



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

June 29, 2007

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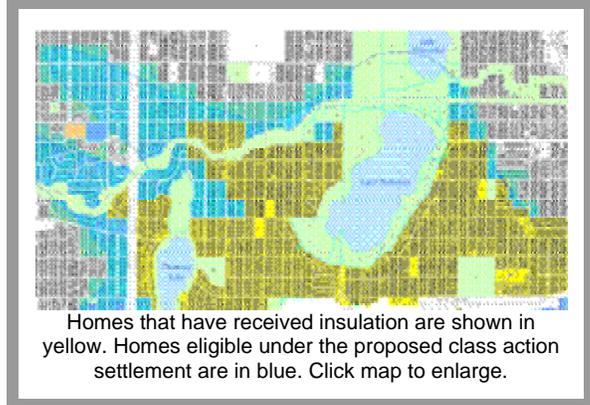
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Airport noise litigation moves forward

As Ninth Ward residents brace for increased airport noise this summer due to runway construction, two lawsuits are progressing against the [Metropolitan Airports Commission](#) (MAC) for failure to provide sound mitigation.



Homes that have received insulation are shown in yellow. Homes eligible under the proposed class action settlement are in blue. Click map to enlarge.

The first lawsuit was filed by Minneapolis, Richfield, Eagan and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority. A class-action lawsuit was also filed by seven Minneapolis residents.

The cities' lawsuit won a key court victory earlier this year when [Judge Stephen Aldrich ruled](#) in favor of the cities, finding the MAC violated the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act. Judge Aldrich said that the MAC had reneged on its obligation to limit noise pollution and violated the standards it set in exchange for approval of airport expansion. The judge asked the cities to develop proposals for a fair settlement. Ideas for counter proposals can be sent to [Council Members](#).

Last month the city was notified that attorneys for the class action lawsuit had negotiated a [settlement](#). Under the terms released, 46 percent of affected homes would get no sound mitigation, while the remaining would receive air conditioning or other noise insulation options. "This settlement is dramatically less than MAC agreed to when they approved recommendations from the 1996 Community Stabilization Committee in their EIS," Council Member Gary Schiff said.

Meanwhile, a two-year runway [reconstruction plan](#) will redirect dozens of daily flights over Cedar Avenue. An open house to explain the impact to residents will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 30 at the Nokomis Community Center (2401 East Minnehaha Parkway).

Reward offered for graffiti convictions



Clear Channel donated new billboards in Spanish and English to advertise new anti-graffiti initiatives.

Calls to 911 resulting in a graffiti arrest are now eligible for rewards up to \$500, Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan announced this week. "Graffiti arrests are up 50 percent, and someone is arrested every other day. Call 911 if you see graffiti in progress," Council Member Schiff said. Paint manufacturers created the award in addition to funding a new compliance program regulating spray paint sales to minors. [Click here](#) to learn

more or contribute to the fund.

Two new anti-graffiti ordinances authored by Council Member Schiff will go into affect this summer. Removal time for graffiti will be reduced to seven days and laws prohibiting spray paint sales to minors will be enforced. "Although Minneapolis restricts spray paint sales to adults, the average age of those arrested is just seventeen," Schiff said. As part

of the new ordinance, Minneapolis will conduct age compliance checks at stores, similar to ones that are used to pinpoint sales of alcohol or tobacco to minors. Violations can bring fines of up to \$200. For more information on how Minneapolis is working to get rid of graffiti, [click here](#).

Wireless network helps shrink digital divide

While work continues on the second phase of [Minneapolis' Wireless network](#), a \$200,000 grant has been received by US Internet to shrink the digital divide. The grant will be administered by the [Digital Inclusion Task Force](#) and will fund community tech centers, low-cost hardware and technology training. In addition, US Internet will direct a minimum of five percent of the network's net profits for ongoing digital inclusion efforts. Eleven million dollars is expected to be spent during the ten-year contract.

Free limited-time service will be available in some public locations, such as parks and plazas. Free service will also offer neighborhood, government, and community information. Designated community technology centers will receive free wireless access. To learn more or sign up for service, [click here](#).



Click the map to find out when wireless service will begin in your neighborhood.

National Night Out sponsors food drive

The United Way is asking residents to bring canned goods to their block party during National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 to help fight hunger. By including a [food drive in NNO block parties](#), neighbors can take part in a great cause and build a better community. "For parents whose children qualify for school lunch programs, summer can be the toughest time to keep kids from going hungry," Council Member Schiff said.

United Way is encouraging nonperishable food items such as canned tuna or ham, peanut butter & jelly, canned tomatoes, cooking oil, rice or dried beans, canned stews, chili & soups. Block clubs are asked to deliver all donations to your local food shelf by Monday, August 13. Call [Katherine Werner](#) at United Way at 612-340-7408 with questions. Call 211 for locations of your local food shelf.

Free summer buses help kids



Two new free bus routes in north and south Minneapolis are giving kids safe and reliable transportation to summertime activities. The buses run Monday through Friday until Aug. 24, 2007.

Children age 9 to 18 can ride for free, while children under 9 can ride if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Routes include stops at parks, libraries, and other community resources that offer kids opportunities to stay busy this summer. Riding the bus is free, but registration is required. To register, to see route maps and schedules, and to get more information, visit

www.ycb.org.