

# WARD 11 Newsletter



Council Member Scott Benson

DIAMOND LAKE, FIELD, HALE, KINGFIELD NORTHRUP, PAGE, TANGLETOWN, WINDOM, and WENONA

## Sound Insulation Program Underway

Many people have been asking for an update on the progress of the MAC noise insulation project which is based on a settlement reached in 2007 between the cities of Minneapolis, Richfield, and Eagan and the MAC.

Under the terms of the settlement, MAC is providing a five decibel noise mitigation package to eligible homes inside the 63-64 DNL contours within the 2007 Noise Mitigation Map. There are 455 homes eligible for the 5 Db package. As of January first, 261 of these homes were either completed or in process.

In addition, the MAC has launched Phase 2A of the program, which involves approximately 2,800 homes that lie within the 60-62 DNL contours on the 2007 map. These homes will be offered either \$14,000 worth of mitigation treatments or a new central air conditioning system and an additional \$4,000 worth of mitigation that could include doors and windows, new storm windows and storm doors, and attic and side-wall insulation. Actual treatments will vary depending upon a home's current condition and needs. To talk with experts about the remodeling options and to see the actual windows, doors, air conditioners and insulation, you can visit the Center for Energy and Environment office at 6517 Nicollet Ave S.

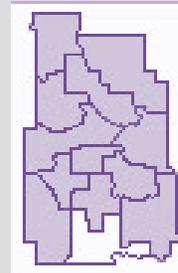
Homeowners eligible under either phase are brought into the program based on a prioritization system that invites homeowners on blocks with the highest noise impacts into the program first.

Homes within the 60-64 DNL on the 2005 Noise Mitigation Map but are not covered by the other MAC mitigation programs are eligible to receive reimbursement for approximately \$2,400 of noise mitigation work they undertake on their homes. Eligible work must comply with the terms and conditions of the settlement in order to qualify. Postcards have been sent to all these home owners with details.

For more information, please see the MAC's website

[www.macnoise.com/sip/settlement](http://www.macnoise.com/sip/settlement)

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## Volunteer Opportunity

Over the past four years the Minneapolis Capital Long Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) has been well-served under the guidance of former Windom Neighborhood Association President Mary Ubl. After years of dedicated service Mary has decided to not seek reappointment leaving the position open for another citizen volunteer to help advise City leaders in important decision-making. The position offers members a unique perspective and greater voice in review of proposed Capital Improvement Projects.

CLIC is responsible for reviewing and critiquing approximately 120 capital budget requests submitted by City Departments, Independent Boards and Commissions of the City to arrive at a financially balanced, programmatically proportioned, and equitably distributed five-year capital program recommendation to the Mayor and City Council.

The CLIC Process occurs from Mid-March – Early July each year. The estimated volunteer hours for participating in the CLIC Process range from 70 to 100 hours as follows:

- Reading & Reviewing Proposals – 20 - 36 Hours (personal time)
- Attending CLIC Meetings – 15 – 20 Hours (Tuesday meetings from Noon – 1:30 pm)
- Attending Department Presentations – 24 Hours (may include Saturday/evening meetings)
- Rating Proposals – 6 to 12 Hours (personal time)
- Writing & Reviewing Comments/Other – 5 to 8 Hours (mostly personal time)

If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Council Member Benson. Deadline for application is February 20th.

### Important Phone Numbers

Ward 11 office:  
673-2211

35W/Crosstown  
Construction  
Hotline:  
1-866-743-6590

## Meetings Offer Chance for Residents to Weigh in on Budget Cuts

Like other Minnesota communities, the City of Minneapolis faces significant financial challenges in large part due to State finances. Governor Tim Pawlenty's action that cut \$13.1 million from local government aid to Minneapolis has left City officials no choice but to revamp the 2009 budget, and prepare for even more significant cuts from the State.

