

# 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)

Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2010

## Inside this issue:

Quincy's Corner	1
City Budget— Dividing Up Dollars	2
\$41 Million for First Time Homebuyers	2
Recovery Funds	3
Census Town Hall Meeting	3
Rain Garden Workshops	3
Block Club Leader Training	4
Burglary Tips	4
Personal Safety Workshop	4
Home Improvement Fairs	5
Calendar	5

## Quincy's Corner

*I want to start with a "thank you." Thank you for shoveling your walks and maybe even your neighbor's. Thank you for being patient with our Public Works Department as it works its way through a winter fraught with more snow and ice than most. And, thank you for your cooperation and compliance with the enhanced winter parking restrictions.*

*Like you, I have personally experienced the bone-jarring ice and snow ruts on our streets and alleys. Plowing has been more of an ordeal this year – as much, if not more, because of weather conditions than budget constraints. With more than 1000 miles of roadway within the City, it is difficult for the crews to identify localized problems. We are indebted to those who take the extra time to contact us.*

*In order to provide reliable access for emergency vehicles, the City has implemented Winter Parking Restrictions. The restrictions are needed because of the high levels of snow accumulation this winter, resulting in the narrowing of streets. Winter Parking Restrictions went into effect on February 11th. This means parking is banned on the even side of non-Snow-Emergency-routes until April 1st, unless conditions allow the City to lift the ban earlier.*

**People parking in Minneapolis must follow these parking restrictions or they could be ticketed and towed:** Parking is prohibited on the EVEN side of residential streets (which are all streets except Snow Emergency Routes and Parkways).

To find out if Winter Parking Restrictions are in effect, go to the [City's Web page](#), tune into the City's cable channels 14 and 79, or call the 24-hour Snow Emergency Hotline at (612) 348-SNOW. You can also become a fan and follower of "Snow Emergency" on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

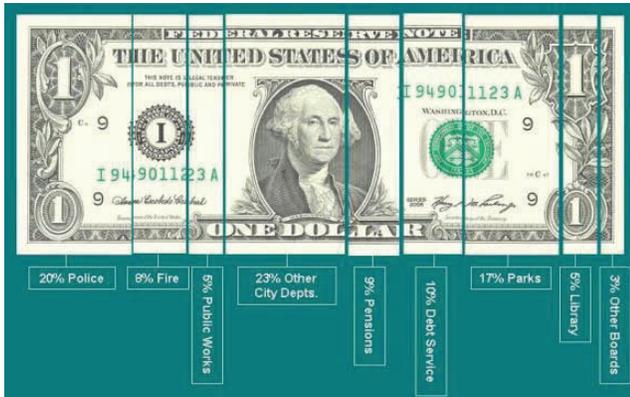
You may quickly report specific plowing needs or pothole problems by calling 311 or contacting my office. We will do all we can to improve the situation for you.

Thanks!

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

## City Focus

### Dividing Up Your Tax Dollar



How much of your property tax dollar goes to pay for City services? How do State cuts to local aid affect our city? What's the main factor causing property taxes to rise in Minneapolis?

Find answers to these questions and more by checking out the "Top 10 things to know about the Minneapolis budget." This list sheds light on some interesting facts you may not know about the City's budget process.

### City Living Program Receives \$41 Million for Homebuyers

Minneapolis and Saint Paul are proud to announce that \$41 million in new funding is available for first-time homebuyers to purchase homes in both cities. The Minneapolis-Saint Paul CityLiving program offers below-market interest rates on mortgages as well as down payment and closing cost assistance.

The CityLiving program was not available to homebuyers in 2009 due to the effect of the challenging economic climate on the bond market. In addition to the \$41 million available through the loan program, each city has \$500,000 available for assistance with downpayments and closing costs.

#### Details of the loan and assistance program

- Applicants must be first-time homebuyers, purchasing in either Minneapolis or Saint Paul.
- Offers below market interest rates.

- Offers closing cost and down payment assistance of up to 2% of the mortgage amount. This assistance is in the form of an interest-free loan that is forgiven after seven years of living in the home.
- Homebuyers' household income cap is \$92,290. Maximum purchase price is \$276,870 for a single-family home. Higher limits are available for two, three, and four unit homes.
- The homebuyer must occupy the home as their main place of residence.

Visit [livemsp](#) where you can learn about all of the Minneapolis and Saint Paul neighborhoods, read resident testimonials, find other homebuyer incentives, and peruse real estate listings by neighborhood.

For instance:

- Since 2001, the State's budget has increased at a much greater rate than the City's budget.
- Between 2003 and 2009, the City spent more than \$1 billion on police, fire and other public safety services.
- The City has received high marks for its financial management and performance measurement. You can check out the "Top Ten" list and the City's 2010 budget at [Finance](#).

