

Community Ward 11 Connections

news from Council Member John Quincy



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Volume 1, Issue 4

April 2010

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Quincy's Corner

This month we bring you great information on a number of different programs and initiatives improving the livability of our community, including youth violence intervention; community forums on water preservation and conservation; solar energy rebates for homeowners; and our incredibly popular (and now expanded) tree program.

We also provide an update on the pothole repairs underway. In addition to the work our crews are performing on these "urban beasts" on streets throughout the ward, street resurfacing projects are being planned for an extensive area on the west side of 35W. Diamond Lake Road is being resurfaced from Lyndale to 35W, as well as, residential streets in the Windom Neighborhood. **Updated resurfacing plans include Nicollet Avenue from 58th to the Parkway.** — Our thanks go out to the Tangletown and Windom Neighborhood Associations for their letters of support. Their voices helped us make the case for expediting these blocks along Nicollet.

In addition, I want to highlight some special items of interest:

Census time is here! Your household has received the 2010 Census questionnaire – and now is the time to make sure it is completed and returned - so you'll be counted. The census questionnaire was addressed to "resident," and included a postage-paid envelope for you to return your completed form. There are 10 questions for the head of the household, and seven questions for everyone else in the residence to answer.

Answers you provide help determine the size of our community so we can receive the resources, representation, and recognition we deserve. Census data is used to find the best way to distribute nearly \$400 billion in federal program funds, as well as, a variety of social services. It's estimated that Minneapolis stands to lose around \$1 million over the next decade for every 100 residents who are not counted in the 2010 Census. The census is also used to distribute congressional seats to states, and Minnesota is on the cusp of losing one.

Nicollet Mall has reopened for bicycling 24/7. Just in time for an exciting new baseball season, and as part of the City's effort to transform downtown transportation, express buses are moving off Nicollet Mall to the new bus lanes on Marquette and 2nd Avenues. This paves the way for elimination of the Nicollet Mall bicycle restriction. For more information on downtown bicycle routes, view the [downtown bicycling map](#) (pdf).

As always, we welcome any comments and suggestions on how we can improve our *Community Connections* newsletter.

See you soon,

City Focus

City helps launch innovative youth violence intervention



City leaders and community partners have launched an innovative strategy to help break the cycle of violence in Minneapolis. The program reaches out to young victims of violence when their injuries are first spotted by healthcare workers.

The Minneapolis Youth Violence Intervention Program (MY-VIP), which went into effect on January 4th, is available to youth ages 8-24 who arrive at the emergency departments of Hennepin County Medical Center or North Memorial Medical Center with violence-related injuries.

When a youth suffering from violence-related injuries comes to the hospital, a social worker or clinical psychologist is notified. Once the patient is

stabilized, a mental health professional meets with the victim and/or the victim's parents and performs a detailed psychosocial assessment.

The mental health professional then performs an evaluation, exploring issues related to safety concerns, retaliation risk, family support, peer group support, school/truancy, life skills (anger management/conflict resolution), mental health, chemical dependency, legal concerns, and employment. Based upon the evaluation, the mental health professional makes appropriate referrals to community-based agencies.

MY-VIP is a partnership between the City, Hennepin County, HCMC, and North

Memorial Medical. To date, nearly 40 agencies in the metro area have agreed to offer their services in partnership with the program, including the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, MADDADS, Youth Link, Urban Youth Conservation, Holding Forth the Word of Life Church, and Salaam Project.

MY-VIP is part of the City's "Blueprint for Action" that works to address the root causes of violence and significantly reduce youth violence in Minneapolis. Recent statistics indicate that the array of prevention programs is beginning to have an impact on violence reduction when coupled with increased law enforcement programs. Click for more information about Minneapolis's [Blueprint for Action](#).

Minneapolis area ranks in top five in national well-being survey

The Minneapolis area was ranked as one of the top five metropolitan areas in the nation to live in for what constitutes a good life, according to the latest Gallup-Healthways Well-Being survey. The survey was developed to provide the official measure for health and well-being of Americans, measures the daily pulse of the nation's well-being, and provides best-in-class solutions for a healthier world.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-

Being Index score measures an average of six sub-indexes, which individually examine life evaluation, emotional health, work environment, physical health, healthy behaviors, and access to basic necessities.

Of the six sub-indexes that comprise the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, San Jose and Minneapolis had the highest scores on two indexes each in 2009 (Physical Health and Healthy Behaviors in San Jose and

Emotional Health and Basic Access in Minneapolis). Minneapolis also scored high on access to health insurance and to adequate shelter at all times of the year.

San Jose, CA, and the Washington, DC metro area led the 52 largest metro areas surveyed with the highest in the well-being index survey. Raleigh, NC, the Minneapolis metro area, and San Francisco, CA, rounded out the top five.

