

Block Captain

Winter 2011-12

QUARTERLY

A publication for St. Louis Park Block Captains.

 **St. Louis Park**
MINNESOTA

Experience LIFE in the Park

HAPPY NEW YEAR

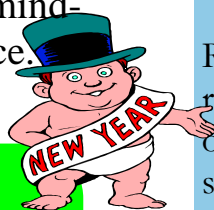
Winter 2011-12:

Happy New Year everyone! 2011 saw the addition of eleven block captains to our ever growing program. Of the eleven, three were in multiple housing dwellings throughout the city! Kudos and thank you to these folks for taking the initiative to help make their neighborhoods safer. This demonstrates these folks and all of you have a vested interest in your neighborhoods. Going forward into 2012, lets all keep up the good work and working together!!

In this issue of the Block Captain Quarterly, you will find information about upcoming events in 2012 along with reminders on snow removal and how to avoid having your vehicle towed during a snow emergency. Even though we are in the midst of a mild winter, remember to practice safe winter tips and be mindful of those that may need assistance.

2012 Citizen's Police Academy!

No classes are scheduled at this time, we will keep you posted on upcoming classes. Please feel free to contact Community Outreach at (952)924-2661 or by email at police@stlouispark.org, with questions.



2012 Neighborhood Forum Thursday, February 2nd

You are invited to the 2012 Neighborhood Forum Thursday, February 2nd, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Council Chambers. Each year the Neighborhood Forum brings together neighborhood leaders who are committed to building and sustaining strong neighborhoods in St. Louis Park which ties in with the Vision Strategic Direction: **St. Louis Park is committed to being a connected and engaged community.**

We are fortunate to have a great group of Neighborhood Leaders and Block Captains in the St. Louis Park community and this event provides leaders of different neighborhoods with an opportunity to network and learn from one another. Anyone interested in building strong neighborhoods is encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Community Liaison, Marney Olson, at molson@stlouispark.org or 952-924-2184. RSVPs are appreciated by January 30th.

Spring Neighborhood Surveys:

Residents in the following neighborhoods will receive a postcard invitation to fill out an online survey from the police department this spring. Neighborhoods included in the Spring survey are: Shelard Park, Kilmer, Westdale, Crestview, Westwood Hills, Cedar Manor, Pennsylvania Park, Willow Park, Eliot, Eliot View, Blackstone and Cedarhurst.

Please take the time to complete a survey when you receive the notification and encourage your neighbors to also do so. We appreciate your feedback!



Question: How can I avoid having my vehicle towed during a snowstorm in St. Louis Park?

Answer: Here is what you need to know to avoid a tow:

- 1.) **Parking is banned every time snowfall reaches 3 inches, whether it is 2 p.m. or 2 a.m.**
- 2) **Vehicles parked on unplowed streets will be ticketed and towed.**

To avoid the risk of being towed, please pay attention to the weather forecast. Snow emergency information and parking ban information is available at the St. Louis Park website, Facebook, Twitter, winter parking hotline, Park TV and local cable stations. Additional information can be found on the city's website.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

Reminder:

Clear sidewalks after a snowfall.

After a snowfall, snow and ice on sidewalks must be removed by the same day, if there is 6 or more hours of daylight following the snowfall, or by noon the following day. Four daytime hours are allowed for apartment and commercial buildings.

Need to report a sidewalk that is not shoveled?

To report a sidewalk that has not been shoveled, call (952)924-2562.

Fire Hydrants: Please take the time to clear snow and ice from hydrants. At the least, 12" of all around clearance is needed for proper operation and quick connection of hoses by fire department personnel.

Winter Parking Hotline:
(952)924-2180 For Up to Date Information

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



Scams and Fraud:

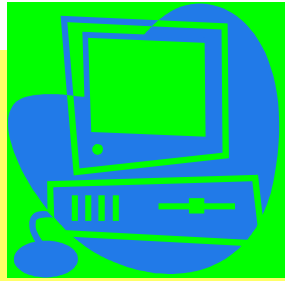
Criminals in today's day and age have become more lucrative and creative in their dealings. Unfortunately this means praying on unwilling victims in the one place everyone feels safe, their home. Yes, those who choose to dabble in the practices of scamming and fraud are unknown to the victims and usually do it from the comfort of their own home.

What we are talking about are those letters, phone calls and Internet correspondences we have all received or know of someone who has from distant places. They usually ask for monies to be deposited or sent to an account/location in exchange for something else. Sometimes a letter will contain a check instructing you to deposit the check and send a portion to an address. Then other monies you may have won or are entitled to from a deceased relative will be "unfrozen" and sent to you. Phone scams on the rise include someone pretending to be a grandson or distant family member/friend stating they are in jail or other dire straits. They then ask the person to send monies to aid them with their issue. Unfortunately, people lose great amounts of monies to these scams each year. But through education and awareness, you can reduce yourself and others from becoming victims:

- Be cautious of correspondence asking for certain things from an address unknown or with no return address.
- **DO NOT RESPOND!!** Assist loved ones with such correspondences, especially senior members of your neighborhood. **THEY ARE AN EASY TARGET AND ARE THE ONES BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE MOST!!**
- Shred all papers received that contain personal information, delete E-Mails and do not give out personal information over the phone!! Protect your identity!!

Further information can be obtained by contacting the SLPPD or MN Department of Public Safety, Division of Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement at 866-347-0911, online at mnscams.org.

BLOCK CAPTAINS, We Need Your Help!!



If any of your contact information has changed, please forward it to the Office of Community Outreach so we can update our database. We also continue to assist in making the city **greener** by limiting mailings and going electronic for correspondences. Please call (952)924-2661 or e-mail police@stlouispark.org with your updated information !!

Please mark your calendars:

City Offices Closed:
January 16th (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
February 20th (President's Day)

Neighborhood Forum:
Thursday February 2nd (See front cover for more information)

Annual Block Captain Meeting:
April 10, 2012, City Hall
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Remember, 2nd week in July we will be holding our annual Block Captains and Neighborhood Leaders Picnic. Exact date and time TBD.



BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES:

St. Louis Park is currently seeking volunteers for boards and commissions.

Current openings are posted on the city's website and include openings on the Police Advisory Commission.

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES As of January 2012

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>	<u>Appointing Body</u>
Charter Commission Commissioner (4 yr. term)	1	Hennepin County Chief Judge
Community Education Advisory Commission Commissioner (3 year term)	1	City Council
Human Rights Commission Commissioner (3 yr. term)	2	City Council
Attorney Commissioner (3 yr. term)	1	
Youth commissioner non-voting (1 yr. term)	1	
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Commissioner (3 yr. term)	2	City Council
Planning Commission Youth commissioner non-voting (1 yr. term)	1	City Council
Police Advisory Commission Commissioner (3 yr. term)	3	City Council
Telecommunications Advisory Commission Commissioner (3 yr. term)	1	City Council
Youth commissioner (1 yr. term)	1	

Please contact City Clerk Nancy Stroth 952-928-2840, nstroth@stlouispark.org for additional information. You can also visit our website at www.stlouispark.org.



St. Louis Park Police Department
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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.