

BlockCaptain

QUARTERLY

A publication for St. Louis Park Block Captains.

 **St. Louis Park**
MINNESOTA

Experience **LIFE** in the Park

Spring 2011:

Will it ever arrive!! We all believe so and the winter of 2010-2011 will be one remembered for years to come.

With the arrival of the spring equinox, and the melting of the snow, St. Louis Park will once again become vibrant with more of our residents enjoying outdoor activities as the days get longer.

With this in mind, this issue of the Block Captain quarterly includes general safety precautions related to outdoor activities, general park usage guidelines, advice on solicitors and the sightings of coyotes in St. Louis Park.

Tis' the seasons for Solicitors:

By city code, solicitors are required to apply for and display a city issued photo ID. People soliciting for non-profits in their own neighborhood are exempt from the aforementioned. If your property is marked, "no solicitors" they cannot approach the property. SLP has "No Solicitor" signs available in person or they can be downloaded and printed off the city website. Any questions regarding solicitors can be directed to the police department.

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 2, 2011:

Packets will be mailed out to Block Captains in late

May or early June. So stay tuned for more information!



Winter continued its grip on St. Louis Park as seen in this photograph of Skippy Field during the March 23rd snowstorm.



Coyote sightings in St. Louis Park. Many residents have been contacting the city regarding these animals and inquiring what to do if sighted. Please visit the city's website at www.stlouispark.org/animal-control/urban-coyotes-in-st-louis-park.html for information. You may also visit the MN DNR's web site for more information regarding coyotes.

Calling All Block Captain's:



The SLPPD is currently seeking Block Captain's interested in being part of the Block Captain's Advisory Council (BCAC).

So what exactly is the Block Captain's Advisory Council you ask?

The Neighborhood Watch Block Captain's Advisory Council (BCAC) serves to actively contribute to the safety and well being of St. Louis Park. Such efforts include maintaining and enhancing a collaborative partnership with the SLPPD and the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain's, as well as facilitating and strengthening citizen investment and participation in neighborhood and community issues. Primary goals of the BCAC are problem prevention, early problem identification and intervention and problem resolution.

The BCAC also updates the BC Manual, contributes to input of the BC quarterly newsletter and assists the SLPPD in organizing and implementing BC oriented activities and events throughout the year. The BCAC consists of four Block Captains, Community Outreach Officer and one SLPPD Clerical staff member.



To become a member of the BCAC, contact Community Outreach Officer Ken Sysko at (952)924-2661 or by E-Mail at police@stlouispark.org.

Crime Advisory Corner: Tips on how to make yourself, your loved ones and your property safer.

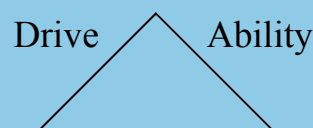


Prevent Burglaries:

Burglary is the crime of entering a building, without permission, and once inside committing a crime. There are various degrees of burglary each with their own penalties against the perpetrator. The following are tips on how you can prevent yourself from becoming a victim:

- ♦ **Lock your apartment or home when leaving and while home (doors, windows, etc.)**
- ♦ **Adequate lighting at residence and buildings, light your place up without bothering others**
- ♦ **Have a trusted neighbor or friend collect mail, newspapers, packages or have them stopped**
- ♦ **Tell these folks if anyone will be coming to your residence for work/deliveries**
- ♦ **Have them park a car in your driveway if leaving for an extended period of time, watch after your residence (gives appearance someone is home)**
- ♦ **Pack vehicle out of sight of others, so they do not know your intentions (traveling on vacation, to store, etc.)**
- ♦ **Keep valuables in a safe, preferably anchored to floor or structure**
- ♦ **Store the aforementioned in a hidden/hard to find place if a safe is not available**

By following and practicing these prevention tips, you as citizens remove the final part of the crime triangle, opportunity!!





Come One, Come All!!

And celebrate St. Louis Park at the 2011 Community Open House. Event will include: tours of the new Municipal Service Center facility, the Whitesidewalls Rock & Roll Revue show, mini-donuts and 1919 Root Beer. Check out the city's fire trucks, police cars and public works vehicles. City departments will be on hand to answer questions about building permits, dog licenses, neighborhood organization, parks and rec programs, events and more. The open house will be a "zero-waste" event with the goal to utilize compostable materials working to create minimal waste from all events and activities. For more details and parking options, visit the city's website at www.stlouispark.org. Event held rain or shine.



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!

Outdoor Activities

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.

To learn more about bicycle safety in Minnesota, visit www.sharetheroadmn.org and www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs/ for information on MN laws regarding bicycles.

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.

Water Safety:

Now 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.

Dogs:

Be sure to follow the city's ordinances on dogs and stop by the city's newest off leash dog park located at Cedar Knoll Park, 2541 Nevada Avenue S. Our original off leash park continues at Dakota Park, 2643 Dakota Avenue S. Please refer to the city's website for rules and regulation governing the use of these two parks.

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www.stlouispark.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Freight Rail Listening Sessions

April 27th & 28th, 2011, Start Time 6:30 pm (Doors open at 6:00 pm)
SLP Jr. High School, 2025 Texas Avenue (Visit city's website for details)

Crime Free Multi Housing Phase 1 Training

Thursday, May 12, 2011, City Hall Council Chambers, 8am-4pm

Community Open House

Wednesday, May 18, 2011, Municipal Service Center, 6-8pm

Annual Block Captain and Neighborhood Leaders Picnic

Thursday, July 14, 2011 6-8pm

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 2, 2010

For the latest events and news, please visit the city's website at
www.stlouispark.org.