

WARD 11 NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

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

Start Planning Now for National Night Out

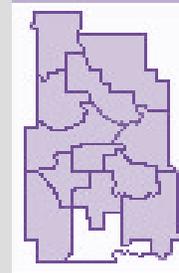
National Night Out is coming up fast, and now is the time to start making preparations on your block for the night that brings neighbors together. This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4. Minneapolis wants to make it easy for block clubs and neighbors to get started now on their plans. June 15-21 is Minneapolis National Night Out planning week.

To get started, use this checklist to begin your planning:

- o Register your NNO event. There is a single online process to register your NNO event and apply to close your street. If you want to close your street for your event, street closure is free if you apply by July 21. You need permission of 75 percent of your neighbors to be approved for street closure—please have their names and addresses with you when you apply. (You do not need their signatures.) Get started at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno. If you don't have Internet access, you can register your event and apply for street closure by calling 311 (or 612-673-3000).
- o Want a police officer, firefighter, or canine officer and dog to visit your event? Because demand can be very high for visits, we can't promise that one will be available. But feel free to request a visit when you register by calling 311 (or 612-673-3000) to put your name on the list.
- o Make rain plans. Decide if your event will go forward if it rains, or be re-scheduled for another time. If you apply to close your street, you'll have a rain date of Wednesday, August 5 unless you decline it during the application. If you don't close your street, you can choose any date that works for your group. Plan ahead!
- o If this is your first time holding an NNO event, you can request a start-up kit. There is a limited supply of free NNO start-up kits for blocks holding NNO events for the first time. They contain plates, cups, plastic utensils, napkins, etc. for 50. If your block is new to NNO this year, call 612-673-2956 to see if a kit is available.

Each event organizer will receive Mystery Point Passes for Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America and vouchers (each good for 2 tickets) for Minnesota Twins games to use as door prizes. Each Mystery Point pass is worth either a single ride, a day of rides or a whole season of rides. If you register your NNO event by July 14, you will be entered into a drawing for other door prizes donated by Minneapolis businesses

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Emerald Ash Borer spotted in metro area

The emerald ash borer (EAB) has now reached Minnesota, with the first case discovered in Saint Paul. EAB is an invasive pest that attacks ash trees and could cause serious damage to Minneapolis' urban forest.

You can play a part in delaying and minimizing the spread of this invasive species. Minneapolis' 200,000 ash trees make up 20 percent of all trees on public and private land in the city, which makes it especially important to take steps to protect against EAB. Since EAB adults can't fly far, its spread is largely due to people moving ash logs, ash firewood or infested ash trees from nurseries.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has issued a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. The measure prohibits the movement of the following items out of those counties:

- ◆ firewood from hardwood (non-coniferous) species,
- ◆ ash limbs and branches,
- ◆ ash logs or untreated ash lumber with bark attached, and
- ◆ uncomposted ash chips and uncomposted ash bark chips larger than two inches in diameter.



Take steps to keep EAB from spreading:

Don't transport firewood, even within Minnesota. Don't bring firewood along on a camping trip. Buy or harvest your wood near the area where you're going to burn the wood. If you are buying firewood, ask where it came from. Avoid moving firewood from its area of origination; don't bring extra wood home with you. In Minneapolis, firewood dealers are required to be licensed by the City, so ask firewood peddlers for their City license.

Don't buy or move firewood from outside your area. If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source of the wood.

Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees. The earlier that EAB is found, the sooner it can be addressed. Residents should also examine ash trees in their neighborhood for tree canopy thinning or small "D" shaped exit holes left in the bark by EAB.

Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" checklist. Residents who suspect that a tree is infested with EAB can also contact the MN Dept of Agriculture's "Arrest the Pest" Hotline: 651-201-6684.

Got a new boulevard tree? They are thirsty!

May went down as one of the driest on record so please water your boulevard trees, especially those planted this spring. A simple trick is to water your tree on the day your trash is picked up. For more information on the Urban Forest visit www.minneapolisparcs.org—Caring for Trees— Urban Forest.



New Web site lets residents monitor City's performance

The City of Minneapolis places a high value on being a results-focused, accountable and transparent local government. As part of its ongoing effort, the City has launched a new Web site – Results Minneapolis – where you can track and watch in a dynamic way how Minneapolis is performing in key service areas. Check it out online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results.

