

# Community Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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## Quincy's Corner

Dear Neighbors,

**Fall is in the air.** You can see it by the changing leaves, cooler weather, kids back at school, the winding down of construction season and a wonderful Twin Cities Marathon event. At City Hall, fall means we turn our attention street sweeping and the 2012 City budget. Not nearly as romantic of an image, but both are vitally important.

In addition to articles on the City's budget process and important news about street sweeping schedules, this issue of *Community Connections* provides news about Bikeway improvements, water quality monitoring on Minnehaha Creek and happy neighborhood news from Hale School.

Additionally, I am proud to tell everyone about the [One Minneapolis, One Read Project](#). Minneapolis, in conjunction with our residents, neighborhood organizations, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County Libraries, the Minneapolis Foundation, YWCA, MPR and many notable businesses has launched an ambitious, but important initiative, which will provide benefits for years to come.

Simply said, the One Minneapolis, One Read is our first-ever community-wide book project, where everyone in the city is invited to read the same book. It will bring people together and spark conversations about race, family and neighborhood history.

We have selected the book "The Grace of Silence," authored by National Public Radio's celebrated host Michele Norris, who grew up in our area, graduated from Minneapolis Washburn High School and the University of Minnesota. We ALL should be very proud of Ms. Norris, not just because of her local roots and many professional accomplishments, but for her curiosity and courage to write a personal memoir describing the experience of the Norrises as the first black family on the block - a "block-buster" - on the 4800 block of Oakland Avenue.

Everyone will find a way to relate to this book because it not only explores issues of race, but also could make you look at your own neighborhood and your own family in new ways. The question that lies at the heart of Norris's memoir is this, "How well do you know the people who raised you?"

As Norris states, "take the bold step and say: Tell me more about yourself." Stay at the table, even if the conversation is difficult, and prepare yourself to listen. "There is grace in silence, and power to be had from listening to that which, more often than not, was left unsaid."

Lots of details, ideas, resources and upcoming events about the One Minneapolis, One Read can be found at the Web site [www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com](http://www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com). I encourage everyone to **READ the book and JOIN the conversation.**

## Fall Street Sweeping To Start Soon



The Fall street sweeping blitz is scheduled to start the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Minneapolis completes a thorough cleaning of all 1,100 miles of city streets and parkways twice a year (more than 400 miles of alleys are also swept during the spring sweep). Our goal is to keep our City clean and

our neighborhoods livable.

The City's street sweeping effort also helps protect our lakes, creeks and the Mississippi River because debris and leaves on city streets can wash into storm drains and eventually pollutes our waterways.

The spring sweep removes

sand from the streets (put down for snow and ice control over the winter) as well as all the accumulated trash, and other debris. The fall sweep is primarily to remove debris as well as accumulated leaves from clogging or entering storm drains, which can result in localized flooding and may create a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians.

Leaves are natural - yet decomposing leaves on streets and sidewalks can wash into storm drains and eventually end up in Minneapolis' lakes, streams and the Mississippi River. 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.

Minneapolis also routinely sweeps its streets during

the rest of the season, but generally without requiring that vehicles be moved. However, the spring and fall comprehensive, citywide sweeps are conducted with parking enforcement in order to provide for the two required curb-to-curb sweeps.

Materials picked up by street sweepers are counted by volume - in 2010 over 19,000 tons of materials were picked up. In 2010 the City started a program to test the material for phosphorus and for total suspended solids, or sediment, as part of determining how and where street sweeping can be most effective for improving water quality in lakes, streams and the river.

**Street Sweeping should be completed by November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Street Sweep Information and maps [www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweep/streetsweeplookup.asp](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweep/streetsweeplookup.asp)

## Hale Elementary Math Students Place Top in Nation

Students from Hale Elementary School were recognized by the Minneapolis Board of Education for their achievements on the First in Math online learning program.

Hale placed first out of all grades in Minnesota and 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation.

In addition, the third grade class, taught by Josh Bliss, finished 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation for all grades and first in the nation for third grade.

Two students in Mr. Bliss's class were individually honored for placing in the top 100 in the nation.

Mandie Flint placed 30<sup>th</sup> for all grades, fifth for all third-graders in the nation and first overall in Minnesota.

Emma Haugstad ranked 66<sup>th</sup> in the nation for all grades, 11<sup>th</sup> for all third graders and second in the state for all grades.

The First in Math program works to increase student achievement in mathematics by reinforcing regular classroom math teaching. First in Math uses a brain-based learning technique known as deep practice, which accelerates skills in computation, problem-solving, critical thinking and pattern recognition. These efforts are aligned with the Minneapolis Public Schools' strategic plan goals of rais-

ing rigor and academic achievement for all students.

The exceptionally high scores achieved by Mr. Bliss' class were roughly 60% higher than the second place state scores.

There were more than 1.2 million participants in the First in Math program this year.

**Way to Go Hale Bears!**

## Council Considering a 2012 City Budget With No Property Tax Levy Increase

The City Council has begun budget hearings to consider the 2012 budget. Budget hearings will continue through mid-November, with final approval of the 2012 budget scheduled for December.

In an effort to lessen the tax burden on middle-class homeowners, the City Council is contemplating a City budget that calls for no property tax levy increase in 2012.

