

Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



Contact John:

350 S. 5th Street
Suite 307
Minneapolis, MN
55415

Phone: (612) 673-2211

Fax: (612) 673-3940

[John.Quincy@
ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:John.Quincy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

Inside this issue:

Quincy's Corner	1
Preparing for Potholes	2
Help with City Redistricting	3
Animal Control Names a "Pet of the Week"	3
Rain Garden Workshops	4
Learn More About Property Tax Refunds	4
Tangletown Reviews Its NRP Plan	5
NENA Hosts Resurfacing Meet- ing	5
Calendar	5

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2011

Quincy's Corner

Minneapolis has a vibrant and healthy mix of homeowners and rental housing, and most landlords throughout the city provide high-quality, safe housing to residents. Given the real estate market and the increase in foreclosures the past several years, there has been an increase in the need for rental housing across the city, as well as across the street. This can take the form of single family housing, duplexes, triplexes, etc., as well as larger apartment buildings.

Unfortunately we have some substandard landlords who don't take care of their properties and take advantage of and endanger their tenants, all while draining city resources. We are sending a message that this behavior is not tolerated in Minneapolis. To help address the need for stable housing and to protect the needs of tenants and neighbors, Minneapolis has taken a number of proactive steps to ensure quality housing stock and improve our standards and inspection program.

- The City just launched a new Web site that lists landlords who are ineligible to hold a rental license for five years because two or more rental licenses have been revoked or cancelled. It also posts lists of condemned, vacant and demolished buildings.
- Since 2005, the City's Regulatory Services department has changed more than two dozen ordinances to strengthen rental licensing and property ownership standards to protect tenants from problem landlords.
- Minneapolis is launching a tiered approach to inspection of rental properties based on severity and history of code compliance. Rental properties will be placed into one of three categories based on the amount of city resources historically required. Those properties will receive an annual inspection. Marginal properties will be placed on a two to five year cycle and properties with proactive management will be rewarded and placed on a longer inspection cycle.

For more information on how Minneapolis is holding property owners accountable for how they maintain their properties, visit

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections/accountable.asp>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Quincy".

City Focus

Minneapolis Prepares for Potholes

It's the time of year when temperatures can climb above freezing during the day, then dip below freezing at night. These freeze-and-thaw cycles can lead to the formation of potholes, so Minneapolis street crews will continue to monitor street conditions and patch potholes.

There are up to three different road crews out each day placing temporary "cold patches" to potholes throughout town. They make temporary patches during the winter months so roads will be more drivable until permanent patches can be made during the regular road construction season. Also, since these are the same crews that do snow removal on city streets, their work is prioritized according to the weather and the biggest needs at a given time.

Since the start of January:

- More than 5,000 truckloads of snow have been removed from City streets. That's in addition to the regular plowing efforts by Public Works.
- More than 200 tons of temporary asphalt mix, or cold patch, have been used to fix potholes.

- About 16,000 of the 20,000 intersections in the City have been cleared of snow piles left after plowing.

City street crews must be flexible in the work they do each day. A street crew's assignment may change from day to day—clearing snow one day and patching potholes the next—and most days, both kinds of work are being done around the city. Generally, street crews work Monday through Friday in two shifts: one daytime and one overnight, when traffic is lighter. In addition, a few crews work weekend shifts as well.

To report a pothole for repairs, drivers can call 311, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Reports can also be made online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311. Public Works uses reports that come in from the public, as well as their observations in the field, to prioritize work and address street issues as efficiently and effectively as possible with the given resources.

Drivers should also be advised that Winter Parking Restrictions remain in effect for Minneapolis. These restrictions, which were put

into effect December 17, ensure reliable access for emergency vehicles after a record December snowfall.

Winter Parking Restrictions will be in place until April 1, unless conditions allow the City to lift the ban earlier. Parking is allowed on both sides of Snow Emergency routes and parkways, and the ODD side of non-Snow Emergency routes, unless otherwise posted and provided a Snow Emergency has NOT been declared.

