

Ward 11 Monthly Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

Aug 2006

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Changes at Cedar/Edgewater

Residents near Cedar Ave at Lake Nokomis have had concerns about congestion, speeding and traffic safety. Council Member Benson requested that the city Public Works Department look at the traffic patterns on Cedar Ave south from 46th St and south and take public input from residents. The results have been a plan presented to the residents earlier this year and implemented at the end of June. That plan includes:

- Northbound Cedar Ave- no left turn onto either Edgewater Blvd or Nokomis Pkwy during the morning rush hour.
- Eastbound Edgewater Blvd- no left turn onto Cedar Ave during the afternoon rush hour.
- Establish a left turn lane from southbound Cedar Ave to Nokomis Pkwy
- Parking restriction around the Cedar Ave and Nokomis Pkwy/Edgewater Blvd intersection to provide better sight lines.

As part of this study, the traffic engineers identified problems at other intersections further north on Cedar Ave.

- Left turn lanes on Cedar Ave to turn onto both 46th St and 52nd St.
- 52nd St between Cedar and 18th Ave is one-way westbound.
- Parking restriction around the Cedar Ave and 46th and Cedar and 52nd intersections to provide better sight lines.

Over the coming months, the city traffic engineers will evaluate the effectiveness of these changes on traffic safety in the area and will recommend changes if there are ways to make the intersection safer.

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Important Phone Numbers

- Ward 11 Office
673-2211



Instant Runoff Voting

The City Council has been debating a proposal, authored by Council Member Benson, which would use Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for municipal elections. IRV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives a majority of first choice votes, that candidate wins. If not, a virtual instant runoff election is held and the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and votes cast for this candidate are transferred to the second choice listed on each ballot. That process is repeated until there is a majority winner.

IRV would eliminate the need for a primary election, allowing the pool of candidates to be pared down to the one winner on election day

In order to make this change, IRV will need to be approved by the voters of Minneapolis. A ballot question will appear on the general election ballot this fall.

For more information about IRV, go to the website:

<http://www.fairvotemn.org/>

Trees in Minneapolis need your help

Due to dry soil conditions the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Forestry Section is encouraging residents of Minneapolis to water newly planted boulevard trees as part of its "Adopt A Tree" program. Trees throughout Minneapolis are showing severe signs of stress and many may die due to lack of moisture.

It's very important to water newly planted trees once every 7 to 10 days during the growing season when dry soil conditions exist. Place a hose under the crown of the tree and turn the water on at a slow rate. Let water run for 2 hours. If a garden hose is not available, apply at least 20 gallons (4 applications of 5 gallon buckets) slowly around each young tree. Once you water, keep the soil moist with mulch. It is best to maintain a 4 – 6 inch layer of mulch (such as wood chips) around your trees. Young or newly planted trees should have at least a two foot radius of mulch placed around the trunk of the tree. For older trees, a 6-foot or larger radius of mulch is effective and attractive. However, do not heap mulch around the tree trunk. Place the mulch so that it is kept a few inches away from the trunk of the tree. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Forestry Section makes woodchips available to anyone who can use them. There are 15 neighborhood sites located throughout the city. These sites are listed on the MPRB web site.

For questions or comments, please call the Forestry Section at 612-370-4900 and check the MPRB web site for wood chip locations at

WWW.minneapolisparks.org

Minneapolis approves transfer of cable franchise

The City of Minneapolis, Time Warner and Comcast have reached an agreement that will resolve all disputes between the City and Time Warner Cable. In addition, the City has approved the transfer of ownership of the cable system from Time Warner to Comcast.

Issues that have been settled by the agreement include channel capacity set-asides, institutional network deployment, franchise fees and various administrative issues. The agreement sets the stage for the future of the city's cable system as Comcast prepares to take ownership of the system to offer cable television, high-speed internet and voice services to residents and businesses in Minneapolis.

As part of the agreement, the companies will provide the City a \$3.5 million grant for cable-related purposes; the City gives its consent for the transfer of the Minneapolis cable franchise; and key elements of a franchise renewal will be established to assure robust public, educational and governmental programs for the next 15 years.

May Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Diamond Lake	11				1	1	6	3	
Field	9			1	1	1	4	2	
Hale	15					4	10	1	
King Field	26			3	2	7	7	6	1
Northrup	17					6	10	1	
Page	3					1		2	
Tangletown	14					1	11	2	
Wenonah	16			1		6	6	3	
Windom	21			4	2	3	7	5	

Definitions of the types of crimes and statistics from other months can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/>

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 and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presbyterian 46th St. & 17th Ave</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13th Ave S</p>	<p>Kingfield Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p>NENA Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50th St</p>	<p>Tangletown Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p>Windom Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S</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.

Aug 3	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet	Oct 5	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet
Sept 7	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington	Nov 2	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago 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.

[Public Health Advisory Committee \(PHAC\) \(closes 8/4/2006\)](#)

[Civil Service Commission \(closes 8/11/2006\)](#)

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