

BlockCaptain

QUARTERLY

A publication for St. Louis Park Block Captains.

 **St. Louis Park**
MINNESOTA

Experience LIFE in the Park

Spring 2009 News:

Greetings to everyone! In this newsletter you will see that there is a lot going on in the Park in 2009 and we are excited to get Block Captains involved!

You will notice that there will be a lot happening this year with the implementation of the new Plan By Neighborhood. We encourage you to learn more about this and get involved in the process this year by attending your Neighborhood's informational meeting. Please check out the insert for more information.

Citizen's Academy 2009 will take place this October and will consist of seven class sessions.

If you are interested in more information, please visit the City's website at www.stlouispark.org under the Police Department's "Community Outreach" section.

This is a great opportunity for Block Captains as well as others that are interested in the what goes on at the police department. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please let them know!

ATTENTION BLOCK CAPTAINS:

Are you interested in helping out with the planning of the annual meeting? Planning the Annual Picnic? Are you interested in helping to further the Neighborhood Watch program in St. Louis Park? If you answered "yes" to the above questions, then the Block Captain Advisory Council may be right for you! If you are interested in learning more, please contact Officer Czapar at kczapar@stlouispark.org, or by phone at 952-924-2600.



2008 Citizen's Academy

Annual Block Captain's Meeting:

Please make sure to save the date for the Annual Block Captain's Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The meeting will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Highlights of the evening will include: a brief update from the police department, vacant (foreclosed) property management in the Park, internet safety presented by the BCA, and Block Captain Tips/Recruitment.

Of course, this is also a great networking opportunity for Block Captains to meet with one another and discuss neighborhood activities.

We hope to see you there!

SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

Residents in the following neighborhoods will be receiving a postcard in the mail prompting them to complete their neighborhood survey in the next couple of months: Bronx Park, Lenox, Sorensen, Birchwood, Lake Forest, Fern Hill, and Triangle. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete your neighborhood survey!

Tax Season

Crime Prevention Reminders:

When using the United States Mail to send in your tax returns, always drop them in a secured mail box or drop it off directly at the Post Office. Be mindful that you have personal information on those forms that someone could use to claim your identity such as:

- Social Security Numbers
- Routing numbers for your bank accounts
- Income information that someone could use to open credit accounts without your knowledge (identity theft)
- Home Address

When using the Internet:

- Use all precautions you normally use for opening charge accounts with online businesses.
- Turn off our computers when not in use.
- When surfing the internet, hackers can get into your computer and gather personal information.
- Check on fire walls and home computer security measures for your personal computer. There is software that encrypts or scrambles the purchase information you send over the internet.

Neighborhood Associations

The City of St. Louis Park is committed to being a connected and engaged community. St. Louis Park neighborhood associations are a great way to keep neighbors connected and engaged. A neighborhood association is simply a group of neighbors who come together to coordinate efforts to maintain or improve a good neighborhood. In St. Louis Park, 26 of our 35 Neighborhoods are formally organized. Many neighborhood associations in our city keep neighbors updated through a newsletter or flyers, regular email updates, or even a website. In addition, neighborhood associations sponsor community building activities such as picnics, ice cream socials, or service activities such as a park clean up event. Many neighborhood leaders are also block captains or work with the block captains in their neighborhood.

It is quite impressive that we have 26 organized neighborhoods; however, ALL 35 neighborhoods have block captains in St. Louis Park which is outstanding!

If your neighborhood isn't organized, or you would like to learn more about your neighborhood association, please contact Marney Olson, Community Liaison at 952-924-2184 or email molson@stlouispark.org. You can also visit the city's website, www.stlouispark.org, and click on the neighborhoods tab to find your neighborhood and sign up

Plan by Neighborhood:

The City is embarking on the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan and the "Plan by Neighborhood" section of the Comprehensive Plan. You are invited to be a part of this process. Find out your Neighborhood's meeting date by checking out the insert. Please invite any interested neighbors to attend!

Graffiti: Commonly asked questions:

Question: What should I do if I see graffiti in my neighborhood?

Answer: REPORT IT! Call 952-924-2618 and report the location of the graffiti to the dispatcher. They will send an officer out to document the incident.

Question: A family member (son or daughter) of mine knows of someone that has damaged property by writing graffiti on it. What should we do?

Answer: REPORT IT! The St. Louis Park Police Department is offering up to a \$250 reward for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of individual(s) responsible for graffiti/vandalism.

If you have any information of people that are responsible for these types of acts, please call the St. Louis Park Crime Tip Line at (925) 924-2165. Please listen to the entire message before leaving your name and telephone number. Personnel from the St. Louis Park Police Department will monitor the Crime Tip Line during regular business hours.

For more information on the City's graffiti efforts, please visit the City's website at www.stlouispark.org and click on "Police Department" followed by "Department Information."

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

City of St. Louis Park

**Community
Open House**

2009

Tuesday, June 9th
5:30-8:30pm
(rain or shine) at
The Rec Center

Meet city staff and learn about city services. There will be entertainment, free food, and more!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

-Annual Block Captain Meeting-
April 22, 2009
6:30pm to 8:30pm

-Block Captain Picnic-
July 16, 2009

The City would like to invite you to the State of the City Address featuring Mayor Jeff Jacobs and City Manager Tom Harmening. The event will take place on Thursday, March 19, 2009 from 7:30am to 9:00am at AAA Minneapolis Headquarters, 5400 Auto Club Way, St. Louis Park. A light breakfast will be served.