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](#)

Forums discuss ways to preserve and conserve our waters

Minneapolis is known for its beautiful lakes, creeks and its Mississippi River waterfront. Keeping the water here clean is important to making sure these treasures add to the city's charm for decades to come.

Find out ways you can help protect our waters at forums taking place in the coming weeks. The discussions are free and open to the public.

Urban Water and Land Use
Tuesday, April 6th, 7-9 pm
(registration and exhibits at

6:30 pm), Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Avenue South

Forum description: "Water on your property doesn't necessarily stay on your property. Learn where water goes when it leaves your yard, what pollutes our lakes and streams, and if the Clean Water Act is working.

Forum participants include the organization Danza Mexica Cuauhtémoc of Minnesota, Lois Eberhart of City of Minnea-

polis Water Resources, and State Rep. Jean Wagenius (62B)."

Conservation – Preserving Our Water Saturday, May 8th, 9 am – 12:30 pm (registration and exhibits at 8:30 am), Mayflower Congregational Church, 106 Diamond Lake Road East

Forum description: "Find out how to conserve water at home and work, create and maintain a rain garden, use water-saving products, use green building

techniques, and influence water-related policy.

Forum participants include Jonathan Foley of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, freelance writer and water advocate Sam Lieberman, and Jenny Winkelman of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization."

For more information, contact [League of Women Voters Minneapolis](#) at (612) 333-6319.

Rebates available for home solar energy systems

If you've been thinking about tapping into solar power at your home, this may be a good time to do it. There are now two ways you can get rebates on the installation of solar energy systems.

The State's Office of Energy Security is offering rebates of up to \$10,000 on solar electric

and solar hot water system installations. For applications, go to [Energy MN](#) and type "solar electric rebate" or "solar hot water rebate" in the Web site's search engine. Rebates are available at an applicant's primary residence only.

Also, Xcel Energy has launched a Solar*Rewards program to

help customers afford solar panel installations on their homes or businesses. For conditions and other details of the program, go to [Xcel Energy](#) and select "Minnesota" from the drop-down list on the left. You can also request information by sending an e-mail message to SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com.

By installing a solar energy system in your home, you'll save money on your monthly utility bills and also help reduce your environmental footprint by using fewer resources. In addition, you could be eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit. For more information on the tax credit, go to [Energy Star](#) and search for "federal tax credits."

Early start to permanent patches for potholes

Minneapolis is getting an early start on permanent pothole patching this year, thanks to good weather and the early availability of materials needed to make long-term fixes to city streets. Crews have been doing temporary patching of potholes for several weeks, and the partial switch to permanent patching is coming much earlier than normal. Typically, crews are not able to begin permanent patching work until April.

Minneapolis has assembled a pothole patch and repair crew to make permanent patches to our streets. In order to reach as many parts of the city as possible, six additional mini-crews will continue making temporary patches until the normal summer maintenance season schedule begins.

Temporary patches are made during the winter months so our roads will be more drivable until permanent patches can be performed once the weather improves. Because asphalt is not available during winter months, crews use a "cold mix," which has a fairly short lifespan, but still makes roads more drivable.

Permanent repairs mean cleaning and "prepping" the pothole with liquid asphalt cement that acts like a glue, and then applying, rolling and compacting the asphalt for a long lasting repair. Because this is more labor intensive, it is slower going, but crews will not have to make return trips.

The extraordinary weather and precipitation conditions we

have experienced this winter led to significant pothole problems all around the metro area, and cities across the state are doing street maintenance with fewer resources because of state budget cuts. Since potholes are popping up or reappearing on streets all over Minneapolis, it's not possible for crews to address all problems at once. City pothole patch crews need to prioritize, weighing in factors such as the amount of traffic a street carries, and the severity of a particular pothole problem.

Residents who want to report potholes can call 311 or go online to the [311 page](#) of the City's Web site. Calling in potholes will help Public Works better understand and prioritize pothole repairs. Initially,

crews will focus their work on major arterials, and will later in the season move onto residential streets.

In addition to pothole patching, Minneapolis has plans to reconstruct, renovate, or resurface dozens of miles of streets this year, including several streets that will be resurfaced as part of the Mayor's Accelerated Infrastructure Program, which the City Council approved in 2008. Also, many more miles of city streets will be seal-coated this summer. Both of these activities work to prevent potholes from occurring as well as extend the life of the street.

Neighborhood Notes

Help grow our urban forest: low cost trees available

More than 1,000 trees are being made available to Minneapolis residents this spring.

Since 2006, the City of Minneapolis has funded the City Trees program, a low-cost way to help build the city's tree canopy. The trees cost \$25 each and are approximately six feet tall with a one-inch trunk. Residents can order one tree per household, and all trees are available first-come, first-served.

