

# 11

## NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

DIAMOND LAKE, FIELD, HALE, KINGFIELD NORTHRUP, PAGE, TANGLETOWN, WINDOM, and WENONA

### Elections will use ranked choice voting Nov. 3

The first election in Minneapolis to use ranked choice voting will take place on Election Day, Nov. 3.

In ranked choice voting, Minneapolis voters may rank up to three candidates for single and multiple seat municipal offices. When polls close, the first choice votes for all candidates are sorted and counted. If no candidate receives the required number of votes to win in a particular race, a process of eliminating candidates and considering subsequent choices begins.

Voters in Minneapolis approved a referendum to implement this new voting system in 2006. This fall, they'll be able to use that system to choose candidates for Mayor, City Council, Board of Estimate and Taxation, and Park and Recreation Board. This upcoming election will be the first opportunity for voters in Minneapolis to use Ranked Choice Voting.

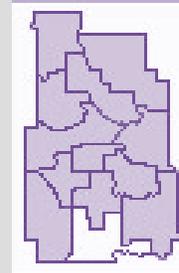
For more information on Ranked Choice Voting, including instructions on how to cast your ballot this November, go to [voteminneapolis.org](http://voteminneapolis.org).

### Making an energy-efficient home improvement? You might get a rebate

Minnesota homeowners may be eligible for up to \$4,000 in rebates for certain energy-efficiency improvements. A rebate program administered by the Builders Association of Minnesota is making \$3 million available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Funds will go fast and are available first-come, first-served. If you're having energy-efficiency work done on your home, make sure to ask your contractor if it is eligible for the "Project ReEnergize" rebate.

The home must be owner-occupied and built before 2000. The improvements must be done by a Project ReEnergize qualified contractor. A list of project qualified contractors will be posted Oct. 1 at [www.projectReEnergize.org/contractor-list.aspx](http://www.projectReEnergize.org/contractor-list.aspx). Only work completed after Oct. 1 is eligible for rebates. Project must be completed before rebate application can be submitted. For more information on eligibility visit [www.Project/ReEnergize.org](http://www.Project/ReEnergize.org)

Volume 8 Issue 10  
October 2009



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## Greening of Target Center roof is complete

One of the largest rooftops in downtown Minneapolis has gone green. Target Center's 2.5 acre roof is now the largest green roof in Minnesota and, at the time of design, the fifth largest green roof in the country. The City-owned Target Center is also the first arena in North America to have a green roof.

Green roofs provide ecological benefits by reducing the negative effects of hard surfaces, like traditional roofs, on stormwater quality, volume, rate, and temperature on the receiving waterbody, in this case, the Mississippi River. It is estimated the green roof will capture one million gallons of stormwater annually, preventing drainage into the Mississippi River. The green roof will also help in mitigating the heat island effect in downtown Minneapolis by reducing the roof's temperature by as much as 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Green roofs also last longer. A traditional roof for Target Center would have a life expectancy of 20 years. This new green roof is expected to last twice that time.

The installation of the green roof provided jobs for Minneapolis residents: 75 of the workers who worked on the installation were Minneapolis residents, and 20 of the workers were graduates of training programs at Summit Academy OIC.

The installation and ongoing maintenance of the green roof is the last stage of a necessary roof replacement project that also includes replacing all 29 smaller roofs on five levels. The cost of roof replacement for all 30 roofs is \$5.32 million and is paid for using a set-aside capital fund for improvements.

## Mill City Farmers Market is first zero waste farmers market in state

The City of Minneapolis is promoting its citywide effort to turn food scraps into dirt through composting by recognizing the efforts of Mill City Farmers Market, which is the first farmers market in Minnesota to go waste-free. This recognition follows the success of local waste reduction nonprofit Eureka Recycling's restaurant composting program that was launched in Minneapolis in 2008 and now includes restaurants, caterers, food co-ops and groceries.

The Mill City Market is encouraging its customers to compost at home and take the Minnesota Energy Challenge. This effort is supported by Eureka Recycling and partially funded by an innovative City of Minneapolis Climate Change grant. Minneapolis created these grants to help local neighborhoods and organizations fund creative ways to engage residents in the fight against climate change.

