

Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

February 2008

Volume 7, Issue 2

WIFI Update

The installation of the citywide WIFI, known as Wireless Minneapolis is progressing. The areas of the 11th Ward located west of 35W have been completed. Installation for the areas east of 35W is scheduled to occur between February 25th and March 11.

During the installation process, USI Wireless (USIW), the private company which is installing the network, has discovered certain areas they are calling "Challenge Areas". These Challenge Areas include areas where service is limited because of a lack of available appropriate public poles for mounting radios. USIW is continuing to work with the City, Park Board and Excel Energy to find appropriate locations for their equipment to provide better coverage in the Challenge Areas. The main Challenge Area in Ward 11 includes the area around Lake Nokomis.

As part of the Wireless Minneapolis contract, US Internet is providing a comprehensive set of community benefits that goes far beyond what any other city in the country has negotiated.

The groundbreaking set of community benefits in the Minneapolis contract leverages the success of the network to help bridge the digital divide. Highlights include:

- USI Wireless will provide \$500,000 to create a "digital inclusion fund" that will be used to promote affordable Internet access, low-cost hardware, local content and training. In addition, US Internet will direct a minimum of five percent of the network's net profits to a digital inclusion fund for ongoing digital inclusion efforts. In total, it is expected that about \$11 million will go into the digital inclusion fund over the 10-year term of the contract.
- Free limited-time service will be available in some public locations, such as parks and plazas in Minneapolis. Maps of these locations are available soon.
- A free "walled garden" level of wireless service will be available to people throughout the city for important neighborhood, government, and community services information.
- Designated community technology centers will receive free wireless access. Maps of these locations available soon.

The community benefits package was created with strong input and feedback from the community. In partnership with C-CAN (a non-profit network of local organizations using technology to serve their communities), a [Digital Inclusion Task Force](#) received public comments and feedback about what community benefits are important to help bridge the digital divide. Based on that input, the task force created a Community Benefits report that served as a basis for Wireless Minneapolis contract negotiations with US Internet.

For more information, go to the Wireless Minneapolis website

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

Inside this issue:

<i>Home Improvement Fair</i>	2
<i>Graffiti Prevention</i>	2
<i>Neighborhood Sustainability Confer-</i>	3
<i>airport Settlement Update</i>	4-5
<i>Monthly Community Meetings</i>	6
<i>Coffee with Scott</i>	6
<i>Open Appointments</i>	6

Important
Phone Numbers
Ward 11 office
673-2211
35W/Crosstown
Construction
Hotline
1-866-743-6590



Housing & Home Improvement Fairs coming

It may not feel like it outside, but spring is just around the corner. So if you're planning to start some home improvement projects once the snow melts, you may want to check out an upcoming home improvement fair.

Two fairs will be held in Minneapolis in March. Stop by to talk to contractors and architects, learn about loans and home buyer programs and meet your neighborhood representatives. Both events also have activities for children.

- **South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair**

Saturday, March 8 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

South High School, 3131 19th Ave. S.

www.housingfair.org

- **North Housing & Home Improvement Fair**

Saturday, March 15 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

North Community High School, 1500 James Ave. N. (enter door numbers 1, 28 or 29 in the southwest corner of building)

www.northhousingfair.com

Graffiti Prevention

Have you found a good way to prevent graffiti? If so, the City of Minneapolis would like to share it with others.

At www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/graffiti/solutions.asp residents can get ideas on how to make their homes and businesses less attractive to graffiti vandals. It includes images showing prevention techniques, such as murals and ivy cover, being put to use.

The examples on the Web site are just a small sample of what's out there. That's why the City of Minneapolis wants residents to submit their own solutions. Some of the submissions will be added to the page to help others protect their property.

Send your graffiti prevention ideas, with images, to GraffitiSolutions@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.



Vandals like to paint graffiti on large flat surfaces. The plants make your property look greener while reducing the likelihood that there will be graffiti problems.

2008 Neighborhood Sustainability Conference

Connecting City & Citizen efforts for Sustainable Communities

Saturday, March 8, 8:30 to 4:30, Augsburg College

Register at www.sustaincommunity.net

The **free conference** will bring together **700 volunteer leaders** from **block clubs, neighborhoods, schools, congregations, garden clubs and lake associations** to plan projects they want to carry out in the spring and summer to help reduce global warming and prepare for energy and climate uncertainty. **Keynote Speaker: [Jay Wall Jasper](#)** Senior Fellow, at Project for Public Spaces, Executive Editor of Ode magazine, previous of the Utne Reader and author of [The Great Neighborhood Book: A Do-It Yourself Guide to Placemaking](#).

