



Ninth Ward E-News

From Minneapolis City Council Member Gary Schiff

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward9

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Minneapolis Awards Grants for Gang Prevention

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support has awarded 7 grants for Youth Violence Prevention for a total of \$250,000 per year for two years. Grant

recipients include the Minneapolis Public Schools Broadway School, to reduce the number of suspensions and transfers due to violent behavior; Plymouth Christian Youth Center, to reconnect youth with a positive future through arts and technology; Little Earth Residents Association, to develop a targeted mentoring program for youth; The Confederation of the Somali Community of Minnesota, to expand street based outreach to Somali youth; The Southeast Asian Refugee Community Home, to expand recreation and enrichment activities Kwanzaa Community Church, for the Teen Connection Café in north Minneapolis; and the Division of Indian Work.

The Division of Indian Work was granted \$40,000 to expand their cultural collaborative of Cante Ma Waste' (My Heart is Good). The Healing Spirit Home Program helps teach displaced kids about their culture. WCCO TV featured the program, which uses drumming and singing as teaching tools, in a [news story](#) last week.



City of Minneapolis Bond Rating Upgraded

Fitch Ratings has upgraded Minneapolis' AAA bond rating by removing the "negative outlook" and replacing it with a "stable

outlook.” The change reflects Fitch’s belief that Minneapolis’ financial outlook is stable and will remain at a “AAA” rating, the highest level possible. AAA rating is important because it allows Minneapolis to borrow money at lower interest rates. The ratings are also used by investors who buy the City’s bonds as a measure of how likely the City is to repay them on time.

In assigning the new rating, Fitch stated, “The long-term ‘AAA’ rating reflects a broad economy having limited volatility, strong and consistent budgetary performance, ample financial flexibility, and moderate tax-supported debt levels.” The removal of the “negative outlook” follows several positive changes. Minneapolis has held itself to its financial plan, making progress in reducing or eliminating deficits in its internal service funds. The City has also maintained its general fund reserves despite significant cuts in spending following Local Government Aid reductions from the state. Minneapolis has also issued fewer bonds to finance its pension obligations than previously expected.

Minneapolis Approves Land Sale For Clean Energy Facility

The Minneapolis city council today approved the sale of city



land for the development of a clean energy facility. Midtown Eco Energy will use “biomass” fuel to produce electricity and heating in the Phillips neighborhood. City leaders are hailing the [Midtown Eco Energy project](#) as a way to cut greenhouse gases

affecting the global climate while creating local economic opportunities.

“In addition to electricity, this new facility will produce affordable heat directly benefiting the surrounding neighborhoods,” said Council Member Gary Schiff. “Lower heating costs will be a strong incentive for further revitalization.” The facility will re-use a former municipal incinerator at Hiawatha and Lake that closed in the 1970s. The electricity produced would provide power for up to 15,000 households. The facility should be fully operational in summer 2008.

WE WIN Family Day

Tuesday, July 18, 2006 is WE WIN Family Day at the HHH Metrodome. Congressman Martin Olav Sabo is the Honorary Chair of the event which will feature live music and student performances. As Twins fans enter the Metrodome, they will receive a WE WIN booklet explaining about the organization. Pre-Game activities begin at 5:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks and an ethnic dish called Samosas will be served at the Dome Court Yard, outside the Metrodome.

Your \$50 admission fee includes food, music, pre-game recognition of our students, a T-shirt and a Twins game ticket. All proceeds go to [WE WIN Institute](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to the academic and social success of all children. For tickets, call We Win Institute at 612-721-2364 or purchase [online](#).

Minneapolis Lauded For Urban Design Standards

Time and Newsweek magazines have both featured Minneapolis in recent weeks as the [Guthrie Theater](#) and [Central Library](#) have opened. Those projects, designed by [Jean Nouvel](#)



and [Cesar Pelli](#) respectively, join the expansion of the [Minneapolis Institute of Arts](#) (by [Michael Graves](#)) and [Walker Art Center](#) (designed by [Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron](#)) and the University of [Minnesota's Weisman Art Museum](#) (designed by [Frank Gehry](#)) to form the backbone of Minneapolis' architectural renaissance.

Newsweek named Minneapolis part of the "Design Dozen", referencing the above projects that make the city a "design boomtown". For the full text of the Newsweek article, [click here](#). Time features the new Guthrie theater and says that "Minneapolis has abruptly emerged as a hotbed of high-profile architecture". For the full text of the Time story, [click here](#).

