

Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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Quincy's Corner

So much of what I report in this space is focused on taxes and budget – things that affect our wallets but not our hearts. I want to take this month to tell you about a special initiative that is taking place in Ward 11.

Early last year, I initiated a focused effort to improve the living conditions and public safety in a corner of Ward 11. The Bossen Area—between the Crosstown and 56th Street, and bordered by 28th & 34th Avenues—provides nearly 400 units of affordable rental housing to families of all sizes and cultures.

These blocks also have the unfortunate reputation of being home to drug crimes and domestic abuse. No one should have to live in these conditions, which is why I pulled together the Benefiting Bossen Work Group consisting of city staff, human services providers, and the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association committed to transforming the area.

Rooting out entrenched crime requires a sustained effort. I am proud to report that the first year of Benefiting Bossen was great success. We were fortunate to recruit a graduate intern who talked with residents and property owners about their concerns and vision for the area.

Our group also hosted community events, including a National Night Out celebration and a property owners' workshop. The Minneapolis Police Department has significantly increased its patrol presence, applied pressure on reducing drug sales on these blocks, and removed illegal firearms. And, the Salvation Army greatly aided our efforts by purchasing and rehabbing two Bossen buildings to house formerly homeless veterans. The photo above was taken during last summer's Grand Opening celebration.



Building on these successes, we plan to widen our focus in 2011, actively engaging property owners and tenants in making their buildings a safe place to call home. This will not only make it a better environment for residents, but improve the safety and livability for the entire neighborhood. Benefiting Bossen is about making positive change, creating hope, and building community. I hope you are as proud of this initiative as I am, and look forward to great results in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Quincy".

City Focus

Take the Resident Survey To Help Make Minneapolis Better

Over the next few weeks, answering your phone could help us improve Minneapolis for you and other residents.

Beginning Monday, January 31 and continuing through February, the City of Minneapolis will survey residents to get their perspectives about the quality of services the City provides. Approximately 1,100 residents will complete the telephone survey, which is being conducted by the National Research Center, Inc., an independent research firm. People contacted to complete the survey will be selected ran-

domly, with the goal of reaching a diverse cross-section of Minneapolis residents.

If you are contacted to participate in the survey, please take the few minutes necessary to provide your honest opinions about how we're doing in Minneapolis. For most people, the survey will take about 20 minutes. The City of Minneapolis is eager to use the results to help create a Minneapolis with the best quality of life for everyone. Please pick up the phone and participate.

Results from the survey are used in business planning efforts of City departments. The survey will be translated for those who prefer to take it in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Laotian, Oromo or Vietnamese.

The City has conducted similar surveys in 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2008; it's part of Minneapolis' ongoing effort to improve services and involve people in their local government. For more information or to see the past survey results visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis and click on "Residents Survey."

Paint-A-Thon Program Takes Applications



The Paint-A-Thon program helps seniors and people with physical disabilities continue to live independently in their own homes by assigning volunteer teams to scrape, prime and paint home exteriors for low-income clients, at no cost to the homeowner. Since 1984, Metro Paint-A-Thon volunteers have painted more than 6,000 homes.

Each year, on the first weekend in August, Metro Paint-A-Thon rallies volunteer teams from corporations, congregations, and civic groups to paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

To qualify, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be over the age of 60 or have a permanent physical disability.
- Own and occupy a single-family home in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott or Washington

county that needs the exterior painted, but does not need major repairs.

- Have a monthly household income that does not exceed 200% of federal poverty level.

Client applications, available at <http://paintathon.gmcc.org/index.php> outline eligibility requirements and additional program information.

Interested homeowners can also call the office directly: 612-721-8687, extension 321.

City Links

[Minneapolis Home Page](#)

[Hennepin County Libraries](#)

[Minneapolis Public Schools](#)

[City of Minneapolis Jobs](#)

[Garbage Service](#)

[Maps of Minneapolis](#)

[Separating Your Recycling](#)

[Snow Emergency](#)

Online Services

[Apply for Block Party Permit](#)

[Home Improvement Permits](#)

[Pay Your Utility Bill](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Report Graffiti](#)

Address-Based Lookups

[Council Ward Finder](#)

[Garbage](#)

[Recycling Schedule](#)

[Police Precinct Finder](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Spring & Fall Street Sweeping Schedule](#)

[Snow Emergency Parking Rules](#)

[Voting Precinct Finder](#)

City Owned Lots Available for Community Gardens



With seed catalogues arriving in the mail and flower and garden shows around the corner, now is a good time to look into establishing a community garden in your neighborhood. The City of Minneapolis has 13 vacant lots available for qualifying groups to lease for community gardens. These City-owned lots were selected because they are not appropriate for development. This means that they will remain available for years of gardening even as the economy changes and redevelopment picks up.



lots are already leased to community groups. The City of Minneapolis supports community gardens in its commitment to promoting access to good nutrition, improving the ecological footprint of the city, encouraging active and healthy living and providing spaces for human interaction, food production and beauty in our daily lives. In addition to these lots, Minneapolis already has about 100 community gardens throughout the city.

insurance. Applicants should be ready to discuss the layout of the community garden, how it will be managed and how it will engage and benefit the community.



The Community Garden Pilot Program began in 2010 with 18 lots to help make Minneapolis more beautiful, provide healthy food and build community. Five of the

Lots are available first-come, first-served to qualifying groups. Experienced community garden groups may be eligible for three- to five-year leases, while groups gardening for the first time will start with one-year leases. A qualifying group will be a not-for-profit or a group with a not-for-profit sponsor. The garden will need to have liability

The Community Garden Pilot Program is part of Homegrown Minneapolis. Homegrown Minneapolis is an initiative of the City of Minneapolis to help grow, sell, distribute and eat more healthy, locally grown foods within the city and the surrounding region. A community garden program is one of nine Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations adopted by the City Council.

