

# Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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## Quincy's Corner

### What was cut from Minneapolis's 2011 budget?

In addition to the Mayor's streamlined proposed budget, the City Council voted for a final budget that reduced 2011 expenses by more than \$6 million in mostly one-time cuts. Supplementary actions were also approved to help ensure financial stability in 2012, 2013, and beyond.

### What does this mean for you?

Your 2011 property taxes will be slightly lower than the amount reflected on the property tax estimate sent by Hennepin County. The City levy will increase 4.7% instead of the 7.5% maximum levy that was certified by the Board of Estimate and Taxation. Even with this reduction, most property owners' taxes will rise in 2011, in some cases by double digits because many of the factors influencing how much homeowners pay in property taxes are out of the City's control.

It is also important to remember that only 33% of the 2011 property taxes Minneapolis residents pay goes to the City. The rest fund other levels of government and special levies, including Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

In order to make enough cuts so that residents would see a decrease in their overall property taxes, Minneapolis would need to find an additional \$27 million in cuts. To understand the magnitude of these cuts please consider the following examples. Twenty-seven million dollars represents:

- All street maintenance – pothole filling, snow plowing, etc. – plus an additional \$3 million in cuts;
- Half of the total Fire Department budget; or
- A quarter of the total Police Department budget.

### What have we done and what will we continue to do to bring property tax relief?

Over the last nine years, the City has paid down or avoided \$130 million in debt, restored its AAA credit rating with all three national ratings agencies, and structured balanced spending to revenue five years out, not one year at a time. In addition to reducing spending by 7% after inflation compared to 10 years ago, the City will also have 1000 fewer full-time positions than it did 10 years ago. For years, the Council and Mayor have worked at the State level to bring pension and Local Government Aid (LGA) reform.

#### • Pension Reform

Minneapolis prevailed in a lawsuit last year, showing that the City was overcharged \$52.7 million over seven years by two closed pensions. In order to reduce the City's obligations to the closed funds, Minneapolis needs the State Legislature to incorporate them into the State's current pension.

#### • Local Government Aid Reform

For the last ten years the State has consistently broken its promises to return to **you** a fair portion of the tax dollars collected from Minneapolis residents and visitors every year. LGA was intended to even out the property tax base statewide, so all communities could have excellent services without any one having to bear too high a property tax burden. That foundational principle remains in name only.

The good news is these problems have solutions. Both solutions are found at the State level. The city-state fiscal relationship must be repaired and our remaining closed pension funds merged with the State's pension. We all have been working hard to achieve those goals and will continue to do so.

I voted to support the budget because it was the best option available in a time of only bad options. I will continue to work to be a steward of your property tax dollars and fight for both LGA and pension reform.

## City Focus

### Winter Parking Restrictions in Effect

#### Winter parking restrictions

odd



Example of a non-Snow-Emergency route

The snow emergency called on December 26 was the sixth of the season—and tied the record for the most snow emergencies for an entire season, set in 2000-2001.

To ensure that Minneapolis public safety crews and equipment can safely and swiftly reach every home and business in the city, public safety and Public Works officials began Winter Parking Restrictions on December 17.

Police Chief Tim Dolan and Public Works Director Steve Kotke – in consultation with Fire Chief Alex Jackson - made the decision to enact Winter Parking Restrictions because the conditions warrant taking this step to maintain public safety.

“This decision was not made lightly,” said Fire Chief Alex Jackson. “Every second matters when responding to an emergency. Ensuring that our vehicles can reach every home and business quickly, safely and effectively can ultimately save lives. Limiting parking while neighborhood streets are narrowed by the heavy snow is what we need to do to maintain public safety.”

December’s blizzard was the fifth largest recorded in the metro area and the largest snowfall ever for that month. Minneapolis has received nearly as much snow in November and December than it

did all of last winter. This significant amount of snowfall has left many residential streets severely narrowed, making it challenging for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles to navigate.

#### Drivers parking in Minneapolis must follow these Winter Parking Restrictions, or they could be ticketed and towed:

- Do NOT park on the EVEN numbered side of non-Snow-Emergency-routes.
- Parking is allowed on both sides of Snow Emergency routes and parkways, and the ODD side of non-Snow Emergency-routes, unless otherwise posted and provided a Snow Emergency has NOT been declared.
- It is possible that Snow Emergencies can be declared while Winter Parking Restrictions are in place. When it snows, take advantage of the many tools the City offers to find out if a Snow Emergency is declared.

#### Additional parking restrictions on Bryant and Grand Avenues

The City is also restricting parking on Bryant and Grand Avenues in Southwest Minneapolis, because those streets also pose challenges to emergency responders.

Parking is prohibited on the even numbered side of these streets. Even-side parking is banned on Bryant from Lake Street to 50<sup>th</sup> Street, and on Grand from Lake Street to 48<sup>th</sup> Street.

