

How to Start a Neighborhood Association



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A neighborhood association is a group of neighbors who work together to make a stronger neighborhood.



Andrew Tilman/SLP Friends of the Arts

Vision: St. Louis Park is committed to being a connected and engaged community.

Why should my neighborhood organize?

Before you ask your neighbors to organize, you have to be able to explain to them the benefits and value of forming a neighborhood group.

Organizing is mostly about developing relationships with each other, the city government, and other neighborhoods.

When deciding whether or not to organize as a neighborhood, ask yourself and others the following questions.

- Do you know how to get in touch with neighbors in case of an emergency?
- Would you like to address some problems in your neighborhood that need to be corrected?
- If your children needed to reach someone nearby for help when you're not home, would they know who to call?
- In the case of a neighborhood emergency would neighbors know how to get in touch with you?
- Could your neighborhood be friendlier?
- Would you enjoy more planned activities in your neighborhood for children and adults?

Did you answer "yes" to a majority of these questions?

If so, let's work together to organize your neighborhood!

Getting Started—Build a Core Group

The first thing to do is meet with the neighbors who want to form a neighborhood group. Create a core group that will serve as the temporary steering committee until you

decide the formal structure of your neighborhood association and officers are elected. The core group, three or four are enough, handles arranging and advertising the first few meetings.

Often the core group is made up of all the people who have decided to form a neighborhood group.

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Adjo Habia/SLP Friends of the Arts

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

Hold Core Group Meetings

As the temporary steering committee, the core group will be the one that picks the first issues to discuss (not necessarily to act on!), selects the location and time for the first general meeting, and gathers information that will help the whole group begin to work on issues that people care about. Here is what your core group should work on during the first few meetings:

- Come up with some ideas for kick-off projects. Start with fairly simple activities like a block clean-up or a potluck. This will give the people who come to the first general meeting a list of projects to get involved in and think about. Remember, when you have other people on board, they may come up with other sug-

gestions. It's always a good idea to make the first project one that is visible and gets quick results. This shows people that your group means business and can get things done. People are more likely to join a group that works on issues they care about and that can really make some changes.

- Decide who you want to tell about your new organization. Which neighborhood organizations, businesses, etc. can you involve to help you spread the word? Make a list of organizations with contact names and phone numbers. You'll want to start contacting them after the first general meeting.
- Start to divide up tasks based

on people's interests. Keeping people interested is the best way to keep them involved. Some of the tasks that the core group will take on are:

- * Contacting other groups within the neighborhood.
- * Recruiting residents to be general members of the neighborhood association.
- * Creating the agenda and arranging for future core group meetings.
- * Researching specific issues in depth so you have all of the information you need when it's time for the general membership to meet.

Plan a General Meeting



Max Bentley/SLP Friends of the Arts

As soon as you are ready, your core group should decide on a time, date and place for a general membership meeting. Choose a time that is convenient for the largest number of people to increase your chances of a good turnout. An evening during the week or a day during the weekend generally works best. Church buildings,

community centers, schools, and public libraries are usually easy for neighborhood residents to get to and will often provide the room without charge. Do you really want to get people to come? Have some local teenagers provide babysitting and make sure you put that on your outreach flyer!

Simple rules to remember to have a good first neighborhood association meeting: 1) All ideas should be given fair consideration. 2) People need to be treated with respect. 3) No one should leave the meeting without a task. 4) Everyone should sign in. Collect contact information.

How to Start a Neighborhood Association

General Meeting—continued

When you prepare an agenda for your first general meeting, keep in mind that the purpose of this meeting is to lay the groundwork for the organization. Your goal is to come out of this meeting with an agreement on the goals for the organization and the issues that it will take on. A good agenda should look something like the one below. Note—the information in parentheses is for your reference only and should not be on the agenda.