The budget also proposes a major new street-improvement program, maintaining the City's focus on public safety and reducing youth violence, and a new,

consolidated effort to close the racial jobs gap in Minneapolis.

Holding City property taxes flat comes at the cost of many difficult cuts.

After adjusting for inflation, the City of Minneapolis currently spends 8% less than it did 10 years ago and has 10% fewer full-time positions than 10 years ago. In the same time period, the City has also paid down \$130 million in debt and last year regained its AAA credit rating.

The Board of Estimate and Taxation voted on Sept. 13 to

cap next year's property tax levy at 0%. This means that in aggregate, the amount City of Minneapolis will be collecting, known as the levy, will be the exact same amount as it did last year. Even though the City's levy is not changing, the City portion of your property tax will most likely still go up for 2012, depending on the property. This is caused by three main factors: a change in the assessed value of your property, a change in the assessed value of other properties in the City, and changes the State Legislature made to the Market Value Homestead Credit. Property taxes are

complex with many moving parts.

Holding the line on property taxes will mean many tough budget decisions. Over the next weeks and months, I will be working to assure a structurally balanced budget that is fair to property tax payers, while maintaining critical investments in the services, infrastructure and amenities that make Minneapolis a great city to live.

Proposed Budget and budget hearing schedule [www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget/](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget/)

## Street Sweeping Helps Our Lakes



Street Sweeping is the initial level of street maintenance. But did you know that it is also one of the most important things that the City can do to help keep our lakes, rivers and creeks clean?

One of the biggest enemies of water is all the beautiful fall leaves. They fall naturally on the streets, are washed down the storm sewers with the rain and

deposited in the system with the street runoff. They decompose in the lakes, adding phosphorus and other nutrients to the lake. A small amount of phosphorus is not a big problem, but large amounts of phosphorus becomes a haven for algae.

Besides the odor and unattractive appearance of an algae bloom, large blooms can consume much of the dissolved oxygen in the

water and prevent sunlight from penetrating into the water, affecting other plants in the lakes. By

sweeping the streets, the leaves (and other pollutants as well), don't end up in the lakes.

In the upcoming weeks, watch for the signs that mean street sweeping is coming to your street. Please do not see this an opportunity to sweep leaves from your yard into streets.

### 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, New Creations Ministries

#### [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

## New Bike Improvements

Several long-awaited bicycle and pedestrian routes and connections have recently been opened, including the following two connecting the 11th Ward.

### Bryant Avenue South bicycle boulevard

At 4.5 miles long, this new north-south route connects south Minneapolis from 58<sup>th</sup> St. to downtown near Loring Park.

The route parallels Lyndale Ave. S. and intersects three major east-west bicycle routes: the Midtown Greenway (at 29<sup>th</sup> St.), the RiverLake Greenway (at 40<sup>th</sup> St.) and the Minnehaha Parkway bicycle trail, which is part of the Grand Rounds.

### 1st Avenue South and Blaisdell Avenue South designated bike lanes

Bike lanes have been added along these parallel streets connecting downtown Minneapolis with south Minneapolis. These routes intersect two major east-west routes across south Minneapolis: the Midtown Greenway and the RiverLake Greenway.

These projects have all been supported by [Bike Walk Twin Cities](#).

The metro area is one of four U.S. communities to receive \$22 million through the federal “Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program” to enhance bicycling and walking as transportation and to improve health, community livability, and air quality. By 2012, Bike Walk Twin Cities will have supported more than 75 miles of new bikeways and walkways in the Twin Cities.

Information on bicycling in Minneapolis, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles)  
 Bike Walk Twin Cities [www.bikewalktwincities.org/](http://www.bikewalktwincities.org/)

## Calendar

<b>October 8</b>	9:30–11:30 am: <b>Second Saturday with Representative Jean Wagenius</b> at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
<b>October 13</b>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Windom Community Council Meeting</b> at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)  7:00 pm <b>Mpls. Police Department 3rd Pct. Child Safety Meeting</b> St. Joan of Arc Gym, 4537 3 <sup>rd</sup> Av S.
<b>October 17</b>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting</b> at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Ave S)
<b>October 19</b>	8–9 am: <b>Community Coffee Hour</b> at Sovereign Grounds (813 E 48 <sup>th</sup> St.)  6:30–8:00 pm: <b>Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting</b> at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46 <sup>th</sup> St E)
<b>October 27</b>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting</b> at the NENA office (3000 50 <sup>th</sup> St E)
<b>October 24</b>	7–8:30 pm: <b>Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting</b> at New Creations Ministries (5144 13 <sup>th</sup> Ave S)
<b>October 25</b>	7:00 p.m. <b>MAC Noise Quarterly Public Input Meeting</b> at MAC offices (6040 28 <sup>th</sup> Ave S)
<b>October 28</b>	5–6 pm: <b>Ward Happy Hour</b> at First Course (5607 Chicago Ave S)

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at (612) 673-2162 or email [Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov)

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may use a relay service to call 311 agents at (612) 673-3000. TTY users may call (612) 673-2157 or (612) 673-2626.



**Attention:** If you have any questions regarding this material please call (612) 673 2211. **Hmong** - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu (612) 673-2800; **Spanish** - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama (612) 673-2700; **Somali** - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac (612) 673-3500