These streets are Snow Emergency routes, so they are not affected by Winter Parking Restrictions. However, they are both so narrow that they pose problems for emergency vehicles, buses, and other drivers. These restrictions, along with the Winter Parking Restrictions, will remain in place until April 1 unless conditions allow the City to lift the ban earlier.

#### Help us spread the word

There’s been a lot of cooperation between neighbors to get through the snowy season, and we know that it will continue. Tell those you know about Winter Parking Restrictions. That way you’ll help our officers, firefighters and other emergency responders, and also prevent your friends from getting ticketed or towed.

For more information on where to park during Winter Parking Restrictions, and for a list of ways to keep on top of all changes to winter parking, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow) or follow “Minneapolis Snow Emergency” on Facebook or Twitter. Also, call (612) 348-SNOW at any time to find out if Winter Parking Restrictions or a Snow Emergency is in effect.

## 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](#)

## Violent Crime Continues Dropping in Minneapolis

Minneapolis crime has dropped to one of the lowest levels in more than 25 years. Innovative new policing strategies and a continued focus on guns has helped the city reach a fourth straight year in reduction in violent crime, to one of the lowest levels in 25 years.

2009 had the lowest level of Part I crimes (which include violent crime and property crime) since 1963, and 2010 is on course to end with approximately the same levels. As a subset of Part I crime, violent crime has dropped compared to 2009. Year-to-date as of December 13, violent crime is down 5.2% compared to 2009, and is likely to end the

year as one of the lowest rates in the city in the last 25 years.

The Minneapolis Police Department's Strategic Operations Center opened in fall 2010, as part of the City's new Emergency Operations Training Facility. The Strategic Information Center is a space where the Police Department analyzes data to determine long-range trends that pose potential risks to the city. The center can also provide emergency managers with important information during a major event, incident or disaster.

As part of its evidence-based policing efforts, Minneapolis

police also put a new focus in 2010 on crime hot spots, recognizing that places are more predictable than people in responding proactively to potential criminal activity.

To see the most recent breakdown of crime stats in Minneapolis, visit the [December 13 CODEFOR report](#).

Among the results year-to-date on December 13:

- As a subset of violent crime, robbery is often thought to be the bellwether crime, the one that indicates larger trends. Robbery is down by 5.2% when compared to 2009. There have been

fewer robberies in 2010 than in any year since 1983.

- The Fifth Precinct has seen the largest decrease in violent crime in the city, with a 12.5% decrease. The Third and Fourth Precincts also saw decreases, while the First and Second Precincts saw increases.
- Citywide, robbery, aggravated assault, and rape are all down between 2.8 and 6.7% from 2009. While the number of homicides is up since last year, 2008, 2009, and 2010 to-date have the three lowest homicide levels in 25 years (2009 was the lowest in more than 30 years).

## Minneapolis' National Night Out Nationally Recognized

Once again, Minneapolis has been recognized as a national leader in how it plans and carries out its annual National Night Out events. Minneapolis placed second in the nation for the number of National Night Out gatherings held in 2010 among cities with populations greater than 300,000. Minneapolis finished just behind San Antonio, and ahead of Houston and Austin, Tex., and Los Angeles in the 2010 awards sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

This year's award was an especially significant accomplishment because Minneapolis had fewer resources and personnel available to plan the event. Despite diminished resources, nearly 55,000 Minneapolis residents gathered on Aug. 3 at 968 events in every neighborhood of the city to celebrate National Night Out. Minneapolis' effort, which was coordinated by the Minneapolis Police Department, resulted in activities ranging from small get-togethers in yards to elabo-

rate events in parks and on blocked-off streets.

National Night Out is a crime prevention effort that aims to reduce crime by encouraging neighbors to get to know one another. When people know one another, they are more likely to watch out for one another and call police about suspicious activity. National Night Out activities help build and maintain Minneapolis' extensive network of neighbor-

hood watch block clubs by giving people an opportunity to get together with neighbors, meet new people and discuss issues.

A video documenting many of the City's Night Out festivities is now airing on City Cable channel 14. The video was produced by Video Services. Visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno) for more information about Minneapolis' National Night Out.

## Comments Sought on the City's Agricultural Plan



The City of Minneapolis invites the public to comment on a draft of the Urban Agriculture

Policy Plan aimed at creating land use and zoning guidelines to support local food-related activities. The draft policy plan supports the City's Home-grown Minneapolis initiative that unites efforts to get more

healthful, locally grown food processed, distributed and eaten in Minneapolis.

The plan will be available for public review and comment now until January 31, 2011. The City encourages the public to read the draft document which includes recommendations related to land use, zoning, and access to land for growing food.