## City Links

[Minneapolis Home Page](#)

[Hennepin County Libraries](#)

[Minneapolis Public Schools](#)

[City of Minneapolis Jobs](#)

[Garbage Service](#)

[Maps of Minneapolis](#)

[Separating Your Recycling](#)

[Snow Emergency](#)

### Online Services

[Apply for Block Party Permit](#)

[Home Improvement Permits](#)

[Pay Your Utility Bill](#)

[Property Information](#)

[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](#)

## Recovery Funds Target Foreclosures

The City of Minneapolis is getting federal Recovery funds to help areas of town hardest hit by foreclosures. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the City \$19.5 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties.

The funds are authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and

provide grants to states, local governments, nonprofits and a consortium of nonprofit entities on a competitive basis.

Minneapolis submitted an application for funding with the City of Brooklyn Park and Hennepin County. The aid will help their efforts to stabilize and rebuild communities. Saint Paul was the only other city in the state to receive funding.

Minneapolis is allowed to use the funds to purchase and rehabilitate homes and residential properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed, and to purchase and demolish properties to hold the vacant land for future redevelopment in order to stabilize neighborhoods impacted by foreclosures. Funding can also be used to establish financing programs for homeowners or developers to purchase fore-

closed residential properties. The spending plan will be approved by the City Council in February.

For more information on this and other ways the City is using federal Recovery funds, go to [Minneapolis Economic Recovery](#).

## Have Your Census Questions Answered

This year, the U.S. Census will be out counting everyone in the country. Questionnaires will start going out in the mail next month. If you're wondering about how it all works, you can get answers to all of your questions at an upcoming town hall meeting.

### Census Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, February 18th,  
6 - 8 pm  
Midtown Global Market,  
920 East Lake St.

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison and Census director Dr. Robert Groves will be on hand discussing issues regarding the Census. Everyone is welcome to attend to learn how the 2010 Census affects them.



### 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

## Neighborhood Notes

Sign up now to learn how to design, plant and maintain a rain garden: a beautiful low-maintenance garden with native plants that will capture rainwater on your property to improve water quality in our lakes, rivers and streams.

Metro Blooms, which has offered rain garden workshops in Minneapolis since 2005, is partnering with the City of Minneapolis and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to offer low-cost workshops and design assistance once again in Minneapolis in 2010.

### Rain Garden Workshop A

In this two-hour workshop, participants will learn the steps involved in designing, installing, and maintaining a rain garden.

A packet of supporting materials to guide the planning of your own rain gardens is included. The cost is \$10 per household (up to two members).

### Rain Garden Workshop B: Design Studio

Workshop A graduates are eligible to sign up for this second two-hour workshop, to design a rain garden for their own property with assistance from a landscape design assistant and a master gardener. Participants pay \$10 per household (up to two members).

Rain garden workshops begin next month, and space is limited.

## Rain Garden Workshops

You can register any of three ways:

- use a credit card at [Metro Blooms](#),
- mail a \$10 check payable to Metro Blooms, PO Box 17099, Minneapolis, MN 55417, or
- call (651) 699-2426. Specify workshop location, and include your name, address, zip code, phone number and e-mail address.

See workshop dates and locations at [Metro Blooms](#).

### \$50 on-site consultation

Individual onsite consultations are also available for \$50. See [Metro Blooms](#) for details.



Block and Apartment Clubs are a highly effective link between neighbors and residents and police. Working as a team with the City's Crime Prevention Specialists, neighbors can deter crime and improve the quality of life on their block or building.

Third precinct police will host a Block Club Leader Training in the 3rd Precinct Community Room (3000 Minnehaha Ave) on Feb. 16th from 6:30-8:30 p.

### Block Club Leader Training

At the meeting, training will cover:

- An introduction to community crime prevention
- How to organize a block/apartment club
- Services of community crime prevention
- Responsibilities of a crime prevention block leader

- How and when to use 911
- How to solve problems effectively
- Meeting your Crime Prevention Specialist

Registration is required.

Call 612-673-2856 to register. Visit [Block Clubs](#) for more information.

There are approximately 165,000 households in Minneapolis. In 2009 there were 3960+ residential burglaries (i.e. someone breaking into a home or garage to steal property). The only other Part One crime that occurred more frequently in Minneapolis was theft.

Individuals are much more likely to be the victim of a burglary than of a violent crime. While it's very difficult to prevent a violent crime it's very simple to prevent many, many burglaries.

While the number of reported burglaries in the 3rd Precinct has dropped about 10% in the last five years, they continue to cost residents hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses

and use up scarce police resources. Many burglaries could have been prevented with a small investment of time and money.

**At least 50% of home burglaries are "unforced".** In these situations the burglars enter through an unlocked door or window.

