

## **Two Articles for January 2005 Issue of Eastside NEWS**

### **Persistence Leads to Airport Noise Audit**

Neighborhood residents were rewarded this winter when Dane County supervisors required the airport to conduct a noise control audit during 2005. SASYNA's call for the audit was first rejected by airport staff and Airport Commissioner Bill White, eastside representative on the county airport committee. On behalf of neighborhood residents, Supervisor John Hendrick then proposed the audit as an airport budget amendment, which was rejected by County Executive Kathy Falk. When her budget moved on to the Dane County board, SASYNA and residents rallied to contact county supervisors and ask for their support. In the end, the noise audit amendment was added to the airport budget.

The audit will track the effectiveness of the airport's noise control program by monitoring all flights over the city. Previously, airport staff only investigated flights if neighbors bothered to call the noise hotline (246-5841). The hotline has become increasingly archaic as residents have stopped calling since their trouble only resulted in a form letter and no noticeable improvements. With the audit, airport staff will check all flights over populated areas of Madison to determine the reason for not following the noise abatement plan, which sends planes to north of the county airport, away from residents. Reasons for not following the plan might include weather, excessive traffic, or a clear violation of the plan. Last year, a short-term audit had shown that 2% of incoming and 1% of outgoing flights had intentionally violated the plan. Over 40% of the flights could not follow the plan due to "aircraft saturation" or too much traffic at the same time. Neighborhood residents will need to closely watch this last reason for not following the airport's noise control plan. With calls for more flights at the county airport to improve the county's business climate, alternative noise control methods may be needed to protect our neighborhood's quality of life.

Steve Klafka  
SASYNA and Neighborhood Resident

### **Residents Win First Battle over Kipp Air Pollution**

Last spring, the Department of Natural Resources ignored neighborhood concerns and issued an air pollution permit and another 61 tons per year of uncontrolled discharges from the Madison-Kipp aluminum foundry on Atwood Avenue. After years of complaints, residents, organized as Clean Air Madison, took their cause to the courts and challenged DNR issuance of the permit. CAM asked for an independent review of the DNR permit approval.

This past fall, lawyers for CAM, the DNR and Kipp exchanged initial legal arguments. On December 6th, Judge Bolt rejected Kipp's request to dismiss CAM's petition for a hearing or trial. This hearing is now planned for the week of February 7, 2005. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend.

Unfortunately, the judge also ruled that CAM cannot argue that DNR should have required Kipp to

comply with the new air quality standard for particles less than 2.5 microns, called PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality standard was adopted by USEPA in 1997 and is designed to better protect human health. Based on the examiner's decision, Kipp does not need to comply with the new air quality standard until DNR adopts PM<sub>2.5</sub> regulations. Much of the hearing will instead focus on whether DNR accurately estimated health effects on nearby residents, and if Kipp complies with the existing 30-year old air standard for large particles, or TSP.

Up to date information on the neighborhood permit challenge and other CAM activities is available at their web site: [www.cleanairmadison.org](http://www.cleanairmadison.org). CAM is still looking for donations for its legal defense fund and a spaghetti fundraiser is planned for Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at Bunky's Café on Atwood Avenue.

Steve Klafka  
SASYNA and Neighborhood Resident