The City will host two community meetings to discuss the plan:

**Tuesday, January 11**

**6:30-8 pm**

Sabathani Community Center (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), 310 38<sup>th</sup> Street E

**Thursday, January 20**

**2-3:30 pm**

North Central Library, 1315 Lowry Avenue N

To see the plan, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban\\_ag\\_plan.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban_ag_plan.asp).

## Minneapolis' Street Car Initiative Gets Federal Support

Minneapolis will receive a \$900,000 federal grant to study the best transit improvements on two of the city's long-term streetcar network corridors, Nicollet and Central Avenues between Columbia Heights and 46<sup>th</sup> Street South.

Transit alternatives under the study include streetcar lines and enhanced bus systems. The future circulator would connect downtown to existing densely populated, mixed-use urban neighborhoods and complement the LRT system both downtown and citywide.

Other states that completed their planning work a few years

ago are building streetcars today – with federal help. In the last 14 months, the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded \$408 million to build streetcar lines throughout the nation.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) award is an important step in implementing Minneapolis' vision for a permanent network of frequent, reliable, high-quality transit lines along densely populated commercial corridors. This network is key to the City's goals for increasing transit ridership and catalyzing transit-oriented redevelopment.

Streetcar lines or enhanced bus service along Nicollet and Central avenues would provide circulation in downtown Minneapolis along Nicollet Mall and through densely populated, mixed-use neighborhoods along Central and Nicollet Avenues.

The Nicollet-Central Urban Circulator Alternatives Analysis project will evaluate and select the best transit improvements for Nicollet Avenue from the 46<sup>th</sup> Street Bus Rapid Transit station to Nicollet Mall in downtown and Central Avenue from the Columbia Heights Transit Center to Nicollet Mall via Hennepin and First Avenues North. The competitively awarded

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant and a \$300,000 local match will pay for the \$1.2 million study.

Minneapolis' project is one of 24 grants awarded through the FTA's Alternative Analysis grant program. The winning proposals are listed here: [http://www.fta.dot.gov/news/news\\_events\\_12233.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/news/news_events_12233.html)

## Minneapolis Census Workers Help Minnesota Retain 8 US House Representatives

Due in large part to the hard work of Minneapolis census workers, Minnesota has retained its eighth seat in the US House of Representatives.

According to Census Bureau's estimates Minneapolis had the most "hard to count" (renters, foreign born, low income, etc.) census tracts in the state. Even with these challenges, 78% of Minneapolis residents participated, a 5% increase from ten years ago.

These numbers earned Minneapolis accolades, including:

- 1st in the nation for cities with populations over 300,000 and
- 5th in the nation for cities over 100,000

Minnesota was ranked second in the nation for state participation at 81%.

Three maps produced by the federal government tell the story.

Numeric change in state populations since 2000:

[http://2010.census.gov/news/pdf/apport2010\\_map2.pdf](http://2010.census.gov/news/pdf/apport2010_map2.pdf)

Percent change in state populations since 2000:

[http://2010.census.gov/news/pdf/apport2010\\_map3.pdf](http://2010.census.gov/news/pdf/apport2010_map3.pdf)

Resulting re-apportionment of US House seats:

[http://2010.census.gov/news/pdf/apport2010\\_map1.pdf](http://2010.census.gov/news/pdf/apport2010_map1.pdf)

Here is the link to the Census web site for those wishing to view the entire press conference or related materials:

<http://2010.census.gov/news/press-kits/apportionment/apport.html>



311 achieved a significant milestone December 14 when its two millionth call came in. The milestone call, which came amid the avalanche of Snow Emergency calls, concerned a lost cat.

An employee at the North Commons Recreation Center, 1801 James Ave. N., called to report

that a stray cat was trying to get into the building to escape the cold and snow. The 311 agent advised the employee on how to contain the cat so that Animal Control could come and pick up the cat.

The 311 agent then entered a service request and, a few hours later, Animal Care and Control picked up the cat. Ani-

mal Care determined that the cat had a microchip, retrieved the owner information from the microchip and called the owner. The result: cat and owner were reunited.

## 311 Takes 2 Millionth Call

## Neighborhood Notes

### Party on the Night Before New Year's Eve with NENA

A holiday tradition returns to the Nokomis Community Center in Minneapolis on Thursday, December 30. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual *Night Before New Year's Eve Party* (NBNYE) features free family fun from 5-8 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Bring your family for a truly festive evening of hayrides, marshmallow roasting at the bonfire, carnival games and crafts for kids, live music, magic, and more. Everyone's favorite fish pond will be full of furry critters and the Magnificent Madame Tell will be back with her crystal ball to look into your future.

The evening starts with jazz performed by a student combo from Southwest High School. Beginning at 6:00, the DJs from KidsDance will spin cool classics and hot new music in the gym, with dance contests and prizes for kids of all ages.