Last month, emerald ash borer was found in Minneapolis. It poses a special threat to the 200,000 ash trees in Minneapolis, which make up more than 20 percent of the city's trees. Planting a new tree now will help start the next generation of trees.

Varieties of trees available have expanded this year. Residents can choose from Fat Albert spruce, pagoda dogwood, Kentucky coffee tree, blue beech, Merrill magnolia, regal prince oak, Canada select chokecherry, Redmond linden, and burgundy belle maple.

Orders for trees can be placed at www.treetrust.org. You can also order a tree by calling (651) 644-5800 or picking up an order form from your local library. In previous years the trees have sold quickly, so place your order early!

Those who order trees will need to pick them up on one of three days at the Minneapolis Impound Lot, 51 Colfax Avenue N.

- Saturday, May 8th, 7 am to 3 pm
- Sunday, May 9th, 8 am to noon
- Monday, May 10th, 3 pm to 7 pm

Volunteers will be on hand to help load your new tree and complimentary bag of mulch into your vehicle.

Research has proven that trees are a valuable investment and improve urban quality of life. Healthy trees are beautiful, increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife, and help manage stormwater.

The City Trees program is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis and Tree Trust, a local nonprofit that works to improve the community environment. For more information on how to order a tree, contact Tree Trust at 651-644-5800.



Better façades aimed at improving the look of neighborhoods

To help Minneapolis's neighborhood storefronts add charm and spur economic activity, the City Council approved \$475,000 in support of façade improvement grants through the Great Streets Neighborhood Business District Program.

Grants will go to programs of many different sizes. Some involve simple projects, such as, painting, adding new signs, or putting up murals. Larger programs involve full-scale rehabilitation and building stabilization, including such work as tuck-pointing and window and door replacement.

Neighborhood organizations, business associations, and community development corporations administering Great Streets Façade Improvement Programs are responsible for

spearheading the marketing effort, energizing local merchants and property owners, staffing a location where businesses can go for assistance, keeping records, and managing funds.

Monies are matched by the business, the property owner, or other sources from the local grantee organizations. The City has also published a design guidebook to assist businesses with façade improvements.

Recipients of the façade improvement funding include:

- Bancroft Neighborhood Association
- East Downtown Council
- Lake Street Council
- **Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association** (serves Ward 11)
- Northside Arts Collective

- Seward Redesign in partnership with Seward Neighborhood Group and Seward Civic and Commercial Association
- Seward Redesign in partnership with Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association and West of the Rail Business Association
- Seward Redesign in partnership with Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association
- West Bank Business Association
- West Broadway Business and Area Coalition

The Minneapolis City Council established this program in 2007 with the goal of supporting commercial districts and economic activity throughout the City of Minneapolis. The City has granted funds for use in 39 neighborhood business districts.

Ward Neighborhood Associations

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

3rd Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 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

Neighborhood Notes

Are you or do you know of a local senior who is having trouble staying in his/her home? Living independently is often the biggest issue affecting seniors and home maintenance services are most needed in maintaining this independence.

Since 1982, HandyWorks chore program has provided



chore maintenance services

HandyWorks program assists seniors

such as house-keeping, snow removal, lawn mowing, and yard work, as well as, minor home repairs for low-income senior and disabled adult homeowners in south, southeast, and

northeast Minneapolis. Sub-

sidy is available for clients who are in need of financial assistance.

Their annual Rake, Rattle, and Roll matches volunteer teams with seniors in need. Last year, they were able to rake 150 yards. Visit [HandyWorks](#) to learn more about this event or their year-round services and sign up to volunteer.

Calendar

April 1st	6-8 pm: MLK Park Spring Fling: (4055 Nicollet Avenue S) Cookie decorating, crafts, egg hunt, & entertainment. Online registration required. www.minneapolisparks.org
April 3rd	9:30-11:30 am: City Council Meeting
April 8th	7-8:30 pm: Windom Community Council at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue)
April 10th	9:30-11:30 am: Second Saturday with Council Member Quincy and Rep. Jean Wagenius at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
April 16th	6-9 pm: Family Movie Night Movie begins at 6:30pm. Movie title (“G” or “PG” to be announced) at MLK Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
April 17th	7:30-9:30 pm: Night on 48th Wine, Dine, Movie and Silent Action. Event to benefit Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Association (48th & Chicago) www.frng.org
April 19th	6-8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S) 7-8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
April 21st	8-9 am: Community Coffee Hour with Council Member Quincy at Sovereign Grounds (813 48th Street E) 6:30-8:30 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
April 22nd	7-8:30 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting at the NENA Office (3000 50th Street E)
April 26th	7-8:30 pm Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)
April 30th	5:30-6:30 pm: Happy Hour with John at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue)