

WARD NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

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

Commission will extend work of NRP

The Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak approved two measures that will strengthen the relationship between the City and its neighborhoods and carry on the work of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) beyond 2009. Because the state legislation that funded NRP sunsets in 2009, City leaders have been working since 2006 to improve the City's community engagement system and to find ways to make sure neighborhoods remain a valued part of the City's culture, serving as a link between City government, residents and businesses. That work has centered around creating a community engagement system that allows City government and neighborhoods to work more closely together, while being more accountable and transparent to taxpayers.

On September 26, City leaders approved establishing a Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, a group of 16 residents appointed to oversee the City's relationship with neighborhoods, community organizations and the crucial link between City services and its residents. The commission will be charged with providing direction to the next phase of NRP and be primarily responsible for the review of neighborhood plans. The commission also will make recommendations to the City Council on allocation of a variety of types of funding to neighborhoods.

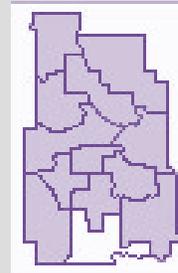
Many successful components of NRP will continue under the new system. Neighborhoods will continue to receive City funding for operations and programs, and as independent organizations, neighborhoods will retain control over their goals, budgets, and work plans. Through the input and work of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, residents and neighborhood organizations will play a key role in enhancing and shaping how the City engages its residents.

The resident-based commission will consist of eight residents selected by neighborhood organizations, five appointed by the City Council, two appointed by the Mayor, and one appointed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Neighborhood representation on the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission will be enhanced over what previously exists on the NRP Policy Board. Currently, four of the board's 14 members are appointed by neighborhoods and the remainder of the members are elected officials. Under the new program, all 16 members will be residents, eight of which will be appointed by neighborhood organizations.

The City Council and Mayor also approved the creation of a new City department, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. The department will both serve residents directly and support all other City departments in their work to engage the community. The new department will be charged with strengthening our City's quality of life through vigorous community participation, promoting resident involvement in neighborhood and community organizations, and supporting clearly defined links between the City, City services and neighborhood and community organizations.

For more information on the City's Community engagement work, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp.

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It's fall clean up time - street sweeping begins in mid-October

The City will begin the big task of curb-to-curb sweeping and leaf collection on streets throughout Minneapolis in mid-October. During the five weeks of the comprehensive fall street sweep, crews will clean up about 1,100 miles of city streets.

To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets are clear of vehicles when they're swept. Anyone who parks on the street will need to follow street sweep parking rules or their vehicles may be ticketed and towed.



In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day.

The exact timing of the street sweeping will be set based on weather and other conditions. Watch the City's street sweep Web page at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep to find the exact dates of the sweep once they're determined.

Minneapolis is known for its sparkling lakes and waterways, and we want to keep it that way. That's why protecting and enhancing our environment is one of the City's top priorities. Street sweeping is one way we work to protect our environment because it keeps leaves and debris from clogging our storm drains and polluting our lakes and rivers. It also helps keep our neighborhoods clean and livable.

Also please remember that **you should never rake your leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into City streets** – it's bad for our lakes and waterways, it can cause safety hazards, and is against the law. Anything that goes down a storm drain flows directly into our lakes and river, and decomposing plant material in the water encourages the growth of harmful aquatic plants and algae.

City crews sweep every Minneapolis street curb to curb twice each year, in the spring and fall.

Important Phone Numbers

Ward 11 office:
673-2211

35W/Crosstown
Construction
Hotline:
1-866-743-6590

SW Transit Corridor

The Southwest Transitway has taken a major step forward. We are entering the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) phase of our work. This is the time for stakeholders to comment on the proposed LRT line. Comments can be put into the record in writing at the project website (<http://www.southwesttransitway.org/>)

by mail or fax or at a public hearing:

Tuesday, October 7
Hennepin County Government Center
300 South 6th Street
Informational Open House at 2 p.m.
Public Hearing at 3 p.m.

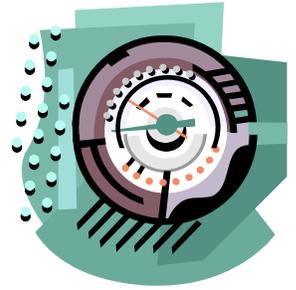
Tuesday, October 14
St. Louis Park City Hall
5005 Minnetonka Blvd
Informational Open House at 5 p.m.
Public Hearing at 6 p.m.



At the project website there is a link to the project Scoping Booklet at the bottom of the home-page. This is a brief document with a lot of information about the project and process.

Get Individual Help, Information About Natural Gas Bill Payment Assistance

CenterPoint Energy representatives will be working directly with local energy assistance agencies to meet with you about natural gas bill payment assistance. Community Action will help you complete your application and CenterPoint Energy will meet with you to discuss payment plan options. **Please bring your most recent CenterPoint Energy bill and household income verification.** These documents are required to complete energy assistance applications. If you are unable to attend during the times noted below and need help, call **612-372-4680** or visit **CenterPointEnergy.com/paybill**.



Representatives from CenterPoint Energy will be meeting with residents on **Tues., Oct. 21, 5 to 8 p.m. at Pearl Park, 414 Diamond Lake Rd. E.**

Minneapolis recognized as one of the most sustainable cities in the nation

Minneapolis has been named one of the most sustainable cities in the United States by SustainLane.com, an online people-powered guide to sustainable living. Minneapolis ranked number seven, moving up from the tenth spot in 2005, among the 50 most populous cities in the nation.

SustainLane's rankings are based on 16 different indicators that cover many sustainable practice areas, including local food availability, tap water quality, air quality, metro transit ridership, energy and climate change, and green building practices; the indicators show where cities are excelling or struggling. The rankings also take into consideration the chance of natural disasters and the preparation that cities have made to handle those catastrophes.

Minneapolis ranked high among other cities in many indicators, such as the availability of local food and agriculture (#1), city innovation (#6) and green economy (#7). The city was referred to as a "Midwestern jewel of a city" and was also recognized for the climate change grants that the City awards to groups for funding projects aimed at tackling global warming.

Creating a more sustainable community is a top priority for Minneapolis. The quality of life in the city is linked to the health and well-being of our community and our environment. Minneapolis has focused limited resources and reformed city government processes to be a more sustainable city, which means a city that meets its current needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This can be accomplished by balancing environmental, economic, and social equity concerns. All of us – residents, businesses and government – can take actions everyday that will make Minneapolis better today and create a positive legacy for future generations.

To learn more about Minneapolis' sustainability efforts, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability.

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Page 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>

Coffee With Scott

Whatever is on your mind, you can sit down with **Scott Benson** and talk about it over a cup of coffee, from **8:00 AM until 9:00 AM** at coffee shops around the 11th ward.

Oct 2	Anodyne 4301 Nicollet Ave	Dec 4	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave
Nov 6	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave		



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.

[Civilian Police Review Authority \(closes 10/17/08\)](#)

[Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities Vacancy \(closes 10/17/08\)](#)

[Public Health Advisory Committee \(PHAC\) Vacancy \(closes 10/17/08\)](#)

[Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Vacancy \(closes 10/17/08\)](#)

[Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission Vacancy \(closes 12/5/08\)](#)

For more information:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

or call the City Clerk's office at 612-673-3358

Electronic Newsletter

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.