you must contact each of the three credit reporting companies to request it.
- A [Fraud Alert](#) on your accounts will warn creditors that you may be an identity theft victim and they should take extra steps to verify anyone seeking credit in your name is really you. The Fraud Alert is free. The length of the fraud alert can vary from 90 days to seven years depending on your circumstance.

Taking a little time to follow some of the above recommendations may save you more time dealing with a theft or fraud in the future. Please call Officer Korth at 763-531-5140 or stop by the lobby if you would like a copy of "Data Breaches, What To Know, What To Do".

---

## Crime Stats and Maps

---

In 2018 we will looking to see if there is a new way to display this data. All readers are encouraged to keep an eye out for the new website which will continue to offer a link to an online crime map and will also allow readers to subscribe to different newsletters and updates. If you have thoughts about what the best way to share crime stats would be, please get in touch.

---

## Holiday Toy & Food Drive Through December 15

---



It's Official! We have started our Holiday Toy Drive to support families in need in New Hope. The New Hope Police Department is currently accepting new, unwrapped, toys gifts, and gift cards (with purchase receipt) for all ages as well as cash donations to support, "Shop With a Cop".

Donations can be brought directly to the New Hope Police Department or to City Hall. There will be a bin inside the Police Department and also near the food bin on the City Hall side of the building.

Cash or checks made out to NEAR or PRISM, New Hope Crime Prevention Fund (for Shop With a Cop), or City of New Hope (not tax deductible- for Shop with a Cop) will be accepted. Please place in a sealed envelope labeled "New Hope Police Department – Toy Drive".

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Officer Korth at 763-531-5140 or nkorth@ci.new-hope.mn.us.

There is a food collection bin in City Hall right at the top of the stairs. Please feel free to stop by any time you would like to donate items. (during



## THE NEW HOPE CRIME PREVENTION FUND UPDATE



**NEW HOPE CRIME PREVENTION FUND**

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

The New Hope Crime Prevention Fund is run by volunteer business and community leaders. The money raised by this Board is used for the following purposes:

- Promote and implement Crime Prevention programs within New Hope.
- Provide equipment and training material for drug awareness, safety and crime prevention initiatives in New Hope.
- Offer rewards for information leading to the arrest of people committing crimes in New Hope.

The New Hope Crime Prevention Fund Board has sent out the annual bulk mail fundraiser, and it may have already arrived in your mailbox. As volunteer board members for the New Hope Crime Prevention Fund, we enthusiastically endorse this community effort. Your support of this fund has a positive impact on the prevention of drug abuse and crime in the New Hope! The New Hope Crime Prevention Fund is a 501 C(3) and contributions to the fund

---

## Next Issue....

---

The next issue of the TIPS Newsletter is due out in the Spring. If you want to stay connected over the winter, sign up for your Neighborhood Nextdoor, volunteer to host a winter Neighborhood Crime Watch Meeting, ask your block captain to forward updates from the New Hope Police Department. Thank you for all you do to improve safety and reduce crime in New Hope!