For more information on the Homegrown Minneapolis Community Gardens Pilot Program, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs and click on "Homegrown Minneapolis" or call (612) 673-2597.

Neighborhood Notes



at Lake Nokomis and will be finished no later than February 15.

Amelia Pond, located on the southwest corner of Lake Nokomis at the corner of Cedar Ave. and Nokomis Parkway, is one of three settling ponds at the lake created to capture storm water runoff and filter out sediment before the water reaches the lake. When water enters the

Dredging at Amelia Pond Is Occurring

pond, it allows sediment and pollutants to settle to the bottom and clean water to flow into the lake.

The pond will be dredged as part of the routine maintenance to remove the 1,800 cubic yards of sediment and silt from the bottom of the pond.

During dredging, the bicycle path going around the lake will be closed during the daytime and reopened in

the evenings. Daytime path users may use the walking path, which is being plowed and maintained for bicyclers and walkers. The parkway will remain open to traffic.

More information can be found at www.minnehahacreek.org.

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is has begun dredging Amelia Pond

Historic Resources Survey of Windom

CPED-Planning is conducting a historic resource survey in the following neighborhoods: **Windom**, **Kenny**, and **Armatage** to assess the potential for historic properties.

The City was first surveyed for historic resources in the 1970s and many of today's designated landmarks and historic districts are a result of the original survey. The City was first surveyed for historic resources in the 1970s and many of today's designated land-

marks and historic districts are a result of the original survey. Since 2001, CPED has conducted a re-survey of historic resources in Minneapolis that has been funded by grants from the Minnesota Historical Society and matched by City dollars. The City has undertaken the re-survey because of the aging of properties, changing attitudes about which types of historic resources need to be identified, e.g. historic landscapes, cultural and ethnic group resources. The survey will help

achieve the City's goal of documenting historic resources throughout the entire city over a ten-year period, which is scheduled for completion in 2011.

The first public meeting on this project will be held on:

**Wednesday, February 23,
6:30 – 8:00 pm**

Kenny Recreation Center:
1328 58th Street W

The purpose of this first meeting is to introduce the survey project and offer an

opportunity for the community to provide information and ideas about historic resources within the survey area.

More information can be found online at:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/



Ward Neighborhood Associations

[Field, Regina, Northrop Neighborhood Group](#)

3rd Wednesday,
6:30-8:00 pm, Lake Nokomis
Presbyterian Church

[Hale, Page, Diamond Lake Community Association](#)

4th Monday, 7-8:30 pm,
Emmanuel United
Methodist Church

[Kingfield Neighborhood Association](#)

2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm,
Martin Luther King Park

[Nokomis East Neighborhood Association](#)

4th Thursday, 7-8:30 pm,
NENA Office

[Tangletown Neighborhood Association](#)

3rd Monday,
7-8:30 pm, Fuller Park

[Windom Community Council](#)

2nd Thursday, 7-8:30 pm,
Windom Community Center

48th & Chicago

Avenue d'Amore

Valentine's Day Giveaway

Register to win one of these two romantic gifts for your Valentine

Winners will be drawn Friday, February 11 at Noon

(Register by stopping in at any participating business.)

“Smitten”

- Dinner for 2 at

Levain

- \$100 flower bouquet from

Spruce Flowers & Home

- \$75 gift certificate from

Rue 48

- 30 minute massage from

Body work by Liv

- Book of poetry from

True Colors Bookstore

“Puppy Love”

- \$30 gift certificate at

Town Hall Tap

- \$50 flower bouquet from

Spruce Flowers & Home

- Movies and margaritas from

Pepito's Parkway Theater

- Locally made ice cream from

Pumphouse Creamery

- Show your pet love with grooming from

Minnehaha Animal Hospital

3rd Precinct Block Leader Training

Block leaders are vitally important to our city’s safety. Join the 3rd Precinct at an upcoming block leader training!

**February 22nd or March 22nd
6:30 to 8 PM**

Minneapolis Police Dept. 3rd Precinct House
3000 Minnehaha Avenue

Please RSVP if you are planning on attending one of the trainings by calling:
673-3482 or 673-2856



Topics Covered at the Training:

- Introduction to community crime prevention
- How to organize a block/apartment club
- Services of community crime prevention
- Responsibilities of block leaders
- How and when to use 911
- How to solve problems effectively
- Meet your Crime Prevention Specialist

Calendar

February 9	7–8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
February 10	7–8:30 pm: Windom Community Council Meeting at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)
February 12	9:30–11:30 am: Second Saturday with Representative Jean Wagenius at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
February 16	8–9 am: Community Coffee Hour at Sister Sludge (4557 Bloomington Avenue S) 6:30–8:00 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
February 21	Holiday: Government Offices Closed 7–8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
February 22	6:30–8 pm: Block Leader Training at Minneapolis Police Dept. 3 rd Precinct House (3000 Minnehaha Avenue)
February 23	4:30–7 pm: Assessor’s Annual Property Tax Meeting at Pearl Park Recreation Center (414 Diamond Lake Road E) 6:30–8 pm: Public Meeting on Historic Resources Survey at Kenny Recreation Center (1328 58th Street W)
February 24	7–8:30 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E)
February 25	5–6 pm: Ward Happy Hour at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue S)
February 28	7–8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737 **Spanish:** Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700 **Somali:** Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaal-meeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la’ aan wac 612-673-3500 **Hmong:** Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800 **Sign Language:** TTY 612-673-2626 If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the our office at 612-673-2211.