



# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

## Written by Mayor Rod Erskine

October 2013

### Power Supply Issues

Over the past six weeks, electrical outages in Jersey Village have become a hot topic of discussion. Our city manager, council members, and I have received a number of emails and phone calls from residents living in different parts of JV, and while it is clear there is a problem, the scope and magnitude is not well defined. There are locations that have experienced frequent, and sometimes lengthy outages recently, but the majority of the city seems to be less effected - at least to the extent that I'm not hearing complaints...yet. Our city manager, Mike Castro, and I are building a database of outages in the city in order to understand the extent of the problem, and ask that you email me when you experience an outage so I can note your location.

Mike and I met with CenterPoint management on September 26 to discuss service reliability issues in Jersey Village. Overall, the meeting was positive and I felt they were responsive to our questions. For instance, when asked about a specific area on Lakeview that had recently experienced frequent outages, they described having to make a number of trips to address the problem, the repairs they made, and their lengthy log of outages matched the information provided to me by one of the affected residents.

CenterPoint generally divides the causes of outages into two groups: 1) expected outages due to planned equipment repair, replacement, and maintenance, and 2) causes that are neither predictable nor preventable (i.e. lightning strikes, car colliding with a light pole, unexpected equipment failure). This second group usually results in two outages, the first being the incident itself with power being temporarily restored and a second outage related to the permanent repair of the damage. The extent of the outage varies from impacting a few homes, to blacking out a large area of our city, depending on where the incident occurs and the equipment damaged. CenterPoint does not routinely replace equipment on a regular scheduled basis, but waits for it to break before acting. They explained that most of their equipment has a very long expected life - for example a transformer is expected to function in excess of 30 years. From a maintenance perspective, they proactively trim trees year round, and install barriers to animals like squirrels who chew through wiring.

CenterPoint is initiating a large project scheduled to be completed during the first quarter of 2014 that should reduce our frequency of outages. Currently there are two "circuits" serving Jersey Village. The area north and west of the center of Lakeview Drive is part of an extensive circuit that includes a very large area outside of the City. When there is a significant event in the non-JV portion, the whole circuit can lose power, including JV. This construction will isolate the JV portion, thus reducing our exposure to incidents that occur outside our City.

We invited CenterPoint to attend the November council meeting to discuss issues we are having and their project plans. In the interim, please keep the emails with your log of outages coming.

Until next month,

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