

WARD 11 NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

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

Current, Former City Leaders Celebrate Minneapolis' First 150 Years

Current and former City leaders gathered on Friday, July 18 at a special 150th anniversary City Council meeting to commemorate Minneapolis' first Town Council meeting on July 20, 1858. This meeting officially kicked off the city's sesquicentennial celebrations. More than 50 current and former aldermen, council members and mayors attended this special meeting and reception was hosted by the City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak.



Former 11th Ward Council Members Glen Olson, Walter Rothenstein and Dore Mead with Scott

At the special meeting, a plaster version of Minneapolis' official City seal was dedicated in the Council Chambers. Mayor R.T. Rybak was host a reception in the City Hall rotunda immediately following the meeting.

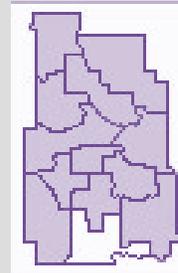
Speakers were selected to commemorate the past, present, and future of the City. They included were Laura Waterman Wittstock who spoke about Minneapolis' Native history, Lou DeMars who reflected upon the

history of the Council, and Tony Williams, youth leader, who presented a vision for the future of Minneapolis.

According to Isaac Atwater's "The History of Minneapolis," the first Town Council consisted of five members. Since that time, the number has fluctuated, leading to the Council of 13 members we have today.

All summer-long there are more sesquicentennial events throughout the City. If you would like more information please visit the Sesquicentennial website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/150/>

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RNC Traffic Updates

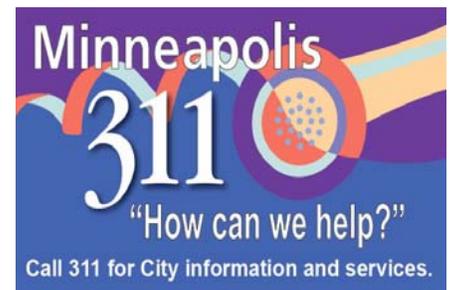
Crowds expected for the Republican National Convention could affect traffic in our city. However, you can avoid delays by getting the latest transportation information from the City of Minneapolis.

The best way to stay informed of road closures, detours or other last-minute traffic changes is by signing up to receive the City's traffic alerts. These e-mailings will go out if there are any major traffic notifications due to the RNC.

To sign up for traffic alerts, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/traffic. Updates will also be on the City's main Web site: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us. Be sure to bookmark it and check it regularly during the RNC.

Minneapolis 311 Takes Its Millionth Call

Minneapolis 311, the only number you need to use for City information and services, has received its millionth call. That call, which was made in July, came just two and one-half years after 311 officially began taking calls in January 2006.



Minneapolis 311 is a simple, three-digit number residents, businesses and visitors can call to reach the City to inquire about services, report problems, check the status of issues, or get general information. Instead of having to weed through a list of more than 200 seven-digit City numbers, all you need to know is 311. Whether it's getting library hours, finding out where to vote, reporting a stray dog in your neighborhood, or any of a number of requests, 311 call center agents are trained to help callers get the answers they want.

Roughly seven out of every 10 calls to 311 are for information. The most frequently asked questions involve licenses and permits, public safety, impounded vehicles, housing, garbage and recycling, traffic and parking, and residential property.

The other calls involve requests for service. There have been more than 178,000 of those made to 311 since it began taking calls in January 2006.

The millionth call comes about a week after Minneapolis 311 was recognized in the Call Center Excellence Awards, held by the International Quality and Productivity Center. In those awards, 311 won runner-up "Best in Class Call Center" for a staff of less than 50 people.

Minneapolis Water Continues to be Safe and of High Quality

Some Minneapolis water customers have noticed a taste and odor to their tap water in the last several days. Minneapolis Water Works is working to neutralize those tastes and odors through the water treatment process, but water customers can be assured that the water is safe to drink, and that it meets or is better than all the regulatory requirements on water quality.

Each spring, many water customers notice a change in the taste and odor of our tap water, which is expected because of the melting snow that makes its way into the Mississippi River. Those changes typically only last a short time. While it is unusual and odor changes at this time of year, the solution is the same. Water Works staff have begun adjusting treatments at the City's water plants to better absorb or destroy materials that cause undesirable tastes and odors.

There are a several factors that can affect the taste and smell of tap water. In Minneapolis the source of our tap water is the Mississippi River, which is fed by lakes, streams and ground water upstream. Because the Mississippi is fed by many sources, the taste and smell of the water can change quite quickly. Naturally occurring algae and other aquatic plants can also play a role - even the tiniest of traces (as low as five parts per trillion) can be detected by water customers.

The water treatment processes at the City of Minneapolis Water Treatment plants removes most of this organic material, and makes it completely safe to drink. Even after the water is filtered and disinfected, some of the taste and odor elements remain. Although the tastes and odors are not pleasant, they are not harmful. Minneapolis appreciates its customers' patience as it work to resolve the issue.

Requesting a Tree for Your Boulevard

It's easy to request for a new tree to be planted on your boulevard. This service is provided by the Minneapolis Park Board through their Forestry Division and is completely free of charge for Minneapolis property owners and residents. The Forestry Division has specific guidelines about where and what type of species of tree can be planted.

Generally, new trees cannot be planted within 10 feet of a fire hydrant, driveway apron or utility pole, 30 feet of a stop sign, traffic sign, traffic signal, or street light, or within 5 feet of any visible or identifiable underground utility. Additionally, each boulevard must be three feet or wider to accommodate the growth of a healthy tree.

A new tree can be requested by calling the Forestry Division at 612-313-7710. More information about tree planting and Minneapolis' commitment to urban forestry can be found at the Park Board's website www.minneapolisparcs.org

Important
Phone Numbers

Ward 11 office:
673-2211

35W/Crosstown
Construction
Hotline:
1-866-743-6590

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park</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</p>	<p>Windom Windomcommunity.org Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center</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.

Aug 7	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave	Oct 2	Anodyne 4301 Nicollet Ave
Sept 4	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington Ave	Nov 6	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave



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.

The Civilian Police Review Authority currently has two openings. The authority was created by ordinance in Title 9, Chapter 172, 90-Or-043 in 1990 to provide fair and impartial investigation of citizen allegations of misconduct on the part of officers of the Minneapolis Police Department and make conclusions based on findings of fact

For more information:

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

or call Angela Brenny in the City Clerk's office at 612-673-3358

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.