

# Ward 11 Monthly Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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## The Power of You initiative

The Power of You is an innovative program that makes the first two years of college available tuition free for spring 2006 graduates of Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools. Students will be able to attend Minneapolis Community and Technical College, St. Paul College, and beginning fall 2007, Metropolitan State University.

The program will provide a path for more students to help themselves achieve the education that is now essential for a sustainable career in our society. The program was initiated to overcome the real and perceived financial barriers to a college education, to raise awareness that a college education is essential to earning a living wage, and to increase the number of Minneapolis public high school graduates who enroll in college and complete a degree.

Through a combination of financial incentives, outreach and support, the program will demonstrate that it is possible to raise the expectations and the achievement levels of urban students, prepare them for success in college, and put them on the path to productive careers and community involvement.

The program will support as many students as possible based on student need and funds available. It is anticipated that the program will serve more than 200 students in its first year. Approximately \$3 million will be raised from private and government grants to pilot the Power of You program for five years. Partner institutions and community organizations will also support the initiative with an additional \$2.8 million.

The Power of You is a collaborative effort of public education institutions serving the urban Twin Cities area: Minneapolis Community and Technical College, St. Paul College, and Metropolitan State University in conjunction with the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools.

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### Important Phone Numbers

- Ward 11 Office  
673-2211



# MAC Lawsuit

As previously covered in this newsletter, the City of Minneapolis and several other city governments have sued the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to compel it to follow through on its promise to do adequate noise insulation in homes out to the 60 DNL. The suit continues to progress. Northwest Airlines requested to be added as an intervening party to the suit and together the MAC and NWA asked that the suit be dismissed. Judge Aldrich refused to dismiss the suit and the MAC and NWA appealed that decision to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals recently upheld the lower court's ruling. Therefore the suit continues.

# HE&E Committee

The City of Minneapolis has a wealth of good initiatives and ideas to improve the city's energy sustainability and to enhance the environment, but there has been no real structure in place to coordinate those efforts. Therefore, Council Member Benson worked with his colleagues to adjust the Council Committee structure to create the Health, Energy & Environment Committee. Council Member Benson was elected chair of the committee in January. The purpose of the committee is:

- Develop and champion policies, programs and initiatives that promote a sustainable city.
- Strive for equity and wellness in people, families, community, and environment.
- Make appointments to various boards and commissions

The Committee will also oversee the 23 different sustainability indicators adopted by the city to insure that the indicators are integrated into the business plans of all city departments.

# Help seeking Grants

The Office of Grants and Special Projects provides technical assistance to community-based organizations in grantseeking. The Grants Office directs its efforts towards organizations that further and support the City's eight adopted goals relating to public safety, infrastructure, City services, economic development, housing, environment, healthy communities, and community engagement.

The Grants Office offers technical assistance to community-based organizations in:

- Prioritizing programming and fundraising goals
- Identifying potential collaborators
- Communicating with appropriate City departments
- Setting a grants strategy
- Researching potential funders
- Developing the letter of inquiry, grant application and project budget
- Problem-solving and finding resources.

While the Office of Grants and Special Projects does not write grants on behalf of organizations, the program is here to help organizations navigate the application process and offers personalized assistance.

Updated regularly, the Grants Office's web site lists current funding opportunities offered by government, foundations and others.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/grants/>

To get started, call Jenny Yanke to discuss your organization, goals, projects and funding needs.

Jenny Yanke, Senior Resource Coordinator

Office of Grants and Projects

612-673-2509

# Electronic Newsletter

Council Member Benson publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail [scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.

# December Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Diamond Lake	11					1	7	3	
Field	9			2	1	1	4	1	
Hale	5						3	2	
Kingfield	18			2	1	5	7	3	
Northrop	7			1		2	3	1	
Page									
Tangletown	12				1	4	6		1
Wenonah	11		1	1	1	3	4	1	
Windom	20			2		7	5	6	

## Monthly Community Meetings

<p><b>Field Regina Northrop</b></p> <p>Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presbyterian 46<sup>th</sup> St. &amp; 17<sup>th</sup> Ave</p>	<p><b>Hale Page Diamond Lake</b></p> <p>Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13<sup>th</sup> Ave S</p>	<p><b>Kingfield</b></p> <p>Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p><b>NENA</b></p> <p>Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St</p>	<p><b>Tangletown</b></p> <p>Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p><b>Windom</b></p> <p>Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S</p>

## Coffee With Scott

Whatever is on your mind, you can sit down with **Scott Benson** and talk about it over a cup of coffee, from **8:00 AM until 9:00 AM** at coffee shops around the 11th ward.

March 16	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago	April 6	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet
May 6	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington	June 1	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet

## Open Appointments

[Minneapolis Public Housing Authority \(closes 2/10/2006\)](#)

[Minneapolis Private Industry/Workforce Council \(PIWC\) \(closes 2/28/2006\)](#)

[Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council \(closes 3/6/2006\)](#)

For more information: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>