

# Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

March 2008

Volume 7, Issue 3

## Minneapolis 150: Celebrate your city's sesquicentennial!

Our city turns 150 this year, and everyone in Minneapolis is invited to take part in the sesquicentennial celebrations.

In 1858, the people who lived in what would ultimately become Minneapolis voted to turn their community into an official town. The first Town Council meeting was held on July 20 of that year. Back then, Minneapolis had just 3,391 residents. The city itself was also much smaller, covering little more than what we know as Downtown today.



The City's official sesquicentennial celebration will be held in conjunction with the Aquatennial, July 18 – 27. However, there will be events scheduled throughout the year in partnership with Hennepin History Museum ([www.hennepinhistory.org](http://www.hennepinhistory.org)), Meet Minneapolis ([www.meetminneapolis.com](http://www.meetminneapolis.com)), Hennepin County Library ([www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)) and others to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As events and dates are finalized, you can find out about them at the official sesquicentennial Web site: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/150](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/150)

Besides the City-sponsored events, communities and organizations throughout the City are also encouraged to plan their own sesquicentennial activities. For information about promoting your sesquicentennial activity using the "Minneapolis 150" logo, send an e-mail message to [150@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:150@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

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



## Crime Prevention Awards recognize our city's top block clubs

The Minneapolis Police Department has chosen 14 block clubs from across the city as winners of 2007 Building Blocks Awards, which are awarded each year to the city's most active and effective block clubs.

Along with the Building Blocks Awards, police named Abia Isse Ali as the latest recipient of the Theresa S. Rhuland Youth Award. A mother of three, Ali works with Somali youth and children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Minneapolis has a long tradition of strong block clubs, with neighbors working together to prevent crime, connect people who live and work on the block, and take on issues in their neighborhoods. Block clubs can improve the general quality of life, helping neighbors develop a feeling of mutual support from their community. Each year, the Minneapolis Police Department makes a special effort to honor volunteers and block clubs who have done outstanding work.

The awards were given as part of the Minneapolis Police Department's 2007 Crime Prevention Awards. For a list of all award recipients, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police).

If you don't have a block club on your street, consider starting one yourself. For more information, visit: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/safe](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/safe).

## Innovative community micro grants available to fight graffiti

Does your organization have a creative idea for preventing and cleaning up graffiti? If so, the City of Minneapolis wants to help fund it.

Micro grants of up to \$10,000 per project are being made available to communities and community-based organizations that target graffiti in innovative ways. Totaling \$150,000, these micro grants are intended to act as seed money for manageable projects that will eventually lead to larger, more ambitious initiatives.

To learn more about the graffiti innovation micro grants, to get an application, visit the City's graffiti Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/graffiti](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/graffiti). An informational meeting will also be held for interested groups:

### **Graffiti Micro grants informational meeting**

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 5, 2008  
City of Lakes Building, Room 203  
309 2nd Ave. S.

Questions can also be submitted in writing prior to the meeting by emailing [graffiti@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:graffiti@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or by faxing them to (612) 673-2250.

Application deadline is Friday, March 14, 2008.

# City offers grants to groups working to curb climate change

Last year's effort to fund projects that help fight global warming was so successful that the City of Minneapolis is offering a new round of climate change grants in 2008.

Neighborhood, business, and faith-based associations are eligible to apply for these grants, along with non-profits, libraries, park and recreational centers, and other public organizations that serve Minneapolis residents.

Two types of grants are available through the program:

**Grassroots Climate Change Micro Grants** Grant amount: up to \$1,500 (no match required)  
Application deadline: 4 p.m., Thursday, March 20, 2008