The City is asking residents, businesses, and City employees to share their priorities and ideas for making these significant cuts. In 2003, the last time the state cut local aid to Minneapolis, the City made major structural reforms that put us in much stronger financial footing to deal with the current situation. However, the magnitude of the cuts needed this time means changes or reductions to some City services are unavoidable. Minneapolis already receives \$36 million less in State aid than it did five years ago.

In February, Mayor R.T. Rybak will host two community meetings where people can give their input into their priorities for the upcoming budget revisions and share their ideas for saving money and cutting services.

The \$13 million cut represents a significant financial impact to the City's budget. To put that dollar amount into context, it represents the equivalent of paying for 130 police officers or 150 firefighters. It also represents a cut that is about twice as much as it cost the City to respond to the Interstate 35W Bridge collapse.

The vast majority of the City's annual budget is restricted for specific purposes. Out of the City's approximately \$1.4 billion budget, \$374 million is from its general fund, which is funded primarily through property taxes and local government aid. That means that cuts to Local Government Aid result in the City having to make budget cuts from services paid for by the general fund, specifically services like police and fire protection, land use planning, and public works services (which include street repairs, snow removal, and infrastructure improvements). More than half of the general fund goes to public safety.

Mayor Rybak will propose a new 2009 budget to the City Council in mid- to late-February. The City Council will consider the new budget following a typical budget deliberation process and is expected to vote to approve a new budget in early March.

For more information on the Minneapolis budget, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/2009budget](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/2009budget). From this website you can also provide input about your priorities for the budget.

### 2009 Budget Cut Community Meetings

Monday, Feb. 9  
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Martin Luther King Park Recreation  
Center  
4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

Tuesday, Feb. 10  
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Eastside Neighborhood Services

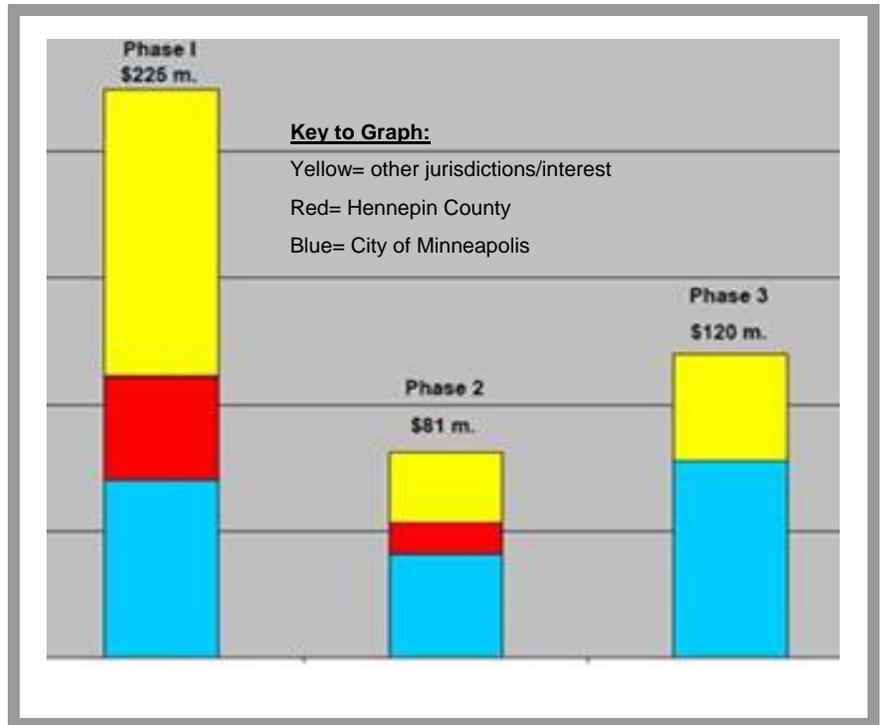
## Ten More Years of Funding Approved for NRP Groups

Last month the Minneapolis City Council approved ten more years of funding for neighborhood groups that are nearing the end of the second phase of the successful [Neighborhood Revitalization Program \(NRP\)](#).

