

# WARD NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

DIAMOND LAKE, FIELD, HALE, KINGFIELD NORTHRUP, PAGE, TANGLETOWN, WINDOM, and WENONA

## Get around cheaper, healthier, greener and happier during Bike Walk

Want to get in shape? Tired of being stuck in traffic? Like doing your part to help the environment? Celebrate or try out active transportation during the 5th Annual Twin Cities Bike Walk Week.

Bike Walk Week is May 10-16. It's a time to encourage folks to leave their vehicles at home and bike or walk to their destinations. There are many ways to participate, including smart traffic skills classes, bike rides and other celebratory events to support and reward you and others for pedaling or walking.

The week's big public celebrations will take place on Bike to Work Day: Thursday, May 14. In Minneapolis, biking and walking commuters will gather at the Government Center Plaza from 6:30 to 9 a.m. for free food, music and prize giveaways.

Bikers will also be stopping at a number of spots throughout Minneapolis for everything from free breakfasts to happy hour deals.

Register to participate in Bike Walk Week to support biking and walking as a part of transportation and a chance to win prizes, such as bikes, gear, gift certificates and more. To register and to find out about all the Bike Walk Week events, go to [www.bikewalkweek.org](http://www.bikewalkweek.org).



## Operation ID and McGruff House Updates

If you are a participant in Operation ID you will soon be receiving a letter from the Police Department (MPD) explaining that Operation ID in its present form is being eliminated. However, the MPD does provide a means for residents to keep an inventory of their property. You will find a link to the MPD's home fact & inventory sheets at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/Home-InvFAQ.pdf>

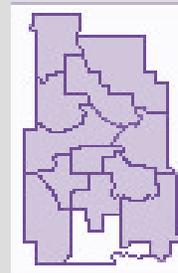
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/Home-Inventory-Form.xls>

The McGruff House Program is being eliminated by the MPD. Extensive background checks were necessary for all applicants to the program. The increased cost and few applicants have made the program ineffective.

The MPD will allow those McGruff Houses already in place to remain but will be taking no new applications.

If you would like further information you may contact Luther Krueger at 612-292-3673

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## Meeting to share ideas on improving availability of locally grown food

The City of Minneapolis is hosting a public meetings in May to present recommendations on the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative and to hear from the public. Homegrown Minneapolis is a City initiative that's working to find ways to get more fresh, locally grown food sold, distributed and eaten in Minneapolis. Food grown locally is good for your health and promotes a stronger local economy and protection of our environment.

Residents can come to the meeting, hear about the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative, review a summary of the Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations, and share their comments.

**Monday, May 18**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Martin Luther King Park**

**4055 Nicollet Ave. S.**



Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations cover topics such as:

- Using public and private land for community gardens and food production,
  - Increasing access to farmers' markets or mobile food delivery services,
  - Encouraging restaurants, schools, and other organizations to use locally grown food on their menus,
- and supporting entrepreneurs who want to create small businesses focused on local food production.

Interested residents can also visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp) to see the same materials and offer feedback. Materials will be posted May 1, and comments will be taken through May 31.

## Online survey asks how you like to drink water

The average person drinks about 64 ounces of water a day. How much do you drink? Where do you get that water?

The City of Minneapolis is conducting an online survey to get answers to those questions. Although this survey is geared toward our water customers, the survey is open to anyone who works in or visits Minneapolis. There are 10-11 questions, and it should take less than five minutes to complete.

The purpose of the survey is to give the City a general understanding of water consumption in Minneapolis. The survey does not ask people to identify themselves or provide contact information.

The City of Minneapolis will keep taking responses through June 15, 2009. To take the survey, go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/watersurvey>. purpose of the survey is to give the City a general understanding of water consumption in Minneapolis. The survey does not ask people to identify themselves or provide contact information.

The City of Minneapolis will keep taking responses through June 15, 2009. To take the survey, go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/watersurvey>.



## Help Clean City Minneapolis put the shine on our parks and neighborhoods

Keeping our city nice and clean is a big job. That's why Clean City Minneapolis is making it easier than ever for folks like you to pitch in.

