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NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

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

To My 11th Ward Friends and Neighbors

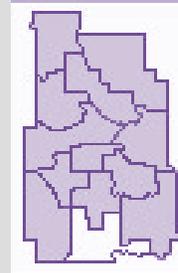
This will be my last update as your 11th Ward Council Member. It has been a great honor to serve you for the past eight years and I will miss the connections that I have made with so many of you.

Besides giving the best constituent service that I was able, my focus has been on environmental issues. In my tenure I am proud to have led the City in many environmental accomplishments, among them:

- Granting over fifty climate change micro grants to support grassroots activities;
- LEED requirements for municipal buildings;
- Green roofs on the Target Center and City Hall/Courthouse;
- Integration of the City's sustainability efforts into the Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth;
- New regulations on mercury,
- The City's first green cleaning and green purchasing policies;
- Spearheaded the charge to make Minneapolis one of the first cities in the world to sign on to the International Solar Cities Daegu Declaration;
- Worked to reach an agreement with the Metropolitan Airports Commission, creating the largest program in the country addressing noise impacts.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past eight years. Even though I will miss the job, I look forward to pursuing new interests.

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Police Department to Re-hire 15 Police Officers

The MPD was notified that the City's application to the Department of Justice to modify a previously awarded COPS Hiring Recovery Program grant was approved. The modification of this grant will allow the MPD to re-hire 13 recently laid-off officers as of January 1, 2010. Six of those officers had previously been serving in the Patrol Division of the MPD; the other seven graduated from the Police Academy last week.

Additionally, Regulatory Services has agreed to provide funding to allow the MPD to rehire two more officers from the same pool of 25 who worked their last day on December 22. This funding is slotted to cover one officer who will work with Regulatory Services on problem properties and one officer who will work with Animal Control on enforcement. In total, 15 of the 25 officers that received lay-off notices are being re-hired. We will continue to look for other funding to rehire the remaining 10 officers.



Lean 2010 budget stays focused on economic growth and public safety

Earlier this month, the Mayor and Council Members approved a City budget for 2010. This budget maintains the City's commitment to economic recovery and public safety, while reducing spending by over \$100 million and providing property-tax relief.

Minneapolis has faced significant cuts from the state of Minnesota, which forced cuts from next year's budget. Despite these, the 2010 budget maintains funding for key initiatives that help develop and grow small businesses and local jobs. The budget also maintains the City's commitment to public safety, with minimal layoffs in police, fire and emergency preparedness. The City is aggressively pursuing flexibility in the use of federal stimulus dollars to maintain staffing levels in the Minneapolis Police Department.

The Mayor and City Council were also able to use a recent court victory in a pension lawsuit to provide \$10 million in property tax relief, which reduces the average tax increase for a Minneapolis homeowner from 6.6 percent to 2.1 percent.

Minneapolis 2010 Budget will be posted on the City's Web site in January 2010. When it is posted you can find it at the Finance Department Web site at

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance.

Use Facebook to tell friends when a Snow Emergency is declared

When a Snow Emergency is declared, you need to park out of the way of the plows so they can clear street of snow and ice. Most drivers are good at following the Snow Emergency parking rules, but there are still some out there who need to get informed.

This Snow Emergency season, the City of Minneapolis is asking folks on Facebook to change their profile picture whenever a Snow Emergency is declared so their friends can find out about it and park out of the way of the plows.

We're looking for creative profile pictures, reflecting the unique Snow Emergency personalities out there. For instance, a know-it-all Snow Emergency person who understands where to park better than anyone could create a profile picture featuring Albert Einstein, or possibly a brain. Someone who parks out of the way the plows at the very start of a Snow Emergency could create an image with an early bird getting the worm. More information, the Snow Emergency logo and some ready-made profile pictures can be found at

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/snow-type.asp.

Once a Snow Emergency is declared, people should swap out their Facebook profile pictures to their special Snow Emergency profile pictures to let their friends know a Snow Emergency is in effect.

Snow Emergencies are declared whenever there's enough snowfall to warrant a complete plowing of our 1,500 miles of streets, parkways and alleys. There are many ways to find out when a Snow Emergency is declared:

- Call 348-SNOW. The hotline includes information in English, Spanish, Somali, and Hmong.
- Check out the City's Web site to find out whether a Snow Emergency has been declared, and for a wealth of information on Snow Emergencies in many languages. Also, check out the street lookup, which lets you put in an address or a neighborhood to see what streets you can park on during a Snow Emergency.
- Sign up for phone alerts. Minneapolis uses a phone alert system to notify residents when Snow Emergencies are declared. It is an automated notification system that can place thousands of calls per hour.
- Sign up for e-mail alerts. You can sign up to get Snow Emergency alerts automatically e-mailed to you. Go to for more details.
- Tune in to the local news. News releases are sent to the media so TV and radio stations can inform their viewers and listeners that a Snow Emergency is in effect.
- Tune in to City cable channels 14 and 79. These channels will have information in several languages when a Snow Emergency is declared.
- Become a fan of Snow Emergency on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency.

Follow Snow Emergency on Twitter: twitter.com/minneapolisnow.



Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Pag Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park</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>

Rebates available for energy-efficient improvements

More and more people are making their homes more energy efficient to save money on their energy bills, use less resources and create less pollution. If you've had energy efficiency upgrades done on your home using the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's fix-up loan, you may be eligible for energy saver rebates of 35 percent of that loan, up to a \$10,000 rebate.

Qualifying improvements include windows, doors, insulation, water heaters, heating and cooling. However, those improvements must meet certain energy efficiency criteria to be eligible for the rebate.

Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on the energy saver rebate, the fix-up fund loan and other home improvement loans, contact the Center for Energy and Environment at www.mncee.org.

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Census jobs available in Minnesota

Next year is a Census year, and the U.S. Census Bureau is looking to hire thousands of people between now and next spring to work in the Twin Cities metro area.

The positions are good paying, temporary jobs that range from \$11.50 to \$20 per hour plus mileage for the field positions of recruiting assistants, crew leaders, crew leader assistants and census takers. The pay for census clerks ranges from \$7.50 to \$12.75 per hour depending on location. There may be some opportunities for advancement. Anyone interested in applying should call 1-866-861-2010.

Applicants must pass a 30-minute test that focuses on critical reading, math and clerical skills. Census leaders are encouraging people to sign up early to take the practice exam and to take it more than once. **Free test prep classes will be held in two locations. No registration is required.**

One class will be held:

1:00-3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 13

Eastside Neighborhood Services

1700 2nd St NE

Every Saturday:

10:00 a.m. to noon

Redeemer Missionary Baptist Church

116 E 32nd St

For more information call 612-823-1081

If you are unable to attend a test prep class, practice tests are available on the U.S. Census Web site at:

http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/documents/Practice_Test.pdf

Open Appointments

Civilian Police Review Authority (closes 12/31/09)

Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) (open until filled)