Topic tracks will include: **energy, water quality, community gardening, urban forestry, walking/biking & transit use, local food, waste reduction and developing a community-wide sustainability plan.** Share outreach tips with successful **congregations, schools, neighborhoods and block clubs.** Meet with others from your community to envision next steps. Volunteer teams will also be able to track their projects and share ideas with other groups working on similar projects through the conference web site.

- **Volunteer teams are encouraged to bring at least three members.**
- **Resource organizations are also invited to exhibit at the event.**

The event will also feature **great music, food and public art!**

At the conference community volunteers will be able to learn about many different project **grant opportunities** to fund grassroots projects in the areas of [energy](#), [water quality](#), [waste reduction](#), [graffiti prevention](#) and [Climate/Energy Citizen Partnerships](#) .

Space is limited to the first 750 people. Please bring your own waste-free lunch or reserve a local, organic waste free lunch for \$10 when you register. Bus, bike and parking info available on line.

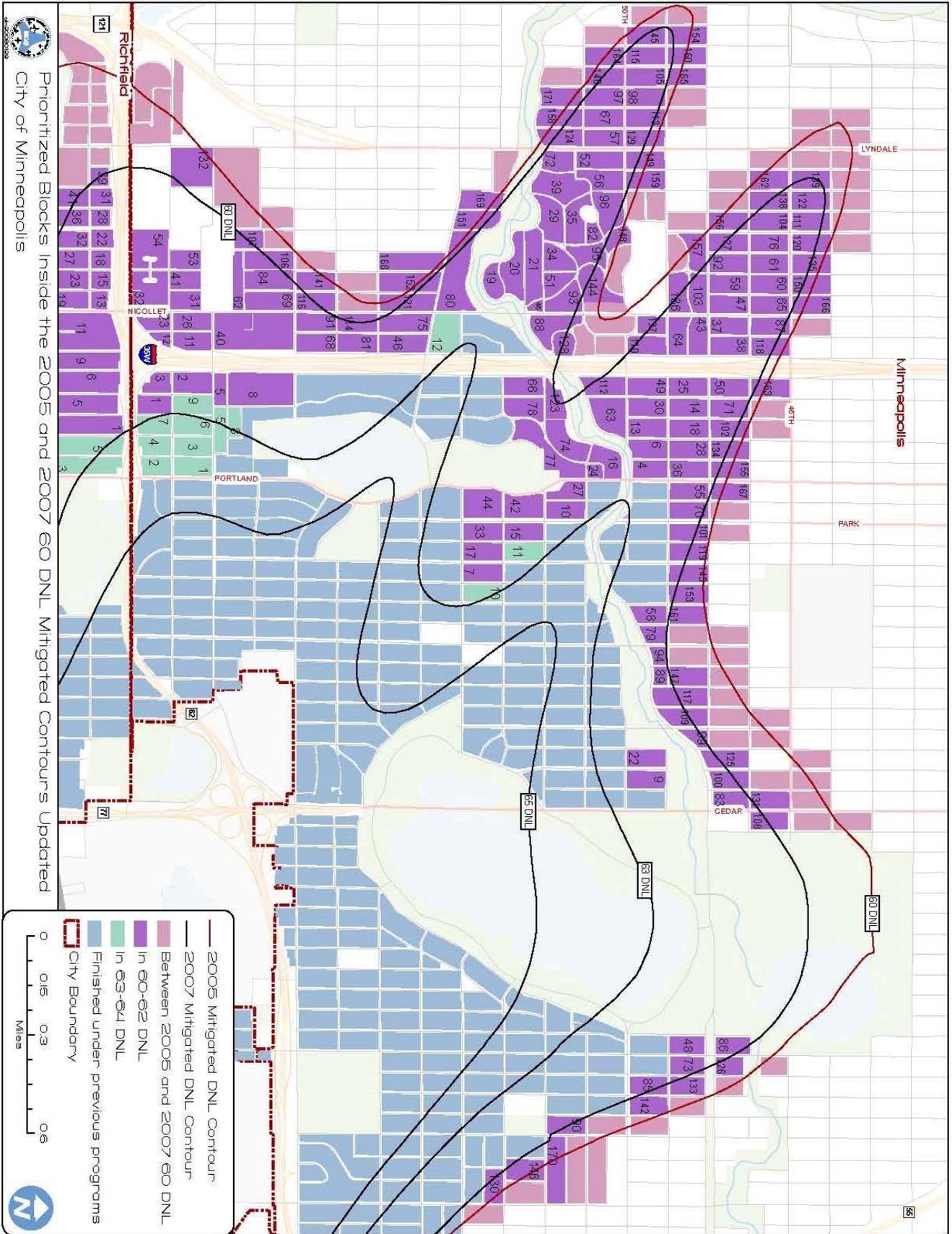
Please pre-register for this free event today at www.sustaincommunity.net

