

# BlockCaptain

## QUARTERLY

A publication for St. Louis Park Block Captains.

 **St. Louis Park**  
MINNESOTA

Experience **LIFE** in the Park

### Fall 2011:

National Night Out 2011 was another huge success thanks to all of the Block Captains that hosted gatherings for their neighbors and friends! We were able to collect a few hundred pounds of food and clothing donations for STEP and it is all thanks to our great neighborhoods. Thanks again for all the volunteering that you do throughout the year.

As we say goodbye to summer and welcome fall, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some fall crime prevention tips and safety reminders.

In this issue we included tips for you and your family, as well as your neighbors and friends, regarding school and crosswalk safety along with Halloween safety and fire prevention reminders.

### Illegal Trash Dumping:

It is illegal to dump any kind of trash in public open areas, parks or private lots and dumpsters.

See Hennepin County's [A to Z Guide](http://www.hennepinatoz.org) for proper disposal. at: [www.hennepinatoz.org](http://www.hennepinatoz.org).



**National Night Out 2011**

**School is open, please drive carefully and be cautious of kids!!**



**Be aware of posted school zone speed limits when children are present!!**

**Remember, it is illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and stop arm is extended, regardless if children are present or not!! Never pass on the right (passenger) side of a school bus!!**

**Be mindful of pedestrians in crosswalks . They have the right away and traffic must stop when a pedestrian is utilizing it!!**

**Food for thought, did you know the bike/walking trail at Wooddale Avenue and Hwy 7 is now a crosswalk?**



## Seasonal Safety Tips

Submitted by Shayne Karasov  
Fern Hill Neighborhood

As the winter season approaches we watch out for our neighborhoods with “safety tips” and reminders. Concern for our most vulnerable citizens is given close attention. The following are some safety tips we hope will be helpful to provide for a safe and productive and winter season.

In the Park, we have a growing population of seniors that need our care and attention. Transportation is a *major concern* and our neighborhoods take this very seriously. Our children need our continued guidance, and a watchful eye. Pets are extensions of our families, and require a continual *and* conscientious care. *“It does take a village”*.

### Suggestions:

Walkers and canes can be weatherized to provide better traction and prevent less falls. Falls are a major precursor to other needed treatments and illness.

Contact the *NEW* program sponsored by the City with PRISIM Express Dial-a-Ride 763.529.1252. Door to door service equipped to help with wheelchairs. This service is also available for group rates.

For your pets: check out winter booties to protect paws from the salt and sand, do not leave pets in the car, and watch for the extreme temperatures outside.

Our *“Children First”* philosophy is valued in the Park. Latch key kids should not open the door to strangers. Keep a close list of emergency numbers.

If you would like to contribute an article or other correspondence of information to the Block Captain Newsletter, please contact Officer Ken Sysko at 952-924-2661, [ksysko@stlouispark.org](mailto:ksysko@stlouispark.org).



## Halloween Safety Tips:

- 1) Be sure that children are accompanied by a TRUSTED ADULT when “trick or treating.” Have older kids go out with friends in groups (safety in numbers)
- 2) Accompany children to every door they approach and make sure you are familiar with the homes you are going to.
- 3) Teach children to NEVER enter a home without prior permission from their parents or guardians.
- 4) Teach children to NEVER approach a vehicle, occupied or not, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- 5) Make sure children wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight after dark.
- 6) Make sure children can see and breathe properly if they are wearing a mask, consider makeup instead.
- 7) Teach children if someone tries to grab them to make a scene. Talk about yelling loudly that this person is not my father/mother/guardian and make every effort to escape by screaming, kicking, and resisting.
- 8) **Block Captains, consider patrolling your block and coordinating with other Block Captains to patrol your entire neighborhood.**
- 9) Make your home inviting for trick or treaters by turning on outside lights and remove objects from your yard that may pose a hazard.
- 10) As always, report suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

**IN THE END PRACTICE THESE AND OTHER TIPS WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND HAVE FUN!!**





Fire Prevention: The following are a few tips on prevention and safety.

- Install a smoke detector in every bedroom, in the hallway outside of bedrooms, and on every level of your home (including attics and basements).
- Test your detectors every month, and change the batteries twice a year (Spring and Fall).
- Buy a fire extinguisher (rated 2A-10BC) for the kitchen.
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.
- Teach children what a smoke detector sounds like and what to do if they hear the alarm.
- Teach children never to hide during a fire. Tell them to call for help if they can't escape.
- Prepare and practice a home evacuation plan in case of fire. Set a meeting place so you can be sure everyone is safe.

Please see the city's website, [www.stlouispark.org](http://www.stlouispark.org), for more prevention/safety tips under the Fire Department link.

**\*\*Attention Block Captains, the Fire Department is available to visit your gathering and conduct programs on fire/home safety and preparedness. Contact Fire Marshal/AC Cary Smith at 952-924-2595 for more information!!\*\***

## Parking Reminders:

Please respect fire lanes in front of buildings, businesses and apartment buildings.

Watch for signs and yellow lines/curbs indicating a fire lane. Emergency responders and fire personnel require all the space provided for access during an emergency or fire.



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



Prevent Motor Vehicle Theft:

Motor vehicle theft is the act of an individual(s) intentionally and without claim to rights taking a motor vehicle for personal use and/or profit.

The following are tips on how you can prevent yourself from becoming a victim:

- ⇒ **LOCK YOUR VEHICLE**
- ⇒ Park in well traveled/lit areas
- ⇒ Try to know your place of final destination/surroundings, prior to arrival
- ⇒ Do not leave an extra key in or on your vehicle (hide away keys)
- ⇒ Keep your keys on your person at all times while out, place in your pocket or purse out of sight of others, practice proper key management
- ⇒ **Do not leave your vehicle running unattended (especially true in winter months with people warming up their vehicles or park their vehicle in front of a store and run in, come out and vehicle gone)**
- ⇒ **Pay close attention to parking signs, most vehicles that are reported stolen are towed at the discretion of management and police.**

**St. Louis Park Police Department**  
**3015 Raleigh Ave. S.**  
**St. Louis Park, MN 55416**  
**[www.stlouispark.org](http://www.stlouispark.org)**

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**Block Captains, please be sure to disseminate this information to members of your neighborhood watch. If you need assistance with copies, please notify Community Outreach at (952)924-2661 or [ksysko@stlouispark.org](mailto:ksysko@stlouispark.org).**

**Do we have updated information or an E-Mail address on file for electronic dissemination? If not please send a confidential E-Mail to [ksysko@stlouispark.org](mailto:ksysko@stlouispark.org). Just another way we are making the City of St. Louis Park **greener!!****

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Fall Neighborhood Surveys will be conducted regarding the following neighborhoods in the 42 and 44 Districts: **Lake Forest, Fern Hill, Triangle, Sorenson, Lenox, Bronx Park, Birchwood, Minnikahda Vista and Oaks, Wolfe Park, Browndale, Brookside, Creekside, Meadowbrook, Brooklawn and Elmwood.**

Please watch the mail if you live in one of these neighborhoods for your invite to complete your neighborhood's survey! As always, please take the time to complete them, your opinions, thoughts and suggestions count!!