

# Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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## Quincy's Corner

As the leaves change colors and we begin to think about turning on our furnaces, I want to focus this month's Quincy's Corner on the city goal of being **ECO-FOCUSED**. In partnership with the Minneapolis Park Board, the City cares for our city's natural resources, ensuring all people have equal access to clean air, land, and water. The City has also charged itself with promoting a transition to a new, green economy.

To Minneapolis, **ECO-FOCUSED** means: using trees as a solid green investment, keeping our lakes and streams pristine, using less energy and producing less waste, providing and choosing locally grown food, making sure that our world-class parks are fully enjoyed, and ensuring that clean, renewable energy sources are successfully integrated.

A perfect highlight for this goal is [ThincGreen](#), a major initiative recently passed by the Minneapolis City Council, which provides for a collaborative relationship with St. Paul to create an integrated set of tools to grow the region's economy, create regional distinction, drive demand for green products and services, and generate momentum and support for continued innovation in green manufacturing business.

Important Note: Election Day is just a few weeks away. If you know you won't be able to vote in person on Tuesday, November 2nd, you can arrange to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee voting can be done in person or by mail. If you're an eligible voter in Minneapolis, you can vote by absentee ballot for any of the following reasons:

- You'll be away from your precinct on Election Day.
- You have an illness or disability.
- You're observing a religious discipline or holiday.
- You're serving as an election judge in another precinct.
- There's been an emergency declared by governor or quarantine declared by federal or state government.

Absentee ballot applications are available on our website. To apply for an absentee ballot, go to [Elections](#) and click on "absentee voting."



## City Focus

City departments are in the midst of presenting their plans for implementation of the mayor's proposal to the City Council's Ways & Means Committee in a series of budget hearings.

The proposed 2011 City budget funds the basics of police, potholes and pay-checks, and meets the challenges posed by rising pension obligations, especially two closed pension funds. The budget also invests in

transit-oriented development, downtown planning and a new downtown park, and a new regional economic development entity as opportunities to grow the City's tax base.

Two closed pension funds will continue to be a financial challenge for the City. Of the \$17.7 million more that the City must pay in 2011 to meet pension obligations, nearly 90% must go to two closed pension funds: the Minneapolis Police Re-

lief Association and the Minneapolis Fire Relief Association. Were it not for the \$17.7 million jump in pension obligations, the City would be able to lower property taxes by 0.1% next year. However, obligations to pensions – and in particular, the closed pensions – instead require a 6.5% pension levy for 2011.

For more information visit the [2011 Recommended Budget site](#).

## Celebrate Efforts to Reduce Lead Poisoning

October is Lead Poisoning Prevention awareness month. In 2009, more than 1,500 Minneapolis children were exposed to levels of lead that are linked to adverse health outcomes. Elevated exposures to lead, also known as lead poisoning, can slow a child's growth, damage hearing, cause behavior problems, and make it harder for children to concentrate or do well in school. Lead poisoning is completely preventable if parents and other caregivers know how to protect our children from lead exposure.

Thousands of Minneapolis homes built before 1978 could contain lead-based

paint, and peeling paint in homes like those are major sources of lead poisoning in children. In 2002, 516 Minneapolis children had elevated blood lead levels. Thanks, in part, to efforts to reduce lead exposure and get more children tested, that number plummeted to 170 last year.

The City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Department of Health, Hennepin County and other community-based partners are celebrating the progress made toward eliminating lead poisoning by inviting the public to a special event.

The celebration will include information about prevent-

ing and removing lead poisoning hazards in the home, free lead testing for children up to the age of 6, and demonstrations and information on various other strategies for having a healthy home. Resources will be available in English, Hmong, Spanish, and Somali.