Drivers parking in Minneapolis must follow these Winter Parking Restrictions, or they could be ticketed and towed.

For more information on snow removal, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow.



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](#)

Minneapolis Needs City Residents to Help with Redistricting

You have a once-in-a-decade opportunity to participate in redistricting the city, creating boundaries for elections in 2012 and beyond. It's an important process, because having districts with equal populations helps ensure there is fair representation no matter where you live. Redistricting happens every ten years, following the U.S. Census, and for residents who are interested, there is a new opportunity to play an important role in the redistricting process that's about to start.

In 2010, Minneapolis voters transferred authority for developing new boundaries for the city's thirteen wards and the Park Board's six districts to a Redistricting Group made up of the Charter Commission and an appointed Advisory Group. The Charter Commission is now soliciting applications for the Advisory Group.

The Charter Commission seeks applicants who will bring diversity to the Redistricting Group, are active citizens, have knowledge of

the many communities within the city, and will serve on a nonpartisan basis. Please note that while Advisory Group members are expected to participate in a nonpartisan manner, current or past involvement in political party activities does not disqualify an applicant from service.

The job description and application form are posted on the Charter Commission's website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/charter-commission.

All applications should be submitted as outlined in the application by the March 25 deadline. Interviews will be conducted in April. If your group is interested in a presentation or if you have any questions, please call the Commission Coordinator, Peggy Menshek, at 612-673-2287 or email her at peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Looking for a Companion Animal? Check out the City's "Pet of the Week"



tion of an animal that is available for adoption. Those interested in adopting the featured pet should contact Minneapolis Animal Care & Control by visiting the shelter or calling 311.

Minneapolis Animal Care & Control wants pet lovers to know that there are many dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, and other animals available for adoption every day. More than 500 animals are adopted to the public every year.

Each week, Minneapolis Animal Care & Control will post a "Pet of the Week" on the City's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cityofminneapolis). This will include picture and descrip-

Shelter hours are 2–7 pm, Monday–Friday, and 11:30 am–3:30 pm on Saturdays. The shelter is closed on Sundays. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control encourages everyone thinking about adopting an animal to be a responsible pet owner: before you look for a pet, think about what type of pet will fit your lifestyle. This will ensure a happy home for you and your new companion.

To adopt any pet from Minneapolis Animal Care & Control, you must:

- Complete an application.
- Pay an adoption fee. The adoption fee for dogs/puppies is \$90 plus tax and \$60 plus tax for cats/kittens.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have current picture identification that shows your age and current address.
- Spay or neuter the animal within 30 days of adoption for adult animals (longer for puppies/kittens).
- Purchase a pet license if you're a Minneapolis resident.
- Commit to providing behavior training and medical care for the new pet,

and giving humane treatment and companionship throughout the animal's life.

- Check your lease to be sure you can have pets and that there are no size, weight or breed limitations.

Minneapolis Animal Care & Control reserves the right to deny any adoption application. Adoptions are handled on a first come, first served basis and partial payments or down payments are not accepted. All animals are given an exam prior to becoming available for adoption; however, MACC cannot guarantee that these animals have not been exposed to an illness prior to coming to our shelter.

\$10 Rain Garden Workshops Available

Get ready for spring by planning a garden that beautifies your yard and helps keep our water clean.

Register now for a two-part workshop series, taught by landscape design specialists from the nonprofit group Metro Blooms. Participants are also eligible for a low-cost on-site consultation and design drawing.

Workshops near Ward 11 will be held at:

- Northrop Environmental Learning Center, April 19, 6:30–8:30 pm, 4315 31st Avenue South
- Nokomis Community Center, May 5, 6:30–8:30 pm, 4885 Cedar Avenue
- Phelps Park, June 4, 10 am–Noon, 701 East 39th Street
- Use native plants in your garden landscape.
- Limit fertilizers and pesticides without compromising a beautiful yard.
- Capture rainwater on site with rain gardens.
- Redirect your downspouts.
- Plan your own garden with one-on-one assistance from landscape designers and Hennepin Master Gardeners.