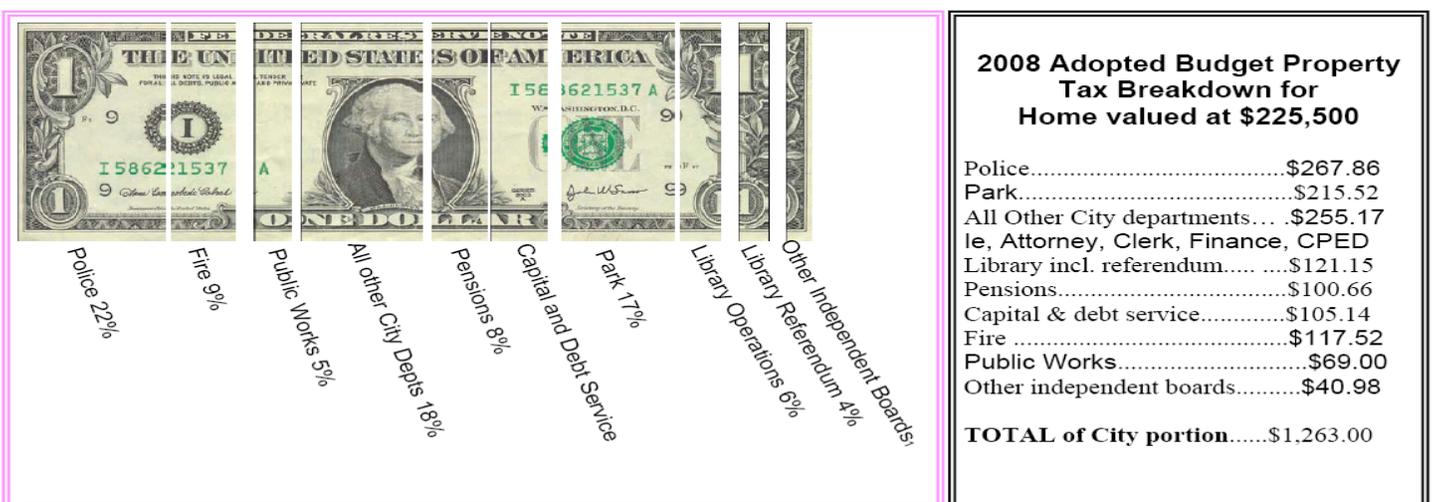
**Climate Change Innovations Grants** Grant amount: Up to \$10,000 (no match required)  
Application deadline: 4 p.m. Monday, March 24, 2008

It is expected that 20 to 30 Grassroots Climate Change Micro Grants will be awarded, along with five to seven of the larger Climate Change Innovations Grants.

To learn more about the grants, to get an application, and to see project ideas, visit the City's sustainability Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability)

In 2007, the City awarded 25 similar grants that leveraged thousands of dollars in volunteer time and resources resulting in more than 1,400 Minneapolis residents signing up for the Minnesota Energy Challenge. Together, those participants saved about 8.2 million pounds of carbon dioxide and \$682,000 annually on their energy use.

Minneapolis is considered one of the most environmentally-friendly cities in the country, and the City has long been a leader in creating policies and practices that protect and enhance the environment and combat global climate change. Earlier this month, Popular Science magazine named Minneapolis among the top green cities in the country.



Police.....	\$267.86
Park.....	\$215.52
All Other City departments... le, Attorney, Clerk, Finance, CPED	\$255.17
Library incl. referendum.....	\$121.15
Pensions.....	\$100.66
Capital & debt service.....	\$105.14
Fire .....	\$117.52
Public Works.....	\$69.00
Other independent boards.....	\$40.98
<b>TOTAL of City portion.....</b>	<b>\$1,263.00</b>

The full document that this graph is taken from is attached to the e-mailed version of this newsletter.

## Monthly Community Meetings

<p><b>Field Regina Northrop</b>  <a href="http://FRNNG.org">FRNNG.org</a>            Meets Third Wednesday            6:30 PM            Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p><b>Hale Page Diamond Lake</b>  <a href="http://HPDL.org">HPDL.org</a>            Meets Fourth Monday            7:00 PM            Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p><b>Kingfield</b>  <a href="http://Kingfield.org">Kingfield.org</a>            Meets Second Wednesday            7:00 PM            Martin Luther King Park</p>
<p><b>NENA</b>  <a href="http://Nokomiseast.org">Nokomiseast.org</a>            Meets Fourth Thursday            7:00 PM            NENA Office</p>	<p><b>Tangletown</b>  <a href="http://Tangletown.org">Tangletown.org</a>            Meets Third Monday            7:00 PM            Fuller Community Center</p>	<p><b>Windom</b>  <a href="http://Windomcommunity.org">Windomcommunity.org</a>            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 Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners \(closes 3/21/2008\)](#)

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.