

Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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Quincy's Corner

June is a time of transitions. The temperatures this week have felt like spring, but soon we'll all be complaining about the heat. My son graduated from high school and is transitioning to the next phase in his life.

School is out for the summer and all the kids are transitioning from their regular school day to their summer schedules. The City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Public Schools and a number of other partners have created a listing of resources in a program called Summer Strong to help meet kids needs this summer. More information is available on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Lyndale Ave and other streets are also in transition as they undergo construction and major renovations. But it is also a time of transition for businesses in and around the construction sites. It is harder to access the businesses, and they are hurting. If you like having them around, make sure you make an extra effort to patronize them during construction.

One other seasonal transition is the opening of local farmers markets. There are some good ones around, including the Kingfield Market.

Next year, Minneapolis will be transitioning to single sort recycling . Find out more information about that on Page 2.

As a country we are also transitioning from old coal powered electric plants to newer renewable energy. This weekend in Kingfield you can get a tour and find out some of the nuts and bolts of what goes into a solar installation (pg. 4) and Information about grants for community based clean energy projects (pg. 3)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Quincy".

City Focus

Minneapolis to switch to single-sort recycling in 2013

Next year, recycling in Minneapolis will get easier, helping both residents and the environment. The Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak have approved moving forward to implement a single-sort recycling collection program for City of Minneapolis residential recycling customers. Single-sort recycling is a system in which customers put all of their recyclables into one container for collection instead of separating glass from plastic

from paper, etc. A study conducted for the City of Minneapolis compared single-sort, dual-sort (separating paper products from everything else) and our current “multi-sort” system, and it found that single-sort recycling is the most cost-effective of the three systems studied and the most convenient for customers.

Getting a new system in place will take time, and customers will see

a changeover sometime in 2013. Until the new system is in place, Minneapolis recycling customers should continue separating their recycling. But once single-sort recycling starts, City of Minneapolis residential recycling customers will need only one container for all of their recycling.

Based on case studies, a single-sort system is projected to increase materials recovered by 60 percent and in-

crease the Minneapolis recycling rate from 18.1 percent to 32 percent. It is also compatible with plans to add opt-in City recycling for multi-unit housing, which is not currently under the City of Minneapolis recycling program, and the option to add organics recycling in the future.

For more information on the recycling collection, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/recycling

Summer Strong 2012

Summer Strong is an effort to inform families and students of a considerable number of resources for a safe and strong summer effort. Summer Strong is a partnership between Minneapolis Public Schools, City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Police Department, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County Library, and the Minneapolis

Youth Coordinating Board.

Summer Strong provides families with commonly-sought information in four key areas:

Summer School

Summer isn't just a great time to catch up, it's a great time to speed ahead! The more time students are in school, the more time we have to help them succeed and

make academic strides. Academic opportunities are offered for students pre-kindergarten through high school.

Youth/Adult Activities

Youth activities are a way for the students on our community to keep their minds and bodies busy and active during the summer months.

Basic Needs

There are many resources to help families find access to basic needs such as food, clothing, meals and shelter during the summer months.

Safety

Being safe this summer will help our students, family and community members reach their goals for health and personal enrichment.

Summer Strong <http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/summerstrong.html>

Summer School- <http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/summerschool>

Youth Activities- http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/have_fun

Basic Needs- http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/basic_needs

Safety- http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/summer_safety

While the majority of Minneapolis residents have computers with Internet access at home, technology access and knowledge gaps still exist with certain populations in the city. This is among the many findings of a survey conducted to help City leaders determine the state of the “digital divide.” This divide is the gap between individuals and groups in their access to information and communication technologies, and their use and knowledge of these technologies.

As government, education, health care providers and businesses are increasingly using technology to connect with people online, it's important to ensure that all individuals can participate in the benefits of the digital society. The city's residents and businesses need to be equipped to effectively compete with others around

the world—to be smarter, more creative, more knowledgeable, and more innovative.