1. **Introduction**
 - Meet the core group (The core group should introduce themselves and someone from this group should explain the purpose of the meeting.
 - Meet everyone in the room (Everyone should share who they are, where they live, and what they would like to see happen in our neighborhood.)
2. **Discussion of issues and challenges** (At this point in the meeting, everyone should have the chance to voice their opinions and make suggestions. You may have to work hard to make sure everyone has this chance and keep the agenda moving.)
 - Brainstorm (based on the challenges discussion, help everyone brainstorm their interest in helping the community as a neighborhood association.)
 - Top priorities selected (Prioritize one or two areas of interest that your group can work on first.)
3. **Setting priorities**
 - Project ideas developed (Develop projects or ideas based on areas of interest that were top priorities.)
 - Volunteers assigned (Break project ideas down into a series of tasks. Assign volunteers to be responsible for the tasks that need to be done. If the work is complicated or if there are a lot of people involved, ask someone to head a committee on each issue.)
4. **Creating the structure**
 - Leadership team (ask the general members to approve the current core group as the steering committee or to choose new leaders for a temporary period of time)
 - By-laws and elections (The structure should be kept simple. Samples by-laws are available)
 - Time and date of next meeting



Marcie Murray/SLP Friends of the Arts

Neighborhoods can be made up of single-family homes, condominiums, apartments, townhouses, or all of the above!



Ruth Rasmussen/SLP Friends of the Arts

Reach out to the Community

Outreach is the one job that never stops for a block or neighborhood association. Getting the word out and bringing in new participants will ensure that your group is well balanced and fully representative of its community. After every meeting and event, and between meetings, you will want to have people talking to their neighbors and community organizations to let them know what you're planning and doing to try to get them involved. Don't give up too

soon. Once neighbors start coming together and making changes, more people will get involved and then, the possibilities are endless.

Here are some tips to reach out to your neighbors and recruit them to come to the general meeting:

- **Flyers:** Print flyers listing time, date, place and purpose of the first general meeting. Post them in apartment buildings, lobbies, coffee shop or grocery store bulletin boards, etc.
- **Door-to-door visits**—take the flyers you created and distribute them door to door in your neighborhood.
- **Survey**—conduct a survey of neighborhood needs and issues
- **Attendance**—your first meeting may be large or very small, low attendance is common for organizations just starting out, so stay positive and work with the people in attendance to reach more neighbors.



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Bylaws

Bylaws explain the purpose of your organization and spell out the rules and procedures for how your group will function. Each neighborhood group should have its own bylaws to make its operation more predictable and less confusing. The core group or other subcommittee should develop bylaws, and then present them to the general membership for modification and approval. Final approval of bylaws should come after your neighborhood

group has met several times and you have a good idea about where the group is heading.

Bylaws do not have to be complicated. Bylaws should include the following items:

- Name and purpose of your group
- Requirements for membership (living in the neighborhood is the only requirement for most St. Louis Park neighborhood associations)

- Structure of your group (including terms of officers)
- Membership dues (if any, most St. Louis Park neighborhoods do not have dues)
- How often the group plans to meet
- How decisions are made
- Process by which bylaws are approved and changed.

Use the sample bylaws as a guide and adapt them to your neighborhood.

City Services and Resources

The City of St. Louis Park values strong neighborhoods and has set aside limited funds to assist neighborhoods.

Each year the city offers Neighborhood Grants for organized neighborhoods. These grants can be used for community building activities, communications such as newsletters, and service projects in the neighborhoods.

In addition to Neighborhood Grant there are several other

ways the City supports Neighborhood Associations. Included in this organizing kit are the following resources to help you get started and to learn what the City has to offer:

- Neighborhood Support
- Sample Bylaws
- Sample Start-Up Letter
- Sample Survey
- Park Volunteer Opportunities

The St. Louis Park Community Liaison is here to help you organize your neighborhood or re-organize if your neighborhood association has not been active for awhile.

Congratulations on taking the first step to organize your neighborhood!

