

Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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Quincy's Corner

I am privileged to have been elected to the Minneapolis City Council, representing the 11th Ward. In the short six months I have been in office, I am very proud of what we have already accomplished – and excited for what is still to come.

I serve on our Transportation and Public Works Committee, where we address infrastructure improvements such as street lighting, streets, bridges, sanitary sewers and storm drains, water treatment, and traffic control facilities. We have worked to implement significant street resurfacing programs including the Windom neighborhood, Diamond Lake Road, and Nicollet Avenue – with plans in the works for Chicago Avenue. Our staff has worked to resolve traffic issues and signage, snow and ice control, and airport noise programs. We have approved a bike plan making biking more accessible and safer for commuters and recreational use. Additionally, we improved recycling and solid waste disposal issues and graffiti removal programs.

As Vice Chair of the Community Development Committee, we work on matters relating to housing and economic development in the City. I initiated a working group of staff, neighborhood leaders, and non-profit partners to make the Bossen area safer and more livable. We have issued \$912 million of bonds for non-profit construction projects and sought and dispersed millions in foreclosure prevention and home-ownership programs, Affordable Housing Trust Fund projects, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. We oversee the creation and spending for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funding. We also have also approved numerous neighborhood NRP plans as well as helping small businesses through our Great Streets Façade Improvement Program administration contracts.

Our single greatest accomplishment is the fact we passed a supplemental budget, weathering cuts to local government aid without reducing city services or laying off employees.

Going forward, Minneapolis has established six overarching goals that were identified by the Mayor and City Council during the strategic planning process in the spring of 2010. These five-year goals, along with forty-one strategic directions, will serve as the City's roadmap through 2014.

Over the next six months, I will utilize this space to expand on each of our city's goals in greater detail – and seek your counsel and participation on how we can achieve them. Beginning with the July issue of *Community Connections*, we will examine perhaps our greatest goal - A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME - People and businesses thrive in a safe and secure city.

As always, we welcome any comments and suggestions on how we can improve our *Community Connections* newsletter.

See you soon,

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

City Focus

The 2010 legislative session is now over. Despite the ongoing budget crisis in the State, lawmakers managed to enact several proposals that seek to stimulate the economy, provide financial stability for public pensions and prevent additional reductions to property tax credits. There were also several policy bills passed this year in such areas as public health, public safety, transportation and human services.

Below are some measures that will have a direct impact on Minneapolis:

Capital bonding bill: Among the \$700 million in bonds authorized for projects throughout Minnesota are two located in Minneapolis: construction of a new Northtown Railyards Bridge and funding for an apparatus bay for the City's Emergency Operations Center. Other bonds approved include those for Orchestra Hall and Peavey Plaza renovations, Lowry Bridge construction, Victory Veteran's Memo-

rial Drive improvements and HCMC Hyperbaric Center construction.

Pensions: Along with providing financial stability for statewide pension funds, the omnibus pensions bill brings security to retirees under the closed Minneapolis Employee Retirement Fund, or MERF. Under the measure, the State and the City will provide financial stability to MERF, which has become drastically underfunded due to market losses. Once MERF achieves 80-percent funding, it will merge with the Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). The City's annual contribution to MERF is estimated to rise by \$20 million to \$23 million starting in 2012.

Local government aid: In March, the Governor signed a supplemental budget bill that reduced the State budget deficit by around \$300 million. Among the cuts made was approximately \$55 million in market value homestead credit and local government

aid to cities. Minneapolis' cuts were around \$10.8 million. When added to the \$22 million in previous cuts, the State reduced the City's 2010 aid by \$32 million. While high, that's about a third of what was initially considered.

Jobs Bill: The jobs bill authorized tax credits and several provisions intended to stimulate construction of projects stalled by the economy:

- The state historic tax credit mirrors the federal program and could provide incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings.
- The angel investment credit is intended to provide an incentive for investment in start firms located in Minnesota.
- The tax increment financing (TIF) provisions authorize temporary use of TIF for financing and other uses not commonly permitted under the TIF law.

Additional Funding for Neighborhood Association Activities

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) is receiving an additional \$3 million to support its activities—funding that is available as the result of a City credit rating upgrade. City staff recently discovered that these dollars, which were previously required to be set aside, are now available for the continued support of neighborhood organizations.