Those that are interested in attending should RSVP with Lisa Songle at City Hall 952-924-2525 or lsongle@stlouispark.org. **BLOCK CAPTAINS: PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN 4:30PM ON MARCH 17TH.**



Experience **LIFE** in the Park

Experience **PLANNING** in the Park.

You are invited to a workshop on the
Plan by Neighborhood
section of the
St. Louis Park Comprehensive Plan

Check the Neighborhood Map on the back to view the date for your
Neighborhood meeting.

All meetings are held from

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

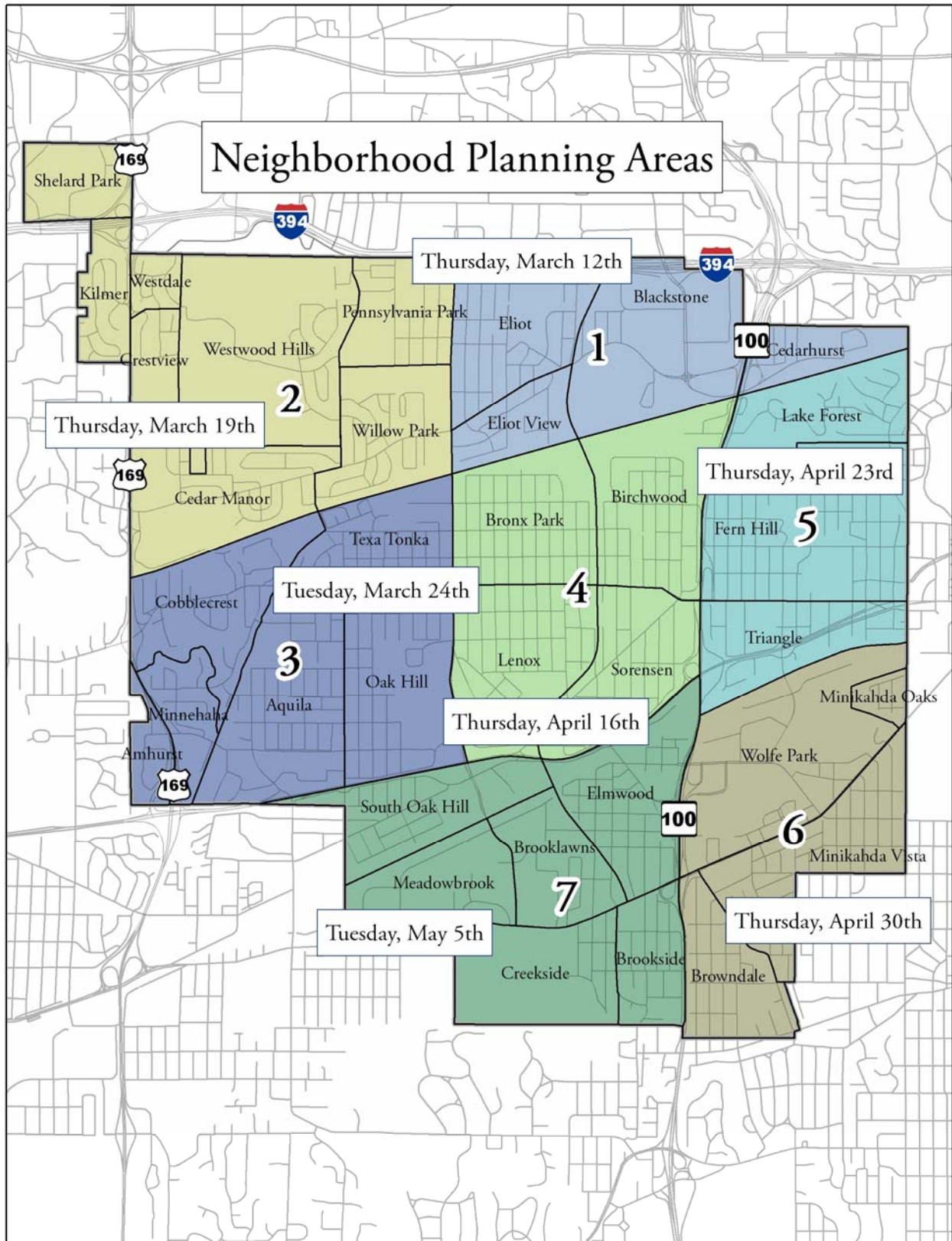
St. Louis Park City Hall – Council Chambers (3rd Floor)

The City is embarking on the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan and the “Plan by Neighborhood” section of the Comprehensive Plan. **You are invited to be part of this process.** The Plan by Neighborhood section is an important part of the Comprehensive Plan where citizens play a critical role in providing input needed to guide and shape the future of their neighborhoods. The first meeting will kick off with City Staff and our consultant providing an update on what’s happened in the neighborhood since the last Plan by Neighborhood update (in 1998).

Then the fun begins – you get to participate in identifying local issues that are important to you and your neighborhood.

We hope you will be able to attend this important meeting!

If you would like to RSVP and/or have any questions, please contact Meg McMonigal, Planning and Zoning Supervisor: mmcmonigal@stlouispark.org or 952-924-2573



Meetings are held from
 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 St. Louis Park City Hall – Council Chambers (3rd Floor)