

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)

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Quincy's Corner

Dear Neighbors,

There are a number of important things happening at the legislature that will have a dramatic impact on your property taxes and the level of services you rely on from the state and local levels.

Minneapolis is already working on the 2012 Budget—and focused on improving infrastructure, growing jobs, and maintaining high standards for public safety and services. Ward 11 residents are invited to hear about the plans—and concerns we all share about property tax increases—at a special meeting hosted by Mayor Rybak on March 30 at 6:30-8:00 pm at Mayflower Church, 106 East Diamond Lake Road (DLR & 35W).

Please join us for a candid and informative conversation about the City of Minneapolis budget and the issues and pressures surrounding our property taxes. Mayor Rybak and I need and want your input! If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Andy by email, Andrew.Holmaas@ci.minneapolis.mn.us, or call my office at 612-673-2211.

I also want to provide a brief update to everyone on the March 17 natural gas explosion in the Windom neighborhood, by the Cub Foods Store. The explosion stopped rush-hour commutes, detoured traffic and prompted evacuations of nearby homes, as well as, Windom Dual Immersion School and the Community Child Care Center at Richfield Lutheran Church.

Minneapolis Fire crews secured the scene within minutes, and the fire went out when CenterPoint Energy was able to safely shut off the gas. It's clear that emergency responders did remarkable work to protect the people in our community and handle this dangerous situation. I'm thankful that no one was injured. Terrible events like this show that our emergency management plans work, our public servants are world-class professionals and our residents look out for each other.

Minneapolis Public Works is still working to understand the extent of the damage from this explosion and are working in conjunction with CenterPoint Energy and MnDOT. There are several steps remaining in fixing the street once the scope of damage has been ascertained. In total, they expect 60th Street will not be fully reopened for another 5-6 weeks.

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

City Focus

Warmer Weather Allows for More Pothole Patching

As the daytime temperatures continue to climb above freezing, city crews continue to patch potholes every day to keep streets in Minneapolis as drivable as possible. Because daytime thaws and overnight re-freezing lead to the formation of potholes, Minneapolis crews continue to monitor street conditions and patch potholes day and night.

Crews have been temporarily patching potholes all winter, with the bulk of it occurring since February. Since then they have used more than 300 tons of temporary winter patching mix and 180 tons of higher quality asphalt material that has been available since early March for use in areas where it will adhere better and provide a more durable patch.

Temporary patches are made during the winter months to try to keep our streets as drivable as possible until permanent repairs can be performed once the weather improves. Because hot mix asphalt and other materials are typically not available during winter months, crews use a “cold mix,” which provides a temporary patch that has a fairly short lifespan, but that still makes streets more drivable. Public Works anticipates that permanent street repair work should begin by April 5.

The extraordinary weather and near-record snowfall we have experienced this winter led to significant pothole problems all around the metro area, and cities across the state are doing street maintenance with fewer resources because of State budget cuts. Since

potholes are popping up or reappearing on streets all over Minneapolis, it’s not possible for crews to address all potholes at once. City pothole patch crews prioritize which potholes to patch, weighing in factors such as the amount of traffic a street carries, the severity of a particular pothole problem and whether the street is slated for more extensive repairs sometime during the year.

To report a pothole for repairs, drivers can call 311, Monday through Friday, 7 am to 7 pm. 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.

Applications Sought for a Charter Commission Appointment

The City is seeking applicants for a single vacancy on its 15-member Minneapolis Charter Commission. The role of the Charter Commission is to gather, receive, review, and/or propose amendments to the Charter, and then to determine if they are appropriate to submit to the voters or to the City Council. Also, the Charter Commission, with

the assistance of an advisory group, is responsible for redrawing Ward and Park district boundaries in the City after every census.

If you are interested in applying for, or obtaining more information about the position, visit the Minneapolis Charter Commission website or contact the Office of the City Clerk at city-clerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

or 612-673-3358. Persons may apply on their own behalf, nominate others for consideration, or inform the Office of the City Clerk of persons to whom they wish application materials be sent.

Applications must be received no later than April 8, 2011.

City Links

[Minneapolis Home Page](#)

[Hennepin County Libraries](#)

[Minneapolis Public Schools](#)

[City of Minneapolis Jobs](#)

[Garbage Service](#)

[Maps of Minneapolis](#)

[Separating Your Recycling](#)

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Online Services

[Apply for Block Party Permit](#)

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[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](#)



Weather permitting, an annual rite of spring in Minneapolis begins Tuesday, April 12. That's when crews are set to begin a comprehensive sweeping of all city streets. If you park on the street, watch for temporary "no parking" signs to avoid a ticket and tow.

Over the course of four weeks, sweepers will take care of all 1,100 miles of city streets, cleaning 35 to

40 miles of roadway each day. Some downtown night sweeping and parkway sweeping, both with parking restrictions, will start sooner. Alley sweeping is scheduled to begin April 4 and will continue until all alleys are swept.

Temporary "no parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours before a sweeping. On the day of the sweeping, parking will be prohibited on the street from 7 am to 4:30 pm. Vehicles parked on streets designated for sweeping may be ticketed and towed to the City's impound lot.

Applications Sought for Pedestrian Advisory Committee

The City of Minneapolis is seeking Minneapolis residents and business owners to serve on its Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The committee exists to advise City leadership on policies, programs and actions improving pedestrian safety,

mobility, accessibility and comfort; promote walking for transportation, recreation and health; and strengthen the connection between the pedestrian environment and public transportation. Term lengths are two years.

