

Ward 11 Monthly Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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City Budget

The city council recently passed the 2006 city budget. There are a few changes in the budget that are of special note to residents of the 11th Ward.

- More Traffic Officers- The council is again placing more traffic officers on the streets for better enforcement of traffic regulations. The cost of this item will be covered by the increased number of traffic tickets.
- Lyndale Ave / 121- Council Member Benson has offered an amendment which will provide seed money for implementing the preferred layout for Highway 121 and opening Lyndale Ave to two way traffic between 58th & 56th.
- Security cameras- There is money in the budget that will allow for the purchase of public security cameras. Preference will be given to areas where business or business associations provide additional funds for a larger network.

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Inauguration

On January 3rd, the newly elected Minneapolis City Council was sworn in during a ceremony in the rotunda of City Hall. Council Member Benson was sworn in for his second term. During the next four years, Scott will serve as Chair of the Health, Energy and Environment Committee as well as serve on the Executive Committee, Transportation and Public Works, Community Development, and Claims committees.



Council Members and Mayor Rybak waiting to be sworn in to office.

The ceremony is available for viewing as an archived Webcast on <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/webcasts/>.

Important Phone Numbers

- Ward 11 Office
673-2211
- Graffiti Hotline
673-2090
- Housing Inspection
673-5858
- Garbage/Recycling
673-2917

Access To City Government Is Now Easier, Thanks To 311

Minneapolis 311 is now up and running. By using your phone to call 3-1-1, people who work, live and visit Minneapolis can get customer-friendly access to city information and services.

Minneapolis 311 replaces hundreds of City phone numbers people had to go through for help. However, it's more than just a switchboard. Call center agents are specially trained to get the information callers want. If the agents don't have the answer, they'll find the people who do.

The 311 agents are also ready to take requests for service. People who want to get a broken water main fixed, have graffiti removed, report a stray dog, or ask for any other City service need only call 311. Agents will get requests to the right people, and will provide reference numbers so people can follow up on their cases.

People who do not speak English can also use 311. They will either be helped by a call center agent who speaks their language, or a translation service will be contacted to help with the caller.

Calls to Minneapolis 311 will be answered from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311>

Together we can all survive Snow Emergencies

It's easy to help spread the word about Minneapolis Snow Emergencies— and help your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors avoid the cost and headache of having their cars ticketed and towed this year.

- Print off a **snow emergency** poster (2mb PDF) and post it in your apartment complex, business, church, restaurant, or community Center.
- Encourage folks to sign up and receive a **snow emergency** e-mail or text message. Alerts are sent as soon as Minneapolis declares a **snow emergency**.
- Add your cell phone to our **snow emergency** phone alert, so your cell phone will be on the list to get an automated voice message when a **snow emergency** is declared.
- If you are leaving town for a few days, don't forget to park your car off city streets or leave a set of keys with family or friends, so they can move your car if a **snow emergency** is declared
- If new neighbors move in, tell them about **snow emergencies** and how they can find out more information.
- Use Minneapolis' new interactive **snow emergency** maps and share them with others. These new web maps let you check which streets in your neighborhood are **snow emergency** routes and which sides of streets are even and odd.
- Volunteer to be the Plow Pal on your block; when it shows, call 348-SNOW and then let everyone else in your club know when a **snow emergency** has been declared.

Snow Event on December 30

Many residents wondered why a Snow Emergency was not declared on December 30 when it seemed there was plenty of snow. There is no hard and fast rule as to when a Snow Emergency is declared. Many factors are taken into consideration. Below is an e-mail from Mike Kennedy, the City Public Works Director of Winter Operations. He wrote this e-mail late in the day on December 30th, right when the decision about whether to declare a snow emergency was being made. Hopefully this message will shed some light of the factors that are considered when contemplating declaring a Snow Emergency.

E-mail from Mike Kennedy:

...The conditions are that the bulk of the snow fall has ended with approximately 4 to 5 inches of accumulation, maybe a little more in some spots. The forecasts call for additional light accumulations, ending tonight. Temperatures are forecast to be in the low 30's for highs, and mid 20's for overnight lows, for the next several days, with occasional flurries.

Crews have been working the main arterial streets since last night and will continue throughout today. Most of the main streets have bare, wet driving lanes. With the temperatures in our favor, crews will very likely even be able to plow driving lanes on many of the east-west residential streets today and this evening. Conditions on the residential streets vary, but in general, the mild temperatures are causing the accumulated snow to condense, and traffic is packing it down. Some parking lanes across the City may have problems with accumulated or plowed snow, but others are not bad. It is not a consistent problem City-wide.

However, we did initiate City-wide alley plowing at 10:00 a.m. this morning to give access to garages, and help prevent snow-pack build-up that can lead to rutting problems in wheel paths later. They should be completed by midnight.

Considering the above physical conditions and the fact that it was a holiday weekend the next two days (Snow Emergency Day 2 would be New Year's Eve day, and Day 3, New Year's Day), it was decided that it was not necessary to require the public to move their cars and enforce Snow Emergency parking rules. However, crews will continue to plow tonight, tomorrow and throughout the long holiday weekend as conditions require. If weather conditions change, Public Works will react accordingly.

Remember, even without the declaration of a Snow Emergency, Public Works will continue working round the clock as conditions require. All streets will be plowed and treated, and cleared full width where possible. ...

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 scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.

November Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Diamond Lake	12			1		5	6		
Field	6			1		1	4		
Hale	3					2	1		
Kingfield	46		1	5	2	4	24	9	1
Northrop	17			1		2	12	2	
Page									
Tangletown	18			1		5	10	2	
Wenonah	18				1	8	6	3	
Windom	29			3	2	9	10	5	

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop</p> <p>Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presbyterian 46th St. & 17th Ave</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake</p> <p>Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13th Ave S</p>	<p>Kingfield</p> <p>Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p>NENA</p> <p>Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50th St</p>	<p>Tangletown</p> <p>Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p>Windom</p> <p>Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S</p>

Open Appointments

[Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council \(closes 1/6/2006\)](#)

[Minneapolis Public Library Board of Trustees \(closes 1/6/2006\)](#)

[Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board \(closes 1/13/2006\)](#)

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