

# Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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## City Budget Adoption

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5 PM, the City will hold its Truth in Taxation public hearing at City Hall Rm 317. Budget adoption is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm, in City Hall.

The Ways & Means Committee held budget hearings throughout November on the Mayor's proposed budget. The budget for 2008 reflects a 1.8 million decrease in LGA (Local Government Aid). It also reflects another increase of 8% to the property tax levy. Finally, one of the more significant policy changes for the 2008 budget is the Council's removal of the 2% wage cap for employees, replaced by a new Compensation Philosophy adopted in 2007.

Many departments were required to reduce their budgets for 2008 because of reduced available funding, including the Business Information Services (the City's IT Department), Public Works, and Regulatory Services Departments. New spending highlights of the proposed budget include:

- \$300,000 to hire 4 new 911 operators
- \$4.3 M to the police department (for hiring 18 officers, eliminating structural problems within the budget with \$2.5M, adding \$800,000 for overtime, adding increased revenue projections of \$1M)
- \$150,000 for community micro-grants to prevent gang graffiti
- \$100,000 to fund the Youth Violence Prevention Committee Implementation plan
- \$75,000 to fund the Youth are Here buses of the Youth Coordinating Board
- \$75,000 to fund Youth Violence Prevention grants

The full budget is available for review at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance).

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



## Get Snow Emergency alerts by phone and e-mail

When a snowstorm blows through town, you need to know if a Snow Emergency is in effect before parking along Minneapolis streets. Signing up for alerts now could help prevent you from getting ticketed or your vehicle towed in the future.

The City has an automated phone system that contacts residents when Snow Emergencies are declared. However, only listed residential phone numbers are called automatically. If you want to get these alerts, you'll need to sign up for the service. Just go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow) and click on "Stay informed about Snow Emergencies."

While on the website, sign up to get Snow Emergency e-mail alerts. That way, you can find out about a Snow Emergency declaration before you leave the office. This service also makes it possible to get Snow Emergency text messages on your cell phone, which can come in handy when you're away from your computer.

As always, call the Snow Emergency hotline at any time to find out if one is in effect. The number is 348-SNOW (TTY: 673-2116).

Minneapolis needs to keep its streets safe and drivable throughout the snow season. Snow Emergencies make that possible by banning parking on sections of streets so City plows can clear them. With 1,100 miles of streets and parkways in Minneapolis, snow plowing is a big job. Following the parking rules during a Snow Emergency speeds up this work and helps improve driving conditions for everyone.

## Forbes ranks Minneapolis as most affordable place to live well in U.S.

Here's another reason why it's great to live in Minneapolis: it's affordable!

The national business journal Forbes ranked Minneapolis as the 'Most Affordable Place to Live Well' in the nation, following a study of the nation's 50 largest cities. Minneapolis came out ahead of Indianapolis, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Houston - the top five cities chosen by the magazine.

Cities were ranked using a scale that looked at relatively affordable housing, high quality of life, and access to choice arts, leisure, and entertainment offerings.

A big factor in helping push the Minneapolis area to the top is that 61-percent of homes in the area are affordable to the median household earner. Its quality of life ranking is high (third in the nation) and the access to the arts and leisure was also strong (ninth overall).

# Youth Employment

Applications for the City of Minneapolis' STEP-UP summer jobs program for youth have been distributed to approximately 250 schools and community organizations. Information about STEP-UP and downloadable application forms are available on the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program website <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/>

## STEP-UP for 14-15 year olds

A nine-week, paid summer jobs program for low-income Minneapolis youth.

### Participants:

- Work 30 hours a week from mid-June to mid-August.
- Earn \$6 per hour at a job such as a landscaper, tutor, childcare worker, computer intern, clerical assistant, peer educator, camp counselor or maintenance worker.
- Earn high school credit by attending C.L.A.S.S.
- Take part in a business mentoring program or spend a week, for free, at a multi-cultural camp called Camp Sunrise.
- Learn new skills on the job.
- Provide valuable services at a local public or non-profit agency.

### How to apply:

- The application deadline for STEP-UP for 14-15 year olds is Jan. 11, 2008.
- Download an application here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/docs/stepup\\_app\\_14.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/docs/stepup_app_14.pdf)
- Applications are also available at:
  - Achieve! Career and College Centers in the MPLS public high schools;
  - The South Workforce Center at 777 E. Lake St.; or
  - The North Workforce Center at 1200 Plymouth Ave. N.
- Complete every section of the application and return it to the Achieve! Career and College Centers or mail to:  
Attn: STEP-UP Program, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development, 777 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407

For more information call Anne Fischer at 612-673-6221.

## STEP-UP for 16-21 year-olds

A six- to 10-week paid summer jobs program for Minneapolis youth.

### Participants:

- Work full-time or part-time (20-40 hours per week) from mid-June through August.
- Earn \$7 to more than \$10 per hour in a field that interests you: business, health care, creative arts and many other areas.
- Explore career interests and gain job skills in a professional setting.
- Make future connections at top Minneapolis employers.

### How to apply:

- The application deadline for STEP-UP for 16-21 year olds is Jan. 11, 2008.
- Applications are available for download at: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/docs/stepup\\_app\\_16.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/docs/stepup_app_16.pdf) and at <http://www.achievinneapolis.org/programs/stepUp.html>
- Visit an Achieve! Career & College Center in a Minneapolis public high school to pick up an application.
- Call Achieve!Minneapolis to request an application by mail at (612) 455-1563.
- Complete every section of the application and return it to an Achieve! Career and College Center in a MPLS public high school, or mail it to: Achieve!Minneapolis/STEP-UP, 111 Third Avenue S. Suite 5, Minneapolis, MN 55401

For more information call or email [Jennifer Petersen](mailto:Jennifer.Petersen@achievinneapolis.org) at Achieve!Minneapolis at 612-455-1563.

## Monthly Community Meetings

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

## 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.

[Civilian Police Review Authority \(closes 12/28/2007\)](#)

[Heritage Preservation Commission \(closes 12/31/2007\)](#)

[Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council \(closes 12/28/2007\)](#)

[Minneapolis Telecommunications Network \(MTN\) \(Closes 1-4-08\)](#)

[Rental Dwelling License Board of Appeals \(closes 12/14/2007\)](#)

[Zoning Board of Adjustment \(closes 2/1/2008\)](#)

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](mailto:scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.