For more information contact:

Marney Olson
Community Liaison
(952) 924-2184
molson@stlouispark.org
3015 Raleigh Ave S
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Sources:

“Yes we can! How to Start a Neighborhood Association” Battle Creek, MI

“RNeighborhood Association Toolkit” Rochester, MN

St. Louis Park Organizing Book

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Neighborhood Support

Updated: April 2008

The City of St. Louis Park has set aside limited funds to assist neighborhoods in need of the following services. *This list is not intended to be all inclusive of the services that may be provided to a neighborhood. Therefore if a neighborhood is interested in a service not listed please contact the Community Liaison at 924-2184.*

1. The City will copy neighborhood newsletters and fliers. Neighborhoods should provide their copying projects to the Community Liaison at 924-2184. Copying projects usually take two to four days.
2. The City will provide postage for mailing notices for a neighborhood's initial organizing meeting. Additional mailings will need to be covered by the neighborhood via dues, donations or with grant funds. Many neighborhoods utilize block captains or other volunteers to deliver newsletters or fliers. Contact the Community Liaison office located in the Police Department, 3015 Raleigh Ave S, or call 924-2184.
3. Meeting space is available at the City and school buildings free of charge. For City meeting space please contact the City Operator at 924-2500. For meeting space at a school or community center, contact the school district at 928-6060.
4. The City will assist newly organized neighborhoods in designing neighborhood identification signs. The organized neighborhood must submit a rendering of a logo. The City will have the logo adapted to the established sign format. Neighbors will be responsible for funding the production of the signs and the city public works staff will install them. Contact the Community Liaison at 924-2184.
5. The City offers a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Program that is available at the beginning of each year to organized neighborhoods. A neighborhood may receive funding for activities or projects that are targeted to enhance or build community within their neighborhood. Grants range up to \$2000 per neighborhood. Contact the Community Liaison at 924-2184.

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6. The City will provide additional resources for organizing upon request. Contact the Community Liaison with any questions and for help with the initial neighborhood organization start-up.
7. Other services provided to neighborhoods by City Departments:
 - a. City Park and Recreation Department provides a variety of items for parties and information on park services. Associations may have tables & chairs delivered for their outdoor picnics for a small delivery fee. Contact the Park and Recreation Department at 924-2540.
 - b. City Fire Department is pleased to meet with neighborhoods to discuss fire in general, home safety, fire prevention, and careers in fire service. Contact the Fire Department at 924-2595.
 - c. City Police Department is committed to neighborhood policing and will meet with neighborhoods on issues relating to safety, block clubs, crime watch, etc. Contact the Community Policing Officer at 924-2661.
 - d. City staff will meet with neighborhoods to provide assistance and information, which may help to keep your association active and successful. Contact the Community Liaison at 924-2184.



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Park Volunteers Wanted

Do you have a special neighborhood park? If so, here is your chance to volunteer in your special park. The Volunteer Office is looking for people who are interested in volunteering as individuals, families or civic groups for the following programs which are all designed to help keep the parks beautiful:

Pick-up the Park: Volunteer to give your neighborhood park a good spring cleaning during the month of April. Volunteers are assigned a neighborhood park and will receive a kit from the Volunteer Office with garbage bags and a form for reporting any needed repairs to the maintenance department. Time commitment: about 2-3 hours during the month of April.

Adopt a Park: Volunteer to adopt your neighborhood park. Help the maintenance department by patrolling the park at least once a week, helping to keep the park clean and reporting any vandalism or needed repairs. Park volunteers report to the Manager of Grounds and Natural Resources. Volunteers may adopt the park of their choice. Time commitment: about 1-3 hours a week during the summer.

Park Gardener: Do you enjoy beautiful gardens and have a green thumb? If so, please consider volunteering to tend your neighborhood park's annual garden. Volunteers will be responsible for maintaining their annual garden by weeding and pruning as needed. All the flowers are provided. Volunteers may request a garden in the park of their choice. All gardening volunteers will report to the Manager of Grounds and Natural Resources. The time commitment is about 1 hour a week during the summer.

Note: If you take a summer vacation, we will work around your schedule.

