

# Community Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



Contact John:

350 S. 5th Street  
Suite 307  
Minneapolis, MN  
55415

Phone: (612) 673-2211

Fax: (612) 673-3940

[John.Quincy@  
ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:John.Quincy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

## Inside this issue:

Quincy's Corner	1
Snow Emergency Preparation	2
Amount of Locally Grown Food Increases	2
City Contracts for Women and Minorities	3
New Emergency Response Center	3
Corner Stores Embrace Healthy Foods	4
Bicycle Advisory Committee Seeks Applicants	4
35W Bridge Memorial Site Selected	4
Calendar	5

Volume 1, Issue 12

December 2010

## Quincy's Corner

I focus this month on the City's goal of **Jobs & Economic Vitality**. We have to muster our collective energies on improving the economic conditions in our city to ensure growth and stability for our residents and businesses with a long-term focus.

Minneapolis is a world-class city and 21st century economic powerhouse for the region and the state. To stimulate a climate where we all benefit, our investments need to get the "biggest bang for the buck" and leverage outside resources to create a mixture of accessible housing, jobs, and educational opportunities. Businesses — big and small — start here, stay here, and thrive here. We are an epicenter for the new green jobs economy and will be very proactive in developing businesses in key growth areas including education, arts and artists, energy, and biosciences. Energy, enthusiasm, and resources need to be allocated so Minneapolis can be a talent magnet, connecting people to training and jobs to people.

The economic vitality of property owners is also very important to me and all Minneapolis elected officials. Minneapolis property owners received their Proposed Property Tax for 2011 notices last month. Many have seen significant increases over 2010. Property taxes are levied by Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, the City of Minneapolis and special taxing districts, such as Metro Transit and watershed districts.

Several factors play a major role in the increase in the City portion of property taxes — including increased obligations to closed pension funds, a decrease in Local Government Aid, and the recertification of Tax Increment Financing Districts.

While property taxes are increasing, Minneapolis city government has shrunk by 7% since 2001, adjusted for inflation. The City will also have 400 fewer full time employees in 2011 than in 2001. The sole reason city property taxes are increasing is to cover skyrocketing pension costs.

The City is holding one more public hearing on the City's proposed 2011 budget to give the public a chance to share their thoughts on the proposed budget and tax levy.

### Public hearing on tax levy and 2011 City budget adoption

Monday, Dec. 13, 6:05 p.m.

City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, room 317

To view the complete proposed 2011 budget, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2011recc](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2011recc).

## City Focus

### Make Sure You're Ready for Snow Emergencies!

The winter weather is here, and the City's Public Works crews are equipped and ready to plow and treat Minneapolis streets. Drivers should also make sure they're prepared by knowing how to find out when a Snow Emergency is in effect.

Snow Emergencies are declared whenever there's enough snowfall to warrant a complete plowing of our streets. When the snow flies, City Public Works crews have enormous jobs to do, with more than 1,500 miles of streets, parkways and alleys that need to be cleared. It's important for drivers to follow the Snow Emergency parking rules so plows can do the best possible job clearing snow. Vehicles parked on the street in violation of Snow Emergency rules can be ticketed or towed.

#### There are multiple ways to learn about a Snow Emergency

Snow Emergencies are not moneymakers for Minneapolis. Towing and impounding vehicles is expensive and leads to plowing inefficiencies, so it's in everyone's interest to help drivers follow the parking rules and avoid a ticket and tow.

Minneapolis offers residents, workers, and visitors a number of tools to help people learn when Snow Emergencies are declared, and what to do when they are. We're advising drivers to put many of these tools to use, not just one or two. The more ways they have to learn about a Snow Emergency, the more prepared they will be to do their part, and they'll be less likely to be towed because they didn't know one was declared.

- **Call the hotline** - By calling the automated (612) 348-SNOW hotline, you can find out if a Snow Emergency has been declared. The hotline includes information on parking restrictions that drivers need to follow to avoid tickets and tows.
- **Check out the City's website** - Go to [Snow](#) to find out whether a Snow Emergency has been declared and for information in many languages. Also, check out the [Street Lookup](#), which lets you enter an address or neighborhood to see where to park during a Snow Emergency.
- **Mail** - Every fall, a Snow Emergency informational brochure is mailed to every household in Minneapolis.