Previously, the City was required to maintain a \$3 million balance, along with a

Letter of Credit as credit enhancement, for the City Department of Community Planning and Economic Development's Common Bond Fund. Under the City's NRP ordinance, the \$3 million balance was considered a contractual obligation and was carved out each time the City calculated the annual NRP funding. An upgrade to that fund's credit rating meant that the letter of credit and the required balance is no longer necessary, freeing up those dollars to be

included in NRP funding. The City's commitment to following good financial practices, which led to the credit upgrade, ensures that all funds committed to neighborhood programming are available.

Once the new funding is transferred to NRP, the NRP policy board will determine how to use the additional dollars.

For more information on the NRP, go to www.nrp.org.

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

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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](#)

Minneapolis: Sixth Best Eco-City in the World

Minneapolis is the sixth best eco-city in the world according to Mercer's 2010 Quality of Living Worldwide survey. In addition to its quality of living rankings, this year's study included a survey of top eco-cities. To determine the rankings, Mercer looked at how cities optimized use of renew-

able energy sources and generated the lowest possible quantity of pollution (air, water, noise, etc). The study included 221 cities across the world.

The rankings identify the cities with the best eco-ranking based on water availability and drinkability, waste re-

moval, quality of sewage systems, air pollution and traffic congestion. Mercer, a global human resource and related financial services company, identified these as pertinent issues for companies that send employees and their families on long-term assignments abroad.

Calgary topped Mercer's eco-city index, followed by Honolulu in second place and Ottawa and Helsinki tied for third. Wellington (5), Minneapolis (6), Adelaide (7), Copenhagen (8), and Kobe, Oslo and Stockholm (tied at 9th) rounded out the top of the list.

700+ Homes Receive Energy Upgrades From Stimulus Funds

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) and Honeywell have announced plans to implement an energy-efficiency and facility renewal program to help the housing authority mitigate utility costs, upgrade its facilities and reduce environmental impact for its scattered site properties. MPHA will use an \$11.65-million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund this program, which is expected to reduce energy costs by more than \$1.5 million annually through a variety of facility improvements.

The program will affect 725 sites across the city ranging

from single-family homes to multi-family buildings. Conservation measures will include installing energy-efficient windows and appliances, replacing outdated furnaces, boilers and water heaters and upgrading thermostats. MPHA and Honeywell will also work with the Center for Energy and Environment in Minneapolis for weatherization and building envelope improvements.

The program is expected to reduce the housing authority's annual electricity consumption by approximately 2.8 million kilowatt-hours, enough energy to power 140

homes per year on average. It also will cut carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 2.5 million pounds annually. According to figures from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this is equivalent to removing almost 188 cars from the road.

Honeywell is currently completing upgrades under a prior agreement, one of the largest projects of its kind for a public housing authority. The work

will impact more than 40 highrise buildings and 700 single-family residences, and will pay for itself by reducing utility expenses by an

estimated \$3.7 million per year throughout the 20-year performance contract.

In addition, MPHA and Honeywell anticipate that nearly 250 tradespeople will be employed during peak construction of the work in progress. The housing authority and Honeywell will also provide residents with opportunities to serve as paid educators and ambassadors, helping other residents understand and use the energy-saving strategies tied to the program.

Improvements under the stimulus-backed program and previous agreement are expected to be finished by spring 2011.



Celebrate Bike/Walk Week in Our Bikeable City



Minneapolis is recognized as one of the top biking cities in the country, with 44 miles of

on-street bike-ways and 84 miles of off-street bike trails. Plus, nearly 7% of city residents walk to work and are choosing to live in more walkable communities. Be a part of Minneapolis'

growing biking and walking community by taking part in this year's Bike Walk Week.

Events will be taking place all week from June 5-11 this year. On Thursday, June 10, thousands of commuters will be participating in Bike Walk to Work Day. In addition to getting some fresh air and exercise, participants can

enjoy free breakfast, great happy hours, and prizes at area celebrations all over the metro area.

For more information about Bike Walk Week, visit www.bikewalkweek.org. You can also [click here](#) to find out more about what makes Minneapolis one of the nation's top biking communities.