### A Celebration of a Decade of Lead Poisoning Prevention Efforts

October 6, 2010  
4:30 - 6:30 pm

Harrison Community Center  
503 Irving Avenue N  
Minneapolis 55405

For more information, call 612-673-3207 or e-mail [angelahackel@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:angelahackel@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

## 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](#)

### *Grants Reduce Consumption, Reward Businesses, and Save Money*

Minneapolis has awarded a total of eight grants to help local neighborhoods and organizations fund creative ways to engage residents and businesses in fighting climate change. The City pioneered these award-winning grants in 2007. Thanks to the successes of the first three years, Minneapolis is offering \$75,000 in grants this year, each ranging from \$7,990 to \$10,000 to neighborhood and business groups, schools and nonprofits whose efforts inspire their members to reduce energy, pilot solar programs and curb climate change.

The nation's largest bike sharing system is about to become even bigger. The Minneapolis City Council approved the use of federal Recovery funds to improve biking infrastructure in north Minneapolis by expanding the Nice Ride Minnesota system into the area.

An expanded system will help connect north Minneapolis neighborhoods with Downtown and other parts of the city that currently have the Nice Ride system in place. The \$228,500 in funding will be used to conduct a community engagement process with north Minneapolis resi-

Grant awardees will also sign up individuals for the Minnesota Energy Challenge, which now has more than 8,700 Minneapolis members pledging to save \$3.78 million annually on energy costs. Participants taking the challenge are making changes in their lives - large or small - to reduce their carbon footprints while saving money on energy costs, helping local businesses and taking steps to secure our energy independence.

This year's grants include educating and motivating businesses of all sizes to reduce their energy bills and

dents, business owners and key stakeholders, and identify locations and purchase equipment to bring at least five new Nice Ride Minnesota kiosks to the North Side.

Nice Ride Minnesota began providing wheels to bicyclists in June, and in August Nice Ride celebrated its 50,000th bike trip. There are currently 700 bikes available at 65 kiosks located throughout downtown Minneapolis, the University of Minneapolis campus, and in a number of nearby areas. Subscribers to the Nice Ride service can check out a bike, pedal around town, then return the

take advantage of new financing and rebate programs. Other grants promote solar energy combined with energy efficiency, again taking advantage of utility incentives, state rebates and federal tax credits.

The grants are made possible because the City of Minneapolis received U.S. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for a variety of energy efficiency projects.

Minneapolis is considered one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the country, and the City has long been a leader in creating policies and practices that protect

### *Bike Sharing Expands to North Minneapolis*

bike to any of the other kiosks. An annual subscription to Nice Ride costs \$60 (\$50 for students) and includes coupons worth up to \$500 to local retailers and eateries that operate within the service area. Monthly and 24-hour subscriptions are also available.

Nice Ride Minnesota is a nonprofit organization created to bring public bike sharing to the metro area. It receives major financial support of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and Transit for Livable Communities' Bike Walk Twin Cities program.

and enhance the environment and combat global climate change. The launch of Minneapolis' Sustainability Initiative in 2003 took the City's commitment to the environment to a new level. As part of the initiative, the mayor and City Council established 26 sustainability indicators designed to create a more livable, sustainable city.

For a list of this year's energy grant recipients and to learn more about the sustainability initiative and the climate change grants, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability).

The North Side expansion is supported by the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support through the Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, with funding made possible by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information on Nice Ride Minnesota, including a map of kiosk locations, go to [www.niceridemn.org](http://www.niceridemn.org).

## Minneapolis Wins Watershed Hero Award

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) has named its Watershed Heroes of 2010, and Minneapolis is among them for its aggressive goals and actions to protect water quality in Minneapolis and downstream. The watershed's Innovation in Government Award recognizes Minneapolis' leadership in its innovative programs and policies.