Clean City Minneapolis has a new look, a more inviting Web presence and even more energy this season. There are many ways you can be a part of efforts to make our city more attractive to residents and visitors. Check it out by going to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cleancity](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cleancity).

Clean City programs make a greater use of neighbors, friends and community partners gathering to clean up our community. Partnerships with individuals and businesses help the City leverage what we each do best. Clean City Minneapolis – through Solid Waste and Recycling – can provide supplies and disposal options, while the community provides the enthusiasm and volunteer power to keep our neighborhoods beautiful.



### Greenprint marks progress toward making Minneapolis a more sustainable city

Creating a more sustainable community is a top priority of Minneapolis leaders, because the quality of life in the city is linked to the health and well-being of our neighborhoods and our environment. Helping us get there is Minneapolis Greenprint: an annual report that shows our progress toward some key ecological goals.

The fourth edition of Minneapolis Greenprint is now available. Along with tracking ten indicators from previous years, this fourth edition of Greenprint has an 11<sup>th</sup> indicator that focuses on green jobs and the green economy. This includes areas such as eco-friendly construction, transportation, energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy.

#### Some highlights of Greenprint include:

The City met its target for no combined sewer overflows all year during rainstorms – for the second year in a row. Upgrades to the sewer system in Minneapolis have resulted in a dramatic reduction in overflows, which are harmful to our lakes and river.

The City adopted an ordinance that restricts vehicle idling in the city and raises awareness about the effects of vehicles on global warming and air quality.

The City supported biking as a transportation choice by adding more trails, building the Midtown Bike Center, launching the Bike Walk Ambassador program and revising the zoning code to require bicycle parking for most developments.

The City awarded a second year of climate change grants to support grassroots efforts motivating residents and businesses to take action to reduce global warming and save money.

The City completed the City Hall and Courthouse building's 5,000-square-foot green roof with plantings as part of a waterproofing and stormwater management project. Plants will be irrigated with rainwater from a 10,000 gallon cistern installed as part of the project.

Find the entire 2009 report at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability) under "What's New."



## Monthly Community Meetings

<b>Field Regina Northrop</b> <b><a href="http://FRNNG.org">FRNNG.org</a></b> Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.	<b>Hale Page Diamond Lake</b> <b><a href="http://HPDL.org">HPDL.org</a></b> Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist	<b>Kingfield</b> <b><a href="http://Kingfield.org">Kingfield.org</a></b> Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park
<b>NENA</b> <b><a href="http://Nokomiseast.org">Nokomiseast.org</a></b> Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office	<b>Tangletown</b> <b><a href="http://Tangletown.org">Tangletown.org</a></b> Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center	<b>Windom</b> <b><a href="http://Windomcommunity.org">Windomcommunity.org</a></b> Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center

## Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more than 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.

[Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee \(CLIC\) Vacancy \(open until filled\)](#)

[Minneapolis Workforce Council Vacancy \(closes 05/22/09\)](#)

[Public Health Advisory Committee \(PHAC\) Vacancy \(open until filled\)](#)

For more information: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/> or call the City Clerk's office at 612-673-3358

## Census workers in Minneapolis to verify addresses

Census questionnaires won't be mailed out to households until March 2010. Before then, Census Bureau workers will be hitting the streets here in Minneapolis and across the nation trying to verify addresses for millions of Americans.

This process, called address verification, is a critically important step to assure that every housing unit receives a census questionnaire. It's the first publicly visible activity of the 2010 Census, and it should last about six to eight weeks.

Census workers may knock on doors to verify addresses and inquire about additional living quarters on certain premises. They may also ask people in some neighborhoods simple questions about housing units. The information collected will be kept confidential.

By law the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with any other government agency. No court of law or law enforcement agency can find out respondents' answers. All Census Bureau employees – including temporary workers – take an oath for life to keep census information confidential.

The census is performed every ten years to determine populations for congressional seats and government program funding. This current count has added significance here in Minnesota because the state could potentially lose a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Locally, census results are used to determine everything from state legislative districts to school district boundaries.

Anyone with concerns about the U.S. Census can call (612) 216-5950.

## 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](mailto:scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.