Neighborhood Notes



An idea, started by a small group of south Minneapolis residents and a local landscaping firm, has resulted in a \$224,224 state grant to improve water quality in South Minneapolis' Diamond Lake by reducing stormwater runoff pollution. The grant is through the Minnesota Clean Water Fund, one of four funds established through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (approved by voters in 2008).

"The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) was delighted to apply for this grant on behalf of Friends of Diamond Lake. Homeowners in this area will now have resources to take actions to improve and protect Diamond Lake," said Eric Evenson, MCWD Administrator. "We are excited about the partnership because of the residents' com-

Grant to Alleviate Stormwater Runoff in Diamond Lake

mitment to clean up their local water resource."

The grant will provide funding for projects that capture stormwater runoff and pollutants before they reach Diamond Lake. Raingardens, pervious pavements, and trees will capture water and help it soak into the ground. Rain barrels and larger underground systems will allow for capture and reuse of rainwater, reducing groundwater used for irrigation. Finally, the project will sponsor workshops and other community outreach and education to promote simple ways neighbors can reduce runoff pollution. Projects are planned for Pearl Park, Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, and about 50 residential properties in the Diamond Lake Drainage area.

The Go Blue! Diamond Lake Project is a unique partnership of local citizens, business, and government. Last fall the Friends of Diamond Lake, a nonprofit citizen-led group dedicated to protecting and improving the natural resources of Diamond Lake, completed a lake management plan. The

Plan includes a goal to champion projects by local property owners to reduce runoff. At about the same time, Hedberg Landscape and Masonry Supplies was looking for a target neighborhood for an environmental "community makeover" project. Friends of Diamond Lake jumped at the opportunity and asked Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to partner with them in applying for grant money to lessen the financial burden to property owners wishing to install clean water projects. Other neighborhood partners are the Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, and Metro Blooms.

"Many partners have been working hard to make Go Blue! Community Makeover Project a reality. We are all excited about the build-out of the residential stormwater projects," said Julie Westerlund, MCWD Education and Communications Manager. About 50 projects will be installed during the first two weeks of June. "There will be a lot of activity in the neighborhood, and we are working to create a festive at-

mosphere for the residents." A Celebration Picnic for all neighborhoods residents is planned for Friday, June 18 at Pearl Park from 4-7pm.

Details about the Go Blue! Project are at [Go Blue!](#)

This was one of 55 projects that were funded out of 210 applications to the Clean Water Fund. A total of \$14 million was available, and there were more than \$44 million requested by applicants. Work on the project is expected to begin in May, 2010 with an anticipated completion date of June, 2010.

The competitive grant applications were reviewed and ranked by an interagency team that included representatives from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The grant applications were approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on January 28, 2010. The complete list of grant recipients is available on the BWSR website at: www.bwsr.state.mn.us



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 3. Minneapolis wants to make it easy for block clubs and

Time to Register for National Night Out

neighbors to get started now on their plans.

The City of Minneapolis asks that you register your event, even if you are not blocking your street. It is easy to do and helps us to track the success of National Night Out. [Click here](#) for information about National Night Out and easy registration.

If you want to close your street for your event, street closure is free if you apply by July 14. You need permission of 75 percent of your neighbors to be approved for street closure – please have their names and addresses when you apply (no signatures needed). You can also register your event and apply for street closure by calling 311.

Summer Crime Prevention Tips

The Police Department does as much as it can to prevent crime, but Community members are our best partners to stop crime. Actions you take at home on a daily basis can thwart most crime, or reduce the opportunity for it. You are our best allies to see and report crime as it is occurring. Use 9-1-1 to notify us immediately if you think a crime is occurring. We are happy to respond and investigate.

One goal this year is to work with you to reduce the incidence of property crime in your neighborhood. Please remember:

- **Lock your doors on your home.** Keep your doors locked (including the garage) even when you are mowing the lawn, barbecuing, etc.
- If you have an alarm system, use it.
- Once it's warm again and windows are open, **pin your windows** to prevent unwanted people from entering your home.