- **Inspect your door locks.** Make sure you have good quality deadbolt locks on all of your exterior doors - including your garage service door and on the exterior basement door. If you have glass in the door use a double cylinder deadbolt (it's keyed on both the inside and outside.) You can also replace the glass with an unbreakable material.

### Burglary Tips: Keep Your Home Safe

- **Make sure you have strong window locks.** There are a variety of good window locking mechanisms available. A common entry method is to cut the screen, lift the window, and climb in.
- **Put some lights up around your garage** so that when you and your neighbors look out the window at night they can see if someone is hanging around who isn't supposed to be there.
- **Block any windows with opaque paper or paint the glass** so that no one can look in to see what's available to them.
- **What if I want to lock my windows open?** There are simple, inexpensive mechanisms to lock your windows open - 6 inches is recommended. You can still catch breezes at night without fear of someone coming through the window without alerting you.
- **Block any windows with opaque paper or paint the glass** so that no one can look in to see what's available to them.
- **Treat the service door as you would the door to your home.** Install a heavy, solid core door with a good dead bolt lock on it.
- **Keep you garage door closed as much as possible.** Thieves love to drive down your alley and window shop. Don't make it easy for them.

The Minneapolis Police Department will present a **FREE** Personal Safety Workshop at 10



am Saturday, February 20th, at Northeast School, 2929 Hayes Street NE

This is an excellent and easy way to recognize a possible attack in the making, and what role "distance awareness," body language, tone of voice, etc. can play in difficult situa-

tions. Simple techniques will also be presented, practical even for people who have little physical skill or ability.

Instructor Mary Brandl has worked with numerous crime victim services for more than 30 years, and has presented workshops throughout Minne-

### Personal Safety Workshop

sota, nationally and in Canada. Reserve a place in the class by calling Carol Oosterhuis at 612-673-2874. Then ask a friend or family member to attend with you so that they, too, can learn how to reduce the chance of becoming a victim.

## Visit the Home Improvement Fair to Give Your House a Facelift

Planning a home improvement project? Join your neighbors at the 2010 South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair. Each year, the fair attracts about 100 local, reputable contractors, retailers, real estate agents, lenders and community organizations exhibiting their products and services.

Representatives from energy utilities, affordable housing,

green home builders, neighborhood associations and the City of Minneapolis will also be there as resources to answer your questions.

Each year, the event draws around 2,000 visitors from the Twin Cities metro area. Enjoy this one-stop opportunity to learn more about financing and completing your home improvement projects.

### 2010 South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair

10 am to 3 pm  
Saturday, March 6th  
South High School  
3131 19th Avenue S

Free seminars are taught by local professionals on energy efficiency investments, home buying, home electrical systems, plumbing maintenance, and more.

For up-to-date information, including lists of exhibitors and seminars, and to become a fan of the South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair on Facebook, please visit [Housing Fair](#).

## Calendar

<b>February 13th</b>	9:30-11:30 am: <b>Second Saturday with John Quincy and Jean Wagenius</b> at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
<b>February 15th</b>	Holiday: <b>Presidents Day</b> – City offices are closed 7-8:30 pm: <b>Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting</b> at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
<b>February 16th</b>	6:30-8:30 pm: <b>Block Club Leader Training</b> at 3rd Precinct (3000 Minnehaha Avenue)
<b>February 17th</b>	8-9 am: <b>Coffee with John</b> at Sister Sludge (4557 Bloomington Avenue) 6:30-8:30 pm: <b>Field, Regina, Northrop Neighborhood Meeting</b> at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
<b>February 18th</b>	6-8 pm: <b>Census Town Hall Meeting</b> at Midtown Global Market (920 East Lake St)
<b>February 20th</b>	10 am: <b>Personal Safety Workshop</b> at Northeast School (2929 Hayes Street NE)
<b>February 22nd</b>	7-8:30 pm: <b>Hale, Page, Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting</b> at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)
<b>February 24th</b>	6:30-8:30 pm: <b>Energy Fair</b> at Field Elementary School (4645 4th Avenue) for Field, Regina, and Northrop residents
<b>February 25th</b>	7-8:30 pm: <b>Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting</b> at the NENA Office (3000 50th Street E)
<b>February 26th</b>	9:30-11:30 am: <b>City Council Meeting</b> 5:30-6:30 pm: <b>Happy Hour with John</b> at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue)
<b>February 27th</b>	10 am-12 pm: <b>Energy Workshop</b> at Field Elementary School (4645 4th Avenue) for Field, Regina, and Northrop residents
<b>March 6th</b>	10 am-3 pm: <b>South Minneapolis Housing &amp; Home Improvement Fair</b> at South High School (3131 19th Avenue S)