For more information or to apply to serve on this committee, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/index.asp.

Applications may be submitted at any time and will be

kept on file for 12 months. For appointments beginning July 1, 2011, priority will be given to applications received by April 4, 2011.

Readying for Spring Street Sweeping

About a week before the sweeping begins, you can find out the week your street will be swept by visiting the City's Web site. Go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep and click on "schedule lookup." The weekend before your street's scheduled sweeping, revisit the site to find out the exact day sweepers will come to your street.

Street sweeping is one way we work to protect our environment. Sweeping keeps leaves and debris from clogging our storm drains and polluting our lakes and rivers. Picking up this material before it washes down storm drains helps keep our

lakes and waterways in great shape. It also helps keep our neighborhoods clean and livable. As we head into the warmer months, please do your part to help protect and enhance our environment. Don't push leaves, grass clippings or other debris into the street where it can eventually wash into the storm drains. While biodegradable, decomposing plant material in the water encourages the growth of harmful aquatic plants and algae. Collect and bag yard waste for curbside collection.

Minneapolis Top Place to Find Employment

Minneapolis is the best city in the country for workers to find employment, according to a new study in Forbes.

According to the publication, Minneapolis tops the list for having low unemployment and a variety of industries

where people can find work. Minneapolis received high marks for being home to several large companies that have recently stepped up their hiring. Researchers also pointed out that Minneapolis has a high standard of living, with low

crime, low poverty and a relatively low cost of living: all factors that improve livability for a work force.

The study was conducted by the recruiting firm Ajilon Professional Staffing. Rankings were done by first examining cities that had the

fullest employment, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Other factors were then taken into account, such as industry diversity, cost of living, the size range of companies offering employment and the education of residents.

Nominate Public Art for Upcoming MAC Awards



tions at the upcoming Minneapolis Arts Commission (MAC) Awards.

The MAC Awards, now in its third year, recognizes contributions to

Minneapolis is home to a thriving local arts culture that creates theater productions, dance performances, sculptures, murals and much more. Help recognize the men and women behind public art in our community by nominating them and their crea-

public art in the community by individual artists or arts organizations for community involvement in public art, celebrating the city through public art, integration of public art in private development, and outstanding contribution to the arts and the community.

Self-nominations by artists and arts organizations are accepted as are third party nominations. The deadline for nomination is April 15. Awards will be recognized at the Minneapolis MOSAIC celebration on June 4.

Download the application from the Minneapolis Art Commission webpage at: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dca/arts_home.asp.

The Minneapolis Arts Commission was chartered in 1974 with the mission to strengthen the arts and

enrich cultural life in Minneapolis. It works closely with Cultural Affairs staff and shares their goal of developing a strong and vital arts community throughout Minneapolis.

Neighborhood Notes

Ward 11 Flooding Threat Low

A wet fall, a snowy winter and the possibility of a rainy spring have significantly increased the potential of spring flooding in Minneapolis for the first time since 1965. A status report to the Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee explained that the City of Minneapolis' preparations for potential flooding are based on water level projections made by the watershed districts (for the creeks) and the National Weather Service (for the river).

At the treatment plant responsible for providing clean drinking water, we have raised the protective

dike above the level that water is expected to reach and have back up plans and equipment ready for the rest of the site. Other public facilities, such as lift stations that are a part of the sanitary sewer system, are also being protected.

While the City's responsibility is to safeguard public property, a small number of homes and businesses in Minneapolis need to take precautions. The City has notified owners of those homes and businesses that are most at risk. None of those properties at most risk is in the 11th ward.

According to projections, the intersection of Cedar Avenue and East Minnehaha Parkway is the only location in the 11th ward that may need to be protected from flood waters.

You can help prevent flooding related problems. If you see ice dams along the creek or notice flooded streets, contact 311. Additionally, you can assist by clearing ice and debris from storm water grates on the corners and in alleys.

For more information, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/flood/ Please share this information with friends and neighbors.



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

April 1	7:30–10 pm: April Foolishness – Kingfield Community Art Show http://kingfield.org/april-foolishness-2011-art-show/ at Center for the Performing Arts (3754 Pleasant Avenue S)
April 2	9 am–4 pm: Gardening Matters Spring Resource Fair at Sabathani Community Center (310 38th Street E)
April 9	8:30 am–4:30 pm: Sustainable Communities Conference http://www.afors.org/2011Conference at Central Lutheran Church (333 12th Street S) 9:30–11:30 am: Second Saturday with Representative Jean Wagenius at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
April 13	7–8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
April 14	7–8:30 pm: Windom Community Council Meeting at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)
April 18	7–8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
April 20	8–9 am: Community Coffee Hour at Sovereign Grounds (813 48th Street E) 6–8:30 pm: Property Tax Meeting Hosted by Mayor Rybak at Nokomis Community Center (2401 Minnehaha Parkway E) 6:30–8:00 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
April 25	7–8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)
April 27	6:30–8 pm: Historic Resources Study Meeting—Windom, Armatage, and Kenny at Kenny Park (1328 58th Street W)
April 28	7–8:30 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E)
April 29	5–6 pm: Ward Happy Hour at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue S)
April 30	8 am–12 pm: Nokomis Healthy Seniors Clean-A-Thon (612) 729-5499 at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (4120 17th Avenue S) 9:45 am: Grand Opening Celebration Nokomis Library at Nokomis Library (5100 34th 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.