

Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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Neighborhood policing plans

As part of the 2007 Neighborhood Engagement Process, the Minneapolis Police Department is holding public meetings to gather input to be used for the development of a Neighborhood Policing Plan for each neighborhood in the city. Ultimately the plans for each neighborhood will be posted on the web and updated and enhanced annually.

The Neighborhood Policing Plan typically will include a general description of the neighborhood, crime statistics, neighborhood concerns, policing strategy, and performance standards.

Airport lawsuit update

The lawsuit brought against the MAC by the cities of Minneapolis, Eagan, and Richfield mentioned in last month's newsletter is through the testimony stage. Closing arguments are scheduled for March 21. The Class Action lawsuit against the MAC brought forward by residents of Minneapolis is scheduled to be heard May 7th.

In addition, there are a couple of bills in the legislature of note. **SF 580** would require the MAC to obtain Legislative approval for any bailout package of greater than \$100 million. If enacted, it would require the Legislature to approve the \$290 million in relief the MAC has already offered to Northwest Airlines and the other carriers at the airport. The bill passed the Senate Airways, Waterways and Railways subcommittee and was referred to the full Senate Transportation Committee. The House Companion is HF 673 and that bill is in the House Local Government Affairs Committee.

Two different bills (**HF 557** and **HF 359**) would restructure the MAC, both in different ways. Another bill, **HF 1437**, would require the MAC to hold at least one Commission meeting per year in noise impacted areas.

I will continue to provide updates about the lawsuits and legislation through this newsletter as well as the airport e-mail list. To subscribe to the airport noise e-mail list, send me a message at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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Important Phone Numbers Ward 11 office

673-2211



35W/Crosstown Construction

Minnesota Department of Transportation officials announced that the reconstruction of the I-35W/Crosstown Commons project through Minneapolis is scheduled to begin in June, 2007 and should be completed in the fall of 2010. The bids for the project will be opened on Friday, March 30. Mn/DOT engineers estimate that the project will cost approximately \$285 million.

Mn/DOT plans to hold a public hearing to present the construction schedule and answer questions from affected residents in early May. Additional project information can be found at:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/projects/crosstown/>

311 Statistics

Minneapolis 311 agents answered 343,428 calls during 2006, the first year of operation for the simple three-digit telephone number that gives easier access than ever to City information and services. That's nearly a phone call for every resident of Minneapolis. As part of the City's commitment to providing top-notch customer service to people who live, work, and play in Minneapolis, 311 also met its goal of answering more than 90 percent of calls in less than 20 seconds. In fact, the average wait time for callers to speak to an agent was just 10 seconds. Most of the calls were for information about the City and its services. The top four areas of inquiry were:

1. Public safety – 22.6 percent (of calls for information)
2. Housing – 13.25 percent
3. Licenses and permits – 12.8 percent

Garbage and recycling – 12.5 percent

About 16 percent of calls were from callers who wanted to submit service requests to the City. During 2006, 61,720 service requests were entered by 311 agents. The top four service requests were:

1. Graffiti reporting (9,631 requests)
2. Exterior nuisance complaints (7,976 requests)
3. Abandoned vehicle reports (6,815 requests)

Animal complaints (5,041 requests)

311 is designed to make getting results from the City easier than ever, and that's just what's happening. In most cases the 311 agent is the only person callers need to talk to. The number of callers that can be helped with just one call has grown throughout the year thanks to 311's knowledge base software, which essentially "learns" over time how to answer a question or fulfill a service request. When 311 launched in January of 2006, about 60 percent of callers got the information they needed or submitted a service request with just one call. By December, 72 percent of people were taken care of by making one simple call.

Trees Keep Minneapolis “Cool”

Interested in leaning about how to plant and care for trees? Attend an exciting, interactive, free workshop. Learn from expert Tree Trust and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board foresters

- How to select and plant the right tree for your location
- Simple techniques for improving your tree’s health
- Pruning for perfect trees
- Managing tree pests and diseases

The southside workshop will be held, **Thursday, March 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Nokomis Recreation Center** (2401 D Minnehaha Pkwy). To RSVP or with questions, contact paulw@treetrust.org or (651) 644-5800.

January Crime Statistics

| NEIGHBORHOOD | TOTAL | Homicide | Rape | Robbery | Assault | Burglary | Theft | Motor Vehicle Theft | Arson |
|--------------|-------|----------|------|---------|---------|----------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Diamond Lake | 13 | | | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | |
| Field | 8 | | | | | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| Hale | 9 | | | | | 5 | 3 | 1 | |
| King Field | 28 | | | 4 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 2 | |
| Northrop | 17 | | | | 3 | 2 | 6 | 6 | |
| Page | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Tangletown | 15 | | | 2 | | 3 | 10 | | |
| Wenonah | 7 | | | 1 | 3 | 2 | | 1 | |
| Windom | 33 | | | 2 | 6 | 3 | 18 | 4 | |

Definitions of the types of crimes and statistics from other months can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/>

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 and put the words “E-mail Update” in the subject line.

Monthly Community Meetings

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

| | | | |
|-------|--|---------|---|
| Apr 5 | Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave S | June 7 | Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet Ave |
| May 3 | Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington | July 12 | Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago 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.

[Housing Board of Appeals \(closes 3/30/2007\)](#)

[Senior Citizen Advisory Committee \(closes 3/16/2007\)](#)

For more information:

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