The Minnesota Energy Challenge is a Web site designed for people to calculate their carbon footprints and learn how to save money and energy at home. Take the energy challenge at <http://mnenergychallenge.org>.



## Public meeting Oct. 7 on lake cleanup plans

In an effort to improve water quality, Lake Nokomis, Powderhorn Lake and Brownie Lake will be getting more attention from government agencies in the coming years. A plan is being developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the cities of Minneapolis, Richfield, Golden Valley and St. Louis Park. The plan is part of a federal program that mandates research on water quality problems and possible solutions for lakes that do not meet clean water requirements. Lake Nokomis, Powderhorn Lake and Brownie Lake have excessive levels of phosphorus, a nutrient that can cause algae blooms and degrade aquatic habitat.

A public meeting will be held to gather input on research and cleanup plans. All three lakes will be discussed at the meeting.

**Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7:00 PM**

**Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.**

Minneapolis is known for its beautiful lakes, rivers and streams. Those waterways serve as important habitats for birds and other wildlife and offer a host of recreational opportunities. Keeping those waterways clean and healthy ensures that they continue to be key environmental assets for generations to come.



For more information about the public meeting, contact Nat Kale at (952) 471-0590 x229 or [nkale@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:nkale@minnehahacreek.org). For more information about these water quality studies, visit [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl).

## Minneapolis outlines plans for H1N1 response

To ensure that Minneapolis is prepared and able to respond appropriately to the H1N1 flu virus, the City's public health and emergency preparedness officials have been updating the City's emergency response plan. The City has plans for vaccination implementation and dispensing strategies, City workforce protection, and ensuring continuity of critical City functions.

The City's vaccination strategy includes encouraging people to visit their regular health care provider, working with the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency to assist with vaccinations of first responders and high risk individuals, providing vaccinations at schools, community and employer-based sites, and mass immunizations at North and South High Schools.

The City's plans to ensure continuity of critical City functions will be approved by the City Council in October.

For more information on H1N1 and pandemic flu, go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/emergency/flu-home.asp>

## Monthly Community Meetings

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| <p><b>Field Regina Northrop</b><br/> <a href="http://FRNNG.org">FRNNG.org</a><br/>           Meets Third Wednesday<br/>           6:30 PM<br/>           Lake Nokomis Presb.</p> | <p><b>Hale Pag Diamond Lake</b><br/> <a href="http://HPDL.org">HPDL.org</a><br/>           Meets Fourth Monday<br/>           7:00 PM<br/>           Emmanuel United Methodist</p> | <p><b>Kingfield</b><br/> <a href="http://Kingfield.org">Kingfield.org</a><br/>           Meets Second Wednesday<br/>           7:00 PM<br/>           Martin Luther King Park</p>         |
| <p><b>NENA</b><br/> <a href="http://Nokomiseast.org">Nokomiseast.org</a><br/>           Meets Fourth Thursday<br/>           7:00 PM<br/>           NENA Office</p>              | <p><b>Tangletown</b><br/> <a href="http://Tangletown.org">Tangletown.org</a><br/>           Meets Third Monday<br/>           7:00 PM<br/>           Fuller Community Center</p>   | <p><b>Windom</b><br/> <a href="http://Windomcommunity.org">Windomcommunity.org</a><br/>           Meets Second Thursday<br/>           7:00 PM<br/>           Windom Community Center</p> |

## Arts Commission hosts conversation on public art Oct. 13

The Minneapolis Arts Commission will host a panel discussion and dialogue on public art in Minneapolis, moderated by Minnesota Public Radio's Marianne Combs. This event is free and open to the public. Panelists include Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board District Planner Lonnie Nichols, Minneapolis Public Art Administrator Mary Altman, Paul Ogren from Minneapolis Public Works, Kingfield Neighborhood Association Executive Director Sarah Linnes-Robinson, and Minneapolis-based artist Wing Young Huie. Attendees will have an opportunity to pose [questions](#) to panelists.

**Tuesday, Oct. 13**  
**Central Library - Pohlad Hall**  
**300 Nicollet Mall**



## 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. For more information: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/> or call the City Clerk's office at 612-673-3358

Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) (open until filled)

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (closes 10/16/09)

Zoning Board of Adjustment (Extended deadline October 16)

## 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.