

# Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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## Quincy's Corner

In this month's Quincy's Corner, I want to focus on the City Goal of Livable Communities, Healthy Lives. This goal embraces the notion that "our built and natural environment adds character to our city, enhances our health and enriches our lives" ([see goals here](#)).

This goal begins with the strategy of an **equitable, integrated transit system**. The addition of the 46<sup>th</sup> Street Bus Rapid Transit station (set to open late this year) will be a great asset for the community, as it directly ties South Minneapolis to downtown and points further south.

Housing, of course, falls squarely into the arena of a livable community. Both workforce and senior housing continue to be needed in Minneapolis, leading to the strategies of **thoughtful neighborhood design with density done right and high-quality, affordable housing for all ages and stages in every neighborhood**. Creekside Commons, recently completed in the Tangletown neighborhood, is an example of new workforce housing being built in the ward. If the closed Northrop School is redeveloped as co-op senior living, it will be another step in the direction of ensuring that there is a place in South Minneapolis for every "age and stage."

One way of assessing the livability and health of a community is by its vitality. **Plentiful arts, cultural, and recreational activities paired with active lifestyles: walkable, bikeable, swimmable** are strategies that speak to this measurement tool.

And, finally, Minneapolis strives to make **healthy choices easy and economical**. Our farmers markets, the park system, community gardens, lakes, Minnehaha Parkway, the Greenway, and more are all examples of how easy and economical choices can also be fun and engaging.

These strategies all work to tie neighbors together and increase the livability of Minneapolis. I encourage you to think about how you can further the sense of community in your neighborhood, block, or school. National Night Out, next Tuesday, August 3, is a great place to start. A comprehensive list of festivities can be accessed [here](#). I hope to see you all out that night building your own livable community and healthy life!

Peace,



## City Focus



August 10 is primary election day here in Minnesota. If you haven't

done so already, there's still time for you to register to vote. If you're going to be out of town on that date, you can make sure your vote is counted by filing an absentee ballot.

A primary election differs from the general election in that voters narrow the field of candidates within a political party. In the past, Minnesota's primary election was held in September. However, a recent law moved the primary date to August to allow members of the military extra time to return their ballots. Another schedule change for the 2010 election season creates a longer 46-day absentee balloting period for both the primary and general elections.

Absentee voting opened June 25 and continues through

### Are You Registered For the Primary Election?

August 9. You can pick up an absentee ballot application in the Minneapolis Office of Elections, Room 1B, City Hall or by visiting the City's elections website at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections).

If you're not registered to vote, the folks in our Elections Office remind you that pre-registering is an easy way to save time at the polls during the August 10 primary and the November 2 general election. Individuals are eligible to vote if they are at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen who has lived in Minnesota for at least 20 days prior to the election. Any voters who have moved or changed their name since they last voted must re-register. (Re-registering is required even if you moved from one apartment to another apartment within the same building.)

The 2010 election will decide who becomes Minnesota's next governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state,

attorney general and state auditor. Also on this fall's ballot will be candidates for Minnesota senate and house of representative. Voters will also be electing representatives to the U.S. Congress as well as district court judges and county commissioners. In Minneapolis, voters will also be electing new members to the Minneapolis School Board.

Ranked Choice Voting will not be used in Minneapolis in 2010. The 2010 election will be conducted using the traditional voting method in which a voter votes for one candidate for each office to be elected. Ranked Choice Voting is only used for Minneapolis municipal offices: Mayor, Council, Board of Estimate and Taxation, and Park Board. The Minneapolis School Board is not a municipal office.

### 311 Website Lets You Ask for Help 24 Hours a Day

Is there a streetlight out on your block? Do you want to report a pothole in your neighborhood? Are you seeking a permit to close your street for a block party? You can take care of these things and more online, any time of day and any day of the week.

Minneapolis 311 handles many service requests online. Instead of having to call 311, you can go to 311's website

and make your request online 24 hours a day. There are several different service requests being handled on the website.

To make an online service request, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311) and click "online service requests." After you've tried it out, you can take a survey to tell the City how well the online service worked for you.

Just click on "311 satisfaction survey" on the main Minneapolis 311 website.



## 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](#)

## Free Wireless Access at 100+ Minneapolis Locations

You can now get onto the Internet for free from 117 “Wireless Minneapolis” hotspots throughout the city. These hotspots are among the many community benefits that resulted from the City of Minneapolis’ contract with USI Wireless, the company that built the wireless network blanketing the entire city.

When connected to the Internet through one of these hotspots, you’ll be able to access websites for up to one hour. After that hour, your user session will end; however, you’ll be able to log-in again for more time on the Internet. A credit card number will be required to access the Internet from a “Wireless Minneapolis” hotspot for homeland

security purposes but the credit card will not be charged.

In selecting the locations for the 117 “Wireless Minneapolis” hotspots, the City looked for places where people already gather and use computers, and places where free wireless access would encourage people to gather, including parks, plazas, schools, and businesses. Hotspots will be clearly marked with signs that say, “Free Wireless Minneapolis Hotspot Courtesy: City of Minneapolis USI Wireless.” The free wireless signal will be available up to 600 feet from



the sign. For a list and map of locations visit [Free Hot Spots](#).

