

# Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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## National Night Out Planning Week is June 16-22

For 25 years, folks in Minneapolis have been getting together to build community and make Minneapolis a safer city. This year, on August 5, more than 60,000 neighbors will congregate in homes, in yards, in streets and in parks to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the annual National Night Out event.

NNO Planning Week in Minneapolis is June 16-22. Avoid the last-minute rush and organize your get-together. This will give your group time to work out the details and get more people involved.

### Some things to discuss at planning meetings:

- How many people should we plan for? Who will get food, drinks, utensils, etc.
- What kinds of activities will encourage conversation and people getting to know one another?
- What should we do for kids? Games, face painting, piñata, recognition awards for good things they have done, etc.
- Should we have music? What kind and who will arrange it?
- Do we want to close the street? If so, who will apply?
- Should we make an invitation flyer? Who will do it?
- What will we do if it rains?

It's not essential to close your street to have a successful NNO event. If you need to, one process makes it possible to register both your NNO event and apply to close your street. Visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno) or call 311. There is no charge to request a street closure for a NNO event if you apply before July 22, and you'll be eligible for a door prize drawing. From July 23-31, there is a \$100 late fee. Application will not be accepted after July 31.

If you would like to request that communications staff from MnDOT come to your event to provide an update on the 35W/Crosstown project, call the Construction Hotline at 866.743.6590.

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



## Reduce risk of theft by following a few simple tips

As the weather warms up, more people head outdoors to enjoy Minneapolis parks, lakes and city cafés. To make your outdoor fun as safe and enjoyable as possible, the Minneapolis Police Department wants to remind you to safeguard your property.

Places where people gather such as parks, lakes, and restaurant patios provide easy targets for criminals. Most often, these are crimes of opportunity and visible items that are unattended attract thieves. Thefts from parked vehicles, unfortunately, are not uncommon. Car break-ins can take less than 20 seconds.

Working together, we can prevent thieves from taking advantage of unattended property.

- Never leave valuables unattended in plain view — on car seats, on restaurant chairs, in shopping carts, near an open window.
- Valuables in a car trunk are at risk, too. Secure your valuables in the trunk *before* you reach your destination.
- Lock your car. Lock your trunk. Close your windows.
- Don't hide keys in your vehicle.
- Don't leave a garage door opener in plain view in your car.
- Remember that briefcases, purses, gym bags, sports equipment and even small items such as sunglasses, clothing and CDs can be tempting to a thief.
- Be alert to people watching you get out of your car or loitering around parked cars. If you think that someone is behaving suspiciously, get a description, note a license plate number or location and call 911.
- Finally, prevention can begin at home. If you are working in your yard and the house is unattended, keep your doors locked to avoid theft.

What to do if it happens to you:

- Call 911 immediately if your property is taken. If possible stay where your property was taken and wait for police to advise you.
- If your wallet or purse was taken, alert credit companies and banks as soon as possible.

Share these tips with your family, friends and neighbors. For more helpful information, call your MPD Crime Prevention Specialist. To find contact information for your CPS, visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/> and click on Crime Prevention Specialists.

## Local food: Good for you, your community and the environment

With the start of the growing season comes the opening of farmers markets. This year, there are several farmers markets here in Minneapolis offering fresh produce to residents.

Farmers markets are a good way to shop for healthful food grown on farms in our region. Produce grown locally is fresher and more nutritious because it doesn't sit on trucks losing nutrients. Also, supporting local growers reduces fuel use and pollution from transporting food across the country or across the world. And buying from local growers keeps the money you spend closer to home – which is better for our local economy – and you invest more in the food itself and less in moving the food.

Every Sunday from June through October, Kingfield holds a farmers market at 4310 Nicollet Ave, from 9AM until 1:30 PM. To find other farmers markets near you, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability) and click on “eat local.”

## Minneapolis ranks among top places to raise a family

Minneapolis has been recognized among the country's top 10 cities to raise a family according to Best Life magazine. Minneapolis came in seventh among the magazine's survey of the “100 Best Places to Raise a Family,” which looked at a number of factors including child safety, good schools, student-teacher ratios, above-average test scores, respectable budgets, number of museums, parks, and pediatricians, multi-hour commutes, and affordable housing.

Editors used data from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Education Statistics, FBI, American Association of Museums, National Center for Health Statistics, and American Bar Association to evaluate 257 cities.

Honolulu ranked as the top city to raise a family. To view the complete list, visit [Best Life magazine's survey site](#).

[http://www.bestlifeonline.com/cms/publish/family-fatherhood/The\\_100\\_Best\\_Places\\_to\\_Raise\\_a\\_Family.shtml](http://www.bestlifeonline.com/cms/publish/family-fatherhood/The_100_Best_Places_to_Raise_a_Family.shtml)

## Monthly Community Meetings

<p><b>Field Regina Northrop</b>  <a href="http://FRNG.org">FRNG.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.

June 5	Anodyne 4301 Nicollet Ave	Aug 7	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave
July 3	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave	Sept 4	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington 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.

[Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights \(closes 6/27/08\)](#)

[Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Vacancy](#)

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.