

Community Ward 11 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)

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Quincy's Corner

I am constantly reminded how fortunate we are to live in this great city – especially during springtime. I hope you have been able to get outside these past few weeks and enjoy our lakes, parks, and school activities. The coming month will bring us even more backyard fun, gardens, and farmers markets.

This past week, I was on hand to welcome dozens of volunteers from Comcast Cares, who presented Catholic Charities a check for \$10,000 to benefit St. Joseph's Home for Children, and spent the day painting and sprucing up their facility in the Northrop neighborhood. I was also pleased to be a part of Nokomis Healthy Seniors Program's Annual Spring Clean-A-Thon – where teams of volunteers assisted our senior neighbors on a variety of spring clean up projects. At the end of the day, volunteers gathered for a thank you pizza party (due to the generosity of Fat Lorenzo's) where we presented awards for the top three fundraising teams – the Bronze Broom, the Silver Dustpan, and the coveted Golden Plunger!

This month's issue of the Ward 11 Community Connections Newsletter highlights a number of new developments including a special article on Child Safety Tips, announcement of an enhanced pothole repair plan, community garden expansion opportunities, and neighborhood events like Tangletown's Garage Sale and Washburn High School Music Fest.

Budget Update: At the end of this week, my colleagues and I will be voting on the Mayor's Supplemental Budget, including spending cuts of \$10.9 million, necessitated by the most recent LGA cuts from the legislature. Minneapolis has already slashed more than \$30 million from its budget since December 2008, but has been able to endure by maintaining reasonable reserves, planning ahead, setting clear priorities, and taking action.

To fill the new budget hole, it has been proposed to use about a third of the city's one-time funds, as well as, the entirety of the contingency fund and about \$1 million in additional cuts. The spending reductions would include eliminating vacant positions and trimming supplies, technology, and training.

Additionally, we have proposed using another \$2.8 million from the one-time funds to avoid pension debt, while the final \$3.7 million in one-time funds would be used for what the mayor calls innovative efforts, like completion of the city's wireless network, filling and seal-coating potholes, improving business processes, investing in new technology, and offering a retirement incentive. Although these initiatives do cost money upfront, they will save us in the long run.

City Focus

Additional Funds Allocated for Potholes

This past winter was harder than usual on Minneapolis streets, but relief is in sight. An extra \$500,000 is going toward the City's pothole repair work to speed up repairs.

The extraordinary winter weather created a major pothole problem across the metro area. In Minneapolis, crews began putting permanent patches on these potholes as soon as the temperature rose. However, there's still a lot of patching to be done.

The City Council has approved a plan to double the number of repair crews out patching potholes for the next six to

eight weeks. This will allow the City to accelerate repairs to the streets and fix the most significant problems sooner. This funding means that Minneapolis will now have eight crews doing permanent pothole repair work.

The City is able to expand its pothole repair effort because of ongoing fiscal management practices. In 2009, City leaders took swift action to reduce the City's budget in the face of State cuts to Minneapolis and Governor Pawlenty's unallotment of aid to cities.

Those cuts were made with an eye toward the possibility that further cuts may be required

in the future. In addition, the City received more revenue than projected in 2009. These two factors resulted in the City ending its 2009 budget cycle with cash reserves above its minimum level of 15% revenues.

Some of these dollars will be utilized to make necessary, one-time investments – such as the expanded and accelerated pothole repair program – rather than long-term uses such as staff salaries. Such long-term uses are not sustainable given the new funding cuts from the State, and the State's long-term financial position.

A Greener Downtown with the Help of a Ward 11 Business

The Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District (DID) makes Downtown a more welcoming and thriving place by raising the standard of care and behavior in downtown. In just six months, Ambassadors, walking the streets, removed 480,000 pounds of trash, assisted over 40,000 visitors and even saved lives! This

year, greening will be brought into the DID complement of services. Minneapolis is internationally recognized as a city with remarkable natural outdoor amenities including its fabulous urban forest and Grand Rounds park system. Tangletown Gardens has joined two other local firms in developing a master greening

plan showing how DID, in conjunction with public, private and non-profit entities, can soften the gray edges of downtown. The DID's 20 year greening plan is just beginning to take shape – a comprehensive guide will be available on the [DID website](#) later this summer.

City Owned Vacant Lots Available for Community Gardens

Minneapolis is making 21 “non-buildable” City-owned vacant lots available for community gardeners to lease, in a pilot program to help make Minneapolis more beautiful, provide healthy food, and build community. These will be added to the more than 100 community gardens throughout the city.