Airport Noise Mitigation Status Report

The MAC recently published the block priority list for the noise mitigation program. See the map on the next page. The map was created by the MAC and they seem to be adverse to using street names, but it appears there are enough clues to help finding your specific block. The lower the block number the sooner the block will be completed.

As you are probably aware, there are three different levels of noise mitigation. Timelines and summaries of what is included in each level is included below.

<p>Total Homes to be Mitigated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated 9,561 homes eligible using block intersect method
<p>Mitigation for Single Family Homes in 2007 DNL 63 and 64 Contours</p> <p>Green Blocks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAC will install Five Decibel Reduction Package • Program includes homes that opted out of the original Sound Insulation Program, but had a new owner by September 1, 2007 • Construction will begin by November 1, 2008, and all homes shall be completed by December 31, 2009; MAC must finish 250 homes by July 1, 2009, and 320 homes by September 1, 2009
<p>Mitigation for Single Family Homes in 2007 DNL 60, 61 and 62 Contours</p> <p>Purple Blocks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAC will install one of the following options, as chosen by the homeowner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o If the home has no central air conditioning: installation of central air conditioning and \$4,000 mitigation from Mitigation Menu o If central air conditioning exists or homeowner without central air conditioning chooses not to receive central air: installation of \$14,000 of mitigation from Mitigation Menu • The Mitigation Menu shall include a similar range of mitigation products as the Five-Decibel Reduction Package, but will not include air conditioning • Program includes homes that opted out of the original Sound Insulation Program, but had a new owner by September 1, 2007 • Construction will begin by December 1, 2008, and be complete by December 1, 2012
<p>Reimbursement for New Mitigation for Single Family Homes Between 2007 and 2005 DNL 60 contours</p> <p>Pink Blocks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAC will make \$7 million available for (1) homes that opted out of 1996 program and had new owners on September 1, 2007, and (2) reimbursement for new noise mitigation undertaken by homeowners • The amount of mitigation reimbursement will be capped based on how much of the \$7 million remains after mitigating the opt-in homes. Preliminary estimates of the reimbursement funds are about \$3,000 per home, but will be calculated at the end of 2009. • Work done between today and July 31, 2014, is eligible for reimbursement – prior work is not eligible • All work must be for products and services on a MAC-published Noise Mitigation Reimbursement List • All work must be done by licensed contractor • Reimbursement to start on March 1, 2010, and be complete by September 1, 2014



Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park</p>
<p>NENA Nokomiseast.org Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office</p>	<p>Tangletown Tangletown.org Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center</p>	<p>Windom Windomcommunity.org Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center</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.

Mar 6	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave	May 1	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington Ave
April 3	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave	June 5	Anodyne 4301 Nicollet Ave

Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more than 45 boards, commissions and advisory committees. These organizations, composed of citizen volunteers, advise the City on current issues and assist the City in policy development and administration of services.

[Minneapolis Capital Long-range Improvement Committee \(closes 2/15/2008\)](#)
[Civilian Police Review Authority \(closes 2/15/2008\)](#)
[Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council \(closes 2/29/2008\)](#)
[Public Health Advisory Committee \(PHAC\) \(closes 2/29/2008\)](#)
[Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners \(closes 2/15/2008\)](#)
[Rental Dwelling License Board of Appeals \(closes 2/29/2008\)](#)
[Zoning Board of Adjustment \(closes 2/29/2008\)](#)

For more information:

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

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 me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.