City leaders and staff will be hosting a number of community meetings with residents, businesses, community groups, and many other stakeholders to share the survey results and get feedback about how to overcome the digital divide in Minneapolis:

Wednesday June 13, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Northeast Library 2200 Central Ave. NE

Monday June 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m. McRae Park 906 47th St. E

Tuesday June 19, 6 – 7:30 p.m. North Regional Library 1315 Lowry Ave. N.

Wednesday June 27, 4:30 – 6 p.m. Phillips Community Center 2323 11th Ave. S

Help communities bridge the digital divide

At the meetings we will:

- Explore the survey results as a community
- Generate ideas and actions to make the most of our community technology resources

• Share experiences and build relationships across sectors to overcome the digital divide in Minneapolis

Who should attend?

- Residents and business owners in Minneapolis
- Neighborhood Associations and community activists
- Business Associations, local employers, anyone from the private sector interested in connecting with residents and improving technology skills and access
- Non-profits
- Educators

Public sector service providers: library, schools, community education, parks, public housing and government services staff

To view the survey report, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/it/inclusion and click on “2012 Community Technology Survey.”

Minneapolis is No. 2 in Bicycling Mag's "America's Best Bike Cities" Rankings

Bicycling magazine has ranked Minneapolis as the number two city in their biennial rankings of America's 50 Best Bike Cities. The magazine says bicycling culture is thriving in Minneapolis and cites how the launch of the Nice Ride bike-share program in 2010 has helped shift cycling from a

cultural phenomenon to a community-wide initiative. Annual Nice Ride subscriptions have tripled, and daily trips doubled. The city has also added 35 miles of bike lanes, installed four bike-boulevard corridors, and released an updated bike plan calling for a dozen more. It seems that cycling

culture will continue to flourish in Minneapolis.

The complete rankings - which appear in the July issue of Bicycling on newsstands May 29 - has Portland, Ore. reclaiming the title of the Best Bike City in America, and Boulder, Colo. (#3), Washington D.C. (#4)

and Chicago (#5) rounding out the top five.

For more information about bicycling in Minneapolis, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles.

Grants available for community-based clean energy projects

Is there an energy efficiency or renewable energy project in your community that needs a little help getting started? If so, The Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams

(CERT) provide funding for innovative, community-based clean energy projects. To have a project considered for funding, just fill out an application.

Applications must be submitted no later than July 2nd, 2012 at 4:00pm. To get an application and find out more about the grants, go to

<http://rfp.mncerts.org>



Neighborhood Notes

By Anna Pratt, in The Line
<http://www.thelinemedia.com/devnews/kingfieldsolar052312.aspx>



Kingfield solar tour shows off local energy-saving projects

On June 2, Minneapolis's Kingfield neighborhood is hosting a tour of several new solar projects at local businesses.

The tour includes [Quality Coaches](#), [Twin Town Guitars](#), and [Pat's Tap](#); tour participants can check out the businesses at their own pace.

[TenKsolar](#), which developed the solar arrays, will be on hand displaying solar models at each stop. There'll also be other activities at each site, including live music and a solar oven cooking demonstration.

A \$10,000 city climate change grant that the [Kingfield Neighborhood Association](#) (KFNA) received last year enabled a couple of the projects, according to Sarah Linnes-Robinson, the executive director of KFNA.

Around the same time, Pat's Tap pursued its solar installation independently, she says.

Through the project, she says, "Our goal was to remove barriers for small businesses to install solar."

In some cases, solar installations can mean a lot of up-front costs, but in the end, "people are saving money," she says. "We want to highlight that this is doable," even for private homes.

To help introduce area businesses to solar technology, the neighborhood group started out by identifying 24 possible candidates for the installations.

From there, the neighborhood group educated business owners, many of whom rent their buildings, about what solar projects entail. KFNA ended up paying for solar assessments at 10 of those sites. At that point, "It was their decision to proceed or not," she says.

Further down the line came energy audits for those businesses that wanted to move forward. Later on, when it

got down to two businesses, both had to do a lot of roof work to prepare for the solar array. "There was a lot for the businesses to figure out," she says.

Today, "These businesses are even further invested in their community."

Linnes-Robinson is hoping that families that are thinking of turning to solar energy will join business owners on the tour.

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

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