To volunteer or receive more information, please call Sarah in the Volunteer Office for the City and Schools of St. Louis Park at 928-6790

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Sample Neighborhood Association

Bylaws

- Purpose:** To promote and maintain our neighborhood through group action representing the interests of our residents; to represent neighborhood interests to city and county affairs; to work for the improvement and beautification of our neighborhood, and; to promote a sense of community in our neighborhood.
- Membership:** Membership is open to all residents and property owners of the neighborhood who are at least 18 years of age.
- Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee and committee chair persons shall comprise the Steering Committee. They will be elected by the membership. Elections will be held during the annual neighborhood meeting, to which all members of the neighborhood are invited.
- Executive Officers:** The officers of the association including Chair or Co-Chairs, Treasurer, and/or Secretary will be appointed by the Steering Committee Members and will be members of the Steering Committee.
- Officers:** The officers will manage the day to day business of the association. They hold all duties and responsibilities for the association including chairing all general meetings, taking action between meetings (as instructed by the membership) and dealing with emergency problems.
- Committees:** Committees will be formed on the basis of neighborhood interest and volunteer action.
- Meetings:** Steering committee meetings will be held as needed. Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the Executive Officers. Members will be notified of special meetings and the annual meeting.
- Newsletter:** The Executive Committee will keep the membership notified of progress and upcoming events by publishing newsletters or event announcements.
- Amendments:** Amendments to the bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting.

SAMPLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Adopted December 5

Name: The name of the association is the Sample Neighborhood Association.

Purpose: The purpose of the association is to promote a better community through group action, representing the interests of residents and institutions in the neighborhood, with particular attention to strengthening community spirit and connectedness, enhancing safety, and maintaining the climate of quality and affordability of living.

Membership: All residents, businesses and non-profit institutions located within the Neighborhood, which is defined as _____.

Meetings: Meetings will be held at locations to be announced. General Membership Meetings will be held at least semi-annually on the second Monday of the months of April and October. Special Meetings may be called by the Steering Committee, as needed, or also may be called by collective action of at least twelve (12) members who must each sign the meeting notice with their membership class address.

All members will be notified of any General or Special Membership Meeting prior to the scheduled meeting date.

Officers: The Association shall have four officers (a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer), each holding office for the term of one year beginning in January. Officers will be elected at the October meeting, and a transitional meeting for both old and new officers shall be held during the two months following the election.

Committees: A Steering Committee shall consist of all officers and Committee Chairs. Other committees shall include, initially, a Newsletter Committee, which shall be responsible for publication of a newsletter periodically; and a Social Committee, and a Neighborhood Development Committee, which shall define issues, concerns or needs worthy of action by the Neighborhood Association and bring them, with appropriate research, to the attention of the Steering Committee and the General Membership. Additional committees may be recruited and organized at the initiative of the General Membership Meeting. The Steering Committee may create and recruit task forces for short-term purposes or to purpose to the General Membership as new committees.

Quorum: The Quorum required for action at any General Membership of Committee Meeting of the Association shall consist of a majority of the members present at the meeting.

Voting: At any General or Committee Meeting, each member (of the Association, for General Meeting; of the Committee, for a Committee meeting) present is entitled to one vote.

Amendments: Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a 2/3 vote of those members present at General Membership Meetings.

Sample Letter



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Greetings Neighbors,

Our neighborhood has the opportunity to form a neighborhood association. The first part to getting started involves finding out the interests of all neighbors. Please complete the enclosed survey and mail the survey back to the address on the back of the postcard or email your response to the email address listed on the bottom of the card.

What Is A Neighborhood Association?

A neighborhood association is simply a group of neighbors who come together to coordinate efforts to maintain or improve a good neighborhood. Most neighborhood associations in our city keep neighbors updated through a newsletter or regular email updates and sponsor community building activities. You can see some of the ideas for activities listed on the postcard survey. Unlike a condo association or an historic preservation district, our city neighborhood associations have no governing authority and cannot implement ordinances or regulations.

What Assistance Is Available?

The City of St. Louis Park has a program to support neighbors who want to form associations. While we are getting started, the city will pay for the postage for a couple of mailings. After we officially form our association, we are eligible for neighborhood signs of our own design and grant money for neighborhood activities or capital improvements. Community Liaison Marney Olson is available to assist us as we get started. You can reach Marney at the police department, 952-924-2184 or email molson@stlouispark.org.