Reducing the pollutants that enter lakes and waterways from stormwater runoff is the responsibility of the City and all residents, property owners, and visitors. Rain runs across surfaces such as roofs, streets, driveways, and compacted lawns, picking up pollutants as it flows. Individuals can take many steps to prevent pollutants

from getting into the street and stormwater pipes, such as, keeping leaves and grass clippings out of the street, picking up pet waste, washing cars on the lawn instead of in the driveway or street, directing roof downspouts onto the lawn instead of the driveway, shoveling snow promptly requiring less de-icing salt, and immediately cleaning up any oil or other leaks from cars. City practices that keep pollutants out of our waterways include rain gardens, wetland areas, grassy swales, pervious pavers, underground treatment chambers, and street sweeping.

### Recent City of Minneapolis and community activities:

- Installed innovative stormwater management infra-

structure on Marquette and Second avenues to create growing spaces that support mature trees.

- Adopted planning and zoning measures to reduce stormwater runoff, including new standards for plazas and revised off-street parking requirements for some new developments.
- More than 2,000 volunteers removed 20,000 pounds of trash from watersheds at 41 locations on Earth Day.
- Trained 676 residents to design and install rain gardens at workshops held by [Metro Blooms](#). Metro Blooms is this year's MCWD Watershed Hero in the Citizen Engagement category. It is a fast-

growing nonprofit organization, funded in part by the City of Minneapolis.

- Piloted a project using beet juice on the pavement of some City properties to pre-treat for snow and ice control, to decrease salt use.

For more information on the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and its 2010 Watershed heroes, visit [Minnehaha Creek](#).

Creating a more sustainable community is a top priority for Minneapolis leaders. The quality of life in Minneapolis is linked to the health and well-being of our community and our environment. For more information about Minneapolis innovative sustainability initiatives, visit [City Sustainability](#).

## Be Involved: Southern Bike Connection

The [Southern Bike Connection](#) is a bicycle boulevard connecting Midtown Minneapolis with Richfield. The route is likely to follow 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue S, the Minnehaha Parkway Trail, and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. The project is scheduled for construction in summer 2011.

A bicycle boulevard is a residential street that is improved for bicycling, including features such as traffic calming, safer crossings at busy streets, large bicycle

pavement markings, and way finding signs. A bicycle boulevard does not use bike lanes or remove on-street parking. Bicycles are on the street with vehicles.

The goal is to increase bicycling along these streets. This project was funded through the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program, a source of federal funding with the aim of increasing bicycling and walking and decreasing driving.

### What are possibilities in Ward 11?

#### 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S

- At 45<sup>th</sup> Street: Miniature traffic circle, reversed stop sign
- At 46<sup>th</sup> Street: Curb extensions
- At Minnehaha Parkway: Curb cut to bicycling and walking trails

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S

- At 51<sup>st</sup> Street: Miniature traffic circle, remove north/south stop signs

- Between 52<sup>nd</sup> & 53<sup>rd</sup> Streets: Speed bumps

- At 56<sup>th</sup> Street: Miniature traffic circle, remove north/south stop signs

### When is the next meeting?

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Public Works will host a public meeting to present a draft proposal for the Southern Bike Connection. The meeting will be held at 6:30 pm at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4120 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.

## Community Energy Services Serve More Ward 11 Neighborhoods



Learn how to reduce your energy use and save money! The City of Minneapolis has partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy to offer Minneapolis homeowners Community Energy Services, a full service residential energy program.

### Community Energy Services (CES) Provides:

- FREE educational workshops to teach homeowners how to lower their energy use and save money;
- Materials, which may include: low flow showerheads, setback thermostat, compact fluorescent light bulbs, gasket seals,

- faucet aerators, pipe insulation, etc to help participants save now;
- Customized home energy visits from qualified professionals who will identify additional ways for residents to save in their homes, including a blower door test. Up to \$400 in services and materials for a co-pay of only \$30; (some neighborhoods choose to buy down the co-pay);
- Personalized energy use inventory for the last 12 months and feedback for the next 12 months to show the homeowner how these low-cost/no-cost measures resulted in decreased energy use, as well as, allowing participants to compare their energy use to that of their neighbors also participating in the program

(confidentially of course); and

- Access to financing, incentives, and rebates for those wishing to complete larger projects.