- **Phone alerts** - Minneapolis uses a phone alert system to notify residents when Snow Emergencies are declared. It is an automated notification system that can place thousands of calls per hour.
- **E-mail alerts** - You can sign up to get Snow Emergency alerts automatically e-mailed to you. Go to [e-subscribe](#) for more details.
- **The media** - News releases are sent to the media so TV, radio stations, and other news outlets can inform their viewers and listeners that a Snow Emergency is in effect.
- **On cable** - Tune in to cable channels 14 and 79.
- **Facebook** - "Like" Minneapolis Snow Emergency on Facebook. Go to [Minneapolis Facebook: Snow Emergency](#).
- **Twitter** - If you have a Twitter account follow [Minneapolis Snow](#). Both the Twitter and Facebook pages will tell fans and followers when a Snow Emergency is declared.



### Celebrate the Rise in Locally Grown Food

In just two years, 18 city-owned plots have become community gardens, hundreds of fruit trees have been planted in city neighborhoods, and several mini-farmers markets have sprouted up around town. Help us celebrate these and other milestones at an upcoming Homegrown Minneapolis community meeting.

#### Homegrown Minneapolis community meeting

Thursday, December 9  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Urban Research and Outreach Center, 2001 Plymouth Ave N

This meeting will focus on the progress made in promoting locally grown food and update stakeholders and residents on efforts to increase local food growing, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management.

One of the highlights will be a presentation on the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan that's been under development and being released for a 45-day public comment period. Brief presentations will be followed by breakout sessions on the plan and other current Homegrown Minneapolis initiatives.

For more information about this meeting, contact June Mathiowetz at (612) 673-2027.

## 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](#)

## Study Supports Goals for Women and Minority Business Participation in City Contracts

A study to help the City of Minneapolis understand how women-owned and minority-owned businesses compete for contracts offered by the City and in the private sector is now complete. The City commissioned the Disparity Study to examine evidence that would support the continuation of Minneapolis' Small and Underutilized Business Program and see whether any modifications of that program would be beneficial.

"Despite our successes in involving women-owned and minority-owned businesses in the City's procurement process, we suspected that these companies still faced obstacles," said Department of Civil Rights Director Velma Korb. "This Disparity Study confirms the need for the City's Small and Underutilized Business Program and advocates setting goals for women and minority business participation in City contracts."

Minneapolis' ongoing efforts to support women-owned and minority-owned businesses have had a significant impact. As of June 2010, the City had more than \$140 million in active projects with 9 percent minority-owned business participation and 10.5 percent women-owned business participation. At the end of 2008, the City had more than \$66 million in active projects. Of those, 6.47 percent involved minority-owned business and 8.31 percent involved women-owned businesses. While this shows improvement, it's still below the City's participation goals.

The Disparity Study thoroughly examined the City's procurement process as well as the locations and ownership of companies that do business with the City. It looked at the overall marketplace and experiences of women-owned and minority-owned businesses that seek contracts in both the public and private sector. It found that discrimination was a contributing factor to obstacles in access to contracts in our marketplace.

The study also made a number of recommendations to remedy the situation, including the enhancement of current City efforts to fight discrimination and the addition of new initiatives. These initiatives involve both race- and gender-conscious remedies as well as some race- and gender-neutral initiatives.

Check out the [Disparity Study](#) and its recommendations.

### Public comment period

The City Council has begun a public comment period on the Disparity Study. All comments must be made in writing to the Civil Rights Department in one of two ways:

- E-mail comments to [Cynthia Govan](#) no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, December 3.
- Mail to: Minneapolis Civil Rights Department, Attn: Cynthia Govan, 250 S. 4th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415. Letters must be postmarked no later than Friday, December 3, 2010.

On December 9, the Council will be asked to act on any recommendations based on the report.

This is the second Disparity Study completed by the City. The original study was completed in 1995 and formed the basis for the creation of the current Small and Underutilized Business Program, which helps address the effects of past discrimination in contracting and to promote equal opportunities for all to participate in contracts generated by the City.

The City of Minneapolis continues to support an environment where all people and companies working with the City can compete fairly for our business, and the City strives to eliminate discrimination against women-owned and minority-owned businesses. It is City policy to promote diverse participation on projects or purchases financed in whole or part by City funds.

## New Facility Helps Minneapolis Better Respond to Emergencies

The City of Minneapolis has opened its new Emergency Operations Training Facility which will help emergency responders and other City staff better prepare for and respond to emergencies. The multi-purpose building helps meet the training and response needs of the Minneapolis Fire Department, the Minneapolis Police Department, and the City's Emergency Management Division, along with other regional partners.

The Emergency Operations Training Facility is a multi-purpose building that includes training classrooms for Minneapolis firefighters and metro

emergency managers, a strategic information center for the Minneapolis police, the main training site for the State of Minnesota Structural Collapse Team, and an emergency operations center that will be used during significant emergencies or disasters.

