

Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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Volume 3, Issue 12

December 2012

Quincy's Corner

November and early December has been a very busy time at City Hall.

On November 6, 215,804 residents of Minneapolis had their voices heard during the 2012 Presidential General Election. Of those, 50,668 people registered to vote on election day. The 2012 Election was the highest percentage of registered voters since 1944 (Roosevelt v. Dewey) and the highest since the 26th Amendment was enacted lowering the voting age to 18 and same Day Registration was enacted in Minnesota in 1971. For Ward 11, 87% of voters turned out, second only to Ward 13's 88%, and well above the city's average of 81%. Hats off to the City Clerk's Office and Elections Office—2,200 Elections Judges—260 Student Judges—and most of all, the voters of Minneapolis.

Late in November, City residents and elected officials convinced the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to delay implementation of new departure procedures until more information about them is made available to residents. More information about that on page 2.

And just last night we unanimously passed the 2013 City Budget. That is discussed on page 2.

Since road construction is over, it must now be winter, meaning the possibility of Snow Emergencies. Knowing when a Snow Emergency is in effect is one of the best ways to avoid a ticket and tow, while making it easier for crews to efficiently plow our streets. Check out the [You Tube Video](#) for details. Besides local media, there are plenty of Snow Emergency alerts to help you stay informed:



Email and text alerts – www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_esubscribe

Phone call alerts – www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_phone-alert

Snow Emergency on Facebook- www.facebook.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency

Snow Emergency on Twitter- @MinneapolisSnow

And, **new this year**, download the Minneapolis Snow Emergency App which tells you where you can and can't park on Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 of a Snow Emergency to help you avoid a ticket and a tow. The app DOES NOT tell you if and when a Snow Emergency has been declared, but it's easy to find out using the app since it features a quick call button that connects you with the Snow Emergency hotline or hotlink to the city's Web site for details. Available in Apple and Android version.

Have a fun and safe Holiday Season!

City Focus

I'm pleased to report that the 2013 budget for the City of Minneapolis was unanimously passed Wednesday, December 12. (Yes, it passed on 12-12-12, and the world did not end.)

I believe this budget makes smart investments in Minneapolis' top priorities: our safety, improving infrastructure, and our economy.

It also represents the payoff for 10 years of hard-nosed financial choices that we've made to pay down debt, hold the line on spending, and reform the broken closed-pension system. And, with the passage of the

stadium bill earlier this year, we've removed the burden of Target Center off the backs of property-tax payers, while investing in a strong and growing local economy.

As a result of all of these choices, about three-quarters of Minneapolis taxpayers will see no increase in their property-tax bill this year, or will even see a decrease.

The most significant policy action taken as a result of the budget development process is the reform of our Regulatory Services Department.

After months of hard work, Minneapolis is mov-

ing Business Licensing, Development Review and Construction Code services to the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development. The Environmental Health Services function will go to the Department of Health and Family Support. We will retain Housing Investigation, Problem Properties, Animal Control and Traffic Control divisions in the new Regulatory Services Department.

All these reforms will streamline operations, make it easier to do business in Minneapolis and help improve residents' public health and safety. And, these reforms will

yield a savings of \$300,000–\$400,000 in the first year alone. These cost savings are realized by eliminating duplicative services, reducing bureaucracy and breaking down barriers between departments.

Thanks to Mayor Rybak and all my Council colleagues for their hard work the past several months taking us through the long budget process from proposal to passage.

Thanks are also due to our professional staff and employees who poured over spreadsheets and detailed documents, multiple meetings and scores of hours of testimony—all with the goal of passing a fiscally structured and socially responsible budget.

2013 City Budget Passed

Airport News Update: RNAV and What is Next?

As has been mentioned in this newsletter over the past several months, the FAA has been developing new departure and arrival routes, known as RNAV, for commercial flights using MSP.

The actual tracks were not seen by anyone until the end of September. As they were releasing these tracks, the FAA requested that the MAC take action and grant their support for the tracks by the middle of November.

There appears to be tangible benefits when it comes to noise for the communities to the south

of MSP, but the potential ramifications for the departures to the north was less clear.

It appears the FAA is taking the flights from a corridor that currently nominally uses the Crosstown as the departure corridor and will put half of those departures on a set corridor south of Lake Harriet.