This pilot makes leases available for community gardens on specific City-owned lots. The lots were selected because they are not appropriate for development. This means that they will remain available for years of garden-

ing even as the economy recovers. Lots are available first-come, first-serve to qualifying groups. Experienced community garden groups may be eligible for three- to five-year leases, while groups gardening for the first time will start with one-year leases.

A qualifying group is a non-profit or a group with a non-profit sponsor. The garden will need liability insurance; usually this is insurance with the City listed as an additional insured party. Applicants should be ready to discuss the layout of the community garden, how it will be managed,

and how it will engage and benefit the community.

The Community Garden Pilot Program is part of Homegrown Minneapolis. Homegrown Minneapolis is an initiative of the City of Minneapolis to improve the growth, sales, distribution, and consumption of healthy, locally grown foods within the city and the surrounding region.

Click for more information on the [Homegrown Minneapolis](#) Community Gardens Pilot Program, including locations of some lots available.

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](#)

[Fire Station Finder](#)

[Garbage](#)

[Recycling Schedule](#)

[Police Precinct Finder](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Spring & Fall Street Sweeping
Schedule](#)

[Snow Emergency Parking
Rules](#)

[Voting Precinct Finder](#)

Minneapolis Found to be 7th Least Wasteful City in Nation

For the second year, Minneapolis is found to be the seventh least wasteful city in the country. The study, conducted by the company Nalgene, surveyed the nation's 25 largest cities and ranked them on 23 habits.

The study surveyed a U.S. Census-based sample of approximately 150 respondents from each of the 25 largest cities in the U.S.

Other Minneapolis rankings include:

- Third in recycling glass, metal and plastics regularly.
- Fourth in buying second-hand items, including clothing, electronics, and furniture.
- Sixth city in using reusable containers in place of disposable food storage containers.

Minneapolis is considered one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the country, and the City has long been a leader in creating policies and practices that protect and enhance the environment and combat global climate change. Policies and practices include an ordinance that limits vehicle idling in Minneapolis, continuing efforts for City buildings and fleets to use more renewable energy, and major infrastruc-

ture and planning improvements that the City is making around biking, walking and public transportation that allow our residents, workers and visitors to drive less.

Find out what else Minneapolis is doing to be green and what you can do to help conserve energy, curb pollution and fight climate change by visiting the City's [sustainability](#) website.

Police Update

MPD Open Houses

The Minneapolis Police Department is holding open house events throughout the City and welcome you to participate!

The precinct open house details in Ward 11 are:

- **3rd Precinct:** Tuesday, May 11th, 11 am-2 pm at the 3rd Precinct House (3000 Minnehaha Avenue)
- **5th Precinct:** Thursday, May 13th, 5 pm-7 pm at the 5th Precinct House (3101 Nicollet Avenue S)

Attempted Child Luring Incident and Tips

On April 12th an attempted kidnapping of 11-year-old girl occurred near 56th Street and Dupont Avenue. We are all extremely thankful that this girl responded the way she did and want to use this space to recognize her bravery and remind the rest of us what we, as parents and a community, can do to help keep children safe.

- Teach your address and phone number, including the area code, as well as, how to use the telephone to call home and 911.
- Keep an updated file on your child, including a photograph and physical description. If your child is younger than two update the information at least four times each year.
- Pay attention to the clothing

your child is wearing and never display his/her name on clothes or books.

- Make sure your child knows that if you become separated in a public place he/she should immediately find a facility employee and not attempt to search for you.
- Select a secret code word that only you and your child know. Tell your child never to go with anyone who does not know this code.
- Keep a set of your child's footprints, fingerprints, and dental records.
- Leave instructions with your child's school to notify you immediately if he/she is absent and provide them with written information on which people are authorized

to pick your child up.

- Educate children on the many tactics used by abductors. Teach them to immediately leave the area if a stranger is present. If your child is grabbed, instruct him/her to yell "fire" or "stranger." People are more likely to respond to those shouts than to cries of "help."
- Survey the recreation and school routes children use. Point out any dangerous areas such as vacant lots, alleyways, and busy streets. Teach your child what to do should he/she be followed.
- Join or organize a "safe home" program with your neighbors to establish secure homes where children can go for help.

MPD Bait Vehicle Program is Recognized by Anti-Crime Group

The Minneapolis Police Department's bait vehicle program was recognized by the Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota at an award ceremony on Tuesday, March 23. Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan accepted the award on behalf of the department.