The facility is built on a 12-acre site in Fridley that the City purchased in 1990, and since that time, the site has been built out as a training facility for Minneapolis Firefighters. Over the years, a fire training tower and propane-burn building have been constructed, and special equipment has been purchased to help train emer-

gency responders for incidents involving hazardous materials and collapsed structures. The construction of the new Emergency Operations Training Facility on the site is a major step toward completing this training and response site.

The Emergency Operations Training Facility is built to a LEED Silver Quality Standard for sustainability, and it includes facilities for a wide range of emergency responders from Minneapolis and the region.

### Why do we need an Emergency Operations Center?

One of the lessons learned from the City's response to the Interstate 35W Bridge collapse in 2007 was that the City's Emergency Operations Center, located in the basement of City Hall, was too small to serve as a center for large-scale emergencies. The new facility fixes that, with 2,800 more square feet of floor space. It will also be used as a back-up Emergency Operations Center for the State, Hennepin County and the City of St. Paul.

## Neighborhood Notes: Celebrating Community

### Corner Stores Embracing Healthy Choices



This fall, 10 corner stores throughout Minneapolis will celebrate the launch of a new effort to provide their customers with more healthful, fresh foods as part of the City of Minneapolis' larger effort to combat obesity and chronic disease. The celebrations will mark the official store re-designs and feature taste testing of fresh produce and food demos at each of the stores on specific dates in November and December.

The Healthy Corner Store Program centers on increasing the availability of fresh produce and healthy foods to residents who live in high-poverty pockets of the city. The program arose from an assessment the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) staff made of 35 stores to determine availability and quality of fresh produce. Results showed that 36 percent of stores did not have any fresh produce in stock. In the other

64 percent of stores, produce was limited, expensive and often difficult to find in the store. A separate survey of residents in North Minneapolis, conducted by Northpoint Health and Wellness, indicated that while convenience stores are easier to access than grocery stores, residents don't buy produce there. The Healthy Corner Store Program is trying to change that.

The 10 stores that are part of the Healthy Corner Store pilot project were selected through an application process. Working closely with the store owners and managers, MDHFS staff identified barriers they had in stocking and selling fresh produce. Among the top

issues MDHFS helped to resolve was finding a wholesaler who could provide and deliver produce at a more affordable price, along with support in handling, storing and displaying healthy foods.

For more information and a list of participating corner stores, go to [City Corner Stores](#).



#### Ward Neighborhood Associations

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

3rd Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 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

### Bicycle Advisory Committee Seeks Applicants



The City of Minneapolis is taking applications for Bicycle Advisory Committee members with a term beginning January 1, 2011 and ending May 31, 2012.

The application deadline is December 10, 2010. Please click on the [link](#) for further instructions.



### Minneapolis Park Board Has Approved 35W Memorial Site

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has approved West River Parkway as the site for the Remembrance Garden – a memorial to the August 1, 2007 collapse of the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis. The site is directly across from Gold Medal Park, which became a gathering place and de facto memorial site in the days and weeks immediately following the bridge collapse,

and where the memorial was originally proposed to be sited.

The design for the Remembrance Garden, unveiled in September, retains many of the features of the memorial first designed for Gold Medal Park, but differs from it in a number of ways: it is now linear in nature, rather than a circle within a square; the

water feature has changed from a circular granite table to a linear water wall to complement the new context and design; and names of survivors and those who acted with heroism are now included, engraved on the face of the water feature. Oslund and Associates of Minneapolis designed the Remembrance Garden.

## Calendar

<i>December 8</i>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting</b> at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
<i>December 9</i>	5:30–7:30 pm: <b>Homegrown Minneapolis Community Meeting</b> at Urban Research and Outreach Center (2001 Plymouth Avenue N)  7–8:30 pm: <b>South Metro Airport Action Council Forum with Representative Keith Ellison</b> at Richfield Lutheran Church (8 60th Street W)  7–8:30 pm: <b>Windom Community Council Meeting</b> at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)
<i>December 11</i>	9:30–11:30 am: <b>Second Saturday with Representative Jean Wagenius</b> at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)  10 am–2 pm: <b>Field Regina Northrop McRae Kitchen Grand Opening and Santa Brunch</b> at McRae Recreation Center (906 47th Street E)
<i>December 13</i>	6:05–9:05 pm: <b>City of Minneapolis Tax Levy Public Hearing and Budget Adoption</b> at City Hall, Council Chambers (350 5th Street S)
<i>December 15</i>	6:30–8:00 pm: <b>Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting</b> at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
<i>December 20</i>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Tangletown Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting</b> at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
<i>December 16</i>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting</b> at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E)
<i>December 24</i>	<b>Holiday:</b> Government Offices Closed
<i>December 27</i>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting</b> at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)
<i>December 31</i>	<b>Holiday:</b> Government Offices Closed