Part of the reason there is so little information about the potential ramifications of the new tracks is that there has not been a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts. Additionally, the RNAV plan is moving for-

ward separate from the airport expansion plans that will also be increasing airport traffic.

The City of Minneapolis has for months been asking the MAC and FAA to study the environmental impacts of the expansion of the terminals along with the implementation of RNAV.

So far, the MAC and FAA have done a much simpler Environmental Assessment (EA) for the terminal expansion plan and nothing formal for environmental assessment of RNAV.

So, what the city has been requesting is:

- An Environmental Impact Statement for the expansion plans that takes RNAV into account
- Community conversation about the location of the RNAV departure tracks.

We are hoping to hear soon from the MAC and FAA on how they plan to proceed.

70 Miles of New Street Surfaces in Minneapolis

The 2012 street construction season is over and Minneapolis has nearly 70 miles of city streets reconstructed, resurfaced or seal coated.

This year's street projects include those funded through the acceleration program: a five-year initiative that's helped the City keep up with the regular wear and tear on our roadways.



The Minneapolis Public Works 2012 street construction season, by the numbers:

- **0.94 miles** of streets reconstructed (up 14 percent from 2011)
- **35.37 miles** of streets and parkways resurfaced (up 32 percent from 2011)
- **31.5 miles** of roadways and alleys seal coated (up 68 percent from 2011)
- **67.81 miles** of improved driving surfaces

This year included reconstruction of **Nicollet Avenue South** reconstruct-

tion from Lake Street to 36th Street. Next year, crews will reconstruct Nicollet from 36th Street to 40th Street.

Acceleration program – This was the fourth year of the 5-year, \$22.6 million acceleration program, which supplements the City's existing infrastructure plan and supports street paving as well as signal and lighting repairs.

Around 21 miles of streets were seal coated or resurfaced in 2012 as part of the program.

Neighborhood street paving – Three sections of

the city had neighborhood streets resurfaced this season: Armatage, Linden Hills and Near North.

Ward 11 residents will recall that in the past few years major sections of the Windom, Wenonah and Hale neighborhoods were resurfaced.

As 2013 is being planned, the Page neighborhood is scheduled, as well as gaps in Hale around 54th, and in Wenonah neighborhoods.

For more information about Minneapolis' 2012 construction projects visit www.minneapolismn.gov/public-works

First Phase of One-Sort Residential Recycling Begins

One-sort recycling, where customers combine their glass, plastic, paper, aluminum and cardboard into one container when putting them out for collection, is beginning for Minneapolis residential recycling customers.

Every residential customer will start one-sort recycling when they get the new blue cart. One sort is easier for customers than the previous multi-sort system.

In the first phase of Minneapolis' one-sort residential recycling rollout, about 30,000 City of Minneapolis recycling customers have now received new blue carts.

These customers will stay on the same schedule and keep the same recycling

day as before. A second phase will bring the new blue recycling carts to the rest of the 110,000 City of Minneapolis recycling customers in the spring.

When they get the new cart, customers may choose to leave their old bins out to be recycled or keep them for other uses such as garage storage or for carrying the recyclables outside to the new cart.

Although residents no longer need to separately bag their recyclables, they need to make especially sure they recycle properly. Proper recycling will keep the materials valuable; it is important to rinse recyclables and not to mix in garbage or other materials such as yard waste.

One sort recycling is rolling out in pockets all over the city.

This is the most efficient way to roll out, because it keeps existing routes and current collection days intact.

There will be no change in the amount customers pay.

Expanding what we recycle. Earlier this year, Minneapolis expanded the types of plastics and paper it collects. Minneapolis recycling customers can now include plastics numbers one through seven, which includes yogurt, pudding and fruit cups; disposable cups and bowls; margarine, cottage cheese and other containers; and produce, deli and takeout containers. New paper items accepted include milk cartons, juice boxes; and soup, broth and wine cartons.

Making products from recycled material rather than virgin material conserves natural resources and creates less waste.

It also causes less pollution and uses less energy; 95 percent less energy, for instance, is used to make a can from recycled aluminum than from raw materials.

For more information about one-sort recycling in Minneapolis, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/onesort.