The Web site focuses on the City's performance in six key service areas: public safety, education, neighborhood conditions, housing & economic development, resident health and the environment. Each measurement section provides you background information on the measure and work related to improving performance. You get that information and data in a clean, clear and concise manner through the use of charts and graphs. Neighborhood level data is shared using maps or drop-down menus for many of the measures. Also, each measure has a "related links" section for additional information.

City officials have put in place several enterprise-wide systems that track the City's performance toward achieving its five-year goals and 2020 vision, which you can see online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/goals. Since 2006, City leaders have been regularly meeting with different departments to track progress and discuss strategies on key performance measures. After years of planning and measurement, and inspired by discussions with residents, the new Results Minneapolis Web site is the next step in institutionalizing a results-focused, accountable and transparent government.

Local grants help fight climate change

Minneapolis has awarded a total of 15 grants to help local neighborhoods and organizations fund creative ways to engage residents to fight climate change.

The City pioneered these award-winning grants in 2007. After two successful years, Minneapolis offered \$75,000 in small grants this year to neighborhood and business groups, faith-based organizations and nonprofits whose efforts inspire their members to curb climate change. For a list of grant recipients, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability.

Each grant fights climate change by creating learning opportunities and empowering Minneapolis residents and businesses. Grant awardees will also sign up individuals for the Minnesota Energy Challenge, which now has more than 7,000 Minneapolis members. Participants taking the challenge are pledging to make changes in their lives – large or small – to reduce their carbon footprints while saving money on energy costs and helping local businesses. With the 2007 and 2008 climate change grants, Minneapolis residents and businesses pledged to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10.9 tons and save themselves \$1.33 million in energy costs each year.

Minneapolis is considered one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the country, and the City has long been a leader in creating policies and practices that protect and enhance the environment and combat global climate change. The launch of Minneapolis' Sustainability Initiative in 2003 took the City's commitment to the environment to a new level. As part of the initiative, the mayor and City Council established 24 sustainability indicators designed to create a more ecologically sustainable city. Last year a green jobs indicator was added to the list for a total of 25 indicators now tracked.

Monthly Community Meetings

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| <p>Field Regina Northrop</p> <p>FRNNG.org</p> <p>Meets Third Wednesday</p> <p>6:30 PM</p> | <p>Hale Page Diamond Lake</p> <p>HPDL.org</p> <p>Meets Fourth Monday</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> | <p>Kingfield</p> <p>Kingfield.org</p> <p>Meets Second Wednesday</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> |
| <p>NENA</p> <p>Nokomiseast.org</p> <p>Meets Fourth Thursday</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>NENA Office</p> | <p>Tangletown</p> <p>Tangletown.org</p> <p>Meets Third Monday</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Fuller Community Center</p> | <p>Windom</p> <p>Windomcommunity.org</p> <p>Meets Second Thursday</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Windom Community Center</p> |

Airport Noise Mitigation Program Alert!

MAC is continuing to complete Phase 1 of the noise mitigation program and should complete work by the end of the year. Since January, MAC has been inviting homeowners, who do not have air conditioning to participate in Phase 2A of the program, which will provide air conditioning and \$4000 worth of other noise attenuation in homes. Phase 2B, for those who already have central air or who elect not to have it, will choose from a menu of items up to \$14,000 (adjusted for inflation). Phase 2B will begin in January of 2010.

MAC and Renewal by Anderson are finalizing an agreement, which will keep the same unit prices in Phase 2B as they originally bid in Phases 1 and 2A.

It is vitally important that when you receive an invitation to a homeowners' orientation session that you respond to Mac or risk losing eligibility to the program. Since there are thousands of homes in Phases 2A and 2B, it may be a couple of years before you will receive an invitation to participate. Maps illustrating your blocks position in the program and your block priority can be found at macnoise.com

Homeowners between the 2005 60 DNL contour and the 2007 60 DNL contour, who are eligible for reimbursement, can begin contracting for work in accordance with the rules outlined by MAC. Reimbursement will begin in 2010 and continue through 2014. **There are specific procedures and requirements, which homeowners must follow.** Information is available at macnoise.com or by calling Merland Otto at 612-673-2576 or John Nelson at 612-726-8133.

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 \(open until filled\)](#)

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

[Family Housing Fund Board of Directors \(closes 6/26/09\)](#)

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

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.