

Community Ward 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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Quincy's Corner

Tuesday, August 2, may be National Night Out (NNO) – but, really, NNO is not just one night of the year. It is the culmination of year-long crime prevention activity throughout the entire city.

I hope you and your neighbors will mark the occasion to celebrate past successes, discuss current challenges or issues, and re-dedicate to collaborative efforts with neighbors, police, businesses, and others. NNO is the largest event of its kind in Minneapolis and the nation. Have a great time!

In the March issue of Ward 11 Community Connections newsletter, you may recall that I outlined the special attention placed on our Bossen Area Initiative. The Bossen Area—between the Crosstown and 56th Street, and bordered by 28th & 34th Avenues—provides nearly 400 units of affordable rental housing to families of all sizes and cultures. Since NNO is about building neighborhood relationships to make our neighborhoods safer and livable, my office has partnered on a very special National Night Out event for this area. If you have time, join us from 5-8:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

This event will pair the traditional festivities of NNO with services that residents in the area have self-identified as needed. I am thrilled at the partnerships that have been established and generosity of local service providers (nearly 20 will attend!) and businesses. This will truly be an evening to remember!

The Benefiting Bossen Initiative is about making positive change, creating hope, and building community. Together, the City of Minneapolis, Salvation Army, Crosstown Covenant Church, Hennepin County, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, Metro Transit, and more will demonstrate their commitment to transforming the area, making it a better environment for residents and improving the safety and livability for the entire neighborhood.

Have a great August!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Quincy".

City Focus

The finalized state budget had some positive things (or not as bad as they could have been) for the city as a whole - but it also presents some real challenges and tough choices going forward for the City of Minneapolis, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, and Minneapolis Public Schools.

The two greatest concerns Minneapolis faced as the State's Legislative Session began centered around how to respond to the proposed deep cuts to Local Government Aid (LGA) and how to provide property tax relief to residents for the long term, in light of increasing costs for two closed pension funds.

Local Government Aid (LGA) Affects City Services

The fact that the City is well-managed and benefits from a sound and long-term fiscal management policy should not go unnoticed. The Approved Minneapolis 2011 budget provided for a "bad news" scenario should the state legislature fail to meet its certified LGA obligations.

The 2011 budget approved by the Mayor and Council included the assumption that the State would honor its certified commitment of \$87.5 million in LGA to

Minneapolis. At that time, a "waterfall" of up to \$23 million in additional cuts was also approved, to be triggered if the State failed to deliver on that commitment.

Now that the State will return only \$64 million in LGA to Minneapolis in 2011, the full waterfall is triggered.

What makes any cut hard is not just the amount, but the timing. Since Minneapolis operates on a calendar year and the state on a fiscal year, the City has to bear the full weight of the cuts in five short months.

These \$23 million in cuts are reluctantly being made because the State has left the City with no other choice. It means that the City will:

- cut needed street maintenance and paving projects despite record snowfall and numbers of potholes;
- slow its debt repayment despite the fact that doing so has helped restore Minneapolis' AAA bond rating and save taxpayers money;
- and, most regrettably, cut fire fighters, sworn police officers, and their accompanying staff.

State Budget Affects Minneapolis

Pension Reform Hangs in the Balance

Pension reform was a major focus of the Minneapolis State Legislative Agenda for this last session. In the final hours, the legislature passed a bill that allows for the merger of two closed Minneapolis pensions into state pension plans (PERA). Skyrocketing costs associated with these two pension plans have played a major role in recent property tax increases.

As long as all the affected parties (both pension funds, their members, the PERA board, and the City Council) consent to the agreement, we may finally have a resolution to this conflict that has spanned years, if not decades.

The approved merger is a necessary fix to a problem that has no other solution. The alternative is to leave both retirees and taxpayers hanging, not knowing what their fate will be for years, mired in the current system. The current system maximizes risk, volatility, administrative expenses that benefit neither retirees nor taxpayers, and litigation, as well as, risk to pensioners and tax payers in Minneapolis.

City Links

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[Hennepin County Libraries](#)

[Minneapolis Public Schools](#)

[City of Minneapolis Jobs](#)

[Garbage Service](#)

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[Separating Your Recycling](#)

[Snow Emergency](#)

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Address-Based Lookups

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[Recycling Schedule](#)

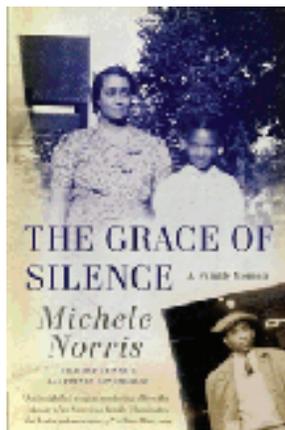
[Police Precinct Finder](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Spring & Fall Street Sweeping Schedule](#)

[Snow Emergency Parking Rules](#)

[Voting Precinct Finder](#)



Later this year, folks all over Minneapolis will have something in common: a book. One Minneapolis, One Read will bring people in our city together and spark conversations by having everyone read the same book, and you're welcome to participate in this big community endeavor.

The book being read is "The Grace of Silence" by Minneapolis native and National Public Radio host Michele Norris. This memoir describes the experience of the Norris' as the

first black family on their block in a south Minneapolis neighborhood. Norris also details her discovery of race-based family secrets. In her research for the book, Norris learned that her father, upon his return from service in World War II, had been shot by a police officer in Alabama.

"The Grace of Silence" offers opportunities for conversation about race, family and neighborhood history that go beyond the accounts in the book. This is the first time Minneapolis has embarked on an initiative like this, and you can get involved by reading "The Grace of Silence," sponsoring a book discussion, hosting a movie and discussion that explores issues of race, exploring and discovering history of your neighborhood in the context of race, sponsoring a day of listening, encour-

aging listening to family and friends and recording those conversations. Or come up with your own way to participate!