Whether you are an experienced gardener or have never tried gardening before, these eco-friendly gardening workshops, will help you learn to:

“Metro Blooms has been partnering with Twin Cities Metro communities to provide low-cost raingarden

workshops since 2005,” said Metro Blooms Executive Director Becky Rice. “Over 5,000 residents have attended our workshops and over 2,000 raingardens have been installed.”

To register, visit www.metroblooms.org or call 651.699.2426. Fee: \$10.



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

Learn More About Property Tax Refunds

Now that tax season is in full swing, homeowners should be aware there are two types of property tax refunds available from the State – the regular property tax refund and a special property tax refund. Homeowners may be eligible for both depending on their income levels and the size of their property tax bill.

The regular property tax refund is for people who own and lived in their home on January 2, 2011. If the home is not “homesteaded,” the application for homestead must be made before December 15, 2011. Also, homeowners must fall under the following income limits:

- For households with no dependents, the limit is \$99,240.
- For households with dependents the limit increases with family size, up to \$121,140 for households with five or more dependents.
- Senior or disabled homeowners may be eligible with household incomes up to \$124,790 with five or more dependents.
- The increase must have been \$100 or more and the increase is not attributable to new improvements.

To qualify for the special property tax refund:

- Homeowners must have owned and lived in the same home on both Jan. 2, 2010 and January 2, 2011,
- The net property tax on your homestead must have increased by more

than 12 percent from 2010 to 2011, and

There is no limit on household income for the special property tax refund. You may qualify for the special refund even if you do not qualify for the 2010 regular property tax refund. To determine if you qualify and, if so, the amount of your refund, complete Schedule 1 on the back of Form M1PR.

Tax forms and additional information on property tax refunds are available at taxes.state.mn.us.

Neighborhood Notes

Tangletown residents are invited to their neighborhood association’s March 21st meeting where the association will review a proposal to modify its NRP Plan.

To provide property tax relief, the Minneapolis City Council

took several budget saving measures last December. One of them was to freeze a portion of NRP funding to neighborhood associations. This has resulted in neighborhood associations needing to revisit their plans.

Public comments will be accepted at the meeting, via e-mail at info@tangletown.org, and by postal mail to Tangletown Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 19347, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

Meeting details are in the calendar below. For more information about the proposed changes visit, www.tangletown.org.

Tangletown Reviews Its NRP Plan

NENA Hosts Resurfacing Meeting

Public Works will resurface most of the streets in the Wenonah neighborhood this year. Resurfacing involves milling, or grinding off, existing pavement and overlaying the street with a new layer of as-

phalt. The project is expected to increase the lifespan of the streets by ten years. Street resurfacing is assessed to property owners, and all affected properties will receive a notice from the city in March.

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) will host an informational meeting for residents with Public Works staff to learn about the project and ask questions. (Meeting details are in the calendar

below.) If you or someone you know need special accommodations for the meeting please call the NENA office (612-724-5652) as soon as possible so they can make arrangements.

Calendar

March 9

7–8:30 pm: **Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting** at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)

March 10

7–8 pm: **Wenonah Resurfacing Community Meeting** hosted by NENA and Public Works at Crosstown Covenant Church (5540 30th Avenue S)

7–8:30 pm: **Windom Community Council Meeting** at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)

March 12

9:30–11:30 am: **Second Saturday with Representative Jean Wagenius** at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)

March 16

6:30–8:00 pm: **Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting** at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)

March 21

7–8:30 pm: **Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Crime Meeting** at Pearl Park (414 Diamond Lake Rd E)

7–8:30 pm: **Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting** at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)

March 24

7–8:30 pm: **Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting** at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E)

March 25

5–6 pm: **Ward Happy Hour** at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue S)

March 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.