

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@
MinneapolisMN.gov](mailto:John.Quincy@MinneapolisMN.gov)

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Quincy's Corner

Happy Spring everyone!

I know this winter was tough on the winter sport enthusiast, but it made for an easier year for general city life. Snow plowing was not an issue this season! For the first time in 25 years, NO snow emergencies were declared. This saved residents a lot of headaches and concerns, but also saved us all some money.

Now that Spring has officially arrived, it is time to put the shovels away and breakout the rakes and mowers. The big news in Minneapolis is now about Street Sweeping (pg. 5); Yard Waste Pick-up (pg. 4) and an expanded Recycling Program (pg. 6). Several great articles are in this issue of *Community Connections* outlining the why's, when's and how's to help keep Minneapolis beautiful.

Also in this issue of the newsletter are some updates and details on how Minneapolis is trying to handle the airport noise pollution (pg. 3) and my position on the controversial Vikings Stadium (pg. 2).

As if this weren't enough happening around the 11th Ward, Lyndale Ave is currently closed at Minnehaha Creek for reconstruction of the bridge, and soon the roadway south of the bridge will also be under construction. And Nicollet Ave. will be closed for reconstruction between Lake St. and 36th St. this summer. Commuting may be tricky, but construction projects like this can be even more difficult on local businesses. And more than just think about them, patronize them and they will be back, better than ever after the construction is over. For more information about the Lyndale Ave project, see lyndaleconstruction.com

I will provide a more comprehensive look at construction projects affecting the 11th Ward in next month's newsletter, as well as information on personal safety as we approach the summer months.

Please feel free to call or email me with questions, comments or to request a meeting. I hold regular office hours on Wednesday mornings in the neighborhoods, as well as being available for *Coffee with John* on Wednesday, April 18 at 8:00 AM at Sovereign Grounds, 813 E 48th Street. This month's Happy Hour will be held on Friday, April 27 at First Course 5607 Chicago Avenue from 5:00–6:00 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Quincy". The signature is stylized and cursive.

City Focus

As you may know, I am one of a majority of the Minneapolis City Council who has announced support for the Minneapolis Financing Proposal for new stadium project.

This has been a challenging issue for me personally. I have not been swayed either way because of the advocacy of labor organizations, mayor, governor or my colleagues on the council. I certainly have not been influenced by threats or promises of political support – editorials, media or by opinion polling on the topic.

After numerous emails and conversations with constituents, extensive review of the language in the legislation, the term sheets and financial projections (for the Minneapolis Portion) and legal advice and interpretation on the question of whether or not a referendum is required – I have signed on as a supporter of the project.

I had been hesitant to put a firm statement of support or opposition to a stadium down on paper, mainly because

the Legislature is the first and only governing body that can make a stadium plan happen. So until they put together a plan and act on that plan, the Minneapolis City Council did not have a solid, substantive proposal to react to.

Since that time, a bill was introduced at the legislature. The bill stalled in committees because they felt a statement of support from a majority of the Minneapolis City Council was needed before they would hold hearings. That request has now been honored.

My support for the City's Vikings Stadium financing plan has very little to do with where the Minnesota Vikings play football. **My support of the proposal is based exclusively on the benefits for Minneapolis and the property taxpayers that come from the other parts of the deal.**

Under the Stadium plan, Minneapolis residents would receive **property tax relief** and **a long-term funding stream** to pay for sev-

eral statewide assets located in Downtown (Stadium, Target Center and Convention Center), at no cost to Minneapolis property taxpayers. The plan also **creates and stabilizes thousands of jobs**, both during construction and on into the future, creating a facility that will attract visitors to downtown to a **world class facility** used for events and by organizations other than the Minnesota Vikings 300+ days per year.

Many people have expressed concern about a lack of a referendum on the stadium. The deal as it currently exists, uses the existing sales taxes currently being collected by the State to pay off construction debt for the convention center. The proposal calls for the state to extend those taxes after the convention center debt is paid off, and redirect them.

This sales and hospital-ity tax was imposed on Minneapolis to fund a several million dollar expansion of the Convention Center. In spite of a City Charter requirement that any City

funded project over \$15 million requires a referendum, that revenue stream and expenditure did not require a referendum. The City Attorney has looked at this and to her and to me, it's very clear that it is the same pot of money that had been created for the Convention Center expansion and it has already been determined to be State money, not City money.

The State will give Minneapolis control over the excess money generated and the City will use that money to pay off debt the city owes on the Target Center. Paying off that debt will remove that obligation from property taxes, providing property tax relief. If there were any city money going into this plan, I would not support it and would lobby hard against it.