CES is currently available to homeowners in the following Ward 11 communities: **Northrop, Kingfield, Tangletown, and Windom.** For more information on a workshop in any of these or other eligible Minneapolis communities contact Kyle Boehm at 612-219-7334 or [kboehm@mncee.org](mailto:kboehm@mncee.org) or visit [www.mnces.org](http://www.mnces.org).

Other neighborhood organizations who would like to participate in CES are asked to submit a proposal by October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. For more information on the RFP process, contact Erica Schulte at 612-335-5881 or [eschulte@mncee.org](mailto:eschulte@mncee.org).

Funding for this project was provided by the City of Minneapolis' Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Funding and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.



### 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

## Flu Clinic Challenge—MFD vs. STPFD

In the spirit of “healthy competition,” the American Lung Association in Minnesota is teaming up with the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Fire Departments to raise awareness about the seriousness of seasonal influenza and the importance of vaccination.

Minneapolis Fire Chief Alex

Jackson and Saint Paul Fire Chief Tim Butler will encourage their firefighters and employees to get vaccinated against influenza in their respective fire departments. The winner will be announced the week of October 25 during a closing ceremony.

This “healthy competition”

is conducted on behalf of the 2010-2011 American Lung Association **Faces of Influenza** campaign.

**Please join the Minneapolis Fire Department and Saint Paul Fire Department as they begin the Flu Shot Challenge. Thank you!**

## Neighborhood Notes

### Household Donation Opportunity!

The new Salvation Army project housing formerly homeless veterans in Ward 11 is in need of your donations!

Televisions \* Dining Table Sets \* Coffee Tables \* End Tables \* Lamps \* Kitchen Appliances \* Kitchen Utensils  
Dishes & Glasses \* Towels \* DVD Players \* Dressers \* Bookcases \* Hygiene Kits \* Laundry Soap \* Cleaning Supplies  
Blankets \* Pillows \* Small Desks \* Pots and Pans

Any and all donations are Welcomed and Appreciated. Please contact Bob Graner at 612-246-7301 or Gina Collier at 612-363-3382 to set up drop off or pick up.

## Calendar

<b>October 2</b>	1–3 pm: <b>Washburn Library 40th Birthday Celebration</b> at Washburn Library (5244 Lyndale Avenue S)
<b>October 6</b>	4:30–6:30 pm: <b>A Celebration of a Decade of Lead Poisoning Prevention Efforts</b> at Harrison Community Center (503 Irving Avenue N)
<b>October 9</b>	9:30–11:30 am: <b>Second Saturday with Council Member Quincy and Representative Jean Wagenius</b> at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
<b>October 11</b>	<b>Columbus Day Holiday:</b> City offices closed
<b>October 12</b>	6:30 pm: <b>Southern Bike Connection Public Meeting</b> at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (4120 17 <sup>th</sup> Avenue S)
<b>October 13</b>	8–9 am: <b>Community Coffee Hour—School Board Candidate Forum</b> at Mike’s Corner Store (5601 Chicago Avenue S) 7–8:30 pm: <b>Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting</b> at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
<b>October 14</b>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Windom Community Council Meeting</b> at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S) 7–8:30 pm: <b>Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting</b> at the NENA office (3000 50 <sup>th</sup> Street E)
<b>October 16</b>	10 am–3 pm: <b>Nokomis Healthy Seniors Fall Frolic</b> food from Fat Lorenzo’s, music & book sale at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (4120 17 <sup>th</sup> Avenue S)
<b>October 18</b>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Tangletown Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting</b> at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
<b>October 19</b>	6:30 pm: <b>Tangletown Community Energy Services Workshop</b> at Washburn High School (201 49 <sup>th</sup> Street W)
<b>October 20</b>	6:30–8:00 pm: <b>Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting</b> at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46 <sup>th</sup> Street E)
<b>October 25</b>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting</b> at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13 <sup>th</sup> Avenue S)