The Bait Vehicle Program involves the use of specially equipped vehicles placed throughout the city. When

these vehicles are stolen, authorities can track them electronically and make arrests within minutes. The Minneapolis program has resulted in 340 persons being charged for auto theft, with only one defendant opting to go to trial. Additionally, during the 12 years that the program has been in effect in Minneapolis, auto theft has dropped 68.2 percent.

The Minneapolis Police Depart-

ment was one of the pioneers in bait vehicle programs across the country and the program has been successfully replicated by a number of agencies around North America due to its continued success in combating auto theft.

The Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota is comprised of approximately 100 members from law enforcement, property insurance companies, and

others active in combating vehicle theft. For 25 years AVCAM has encouraged and assisted in promoting anti-vehicle theft activities. These include training seminars, programs providing prevention tips to the public, and supporting the 1-800-HEAT-TIP line, which provides monetary awards for information leading to recovery of stolen vehicles and the prosecution of auto theft suspects.

Neighborhood Notes

Habitat Homeownership

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity builds homes in partnership with qualifying partner families and the community, and then sells the homes at no profit with zero percent interest mortgages to partnering families. Twin Cities Habitat also prepares partner families to be successful homeowners. If you are interested in partnering with Habitat to

help build your home and your future, [click here](#) to find out more on how to apply.

A Brush with Kindness

A Brush with Kindness is a program that helps preserve homeownership by partnering with homeowners struggling to restore and maintain their houses. Once a homeowner's eligibility is determined and their application is accepted,

Twin Cities Habitat's A Brush with Kindness program provides caring volunteer groups who come alongside and assist homeowners in completing minor repairs, painting, and other home maintenance. [Find out more](#) on how to apply.

Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program

Twin Cities Habitat for Human-

ity's *Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program* (MFPP) helps any Minneapolis homeowner at risk of losing their home to foreclosure. The program provides counseling, advocacy, and referrals free of charge to families who have fallen behind in their mortgage payments. [Learn more](#) about these services.

Each year Tangletown hosts a neighborhood-wide garage sale. Neighbors have been sifting through their homes and pulling out only the best to put in the sale. So far, over 60 homes have signed up to participate.

Tangletown Annual Garage Sale

May 7th – 8th
8 am to 4 pm

Don't miss one of the most popular garage sales in the area!

Maps can be downloaded at [Tangletown](#) and are available for pick-up at Fuller Park (48th & Grand). Watch for the bright yellow signs in front of the garage sale participants' homes.

Tangletown Garage Sale



Ward Neighborhood Associations

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

3rd Wednesday,
6:30-8:30 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

Registered Community Gardens Eligible for Free Compost



garden soil helps plants grow better.

After the Minneapolis contract supply of complimentary compost is committed, additional compost will be available for \$3 per cubic yard, delivered, up to 10

The City of Minneapolis has compost available for all community gardens that are registered with Gardening Matters and located in Minneapolis. Each eligible garden is allowed five to eight cubic yards of complimentary compost, while supplies last.

Compost, which helps enrich soil with nutrients for plants, is not intended to be a substitute for soil. Adding some to

cubic yards. Compost is available first-come, first-served basis, except that community gardens that have not received complimentary compost through this program in the past will be given first priority. Amounts in excess of 10 cubic yards can be arranged with Solid Waste and Recycling.

Request deadlines:
2010 Spring delivery request

deadline - May 7th Spring delivery dates - May 17th through June 18th (not over Memorial Day holiday, May 31st through June 4th)

2010 Summer delivery request deadline - June 11th Summer delivery dates - June 21st through August 20th (Not over Independence Day holiday, July 5th through 9th).

Minneapolis supports community gardening because it is committed to encouraging active and healthy living and strengthening communities.

For more information, to register your community garden, and to request compost, visit [Gardening Matters](#).

Neighborhood Notes

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are holding a Monarch Garden workshop on Saturday, May 22nd, featuring low-cost "Gardens-to-Go." Participants can choose one of two sessions: either 9:30-10:30 am or 11 am–12 pm. Workshops will be held at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway. Kids are welcome.

The workshop is a beginning, how-to approach to gardening for monarchs. With an image-rich discussion, it will cover

Monarch butterfly life cycle, required habitat needs, native plant benefits and an introduction to the plants in the Monarch Gardens-to-Go kit.