I hope this explanation helps you to see the thought process that went into my decision to support the current plan for the City's cooperation with a Vikings Stadium. It is a complicated deal with many moving parts and I am working hard to do what I see as best for the City of Minneapolis now and into the future.

Stadium Plan

Airport Noise Pollution

In response to noise pollution concerns from residents near Cedar Ave, Council Member Quincy, the Minneapolis representative on the Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) of the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), brought forward several requests for changes to departure procedures off of the north parallel runway.

The first request asked FAA to put flights going to Duluth, International Falls, Winnipeg and other cities more north of the airport, on a heading divergent from 360 degrees. This likely could happen in the relatively near future.

Second, we asked FAA to determine which other



flights could be diverted from a 360 heading and use either a 340 and/or a 320 divergent heading. This will serve to reduce the number of flights following each other up a path that is generally right up Cedar Ave., and spread out that noise pollution.

The third request asked the MAC to remind the FAA that there are procedures in place, called the Runway Use System (RUS), which explains

which runways should be used when. Basically, if there is no wind and the amount of traffic allows for it, the FAA should be sending airplanes off of the south end Runway 17, which is the North/South runway. Those departures would go over the Minnesota River rather than houses in South Minneapolis.

We also asked MAC noise staff to come back to the NOC meeting in May with an analysis of a complex departure procedure, known as the Noise Abatement Departure Procedure (NADP). This was something that was instituted in 2003. Experts suggest that there might be a better NADP for the newer fleet that is using MSP.

NOC will analyze that and help us to determine what will be best for abating noise pollution.

All of these requests passed unanimously through the NOC and have been forwarded to the MAC for their consideration at their meetings in April.

We are continuing to work on these items as well as a number of other issues related to the airport. We'll keep updating the "what's new" section of the City's airport noise webpages with new information as it becomes available.

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/special/airportnoise/WCMS1P-089600>

MSP Annual Noise Contour Analysis 2011 Now Available

As part of the Consent Decree that Minneapolis fought for and won from the MAC, each year, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) Noise Program Office must develop an annual noise contour analysis (Analysis) that reflects aircraft noise conditions for the previous calendar year.

Preparation of this Analysis is required under Section 8.1(d) of the approved Consent Decree and agreement between the MAC and the cities of Minneapolis, Eagan and Richfield.

The 2011 Analysis was generated using MSP aircraft operations from 2011 and the Integrated

Noise Model (INM) Version 7.0b. Use of the INM for this process is consistent with the Federal Aviation Administration's criteria to assess noise impacts. Input data consisted of information relative to 2011 MSP runway use, flight tracks, aircraft fleet mix, aircraft performance and thrust settings, to-

pography information, and atmospheric conditions.

The 2011 Analysis was published and is now available at the website listed below.

<http://www.macnoise.com/sites/macnoise.com/files/pdf/2011-MSP-Annual-Noise-Contour-Report-2-29-12.pdf>

Compostable bags or reusable containers now required for yard waste pickup

Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling customers getting ready to take care of their yards this year need to know which bags to use for yard waste.

Starting on garbage day in the week of April 9 – the beginning of this year’s yard waste collection season – bagged yard waste put out for collection must be in compostable bags – either paper bags or compostable plastic bags – or reusable containers.

A four-week grace period will allow a transition for folks who have plastic leaf bags filled from last season. An educational/instruction tag will be left by collection crews during this four-week transition period.

Through trash day the week of April 30, leaves in non-compostable plastic bags from last year will be collected. Due to the extra work and expense this requires, however, the City requests that if you still have empty non-

compostable plastic bags, please do not fill them. After the week of April 30, yard waste in plastic bags will be left and tagged for resident re-packaging.

Using paper and compostable plastic bags rather than conventional lawn and garden plastic bags will reduce the amount of plastic being sent to local composting facilities. Screening out less plastic from the finished compost means lower processing costs and better quality of the finished compost. The compostable bag requirement is a state law.

Compostable plastic bags are distinct from conventional lawn and garden plastic bags because they are usually clear or a translucent shade of green, pink or white. Most home improvement, grocery, and hardware stores now carry them.

Anyone who prefers not to purchase these compostable bags may place unbagged yard waste in a reusable

container with sturdy handles. Yard waste stickers are available to identify your reusable yard waste container

Other options include dropping off yard waste at a compost facility and taking the bag back home, or composting yard waste at home and using the nutrient-rich compost for gardens and lawns.