In addition to the 117 hotspots, the City of Minneapolis and USI Wireless also offer free “Wireless Community” accounts to nonprofit organizations that provide free computer access to the public, and an online “Civic Garden” at [Wireless Minneapolis](#) that provides a free level of service for anyone who can receive the USI Wireless signal. The Civic Garden includes access to a wealth of public sector information about government, education, and community services.

In 2006 the City of Minneapolis signed a 10-year contract with USI Wireless of Minnetonka to provide Minneapolis with cutting-edge broadband technology. USI Wireless is a private company that owns, built, and manages the wireless network, making Minneapolis one of the first large cities in the US to go wireless. The network is allowing the City to deliver services more efficiently and effectively than ever before.



### 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

## “We Want You Back” School Enrollment Event

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) have joined forces to raise public awareness about the dropout crisis and graduation gap in Minneapolis and enlist the entire community’s help to resolve it. “We Want You Back” invites un-enrolled young people to come back to school, complete their credits and get their diploma. The program’s ambitious goal is to attract back 200 youth and put them on a path where they can be successful.

MPS is working with educational partners to create attractive programming for un-enrolled young people. Connections are being made among the many existing community resources in a citywide effort to do whatever it takes to help youth graduate.

Many Minneapolis students leave school before graduat-

ing for a host of reasons. While some eventually may re-enroll in another district, others do not and MPS often finds it difficult to locate them. Some of these former students are very close to earning their diploma, lacking only a few credits or a passing grade on one of the state’s tests.

The YCB plans to mobilize and train as many as 1,000 volunteers to connect with young people who want to return to school. The campaign’s strategy includes a summer-long push of community outreach at more than 30 events to generate awareness, culminating in a citywide door-knocking event the second Saturday after school starts, September 11, 2010. MPS staff will be available that day to re-enroll students on the spot.

While the door-knocking event is likely to generate tremendous awareness at the critical “back to school” time of the year, We Want You Back is not a one-time event. The schools, City, County and others are committed to an ongoing partnership that will deliver the ongoing support young people need to be successful.

We Want You Back is based on a successful model that is working in cities like Houston and Philadelphia. Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson, Mayor R.T. Rybak and Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman are jointly chairing the campaign. The campaign is also seeking support and sponsorships from a host of public, private and nonprofit organizations.

To sign up to volunteer, please visit [www.wewantyoubackmpls.org](http://www.wewantyoubackmpls.org).

## Neighborhood Notes

### NENA Monarch Festival

Join us at the 2010 Minneapolis Monarch Festival, on Saturday, September 11, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. The Festival is a party with a mission: Celebrating Minnesota's State Butterfly and its amazing 2,300 mile migration to the mist-covered mountains of Michoacán, Mexico. Filled with music, games, art, food, and more, the day offers many fun ways to learn about the Monarch, the plants it needs to survive, and how everyone can help preserve the now-endangered migration of this remarkable creature.

An all-day stage will feature KetzalCoatlucue Aztec Dance, Papa John Kolstad, Tonia Hughes, mariachi music, the Tropical Zone Orchestra, and

Larry Long with Billy Peterson, Joe Savage & Fiddlin' Pete, and more! Exhibits and presentations, along with native plant vendors, show steps everyone can take to reverse the loss of habitat endangering this majestic butterfly.

The day will start with a 5K Run for the Monarchs, and later, children can register to run in the Butterfly Fun Run where they show-off optional monarch wings, antennae, or caterpillar costumes.

The Festival is a partnership of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, and Community Celebration of Place. You can be a part of making this a fun, suc-

## NENA and Windom Happenings

cessful event by volunteering a few hours. Please call the NENA office at (612) 724-5652 or email [rulrich@nokomiseast.org](mailto:rulrich@nokomiseast.org) for volunteer opportunities.

### Windom Movie Night

Join the Windom neighborhood for a free movie night on the outdoor big screen Thursday, August 26, at Windom Park (5843 Wentworth Avenue S). Sponsored by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation and Windom Community Council. The movie will begin 15 minutes after sunset - bring your own blanket. Movie: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

### Windom Fall Festival

Everyone is invited for music, food, games, prizes, activities for all ages at the Windom Fall Festival on Saturday, August 28 from 3-7 pm, 5843 Wentworth. There are openings for non-profit and community Information tables (no charge, bring your own table) and area businesses (\$50 fee, plus bring your own table) to share their wares and information. Please contact Pat Croal 612-396-9869 or [pcroal@juno.com](mailto:pcroal@juno.com) to register a table or get more information.

Find Windom Community on [Facebook](#).

## Calendar

August 3rd

**National Night Out** Check for your local celebration at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/events-list.asp>

August 11th

6—8:30 pm: **Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting** at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)

August 12th

7—8:30 pm: **Windom Community Council Meeting** at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)

August 16th

7—8:30 pm: **Tangletown Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting** at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)

August 18th

8—9 am: **Community Coffee Hour with Council Member Quincy** at Sister Sludge (4557 Bloomington Avenue S)

6:30—8:30 pm: **Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting** at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)

August 23rd

7—8:30 pm: **Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting** at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)

August 26th

6:30—9 pm: **Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting** at the Minnehaha United Methodist Church (3701 50th Street E)

Sunset: **Windom Movie Night** Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull at Windom South Park (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)

August 28th

3—7pm: **Windom Fall Festival** at Windom South Park (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)