- Be aware of strangers at your door. A common tactic is for someone to occupy you at the front door, while their partner enters your home from the rear. For this reason, keep your valuables in a secure place in the home.
- Don't store vehicle keys on hooks or in a drawer by the back door or garage service entrance. Break-ins to homes with this method of key storage frequently experience the loss of a vehicle or two in addition to the burglary of the home.
- **Lock your garage**, both the overhead door and the service door. Deadbolt locks are preferable to simple spring type locks that are standard on most door knobs. Deadbolts provide a higher level of security.
- **Do not store valuables in your car.** Items like wallets, purses, cell phones, ipods, laptop computers, GPS units, or anything else valu-

able. Thieves target vehicles with obvious valuables showing. Invest in GPS technology for computers and cell phones. If stolen they are found fairly easily within a short time, allowing us to capture and prosecute the offender at an earlier point in time.

- Many thefts from motor vehicle cases involve the use of your credit cards within the hour, or your identifying information is stolen for use in larger frauds. Protect your personal information.
- If storing valuables in your car, stow them prior to arriving at your final destination. If you drive to the lakes or park for a walk, do not store valuables in the car at all. Thieves have been monitoring the lakes and wait for you to leave. They know you will be gone for some time, so they have a lot of time to enter your car and find your valuables, even if you hid them prior

to arrival. They know all the hiding spots too.

- Remove your garage door opener. These are the key to your garage and in the cases of attached garages are frequently the way into your home.



Ward Neighborhood Associations

[Field, Regina, Northrop Neighborhood Group](#)

3rd Wednesday,
6:30-8:30 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

Don't Prune Ash Trees Until Labor Day!

As trees are budding and flowers are blooming, a beetle that attacks and kills ash trees is also coming out of dormancy for the season. The emerald ash borer is present in Minneapolis and is active between May 1 and Labor Day. If you have an ash tree in your yard, only prune it when the emerald ash borer is dormant because transporting any part of an ash tree (firewood, branches, etc.) while the pest is active helps spread it.

The emerald ash borer is a major concern because it has caused the deaths of millions of ash trees in 13 states, and approximately 20% of the tree canopy in Minneapolis consists of ash trees. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has issued a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products in Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston counties to slow the spread of emerald ash borer.

Research has proven that trees are a valuable investment and improve urban qual-

ity of life. Healthy trees are beautiful, increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife and help manage stormwater. If you have space in your yard to plant a tree, consider getting one going so it can get a start on providing shade.

For more information on emerald ash borer, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at www.saveourash.net.

Neighborhood Notes

Help Shape the Neighborhood Funding Program

How should Minneapolis neighborhood organizations be funded in 2011 and beyond? That is the question the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will be asking of neighborhood organizations over the summer months of 2010. Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) staff are now contacting

neighborhood organizations directly to schedule time at board meetings over May and early June. Additionally, five community meetings are scheduled for public comment.

Details on the community meetings serving Ward 11:
Southwest - Wednesday, June 2 from 6-8pm at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)

South - Wednesday, June 9 from 6-8pm at Powderhorn Park (3400 14th Avenue S)

Robert Thompson at the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations is available to answer questions and receive written suggestions. You can reach him via phone at (612) 673-2523, email at robert.thompson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us, and mail at

Neighborhood and Community Relations
 City of Minneapolis
 331 Second Avenue South,
 Room 220
 Minneapolis, Minnesota
 55401

Please provide written suggestions by June 11, 2010.

Calendar

June 2	6-8pm: Neighborhood Funding Meeting (Southwest) at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
June 5	10am: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Parade and Celebration at McRae Park (906 47th Street E) Parade Details
June 9	6-8pm: Neighborhood Funding Meeting (South) at Powderhorn Park (3400 14th Avenue S) 6-8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
June 10	All Day: Bike/Walk to Work Day at Citywide celebrations Weeklong Event Details 7-8:30 pm: Windom Community Council at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)
June 12	9:30-11:30 am: Second Saturday with Council Member Quincy and Representative Jean Wagenius at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
June 15	5-7pm: MTC I-35W & 46th St Station Public Informational Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
June 16	6:30-8:30 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
June 18	4-7 pm: Friends of Diamond Lake "Go Blue!" Celebration Picnic at Pearl Park (414 Diamond Lake Road E)
June 21	7-8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
June 24	6:30-9 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting at the Minnehaha United Methodist Church (3701 50th Street E)
June 25	5:30-6:30 pm: Happy Hour with John at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue)
June 28	7-8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)