Cool off after dancing with 1919 keg root beer, then hit the food line for a hot dog with all the fixings. If you're cold from the hayride, warm up with hot chocolate and watch the strolling magician entertain kids with balloon animals. Stop by the photo booth for an

old fashioned photo strip with your friends or kids.

A little before 8:00, be sure to head for the gym to ring in the New Year during our traditional 8:00 pm "Midnight" countdown complete with noisemakers and a visit from Father Time.

This community event is sponsored by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The Nokomis Community Center is located at 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway in Minneapolis.

**Volunteers are still needed!** Please contact Rita Ulrich at 612-724-5652 or [rich@nokomiseast.org](mailto:rich@nokomiseast.org).

For more information on *The Night Before New Year's Eve Party*, visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) or call the NENA office at 612-724-5652.



### Community Energy Services Available Throughout Ward 11



Community Energy Services (CES), provides homeowners with free educational workshops where they can schedule a customized home energy visit. It is also now available to every homeowner in Ward 11!

CES has served over 2,600 Minneapolis households and is helping homeowners save energy and money in their homes. The energy visit includes a blower door test which measures air leaks, as well as, the installation of money saving materials.

These materials may include compact fluorescent light bulbs, low-flow showerheads,

faucet aerators, pipe wrap, a programmable thermostat and more. *In all, \$400 worth of services and materials is available for a co-pay of only \$30!*

Homeowners are also provided with home energy tracking, information on financing, and access to specialized rebates available only to program participants.

Upcoming workshops are being held on:

**Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm,**

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, 5011 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue S

**Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am**

Hale Community School, 1220 54<sup>th</sup> Street E

**Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**

Matthews Park Recreation Center, 2318 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue S

To reserve your spot at one of these workshops or for more workshop dates, contact Kyle Boehm at (612)219-7334 or [kboehm@mncee.org](mailto:kboehm@mncee.org). For more information on the CES program visit [www.mnces.org](http://www.mnces.org)

CES is a partnership between the Center for Energy and Environment, City of Minneapolis, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy with funding provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the City of Minneapolis Block Grant Funding.

#### Ward Neighborhood Associations

##### [Field, Regina, Northrop Neighborhood Group](#)

3rd Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 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

## Yappy Hour with Kingfield Neighborhood Association



Kingfield Neighborhood Association invites you to:

**Yappy Hour**  
**Saturday, January 22**  
**11 am–2 pm**

Patisserie 46, 4552 Grand Avenue S

Come meet your neighbors and fellow dog-lovers working to create an off-leash dog area

in Park District 6 at Martin Luther King Park.

Kingfield Dogpark Bling (doggie drinking bottles and t's!) will be for sale. A percentage of the bakery's sales will also be donated to KFNA for organizing efforts on this issue.

Sadly, no dogs allowed indoors for this Yappy Hour, but dog-owners of all shapes, sizes, and breeds are welcome!

Questions? Contact Sarah at [dogpark@kingfield.org](mailto:dogpark@kingfield.org) and for more information visit [www.kingfield.org/dog-park](http://www.kingfield.org/dog-park)

## January Calendar

**January 6**

6:30 pm: **Community Energy Services Workshop**  
at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church (5011 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue S)

**January 8**

9:30–11:30 am: **Second Saturday with Representative Jean Wagenius**  
at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)

10 am: **Community Energy Services Workshop**  
at Hale Community School (1220 54<sup>th</sup> Street E)

**January 11**

6:30–8 pm: **Draft Agricultural Plan Community Meeting**  
at Sabathani Community Center (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), 310 38<sup>th</sup> Street E

**January 12**

7–8:30 pm: **Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting**  
at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)

**January 13**

6:30 pm: **Community Energy Services Workshop**  
at Matthews Park Recreation Center (2318 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue S)

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

**January 17**

Holiday: City Offices Closed

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

**January 19**

8–9 am: **Community Coffee Hour**  
at Sovereign Grounds (813 48<sup>th</sup> Street E)

6:30–8:00 pm: **Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting**  
at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46<sup>th</sup> Street E)

**January 20**

2–3:30 pm: **Draft Agricultural Plan Community Meeting**  
at North Central Library, 1315 Lowry Avenue N

**January 22**

11 am–2 pm: **Kingfield Yappy Hour**  
at Patisserie 46 (4552 Grand Avenue S)

**January 24**

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

**January 25**

6:30–8 pm: **3rd Precinct Block Leader Training**  
at 3rd Precinct Community Room (3000 Minnehaha Avenue)

**January 27**

7–8:30 pm: **Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting**  
at the NENA office (3000 50<sup>th</sup> Street E)

**January 28**

5–6 pm: **Ward Happy Hour**  
at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue S)