Each garden kit includes 12 native plants (in 3.5" pots), a brochure with plant specifics, a planting template, and re-



Growing Monarch Habitat Workshop



fee is required. The fee includes the workshop, resource materials, and the Garden-to-Go (a \$30 plant value!). You may attend the workshop for free if you do not wish to receive the Garden-to-Go kit.

sources list to get a monarch garden started. The kits are available for two different soil conditions and additional kits may be purchased at the workshop.

Registration forms are available for download at www.nokomiseast.org, by emailing NENA at nenan@nokomiseast.org, or by calling 612-724-5652.

Pre-registration and a \$20.00

Lake Nokomis Park Improvements



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Landscaping improvements designed to enhance the entrance corridors of Lake Nokomis and Theodore Wirth Regional Parks are being prepared for spring installation. These "green gateways" include design elements of native stone, landscape lighting, and plant materials suitable to our changing Minnesota climate. Plantings will increase wildlife habitat, provide storm water infiltration, and offer year-round aesthetic interest for both non-motorized and motorized traffic.

Project locations are the southeast corner of East Lake Nokomis Parkway and Cedar

Avenue South, and the northeast corner of Theodore Wirth Parkway and Highway 55.

April focused on preliminary improvements including earthwork to improve grade and remediate poor urban soils. Plantings and stone features are scheduled for completion in May. Installation work will not impact current traffic patterns or bike and pedestrian trails at each street intersection.

Lake Nokomis is one of three sailing lakes (along with Harriet and Calhoun) in the Minneapolis park system that

offers many enjoyable recreational opportunities. The park includes two supervised beaches, a community center, playground equipment, sailboat and canoe racks, concessions, pathways, and baseball diamonds.

Wirth Park is located west of Downtown Minneapolis and features a sampling of practically everything in the Minneapolis Park System. Amenities include Wirth Lake and Birch Pond, a fishing pier and boat launch, a supervised beach, volleyball courts, a playground, picnic facilities, a reservable indoor picnic pavilion, an archery range, trails for

walking, biking, off-road biking and skiing, a snowboard park, Swiss chalet-style clubhouse, and 18-hole and Par 3 golf courses.

More information can be found at [Minneapolis Parks News and Events](http://MinneapolisParksNewsandEvents.org).

You can also contact the District Planner, Lonnie Nichols at 612-230-6525 or lnichols@minneapolisparks.org

Washburn High School Music Fest

The Washburn High School Foundation Board would like to formally invite you to a fun and inspirational evening of live music and fellowship.

Please join us at Washburn High School (201 49th Street

W) on Friday, May 7th, 7:00 pm, for the inaugural Miller Music Fest featuring: world renowned guitarist **Billy McLaughlin**, nationally acclaimed singer songwriter **Jeff Arundel**, and Minnesota music legend **Tom Lieberman**.

These Miller legends will be joined on stage by current Washburn students. This concert to benefit the Washburn High School Foundation will be held in the Washburn High School auditorium. There will also be an After Party (for

those aged 21+) at Whiskey Junction after the concert with live rock and blues classic music from **The Thunderheads**.

To purchase tickets and for more information please visit WashburnConnections.org.

Calendar

May 7th	7 – 9 pm: Miller Music Fest at Washburn High school (201 49th Street W)
May 7th-8th	8 am – 4 pm: Tangletown Garage Sale , Maps at www.tangletown.org
May 8th	8 – 11 am: Hale & Field Plant Sale at Hale School (1220 54th Street E) 9:30 – 11:30 am: Second Saturday with Council Member Quincy and Representative Jean Wagenius at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
May 11th	11 am – 2 pm: 3rd Precinct Open House at the 3rd Precinct House (3000 Minnehaha Avenue S)
May 12th	6 – 8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
May 13th	5 – 7 pm: 5th Precinct Open House at the 5th Precinct House (3101 Nicollet Avenue S) 6:30 – 9 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting at the Minnehaha United Methodist Church (3701 50th Street E)
May 17th	7 – 8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
May 19th	8 – 9 am: Community Coffee Hour with Council Member Quincy at Sister Sludge (4557 Bloomington Avenue S) 6:30 – 8:30 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
May 22nd	9:30 – 10:30 am or 11 am–12 pm: Monarch Garden Workshop at Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway.
May 23rd	8:30 – 1 pm: Kingfield Farmers Market Opening Day at 4310 Nicollet Avenue S. The farmer’s market will be held each Sunday at this time and place during the growing season.
May 24th	7 – 8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)
May 28th	5:30 – 6:30 pm: Happy Hour with John at Kings (4555 Grand Avenue S)