

Neighbors,

When Gil asked me to pick a 'hot topic' for this newsletter, half a dozen things came to mind – our new police captain, snow, drinking water issues, neighborhood safety, the Northside walking audit, resurfacing Sherman Avenue... But I decided to take the long view and write about Warner Park.

We've had a lot of conversations about Warner Park over the past few years. It's such a wonderful resource for the Northside. Unfortunately, the activities in the park can have a negative impact on our neighborhoods. In each discussion I have about Warner, I'm looking for balance. Balance between active and passive use. Balance between park users and neighbors. Balance between scheduled events and folks who just want to enjoy the park. Balance between park uses and the natural environment.

In order to help achieve balance, we're working on a number of things:

- Making sure the proposed renovation of Warner stadium is good for everyone – the Mallards, the City, the park, and the neighborhoods.
- Lessening the impact of fireworks. The Mallards will only have 5 nights of fireworks this summer. All fireworks will have to be done by 10:00 p.m., and they won't use the loudest booming fireworks (called 'salutes').
- Addressing parking conflicts between scheduled events and use of the Center and the park.
- Seeking funding to help clean up the lagoon.
- Addressing pedestrian safety around the park.

In the long term, of course, there's the prospect of a pool, an expansion of the Center, and the need to improve bike access. As we look forward, I hope we can all look for that balance that will allow us to keep Warner Park the jewel that it is.

Stay warm and be well,  
Satya