

WARD NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

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

Help make Minneapolis the most walkable city around

Minneapolis is already an active, walkable community, but there is more to do to make our city a better place to walk to work, to play or just to stay active.

You can help the City improve walking in Minneapolis by attending an open house to hear more about the City's Pedestrian Master Plan, and to share your thoughts and ideas on walking in Minneapolis. Participants will be invited to discuss some of the major challenges the City faces in meeting pedestrian needs and best practices for improving walking in Minneapolis.

Pedestrian Master Plan public meeting

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Presentation at 6 p.m.
Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall

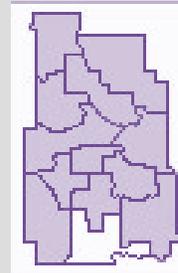


Discussion topics include draft capital improvement priorities and best practices for designing and maintaining the pedestrian environment. This is the second public meeting on shaping the city's first Pedestrian Master Plan. More than 100 people attended the first Pedestrian Master Plan open house in March.

The City Council directed the preparation of a citywide Pedestrian Master Plan, which will be completed by the end of 2008. The plan will include recommendations on policies, projects and procedures related to pedestrian facilities and programs. The plan is funded by a federal Non-Motorized Transportation Project grant and a grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. To learn more about Minneapolis' Pedestrian Master Plan, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian.

The meeting site is wheelchair accessible. If you need other disability related accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, or materials in an alternative format, please contact Anna Flintoft at (612) 673-3885 or anna.flintoft@ci.minneapolis.mn.us before Sept. 11.

Volume 7 Issue 9
September 2008



Inside this issue:

<i>Electronic Utility Bills</i>	2
<i>Idling at Schools</i>	3
<i>Monthly Community Meetings</i>	4
<i>Coffee with Scott</i>	4
<i>Open Appointments</i>	4



Sign up to receive Minneapolis utility bills by e-mail

Utility customers in Minneapolis can now sign up to receive their utility bills electronically. Starting in October, the City of Minneapolis will send an e-mail instead of a paper bill to customers who opt in to the service.

If you are a Minneapolis utility bill customer, you can sign up; just pick one of these options:

- Visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/utility-billing, or

Fill out the form on the back of your next billing stub and mail it in with your payment.

If you have questions:

- Call 311,
- Call Utility Billing at (612) 673-1114, or

E-mail ub.finance@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Once it's set up, you will no longer receive a bill in the mail. Instead, you will get an e-mail each month with instructions on how to view and pay your bill online.

The City also continues to encourage utility customers to pay their utility bills electronically. Electronic payment has been available to Minneapolis utility customers for more than ten years. Currently 16 percent of utility customers pay electronically. For more information or to sign up, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/utility-billing.

Electronic billing is another business practice Minneapolis is adopting to save money and conserve energy and resources. Mailing out more than 100,000 utility bills each month costs more than half a million dollars per year on postage alone. If all Minneapolis utility customers signed up for electronic billing, each year the City would save the paper made from 44 tons of wood (the equivalent of 302 trees), 600 BTUs of energy (enough to power seven homes) and keep 91,040 lbs of greenhouse gases (the equivalent of exhaust from about eight cars) out of the atmosphere.

Important
Phone Numbers

Ward 11 office:
673-2211

35W/Crosstown
Construction
Hotline:
1-866-743-6590





Turn off the engine while waiting at school

If you drive your child to and from school, now is the time to get in the habit of shutting off your engine while you wait.

Children are especially vulnerable to vehicle air pollution because their lungs are still developing, and they inhale more pounds of pollution per pound of body weight than adults do. They are more severely affected by chemicals in the exhaust, which are linked to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung diseases and asthma.

Along with the health problems, vehicle exhaust is also the major source of human-caused greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming.

Cutting down on vehicle idling is as easy as turning the key. It will save you money on wasted fuel, it is better for the environment and your child's health, and it's the law. Minneapolis recently passed an ordinance that limits idling to three minutes, except when in traffic.

This fall, remember: young lungs breathe deep.

Bike walk ambassadors begin promoting car-free travel

The City's new Bike Walk Ambassadors are making the rounds in Minneapolis promoting motor-free travel as a healthier way of traveling that's also cheaper and less polluting.

The goals of the ambassadors are to get more people thinking about biking and walking as more than just exercise, and to help those who already commute by bike or foot get where they're going. Through education and outreach efforts involving the City of Minneapolis and the group Bike Walk Twin Cities, the ambassadors seek to increase biking and walking throughout the city and adjoining communities.

In addition to the new Bike Walk Ambassadors, there are four Youth Ambassadors in the program. The Youth Ambassadors are reaching out to people under 18 and developing a marketing plan and program activities for the Youth Ambassador program. Their work includes preparing for the school year and getting kids to consider biking and walking to and from school.

Bike Walk Twin Cities is a federally-funded initiative to increase biking and walking, and reduce driving in Minneapolis and neighboring communities. Working with local governments, businesses, organizations and residents, the initiative provides public education and allocates funds for safer crosswalks, bike lanes and other improvements. Transit for Livable Communities is designated by federal law to administer the \$21.5 million Bike Walk Twin Cities program.

For more information, go to www.bikewalktwincities.org, www.tlcmnnesota.org or the City of Minneapolis' biking page: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles.

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park</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</p>	<p>Windom Windomcommunity.org Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center</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.

Sept 4	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington Ave	Nov 6	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave
Oct 2	Anodyne 4301 Nicollet Ave	Dec 4	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet 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.

[Civilian Police Review Authority \(closes 9/12/08\)](#)

For more information:

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

or call Angela Brenny in the City Clerk's office at 612-673-3358

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.