What to Know About Door-to-Door Sales People

A number of constituents have asked questions, related to public safety, about what to do when someone comes to their door to sell something. People want to know if a peddler is “legit” or not.

Earlier this year, we passed a peddler ordinance requiring legitimate peddlers to obtain a Solicitor License.

Many legitimate organizations go door-to-door to sell their products or ask for donations, but there are always a few “enterprising” individuals whose goals are less than honorable.

There are a number of city ordinances regulating the activities of peddlers and solicitors.

- Commercial peddlers and solicitors must obtain a license and be able to show that license to customers.
- Charitable solicitors must wear an identification badge with their name, the organization represented, and the organization’s solicitation permit number.

Minneapolis has rules around door-to-door sales—so you know who you’re dealing with when you open your door. The rules also make it harder for out-of-state companies to exploit youth workers.

When peddlers or solicitors come to your door, ask to see their license or ID badge.

If the person is not able to produce the license or ID badge, call 911 and report the violation.

If a salesperson knocks on your door:

- They are required to wear a City-issued photo identification card so you know they’re properly licensed or registered.
- If a salesperson doesn’t have a City-issued photo ID card, do not buy from them.
- If you believe a company is exploiting youth workers, call 911 so the City can take action. *(See more details below).*
- Door-to-door salespeople cannot knock on doors before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. *(or sunset, whichever is later),* and they must leave your property if you ask them to leave.
- You can also post a sign indicating “no solicitors.”

WHAT ABOUT CANVASSERS?

While all salespeople are required to register and get an ID card in Minneapolis, because of federal law, people who are canvassing are NOT required to get identification cards. That includes people who advocate for religious, social, or political causes.

WHAT IF MY CHILD’S SCHOOL OR YOUTH GROUP PLANS TO DO DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES?

The City wants to make it easy for schools and youth groups to do their regular door-to-door fundraising sales, so the City will approve group identification cards to those groups at no cost. Just call **673-2080** to learn more, or visit www.minneapolismn.gov and search for “solicitor” in the search box.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT TRAVELING MAGAZINE SALES CREWS?

Some companies create dangerous situations for young people by taking youth across state lines to sell magazines door-to-door. This can often be unsafe. In fact, traveling magazine crews are one of the top five most dangerous jobs for teens. If a youth comes to your door to sell magazines and does not have a City ID card, offer them the 24-hour phone number for Parent Watch at **917-579-4641** or the National Runaway Switchboard at **1-800-786-2929**.



13th Annual Night Before New Years Eve

NENA's 13th-annual Night Before New Year's Eve Party will be held on **Sunday, December 30, 2012** at the Nokomis Community Center.

NENA and the Nokomis Community Center/ Minneapolis Parks and Recreation are proud to once again co-sponsor this annual community party. The entire event is **free**, but donations are appreciated. Families throughout the Twin Cities area and out-of-town guests are welcome. Highlights include old-fashioned hayrides and marshmallow roasting at the bonfire. Indoor activities include the legendary Nokomis fish pond, games with prizes (basketball shoot, bowling, golf, cup stacking and more), crafts, fortune telling, live music, and a strolling magician. The ever-popular DJs from KidsDance will be back, spinning tunes with dance contests and prizes for kids of all ages. Returning this year is the popular Photo Booth (donations are highly appreciated to offset the cost).

Refreshments include hotdogs with all the fixings including Laura's Famous Chilidog chili, chips, cookies, draft 1919 root beer and hot chocolate. And, did we mention that all of this free?

Father Time will make an appearance to help ring in the New Year with the traditional countdown complete with noisemakers, but we'll do this at 8:00 PM so kids can get home for a good night's sleep.



Calendar of Events

December 12	6:05 pm: City Budget public hearing and final adoption At City Hall (350 S. 5th St.)
	7–8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
December 13	5:30–7 pm: Windom Community Council Annual Meeting at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Ave S)
December 17	7–8:30 pm: Holiday Party Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting at Simply Jane Studio (54th & Nicollet)
	7–8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)
December 19	8:00-9:00 am: Community Coffee Hour at Caribou Coffee (4606 Nicollet Ave)
	6:30–8:00 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
December 20	7–8:30 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E)
December 30	5-8:00 pm: Night Before New Years Eve At Nokomis Community Center (2401 E Minnehaha Pkwy)