The idea for a community read was inspired by Building Bridges, a group of residents in south Minneapolis neighborhoods whose mission is to understand how race and racism affect our communities. Instead of walking away from difficult discussions on a recent racially-polarized local issue, the community wanted to find a way to help promote better understanding and enable more discussion. Norris' aunt, Doris Christopher, is one of the leaders of Building Bridges.

There will be events this fall that will include a variety of opportunities to share and learn. And, author Michele Norris will visit and join the discussions.

Start reading the hardcover now or just spread the word and get ready for the paperback release at the beginning of September. We'll have some big events in October and ways to get involved throughout the fall and early 2011.

You can learn more about "The Grace of Silence" and Michele Norris' efforts to engage people in conversation about race at www.michele-norris.com.

To get more information and to get involved in One Minneapolis, One Read:

Visit: www.minneapolismn.gov/oneread
Email: one-read@minneapolismn.gov

Call: Cheyenne Erickson: (612) 673-2052 or Jenny Chayabutr: (612) 673-2509.

One Minneapolis, One Read Event

Plan your block party to save money, use up fewer resources and throw away less garbage. You might not even need to buy any new supplies.

- Use reusable plates, cups and utensils so you're not throwing away and buying new every time. If you don't have enough plates or
- cups, ask neighbors to bring their own.
- Provide condiments in bulk containers.
- Save decorations to use again next year.
- Only serve beverages in reusable or recyclable containers.
- Recycle the bottles, cans and other recycla-

Host a Greener National Night Out Party

bles from the party. Set out bins or bags and label them to make it easy.

- Whenever possible, use email instead of paper to get information to your neighbors.
- Serve local, healthy food from farmers markets or your own garden.

For more ideas, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/Green-Block-Party.pdf. Don't be afraid to ask for your neighbors' help. We're all in this together!

Neighborhood Notes

2nd Annual 46th & Grand Block Party



Hang out at 46th & Grand on Sunday, August 14, from noon to 9 pm and you'll be in the middle of

their second annual block party!

Cafe Ena will be selling Latin style street food on the patio, elotes/

Mexican style corn on the cob, tostadas with chicken tinga, churros, empanadas, agua frescas & sangria.

Kings Wine Bar will be grilling brats & burgers on the patio along with summer drink specials & a great lineup of live music: Mad Ripple, Eliza Blue and Darren Jackson, Ashleigh Still, Slim Dunlap, Terry Walsh, Brianna Lane, and more.

Patisserie 46 will have their cart outside, scooping up the most heavenly, homemade ice cream around.

The ColorWheel Gallery will be exhibiting "Hot Summer Art" Celebrate with outside art demonstrations, colorful hair extensions & feathers, face painting, balloon twisting, yarn spinning & other surprises all day.

For more information, please call (612) 823-5693.



Resurfacing Progress in Ward 11

Now that the resurfacing season is nearing its end, we thought it would be a good time to recap why resurfacing projects happen in the first place and the work done in Ward 11 this year.

Resurfacing is a paving construction method of replacing the old asphalt street surface with new asphalt. The process is called a mill and overlay. Old asphalt is milled, or ground off, and new asphalt is placed across the entire street surface. The City identifies streets that need resurfacing by monitoring the pavement distress, visual inspection, and citizen complaint calls. Through reviewing all of these criteria, Public Works can choose the best candidates for resurfacing. Ongoing work like this is necessary to provide a

good street surface to your neighborhood. If this work is not done, it is likely that more expensive and intensive street work will need to be performed in the not-too-distant future. Resurfacing extends the expected life of the street by ten years.

There are two funding sources for resurfacing work—City of Minneapolis bond sales (about 30%) and assessments of adjacent property owners (about 70%). (Please note: a previous communication from our office accidentally misrepresented the proportions of funding.)

The City of Minneapolis has developed a uniform assessment rate which is applied to all properties in the City. This ensures all residents pay the same rate for similar work re-

gardless of where they live. The assessment amount is calculated based on the surface area of the individual property. The property owner only pays for the cost to his or her property.

In Ward 11, 2011 resurfacing included portions of Chicago Avenue, and Diamond Lake Road E, as well as, the Hale and Wenonah neighborhoods.

For more information about resurfacing and other 2011 public works projects in Minneapolis, please visit: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/2011_toc.asp

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

Calendar

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| August 1 | 5–6:15 pm: Dedication of the 35W Bridge Remembrance Garden across the street from Gold Medal Park (1006 W River Pkwy) |
| August 2 | Various Evening Times: National Night Out visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/ to find a celebration near you! |
| August 10 | 7–8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S) |
| August 11 | 7–8:30 pm: Windom Community Council Meeting at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S) |
| August 14 | 12 –9 pm: 46th & Grand Block Party & Hot Summer Art at 46th Street W & Grand Avenue S |
| August 15 | 7–8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S) |
| August 16 | 6:30–8:30 pm: NENA Town Meeting about Facility Improvements at Wenonah Campus at Keewaydin School Gym (5209 30th Avenue S) |
| August 17 | 8–9 am: Community Coffee Hour at Sister Sludge (4557 Bloomington Avenue S) 6:30–8:00 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E) |
| August 22 | 7–8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S) |
| August 25 | 7–8:30 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E) |
| August 26 | 5–6 pm: Ward Happy Hour at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue S) |



If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at (612) 673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may use a relay service to call 311 agents at (612) 673-3000. TTY users may call (612) 673-2157 or (612) 673-2626.

Attention: If you have any questions regarding this material please call (612) 673 2211. **Hmong** - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu (612) 673-2800; **Spanish** - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama (612) 673-2700; **Somali** - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaal-



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