

# Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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## City Budget Debate Underway

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak recently unveiled his proposal for a city budget, which is highlighted below:

### A Continued Focus on Public Safety

- \$300,000 to fund four more 911 operators
- \$800,000 to fund precinct-based community prosecutors
- \$75,000 to expand restorative justice programs
- \$150,000 for community micro grants to prevent gang-related graffiti
- \$100,000 for a juvenile curfew and truancy resource center in City Hall
- \$100,000 to implement recommendations of the City's Youth Violence Prevention Committee
- \$675,000 for the Youth Coordinating Board, including \$150,000 to fund the "Youth Are Here" youth activity circulator bus year-round

### Growing an Economy That Works for Everyone

- \$1.5 million for job training and placement programs that successfully placed 14,000 hard to employ city residents into unsubsidized private sector jobs last year
- \$4.7 million dollars of small business financing tools, including innovative loans with no interest to business owners whose religious beliefs restrict them from receiving traditional interest-based financing
- \$2.1 million for the Great Streets Neighborhood Business District program that focuses economic development on key commercial corridors
- \$16 million to improve housing options and strengthen Minneapolis housing market, including \$6 million to continue implementing the City's strategy to address the foreclosure crisis

### Investing in City Infrastructure for the Common Good

In the face of reduced state funding and mounting pension obligations, Mayor Rybak's budget proposal reflects the concern that Minneapolis' investments into public safety came at the direct expense of other basic services. Almost no other area of the city has felt this pain more than basic city infrastructure. While city general fund spending over the last five years for police will grow 30 percent, spending for public works grows only 10 percent over the same time period.

The Mayor's budget proposal recommends City Bridge Repair and Rehabilitation be more than doubled in 2008 and increased over five years from \$950,000 to \$1,450,000. This increase was planned before the 35W Bridge collapse, as part of Minneapolis' bridge repair and rehab program and will increase the number of bridges receiving deck renovation and preservation. Over the past five years, Minneapolis invested more than \$17.3 million into its bridge capital program.

The City Council is in the midst of budget hearings, listening to proposals from various city departments regarding their budgets and priorities for 2008. At the end of November, the Council will start amending the mayors proposed budget. The 2008 City budget will be adopted at the end of December.

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**Important  
Phone Numbers  
Ward 11 office  
673-2211  
35W/Crosstown  
Construction  
Hotline  
1-866-743-6590**



## Task Force creates draft recommendations for improving community engagement

After three months of work, Minneapolis' Community Engagement Task Force unanimously approved a preliminary report. The task force's draft report includes seven core principles of community engagement, more than two dozen recommendations related to the core principles, and characteristics of organizations that are eligible to receive city resources for activities related to engaging the community.

The report was presented to the Minneapolis City Council Committee of the Whole Sept. 20, 2007, and will now be presented for public input and feedback at the series of community forums. Those closest to the 11th Ward include

Wednesday, Oct. 17 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Nokomis Park Recreation Center gymnasium, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway

Thursday, Oct. 18 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.,  
MLK Park Recreation Center multi-purpose room, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

Following the community forums, the task force will reconvene to incorporate the community's input into its final report, and then will present its final report to the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor in mid-November.

A full copy of the draft Community Engagement Task Force report is posted on the City's Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp).

## Minneapolis drinking water quality

Minneapolis residents may be wondering about our drinking water supply given that there have been local news reports about contaminants in metro area groundwater. Unlike some suburban and rural communities, Minneapolis drinking water comes from the Mississippi River rather than groundwater.

Water that comes from the Mississippi River travels through multiple treatment processes that clean and filter the water before it reaches Minneapolis customers. In addition, the quality of our drinking water is assured and controlled through the various stages of treatment by plant and laboratory tests. Each and every day, an average of nearly 400 chemical, physical and bacteriological examinations are done – that's more than 127,000 tests per year. Computer systems allow continuous monitoring of water quality in the treatment processes and alert staff quickly if a situation arises.

Minneapolis has made considerable investments in our drinking water system to assure the highest water quality for generations to come. In 2006 we opened a state-of-the-art water plant that makes Minneapolis drinking water even safer than before. The new facility uses "ultrafiltration" technology that removes particles so small that a standard microscope cannot detect them. In fact, the plant removes impurities more effectively than required by emerging and increasingly stringent federal drinking water standards.

Read more about [City of Minneapolis drinking water](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/water) at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/water](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/water) or call 311 if you have questions.

## Get a glimpse of Minneapolis' transportation future

Eight public meetings are coming up in October to discuss Access Minneapolis: the City's comprehensive transportation action plan for the next ten years that includes everything from streets to streetcars.

Access Minneapolis was created to identify steps that the City and its partner agencies (Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Minnesota Department of Transportation) need to take within the next ten years to improve the current transportation system and ready it for continued growth. While the action plan is based on a long-term (2030) view of transportation needs, it focuses on actions that should be undertaken throughout the city in the coming years, recognizing that this timeframe is subject to the availability of funds.

The downtown action plan of Access Minneapolis has already been finalized. The October meetings will discuss the citywide action plan as well as the Streetcar Feasibility Study, which recommends a long-range streetcar system and identifies initial operating segments that might be good short "starter" segments.

The October meetings nearest the 11th Ward are:

- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Oct. 17 Lake Nokomis Recreation Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway
- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Oct. 23 Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

For more information on Access Minneapolis and the Streetcar Feasibility Study, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/).

## Northrop School Reuse Planning

The Minneapolis School Board is looking for input regarding the reuse of the Northrop School building. The first meeting on October 13th will discuss the use of all four of the southside schools that were closed. The meetings on October 25 and 27 will be exclusively for ideas about Northrop.

October 13/Saturday 10:00 -12:00

Anne Sullivan, 3100 E. 28<sup>th</sup> St.

October 25/Thursday 6:30-8:30

McRae Park, 906 E. 47<sup>th</sup> St.

October 27/Saturday 1:30-3:30

McRae Park, 906 E. 47<sup>th</sup> St.

## Monthly Community Meetings

<p><b>Field Regina Northrop</b>  <a href="http://FRNNG.org">FRNNG.org</a>            Meets Third Wednesday            6:30 PM            Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p><b>Hale Page Diamond Lake</b>  <a href="http://HPDL.org">HPDL.org</a>            Meets Fourth Monday            7:00 PM            Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p><b>Kingfield</b>  <a href="http://Kingfield.org">Kingfield.org</a>            Meets Second Wednesday            7:00 PM            Martin Luther King Park</p>
<p><b>NENA</b>  <a href="http://Nokomiseast.org">Nokomiseast.org</a>            Meets Fourth Thursday            7:00 PM            NENA Office</p>	<p><b>Tangletown</b>  <a href="http://Tangletown.org">Tangletown.org</a>            Meets Third Monday            7:00 PM            Fuller Community Center</p>	<p><b>Windom</b>  <a href="http://Windomcommunity.org">Windomcommunity.org</a>            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 4	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet Ave	Dec 6	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave
Nov 1	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave		

## Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more that 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.

For more information:

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

## 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](mailto:scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.