

BlockCaptain

QUARTERLY

A publication for St. Louis Park Block Captains.

 **St. Louis Park**
MINNESOTA

Experience LIFE in the Park

Fall 2009:

Greetings to everyone! Summer is slipping away and that means the busy holiday season will be here before we know it.

It is a good time to reflect on our summer events (National Night Out), make necessary repairs before the winter (house numbering), and perhaps take the time to express our opinions (Fall Neighborhood Surveys for select neighborhoods.)

All of this and more can be found in the fall edition of the Block Captain Quarterly. Read on!

Fall Neighborhood Surveys:

Those in the following neighborhoods will receive a postcard invitation to fill out an online survey from the police department this fall. Neighborhoods included in the Fall Survey are: **Minikahda Oaks, Minikahda Vista, Browndale, Elmwood, Creekside, Brookside, Brooklawns, Wolfe Park and Meadowbrook.**

If you are in one of these neighborhoods, please take the time to fill out your survey when you receive the notification. Please encourage your neighbors to fill one out too. We appreciate your feedback!



National Night Out 2009

National Night Out 2009

We would like to thank all of you for making this year's National Night Out celebration a huge success! It was a lot of fun and a big 'thank you' to all of you who decided to host a party for your neighbors this year.

It was great to see so many people out that night—we had over 140 parties in St. Louis Park.

Thanks to all of you and your neighbors we were able to collect approximately 1,500 lbs of food donations for STEP food shelf. Way to go everyone!!



Q: What do “Community Service Officers” do?

A: Community Service Officers (CSO's) provide various support services to the department. They relieve sworn personnel of certain duties which can be performed by non-licensed employees, such as handling animal complaints, maintaining police equipment, issuing citations for non-moving violations (parking complaints), watching and feeding prisoners, running errands, and giving tours to visitor groups. Yes, if you have a group that would like to tour the police department, please contact us!

The department has one full-time CSO Coordinator and three part-time CSO's/Cadets. The CSO Coordinator is responsible for training and evaluating the CSO's/Cadets as well as coordinating and prioritizing their activities. Cadets are hired on a temporary, part-time basis and must be attending an accredited post-secondary law enforcement program while employed with the intent to become a licensed police officer. If you have questions for a CSO, please contact the police department at 952-924-2600.

Lenox Neighborhood Association is now forming! Those that live in the Lenox neighborhood and are interested in being a part of this process are urged to contact our Neighborhood Liaison, Marney Olson, at molson@stlouispark.org or 952-924-2184.

Halloween Safety Tips:



Costumes:

- Make sure costumes fit properly. Loose clothing could catch on fire from jack-o-lanterns or candles.
- Make sure shoes fit properly.
- Costume props should be flexible so if the child falls they do not get hurt from the prop.
- Make sure eyeholes in costumes are large enough to see through. Better yet, use washable face paints!

Streets:

- Make sure costumes reflect light so that they are easily seen in the dark.
- The use of a flashlight is recommended.
- Children should only approach well-lit homes and better yet, homes that they know.
- Children should trick-or-treat in groups.
- Streets should be crossed only at crosswalks and intersections. Children should not cross the street between parked cars and should be reminded to look both ways for traffic.

Treats:

- Children should wait until they get home before snacking on their treats.
- Parents should check all treats before allowing their child to eat any.
- Unwrapped treats should be discarded.

The Human Rights Award recognizes individuals, groups, organizations or businesses that have made an outstanding contribution toward increasing understanding and cooperation between people of different backgrounds in St. Louis Park.

The Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the 2009 Human Rights Award. Visit the city's website, www.stlouispark.org, or contact staff liaison Marney Olson, 952-924-2184, for the eligibility requirements and nomination form. Nominations are due December 4, 2009. The recipient(s) will be selected by members of the St. Louis Park Human Rights Commission and the award will be presented at a City Council meeting.

A note about house numbers:

All residents and business owners should have address numbers in places where they can be seen, particularly at night.

Visible numbers are vital when there is an emergency call for police, fire, or the ambulance service. Trying to find the right house can cause a delay in providing service.

In some instances, residents have allowed bushes to cover house numbers. Please check and make sure the numbers may be seen from the street. For those with an alley, please make sure your address is prominently displayed on the garage.

Apartment owners are asked to have numbers on each unit door.

Please remind your neighbors!

Charity Scams:

Taking the following precautions will help ensure your donation dollars benefit the organization and people you want to help:

- Request written information. Ask for the name of the organization, its mission, plans for achieving its objectives, and how much of every dollar collected is used for charitable purposes.
- Call the beneficiary/organization. Find out whether they are aware of the solicitation and have authorized the use of their name.
- Find out how your donation will be distributed. How much will go to the program you want to support and how much will cover the charity's administrative costs. If this is a professional fund-raiser, ask them how much money they keep.
- Refuse high-pressure appeals. Legitimate fund-raisers won't push you to give on the spot.
- Consider the cost. When buying merchandise or tickets for special events, or when receiving free goods in exchange for giving, remember that these items cost money and are generally paid for out of the contributions.
- Avoid cash gifts because they can be lost or stolen. For security and tax record purposes, it is best to pay by check. Make your check payable to the beneficiary, NOT the solicitor.

To check on a charity in Minnesota, call the Minnesota Charities Review Council at 1-800-733-4483 or the Minnesota Attorney General's Office Charity Division at 1-800-657-3787.

St. Louis Park Police Department
3015 Raleigh Ave. S.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
www.stlouispark.org



Make sure to check out the “Back to School” and “After School” safety tips posted on the City’s website at: www.stlouispark.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
Fire Department Open House
Tuesday, October 6th