

Ward 11 Monthly Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

July 2006

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Energy Independence Declared

On June 24th, hundreds of Minneapolis residents gathered to celebrate Energy Independence Day at the Green Institute. The event celebrated local efforts being undertaken to help the United States become independent of fossil fuels. According to the Green Institute's Carl Nelson, the event is about "recognizing that in order for America to achieve independence from fossil sources it will require an unleashing of American ingenuity, can-do attitude, planning and perseverance -- not unlike our founders efforts to achieve freedom from the British empire over 200 years ago." Council Member Benson, donning a three-cornered hat, signed the Declaration of Energy Independence and underscored his commitment for Minneapolis to take a leadership position in increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy. Arctic explorer Will Steger talked about his personal experiences seeing the effects of global warming first hand.



Council Member Benson, dressed in Revolutionary era tricorn hat and coat, signs the Declaration of Energy Independence

The event also featured clean energy technologies, with 25 businesses and organizations exhibiting at the event, including demonstrations of electric cars, a Metro Transit hybrid bus, solar, and energy efficiency technologies. Izzy's solar-powered ice cream.

The Green Institute partnered with Clean Water Action, the Sierra Club, the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society, the Alaska Coalition of Minnesota, the Southeast Como Neighborhood Improvement Association and the Seward Neighborhood Group to sponsor this event.

Additional information can be found on-line at www.greeninstitute.org.

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Important Phone Numbers

- Ward 11 Office
673-2211



Mercury Reduction Ordinance Adopted

The City of Minneapolis took a step towards the elimination of mercury pollution in the city. In a series of ordinance changes sponsored by Council Member Benson a number of sources of mercury pollution are addressed.

With these changes, the emission of mercury is capped at two pounds per year or an increase of 20% from the previous annual emissions. This prohibits any significant new sources of mercury pollution or the expansion of the current sources of mercury.

Under the new ordinance retailers who sell fluorescent bulbs will be required to post a sign reminding customers that fluorescent bulbs contain mercury and listing where the bulbs can be recycled. Some retailers offer on-site recycling with a small fee. Hennepin County residents can also bring their bulbs, including compact fluorescent bulbs, to the hazardous household waste drop-off facilities in Bloomington or Brooklyn Park.

The ordinance also prohibits hospitals from purchasing or selling medical supplies that contain mercury, require crematoriums to register with the city, adds mercury to the city's definition of known pollutants, and eliminates antiquated language about the use of mercury in burial preparations.

Council Member Benson is appreciative of the assistance provided by Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota (EJAM) in developing these changes.

35W/Crosstown Construction Delay

The 35W/ Crosstown project, scheduled to start construction later this year, has encountered yet another detour. For the past few years, MnDOT has been juggling a number of road construction projects. MnDOT sent out their request for bids to build this project using a new financing strategy. As part of the bid request, the contractor would float the State of Minnesota a loan of up to \$90,000,000. No bids were received.

MnDOT is meeting with the contractors and try to figure out the next step, but even in a best case scenario, the scheduled August start date has been delayed by several months. MnDOT also plans to proceed with demolition of the homes they purchased for right of way for the project.

I will continue to track the schedule with the cooperation of MnDOT, and if you have any questions, please contact me and I will help find the answers.

Summer Construction Updates

Portland Ave Bridge at Minnehaha Creek (Hennepin County Project)- In spite of a three week weather delay, the project is still on schedule to be open to traffic by early October

Park Ave Bridge over the Greenway (Hennepin County project)- On schedule to reopen to traffic in September

Police Canine Officers Available

The Minneapolis Police Department wishes to extend an offer to groups who are interested in having officers and handlers do an educational presentation to their members. Such a presentation help us connect with the residents and are popular with community members. An extra benefit is that our canine handlers and their canines are always a big hit with children. If you have an interest in having the Canine Unit give a presentation at a program, please call 612.290.1232 and speak with Sgt May.

May Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Diamond Lake	18		1			6	10		1
Field	13			2	1	3	7		
Hale	9					6	3		
King Field	45		1	9	2	10	15	8	
Northrup	13			3		1	8	1	
Page	1					1			
Tangletown	25		1	4	1	3	15	1	
Wenonah	18		1	1	2	8	6		
Windom	26			1	2	6	13	4	

Definitions of the types of crimes and statistics from other months can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/>

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.

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presbyterian 46th St. & 17th Ave</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13th Ave S</p>	<p>Kingfield Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p>NENA Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50th St</p>	<p>Tangletown Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p>Windom Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S</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.

July 6	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave	Sept 7	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington
Aug 3	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet	Oct 5	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet

Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more that 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.

[Public Health Advisory Committee \(PHAC\) \(closes 8/4/2006\)](#)

[Civilian Police Review Authority \(closes 7/21/2006\)](#)

[Civil Rights Commission \(closes 7/28/2006\)](#)

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