

WARD NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

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

Minneapolis asks folks at National Night Out to stay involved throughout the year

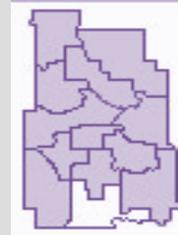
Thousands of people are attending nearly 1,100 National Night Out block parties across the city on Aug. 4. It's a great way to get involved in your community, but this year, the City of Minneapolis is encouraging folks to stay active in keeping our neighborhoods safe all year long. By signing up for Minneapolis Crime Alerts or helping update your Neighborhood Policing Plans, you can play an important role in making Minneapolis a safe place to call home, while building important relationships with your neighbors and law enforcement.

Minneapolis Crime Alerts - The Minneapolis Police Department has launched a new crime alert service that you can receive by cell phone, through e-mail, or online. Anyone can sign up to stay connected with important public safety news in their area, including crime alerts, community updates, and important advisories. Signing up is easy—just go to www.nixle.com. On the page, you can find Minneapolis under the "featured cities" section.

Neighborhood Policing Plans - Also, residents in every Minneapolis neighborhood have unique opportunities to work with police to help shape their Neighborhood Policing Plan. Beginning in 2007, every neighborhood in Minneapolis has its own plan, which is developed by the police and community working together. The plans are updated each year, so you'll have a chance later this year to attend a meeting in your neighborhood to create the 2010 policing plans. To find out when and where the meeting is in your neighborhood, call 311 or visit the City's Web site at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us and type "neighborhood policing plans" in the search box.



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Minneapolis crime at lowest level in years

For the third straight year crime in our city is on the decline, and it's falling to the lowest level in years. Minneapolis violent crime rates half-way through the year are at the lowest level in eight years and the city's homicide rate is the lowest in 25 years.

Through June 2009, citywide violent crime is nearly 17 percent lower than this point in 2008, nearly 28 percent lower than in 2007, and nearly 39 percent lower than in 2006. Violent crime in Minneapolis is more than 20 percent lower than it was ten years ago.

There have been 6 homicides recorded January through June 2009, a 66 percent drop from 18 homicides at this point in 2008, a 76 percent drop from 26 homicides in 2007, and an 81 percent drop from 32 homicides in 2006. The last time that the homicide rate was this low was 1984, and 2009 ties with 1976 as the next fewest homicides recorded in four decades.

Other types of violent crime—robbery and aggravated assaults—have seen double-digit percentage reductions every year for five straight years in a row.

For the first time since 2001, none of the homicides in Minneapolis were of a juvenile. The number of juveniles arrested for violent crime is 15 percent lower than it was five years ago and nearly 44 percent lower than ten years ago.

Crime rates have fallen most dramatically in the 4th Precinct in north Minneapolis, where violent crime is down nearly 42 percent in 2009 compared to this point just three years ago.

Along with violent crimes, part 2 "livability" crimes have consistently fallen over the past decade. Part 2 crimes last year were 22 percent lower than in 2001 and 13 percent lower than in 2006.

Minneapolis has focused on proactive policing, targeting the most violent criminals and reducing youth violence to drive down crime rates, and that work is paying off.

You can see these recent public safety numbers on the Web. In the ongoing effort to have a results-focused, accountable and transparent local government, the City created Results Minneapolis: a place where public safety data and other City performance information available to you online. Check it out at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results.

Share your neighborhood pride with Web site that celebrates city living

Live MSP is an initiative celebrating city living and promoting all of the neighborhoods in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. At www.livemsp.org, residents can find information about home renovation and home purchase incentives; links to event calendars and other city resources; and learn more about all of the neighborhoods in both cities.

Live MSP wants to tap into residents' passion and expertise about their neighborhoods through several venues:

- ◇ **Submitting a neighborhood testimonial via the Web site.**
- ◇ **Expressing interest in becoming an "I Love MSP Neighborhood Ambassador" by sending an e-mail to info@livemsp.org.**
- ◇ **Sharing city photographs, neighborhood events, and other items of interest on Live MSP's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/livemsp.**
- ◇ **Following Live MSP on Twitter at www.twitter.com/livemsp.**

WE NEED YOUR INPUT FOR THE 2010 NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING PLANS

We want your help in creating the 2010 Neighborhood Policing Plans. This will be the third year that the Minneapolis Police Department has sought the community's input about residents' policing-related concerns. With neighbors' participation, we put together a written plan each year. It addresses the top three concerns in your area and how, working together, police and residents will respond to those concerns.

We also will discuss the 2009 plan and strategies addressing your concerns. The 2009 Neighborhood Policing Plans are posted on the Minneapolis Police Department website. Go to: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/> and click on "Neighborhood Policing Plans." Then click on your neighborhood's name.

Neighborhood Meeting Schedule

- ⇒ **Hale, Page, Diamond Lake—Thursday, September 10, 7:00 PM, Pearl Park Center, 414 E Diamond Lake Rd**
- ⇒ **Wenonah—Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 pm at Keewaydin Neighborhood Center, 3030 E 53rd St.**
- ⇒ **Field, Regina, Northrop—Tuesday, September 29, 7:00 PM, McRae Park, 906 E. 47th St.**

Please join us. We need and want your input. Contact CPS Sue Roethele, 612-673-2839 or sue.roethele@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

You are invited to participate in a meeting regarding the sale of the Northrop School site

The Minneapolis Public Schools will host a meeting to allow representatives from the City of Minneapolis and the prospective developer present their plan for developing a senior housing project at the current Northrop School site located at 1611 East 46th Street.

At this meeting you will have the opportunity to learn about the prospective buyer, their plans for redeveloping the site, anticipated timeline and you will have an opportunity to ask questions.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009
6:30-8:30 PM
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
(basement level)
1720 E. MINNEHAHA PARKWAY



For more information about this property or the Community Asset Development process, please visit: http://mpls.k12.mn.us/MPS_Properties.html or call 612-668-8668.

Monthly Community Meetings

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

Finding what you need on the City's Web site just got easier

Whether you want to report a pothole, find out how to license your dog, view a City Council meeting, or get crime statistics, the City of Minneapolis Web site is the place to turn on the Web. Now, finding what you need on the site is easier than ever.

The City of Minneapolis Web site, www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us, now uses Google Site Search as a way for residents, businesses, visitors, and anyone else to find information on the site more effectively than ever before. The search box will also make it easier for Web site visitors to make service requests online by using the Minneapolis 311 system on the Web.

The new search box appears at the top of each page of the City Web site and returns search results that are greatly improved over the site's previous search engine. People searching for something specific on the Web site also have a new option to refine their search using four categories—City Council, Mayor, News, or Police—to see results that are specific to those sections of the Web site.

In addition to providing a better search engine for residents, the new search function costs considerably less each year than the previous version, stretching taxpayer dollars farther. Google Site Search also requires fewer City resources to maintain.



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 Commission on Civil Rights \(Closes 8/14/09\)](#)

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

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.