Next Steps

After the survey is completed, a second meeting of the start-up committee will gather. The start-up committee will analyze the results of the survey, draft organizational bylaws and plan the next neighborhood wide meeting. At the neighborhood wide meeting, neighbors will be asked to elect officers to guide the organization. Elected officers will then work to apply for a neighborhood grant and decide what activities to host over the next year.

Thank you for your time and interest. I encourage you to take part in our new Neighborhood Association.

Neighborhood Start-up Committee

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Sample Neighborhood Survey

What Is A Neighborhood Association?

A neighborhood association is simply a group of neighbors who come together to coordinate efforts to maintain or improve a good neighborhood. Most neighborhood associations in our city keep neighbors updated through a newsletter or regular email updates and sponsor community building activities.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey below regarding your interest in a Fern Hill Neighborhood Association.

	Interested in seeing	Willing to Help	
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood Assoc. Start-Up Committee
Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Activities/Play Groups
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Gardens
Email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Improvements/Additions
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood Newsletter
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Neighbor Welcome
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crime Watch & Block Captains
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Helping out Neighbors (raking leaves, etc.)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood Beautification
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

Please return survey to your neighborhood steering committee by mail or email. If you have any questions, please contact the steering committee chair.

Sample Neighborhood Survey

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Email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Improvements/Additions
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood Newsletter
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Neighbor Welcome
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crime Watch & Block Captains
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood Beautification
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

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St. Louis Park Neighborhood Association Ideas

There are a lot of great things you can do as a neighborhood association. Be creative and have fun! Here are some examples from other neighborhoods:

- Neighborhood Picnic
- Winter Party (& ice skating)
- Volleyball, Frisbee, Kickball game and BBQ
- Family Bike Event
- Ice Cream Social
- Halloween Party
- Oktoberfest
- Family Camp Out
- Spring Egg Hunt
- Hayride
- Movie Night
- National Night Out
- Garage Sale
- Pizza Night
- Neighborhood Signs
- Adult Gathering
- New Neighbor Welcome

Service Projects such as:

- Trail Beautification
- Earth Day Event
- Pond or Marsh Clean-Up
- Flowers and Tree Planting
- Sign Planting
- Park Pick-Up after your dog signs & bags
- Environmental Service Project
- Community Garden
- Plant sale/exchange
- Service exchange such as shoveling, painting, raking, babysitting, etc.

Other Ideas:

- Neighborhood Newsletter
- Dedicated Park Bench



For more information, contact
Marney Olson
Community Liaison
Phone: 952-924-2184
E-mail: molson@stlouispark.org

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Twelve Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood *Right Now*

Adapted from training materials for:

Community Involvement Training: A course in community renewal

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The following list is intended to introduce the neighbor who has never participated in a crime prevention effort to simple steps that can be taken now to make a difference.

1. Report crime promptly. Neighbors sometimes don't report criminal activity because they don't want to bother the police, they assume police are too short-staffed to respond, or they believe that there isn't much an officer can (or will) do about a given problem anyway. Whether the issue is graffiti, petty vandalism, or something much more serious, police cannot act without first hearing about the problem from you. Calling won't guarantee that police can fix the problem, but failing to call can guarantee that they won't. Also, don't assume someone else has called. Make the call yourself.

2. Report nuisances and other non-criminal problems promptly. Examples: Junked cars on front lawns, abandoned autos in the streets, old mattresses left to rot in a backyard, garbage dumped illegally in a vacant lot. When you find yourself thinking, "someone ought to *do something*," *do something*. Call code enforcement, non-emergency numbers, landlords, residents, local business owners, or any other person or agency that may have influence on the issue. Then call your neighbors and ask those who are also concerned about the issue to call and report as well. Then keep calling until the issue is resolved.

