

Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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Host an Energy Challenge Block Party

The Alliance for Sustainability and Center for Energy and Environment are inviting Minneapolis block clubs to host **Minnesota Energy Challenge Block parties this fall**. Block leaders who sign up will receive a free **Energy Challenge Block Event Kit**.

We have free **CFL light bulbs** available for the first 50 blocks that sign up. We are offering this opportunity for through a **Climate Change Innovation Grant** from the City of Minneapolis.

Host an Energy Challenge Block Party this fall!

What you do -

- **Bring neighbors together to discuss ways to save energy** with heating, lighting and transportation.
- **Neighbors pledge the actions they will take** on line at www.mnenergychallenge.org and/or with a short survey.
- **Celebrate your block's total energy and cost savings** under "block clubs" at www.mnenergychallenge.org

What we provide -

- **You will receive in the mail an Energy Challenge Block Party kit** with door hanging flyers and home conservation check lists.
- The **first 50 block clubs** that register will receive 20 **free Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs** to give to participants.
- **Energy auditors are available to do an in-home energy audit** as part of block events (for 10 block clubs.)
- **The top blocks in the city will receive prizes & recognition.**

Questions? Please call

Sean Gosiewski, Alliance for Sustainability, 612-331-1099 x 1
sean@afors.org , www.afors.org

Neely Crane Smith, CEE 612-335-5852 nrcrane-smith@mncee.org , www.mncee.org

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**Important
Phone Numbers
Ward 11 office
673-2211
35W/Crosstown
Construction
Hotline
1-866-743-6590**



Airport Update

The cities of Minneapolis, Richfield, Egan and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority sued the MAC to obtain noise insulation for homes in an area most affected by airport noise. The trial was held earlier this year and the judge had planned to issue his ruling on August 24. Initially the judge delayed his ruling due to the amount of work he was contending with. Negotiations between the city and MAC restarted. Negotiations continue and the judge is holding off on ruling until October 5.

Minneapolis keeps an eye on environmental effects of bridge collapse

As crews continue recovery efforts at the collapsed Interstate 35W Bridge, the City of Minneapolis and others want to ensure this tragedy does not also take a toll on the environment.

The City is tracking to make sure the State properly monitors air and water quality in the area surrounding the collapsed bridge. City of Minneapolis staff are gathering test results from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, which are the two agencies conducting environmental testing related to the collapse site. The testing is being conducted to make sure that there's no health risk stemming from the debris and its removal.

The City is posting results from the two agencies' testing so the public can also track the results. To find reports on the results of air and water testing, visit the City's bridge collapse information Web site at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/minneapolisresponds. These initial results will be used as a baseline, and further tests will be conducted once debris removal begins, to see whether the removal process has an effect on air or water quality.

The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization is taking water samples regularly from the Mississippi River downstream from the collapsed bridge. Those samples are being compared to baseline samples taken at two upstream sites.

Air monitoring is being conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to assess the potential hazard to surrounding neighborhoods by dust and other airborne particles that may be released during debris removal.

35W/Crosstown Construction update

Construction continues. The good news about the recent closure of 35W is that the Diamond Lake Road bridge is ahead of schedule and MnDOT plans to reopen it to traffic by the end of November. Since MnDOT is ahead of schedule, they decided to remove the 50th St. bridge a bit early. MnDOT promised that Minnehaha Parkway will remain open to traffic at least until Diamond Lake Road reopens.

You can subscribe for e-mail updates on the project to learn what's happening over the next four years of construction. Go to www.mndot.gov and under "Major Construction Projects" click on "I-35W/Hwy 62 Crosstown."

If you have concerns or questions about the project, please call the Project Hotline at **866.743.6590**

New Street lighting open house

The Minneapolis Public Works Department is finalizing its Street Lighting Policy and Program which has been in the development process for several years. They will be having nine community open houses in September 2007 at various locations. These meetings will serve as opportunities to share information about the proposed Street Lighting Policy and Program, as well as gather community input. The two meetings closest to the 11th Ward include:

- Tuesday, Sept 18, 2007—Lynnhurst Park, 1345 Minnehaha Pkwy. W.
- Tuesday, Sept 25, 2007—Nokomis Park, 2401 Minnehaha Pkwy. E.

If neither of these dates are convenient, you can find the times and location of the other meetings as well as additional information at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetlighting/index.asp>

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb. 46th St. & 17th Ave</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13th Ave S</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p>NENA Nokomiseast.org Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office</p>	<p>Tangletown Tangletown.org Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p>Windom Windomcommunity.org Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S</p>

Coffee With Scott

Whatever is on your mind, you can sit down with **Scott Benson** and talk about it over a cup of coffee, from **8:00 AM until 9:00 AM** at coffee shops around the 11th ward.

Sept. 13	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington	Nov 1	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave
Oct 4	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet Ave	Dec 6	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave

Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more that 45 boards, commissions and advisory committees. These organizations, composed of citizen volunteers, advise the City on current issues and assist the City in policy development and administration of services.

For more information:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

Electronic Newsletter

Council Member Benson publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.