Minneapolis solid waste customers can set bags of yard waste, bundles of brush and reusable yard waste containers next to their garbage cart by 6 a.m. on their garbage pickup day. Branches and leaves must be tied with string or twine, bagged in a compostable bag or placed loose in a reusable container.

Compostable bags and reusable containers must be 33 gallons or less and weigh less than 40 pounds. Branches must be less than three inches each in diameter and less than three feet long. Bundles must weigh less than 40 pounds.

For questions about yard waste pickup, or to request container stickers, please call 673-2917 from 8:00 to 4:30.

Pick Up Service Begins April 9!

[Click Here for details](#)



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

Neighborhood Notes

City-wide street sweeping begins April 10

Weather permitting, an annual rite of spring in Minneapolis begins Tuesday, April 10. That's when Public Works crews are set to begin a comprehensive sweeping of all city streets to clean up all the dirt and grime the melting ice and snow left behind on our streets.

Street sweepings of parkways and alleys are already taking place, along with some downtown night sweeping. Drivers should watch for temporary "no parking" signs along these roadways to avoid a ticket and tow.

From now through the week of April 30, sweepers will take care of all 1,100 miles of city streets and parkways. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets and parkways are clear of parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot.



- **"No Parking" signs** – Now on the parkways and starting April 10 on City streets, crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets.

Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. Drivers should not park along these streets until these temporary "No Parking" signs are removed.

- **Phone calls to residents** – In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the

City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day.

- **Interactive Web tool** – Folks can use a [tool on the City's Web site](#) to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods.

Click on "street sweeping schedule lookup," to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept.

Clean streets mean a healthier environment

Minneapolis is known for its sparkling lakes and waterways, and we want to keep it that way.

That's why protecting and enhancing our environment is one of the City's top priorities.

Street sweeping is one way we work to protect our environment because it keeps leaves and debris from clogging our storm drains and polluting our lakes and rivers. It also helps keep our neighborhoods clean and livable.

Minneapolis streets are swept completely curb to curb once in the spring and once in the fall.

Residents should not push leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into City streets – it's bad for our lakes and waterways and it's against the law.

Anything that goes down a storm drain flows directly into our lakes and river, and decomposing plant material in the water encourages the growth of harmful aquatic



If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at (612) 673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 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

Minneapolis is looking at new ways to help you recycle more of your waste.

We are currently evaluating the results of our dual and single-sort pilot programs to select the best program for our citywide recycling service.

More information will be available soon. Please watch for future mailings with recycling updates for your neighborhood.

How to Recycle
1. Separate- Recycling must be sorted by type and placed in paper or reusable cloth bags.

Other reusable containers such as small waste baskets, pails and boxes less than 10 gallons in size may be used instead of paper bags.

For more information about alternative containers, visit the website listed below.

2. Put your recycling out by 7 AM. Recycling is collected every other week on your garbage pick up day.



www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste

What to Recycle

Paper

Mail, office and school papers

Boxes –

Cereal, cracker, pasta and cake mix boxes

Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronics boxes

Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries

NOW ACCEPTING

NEW!

Food and beverage cartons (milk, juice, soup, broth, wine) – rinse

Refrigerated and frozen food boxes

Pop and beer cartons

Place together in a paper or reusable cloth bag.

NO:

• Pizza boxes, egg cartons or other paper soiled with food



Shredded paper

Must be in a closed paper bag.

Newspaper and ad inserts

Remove from plastic bag. Place in paper bag or bundle with string.

Cardboard

Flatten and put in paper bag or bundle with string.

Bundles must be no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet and weigh less than 20 pounds.



Plastics

NEW!

NOW ACCEPTING
 All plastic bottles, containers and jugs numbered 1 through 7.

INCLUDES:

Yogurt cups, pudding and fruit cups, margarine, cottage cheese and other tubs; microwavable food trays, produce and deli containers

Rinse and place in paper or reusable cloth bag; caps and lids can be left on.

NO:

• Motor oil bottles or other bottles that held hazardous substances
 • Styrofoam

Cans and aluminum foil

Rinse and place in paper or reusable cloth bag.



Glass bottles and jars

Remove and throw away caps.

Rinse and place in paper or reusable cloth bag.

NO:

• Broken glass
 • Window glass



Batteries

Tape the positive (+) terminal of lithium ion batteries to prevent fires. Place in clear plastic bag and place on top of your recycling container

NO:

• Automotive batteries

South Transfer Station and Vouchers

Residents who are cleaning out or who are improving their home and have excess garbage can receive vouchers to dispose of this debris at the South Transfer Station. For more information contact 612-673-2917 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste