

# BlockCaptain

## QUARTERLY

*A publication for St. Louis Park Block Captains.*

**St. Louis Park**  
MINNESOTA

*Experience LIFE in the Park*

### Spring 2010:

This April has brought some beautiful weather and also reminds us that spring is finally here!

In this issue, please take note of upcoming Block Captain events. We also included tips to share with your neighbors when it comes to using the city's parks or swimming pools out in the community.

The warmer weather has brought on board some new Block Captains so we encourage you to review the Block Captain duties you will find on page 2 and watch for periodic emails from the police department.

The police department thanks you for your efforts in your neighborhoods and we look forward to seeing you this summer at the picnic and National Night Out!

### National Night Out Tuesday, August 3, 2010:

**Packets will be mailed out to Block Captains in late May or early June so stay tuned for more information!**



**Crestview Neighborhood  
Block Party**



**Block Party**

## Block Captain's Duties:

With summer approaching, we want to take this opportunity to remind Block Captains of their important role in their neighborhood. Block Captains are volunteers that take the time to communicate with their neighbors when the need arises. The police department sees your role as the following:

- Provide crime alert information to your neighbors when the department issues an alert to your neighborhood
- Facilitator for your block's National Night Out event in August
- Maintain Neighborhood Watch group by organizing at least one additional gathering throughout the year to keep neighbors in contact with one another. This event could include things like a neighborhood clean up event, progressive potluck, etc.

We also encourage you to attend the annual meeting each year, attend the summer appreciation picnic, and take advantage of learning about the police department when a citizen's police academy is hosted.

Thank you for all that you do!

**Remember that the Block Captain's Manual is available as a resource to Block Captains in St. Louis Park and can be accessed by going to:**  
**[www.stlouispark.org](http://www.stlouispark.org)**

## Reporting Suspicious Activity:

If you observe people or activities that are out of the ordinary, and seem suspicious to you, we encourage you to call the police department for assistance.

When the dispatcher answers your phone call, please tell the dispatcher your location and the nature of the suspicious activity. Please describe the suspect(s) and give a direction of travel. If there are any vehicles involved, please have the license plate information along with the make, model, and color of the vehicle.

You can contact the police department's non-emergency phone number by dialing 952-924-2618 or in emergency situations, call 911.

## New Ordinance on Soliciting:

The City passed a new ordinance requiring solicitors to display a city issued photo ID. The only exemption is people soliciting for non-profits in their own neighborhood. Hours for soliciting are 9:00 am—8:00 pm. If a premise is marked "no solicitors" a solicitor cannot approach the house. The City has "No Solicitor" signs available to residents. If you have any questions regarding the new ordinance or a solicitor, or would like a sign, contact the police department.

## 2010 Census:

The US Census Bureau conducts field operations nationwide on an ongoing basis. Through late August 2010, Census bureau temporary field staff will work in neighborhoods across the United States to collect information from those who have not returned their census questionnaire and verify addresses. Temporary census workers will have an ID, but it does not

## Water Safety:

With the warm weather approaching, it is a good time to review some water safety tips for the family:

- Teach children to swim! However, please do not leave children unsupervised around water.
- Always wear safety approved life jackets.
- Do not let children play around any water without adult supervision.
- Do not allow running or playing around water.
- Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- Consider taking a basic first aid/CPR class.
- Remember that an unattended bathtub can pose a hazard to young children and children should be supervised.



### *A summer reminder:*

Parks & Recreation does not allow chalk drawings/writing on any park structures including buildings, shelters, play structures, etc. because it is difficult to remove.

Kids are welcome to use chalk on asphalt play surfaces where generally the chalk washes away easily.

Thanks for everyone's cooperation in keeping our Parks great places for everyone!

## Share the Road:

Higher gas prices mean “sharing the road” with more bicycles. Bicycles are legal vehicles on Minnesota roads and bicyclists have the same rights as motorists. This means they share equally the responsibilities of bicycle safety and reducing bicycle/motor vehicle crashes. The top factor contributing to these crashes is failure of both bicyclists and motorists to yield the right-of-way.

Motorists should be aware of bicyclists on the road. The law requires a three-foot clearance when passing a bicycle. Bicyclists may ride on the roadway even if there is a parallel bike trail. Most bike trails have a speed limit and faster moving bicyclists can be a safety hazard to other trail users. Bicyclists also may ride two abreast on the road as long as it does not impede normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

Bicyclists, you are a vehicle, so ride in the same direction as traffic, obey all traffic control signs and signals and signal your turns.

To learn more about bicycle safety in Minnesota, visit [www.sharetheroadmn.org](http://www.sharetheroadmn.org).

### **Trail Safety Tips for Motorists:**

***If you're driving a car or truck and reach a trail crossing:***

- Do not stop and “wave through” trail users. Your attempt to be courteous is actually contrary to posted trail signs which tell bicyclists and others to stop and yield to traffic. Stopping may also confuse other motorists and reduce visibility for everyone.
- Specific trail crossings in St. Louis Park where these state laws apply are on Beltline, Wooddale, West 34th, 36th and 31st streets, and Virginia Avenue.

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

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**Permit No. 603**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Annual Block Captain and Neighborhood Leaders Picnic**

July 15, 2010 from 6pm to 8pm

**National Night Out**

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

For the latest events and news, please visit the city's website at  
[www.stlouispark.org](http://www.stlouispark.org).