

Ward 11 Monthly Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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Take the Minneapolis Energy Challenge!

The Minneapolis Energy Challenge is a great opportunity for folks to learn how to lower your energy bill and protect the environment by lessening your impact on climate change. Two energy fairs will feature demonstrations and displays about taking the Energy Challenge, home energy audits, energy efficient furnaces, and financing options for energy saving improvements and renewable energy. There will also be kids' activities, and the first 500 people at each fair will receive a free compact fluorescent light bulb. The fairs are:

Monday, Oct. 16, 6-9 p.m. at Hale Elementary School, 1220 54th St. E., newscaster Don Shelby will speak at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6-9 p.m. at Jenny Lind Community School, 5025 Bryant Ave. N., Arctic explorer Will Steger will speak at 7:30

For more information on the Minneapolis Energy Challenge, call 612-335-5881 or visit

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge/>

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Green Cleaning

Council Member Benson is introducing a resolution which will require environmentally friendly cleaning techniques in all City buildings. Starting in 2007, all cleaning products will need to be "Green Seal" certified. "Green Seal" www.greenseal.org is an independent non-profit organization which tests cleaning products, not only to insure that they contain no chemicals that are harmful to the environment, but also examines the manufacturing process and recycling potential of the product packaging.

The Convention Center has been experimenting with green cleaning techniques for several years. WCCO-TV recently produced a story about their efforts and noting the resolution being brought forward by Council Member Benson. The text from the story is available at:

http://wcco.com/seenon/local_story_263193034.html

Important Phone Numbers

- Ward 11 Office
673-2211



Fall Leaf Pickup

The leaves are changing colors, painting the cityscape for the third act of our theatre of seasons. But did you know that once the leaves fall, they can be harmful to our lakes? Leaves are natural, yet decomposing leaves on streets and sidewalks can wash into storm drains and eventually end up in Minneapolis' lakes. Those leaves and nutrients over-fertilize lake water and encourage harmful aquatic plants and algae to thrive. The result is murky lake water that isn't good for swimming and fishing and which harms wildlife.

Officials remind Minneapolis residents to collect fallen leaves on their yards and sidewalks and bag them up. The Public Works crews will pick up the yard waste during weekly garbage pickups, through the week of Nov. 13-17, barring a major snowstorm and will resume yard waste pickup mid April, 2007. City Ordinance prohibits the sweeping of debris and yard waste into the streets.

Street sweeping is also underway. During the fall street sweep, Minneapolis residents and visitors should keep watch for "No Parking" signs. Because the weather – and falling leaves – play a big role in deciding exactly when to sweep, the exact dates of the sweep won't be known until mid-October. Typically, the fall street sweep begins the third or fourth week of October.

Making it easy to follow parking rules!

- **"No Parking signs"** -- City crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. Vehicles not in compliance with "No Parking" signs will be ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot.
- **Phone calls to residents** -- In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day.
- **Interactive Web tool** -- Once the street sweeping schedule is finalized, folks will be able to use a tool on the City's Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. The tool will be available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep>, but again, the tool will not be ready until the sweep schedule is finalized in mid-October.

Transportation Ballot Initiative

This fall there are two initiatives on the ballot to which the residents of Minneapolis will be asked consider. One of them is a statewide initiative which would require that all the money collected from the existing sales tax of motor vehicles be used for roads and transit. It provides the first dedicated funding source for transit as at least 40% of the money collected needs to be spent on to transit. Below is are links to a Star Tribune story and an advocacy website where you can find more information about this initiative.

<http://www.startribune.com/462/story/711598.html>

<http://voteyesmn.org/index.php>

Instant Runoff Voting Initiative

Another initiative on the ballot this fall would change the Minneapolis election process to use an Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) model. IRV would ask voters to rank the candidates in order of preference. When the votes are counted, if none of the candidates receive 50% of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes would be dropped off the tally and all the votes that selected that candidate as their first choice would have their second place vote counted. This process would continue until one candidate has received at least 50% of the votes. This form of voting would eliminate the need for primary elections.

Information about IRV is available at

<http://www.betterballotcampaign.org/>

June Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Diamond Lake	12			1		5	4	2	
Field	6						5	1	
Hale	6					3	3		
King Field	32			6	2	5	15	3	1
Northrup	12					4	5	3	
Page	5						3	2	
Tangletown	16			2		1	11	1	1
Wenonah	21			2	3	4	12		
Windom	19			2	2		11	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 Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb. 46th St. & 17th Ave</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13th Ave S</p>	<p>Kingfield Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p>NENA Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50th St</p>	<p>Tangletown Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p>Windom 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.

Oct 5	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet	Dec 7	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet
Nov 2	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave	Jan	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington

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 Public Housing Authority \(closes 10/13/2006\)](#)

[Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board \(closes 10/16/2006\)](#)

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