The funds were made possible by legislation introduced by State Rep. Jim Davnie in the 2008 legislative session. The funds will come from tax increment financing, the source that funded NRP Phase 1. The legislature severely restricted use of tax increment as a funding source in Phase 2.

The City Council also outlined changes to the advisory board that oversees neighborhood group funding. Neighborhood groups will appoint eight members, an increase from the four seats for neighborhoods in Phase I and II. Five residents will be appointed by the City Council, two by the Mayor and one by the Park Board

The \$120 million in Phase 3 will be divided into 7898—a fund that will be allocated to neighborhood groups based on poverty levels and other demographic factors, and city administrative costs. The fourth fund, Community Revitalization will total \$35 million and will be used for neighborhood prioritized commercial revitalization projects.



## For a Second Year Running, Crime is Down in Minneapolis

Successful crime-fighting strategies such as proactive policing, community outreach and youth violence prevention have helped Minneapolis achieve a second straight year of double-digit reductions in crime.

In 2008, violent crime in Minneapolis dropped 13 percent from the previous year, and 24 percent from 2006. Homicides were down 22 percent from 2007 and 39 percent from 2006. Robberies decreased 18 percent, aggravated assaults were down 8 percent, and juvenile crime fell 17 percent.

Every Minneapolis police precinct reported drops in violent crime last year. The Second Precinct (northeast) led the city with a 21 percent decrease, followed by the Fourth Precinct (north) with 15 percent, the First Precinct (downtown) and Fifth Precinct (southwest) with 12 percent and the Third Precinct (south) with 11 percent.

Police and City leaders attribute the city's double-digit reductions in violent crime to several proactive coordinated efforts which highlight prevention as the key to progress. Community-oriented policing strategies implemented over the past two years are helping police better connect to communities, combat juvenile crime, and improve overall public safety in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis' coordinated youth violence enforcement and prevention programs continued to show progress in 2008 and are making the City a national leader in the fight to end violent crime among youth. Less than 20 percent of all arrests in 2008 involved juveniles – a decrease from more than 30 percent in 2006. Juvenile violent crime fell 23 percent in 2008. Over the last two years, juvenile violent crime in Minneapolis has dropped 42 percent as a result of several interwoven innovative prevention and enforcement strategies.



## 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>

## Public Bike Sharing

Public bicycle sharing systems, like the Paris 'Vélib', make it easy for commuters, students, tourists and urban residents to use a bike for short trips in the heart of the City. Sturdy, upright bikes with lights, fenders, and cargo space are locked in self-service kiosks located throughout the City. Subscribers can take a bike with the swipe of a card and return it to any kiosk. The City of Minneapolis and the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation have put forward a proposal for public bicycle sharing in Minneapolis. Please join us at one of three public meetings above to learn more and let us hear your thoughts and ideas.

### Public Meetings on Proposal for Public Bicycle Sharing in Minneapolis in February

**Tuesday, February 10**, 7:00 PM, Coffman Memorial Union, The Whole Music Club (basement level), [300 Washington Ave SE](http://300WashingtonAveSE)

**Thursday, February 12**, 5:30 PM, Central Library, Pohlad Hall, [300 Nicollet Mall](http://300NicolletMall)

**RSVP to:** [Andrea Petersen](mailto:Andrea.Petersen) and indicate which meeting you will attend. Your name will be added to a list of persons interested in receiving updates on the Twin Cities Bike Share Project.

**url:** [www.niceride.com](http://www.niceride.com)

To learn more about public bicycle systems and this proposal, visit [www.niceride.com](http://www.niceride.com)

## 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.

[Latino Advisory Committee Vacancy \(Closes 02/27/2009\)](#)

[Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Vacancy \(Closes 02/13/2009\)](#)

For more information:

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

or call the City Clerk's office at 612-673-3358

## 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.