3. Take away the opportunity for crime. Think about your home, your car, and even your lifestyle and ask what you could change to take away the opportunity for crime. Lock your car and never leave valuables, even for a few minutes, in the car where would-be thieves might see them. Trim bushes or trees on your property that offer too-convenient hiding places. Also trim where trees and

bushes block a clear view of your front door and address from the street or make it difficult for a person to see out of windows in your home. In short, make your front porch visible and make sure your home looks like it has its "eyes" (windows) open.

4. Meet the youth who live on your block and greet them by name. This is one of the simplest steps an adult can take, yet it can make a profound difference should there be a future need for adults and young people to speak to each other in the midst of a neighborhood crisis. Also, it is difficult to help form a safe and supportive community for children without the adults and children knowing each other. Even those without children should know to whom the various children in the neighborhood belong. In this way, each adult is better able to help in an emergency and is better prepared to discuss problems immediately as they arise.

5. Make a list of the names and phone numbers of every neighbor on your block. Not just two neighbors — set a goal of at least 10 and preferably 20 or 30. Find almost any citizen who has turned around a problem block and you will find a citizen who really knows the people who live there. Did you grow up in a neighborhood where "everyone knew each other" and find that today your neighborhood isn't like that? That's true for many people. That's not "society's" fault. Instead, think of it as your own fault, and you can fix it. Unless you know neighbors' names and numbers, you can't call them about a concern or let them know about a neighborhood problem. Learn the names and phone numbers of your neighbors this weekend.

6. Make a list of landlords in your area as well. As owners of property in the community, landlords are responsible to the neighborhood

and most are rightly concerned about the health of the community in which their properties stand. You can find out the name and address of the person or organization that owns any property, including the rental house next door, by contacting your county tax assessor's office. Do it today.

7. Turn your porch light on. Do this every night at dusk and keep it on till dawn. Crime tends to decline in neighborhoods that are well lit. Turning on porch lights is a simple way to start this process. It also makes the street feel more "welcome" to good residents who are out for a walk in the evening. It communicates a higher level of caring for the neighborhood by residents. This can become a daily routine or it can be accomplished by installing a timer. It is also immediate — while you wait for local government to install that new street light that everyone is asking for, go ahead and add a little more light yourself. Then encourage other neighbors to do the same.

8. Walk around the block. It sounds simple enough, but neighbors benefit over time when more responsible citizens walk about more, particularly for those who are comfortable doing it, at night, every night around their block. At minimum walk around the block, once every day, preferably at night *if* you feel comfortable doing so. Take a moment to chat with neighbors, including youth, when the opportunity arises.

9. Drive *slowly* on neighborhood streets. While we often call for stop signs, lights, and speed bumps, we often forget that we can organize a means to slow down neighborhood traffic sooner. Remember that it is legal to drive a few miles per hour *below* the speed limit in your neighborhood. For example, if the speed limit is 25, try 20 instead. Regular, slower driving on neighborhood side streets

by multiple neighbors will dampen the desire of racers to use your street — it isn't as fun to cut through a neighborhood if the likelihood of being stuck behind a car traveling at a more respectful pace has increased. Also, do it on every side street in the neighborhood, not just the one near your home.

10. Pick up the litter near your home, even if you didn't put it there. Most people are less likely to litter where they don't see litter already. You can help stop the growth of trash in your neighborhood by taking away the existing litter that attracts it.

11. Stay where you are. Stable neighborhoods are built on the commitment of long term residents who would rather live in a healthy community than move to a bigger house. Communities reach stability when conscientious citizens allow their roots to grow deep and help transform a geographic area that exists as a "neighborhood" in name only into a real community of involved people. Please, stay and help.

12. Help your neighborhood association or similar groups. If you are willing, decide what greater contribution you would like to make — then take the lead and do it. If leadership isn't your desire, at least make sure someone in your household attends local neighborhood association meetings. You'll be kept better informed of the issues facing the neighborhood and how you can help and, perhaps more importantly, you'll have the chance to shape, guide, and participate in the future of your neighborhood.

Finally, *don't stop at 12 tasks:* Do whatever else you can to make your neighborhood a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, go to school, and raise a family. Remember: living in a good neighborhood isn't a right; it's a responsibility.