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 Milwaukee County Supervisor - 18th District
 901 N. 9th Street, Room 201
 Milwaukee, WI 53233

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Enjoy this coupon!



Lindsay Park to Host Summer Concert & Fair

Lindsay Park is taking on the glow of a jewel in the crown of Milwaukee County's Park System this summer. A concert by the locally famous Eddie Butts Band and a neighborhood fair are planned for Lindsay on August 22, one of the last Saturdays of the summer. Members of the Lindsay Park Neighborhood Association, in collaboration with County Supervisor John Thomas and the local organization named Keeping Our Community Strong, are planning an all-day event. Informational booths for the adults and activities for the kids are planned throughout the park, throughout the day.

Current plans for the day include the Free Immunization Van from the Milwaukee Health Department; signups with Angel Food Ministries, a low-cost food distributor; demonstrations by the Milwaukee Police Department and/or the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department; and Growing Power's urban gardening campaign to raise food in Milwaukee County, for the people of the County. Also in the planning stages are youth soccer and baseball practice. Visitors to the park on August 22 are likely to have a chance to talk with some of Milwaukee County's elected officials from the local, state and federal level.

Restrooms will be maintained throughout the day in the park's pavilion. The Eddie Butts Band is slated to begin at 6:30 and play until 8:30. In case of rain, the event will take place on August 29.

Residents in the Lindsay Park Neighborhood Association gathered on May 2 to spruce up the park – picking up scraps, pulling weeds, trimming bushes, etc. In the coming weeks, their work will be complemented by additional improvements performed by the Parks Department.

Other summer plans for District 18 will appear on Supervisor Thomas' website and e-newsletter in the coming weeks. You can find out about more park events countywide by visiting www.countyparks.com. If you know of a community event that would welcome local participants, please contact Supervisor Thomas' office.



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Milwaukee County Report from 18th District Supervisor



Johnny L. Thomas

SUMMER 2009

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Committee Assignments

Finance and Audit
Vice-Chair

Economic and Community
Development

Personnel

"Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

-- Vince Lombardi

Dear Neighbors,

In April 2008, I began my first term as the 18th District Milwaukee County Supervisor. I came into public service determined to make a difference, and I believe I have begun to do so. As I look back over the accomplishments achieved in the past year as your public servant, I realize the enormity of what needed to be done. While more work remains, the foundation has been laid.

The citizens of the 18th District deserve to have a government that works for all people. Whether it was providing County funds to protect services, enhance our parks or join with concerned citizens to save our senior citizen center, I have worked to strengthen communities in the 18th District.

I am proud to have actively promoted and advocated for many of the good ideas that have emerged from the County Board so far this term. My first year in office was highlighted by Board actions on a number of important issues, some of which are listed on the timeline in this newsletter.

Every County Supervisor has a web page on the Milwaukee County website. I invite you to read mine for more information and photos of what's been happening in the 18th District and at the County Board. You can get to the site by typing the web address, www.county.milwaukee.gov/thomas.

To obtain information about County departments and services, use the same web address, www.county.milwaukee.gov. If you have a question about any County issue, or you would like to register your opinion, please contact me at 278-4259 or johnny.thomas@milwcnty.com.

Sincerely,

Johnny L. Thomas
18th District Milwaukee County Supervisor



CLIP AND SAVE!

SENIOR SERVICE GUIDE

Elder Link

The Resource Center for Older Adults

414-289-6874

TDD 414-289-8591

Fax 414-289-8590

Toll Free 1-866-229-9695

A Service of the Milwaukee County
Department on Aging

310 W. Wisconsin Ave.,
East Tower, 7th Flr.

FREE parking is available for clients!
Your link to services, programs,
and opportunities 24 hours a day!

- Transportation • Adult Day Care • Late Life Counseling
- Home Delivery Meals • Neighborhood Services
- Senior Centers • Telephone Reassurance
- Legal & Benefits Counseling • Respite Care
- Support Services • Information & Assistance
- Elder Abuse Reporting System

NORTHWEST SIDE SENIOR DINING SITES

Granville Senior Center

Now at the Elks Lodge
5555 W. Good Hope Rd • 788-8887

Bethany-Calvary Methodist Church

7265 W. Center St. • 258-2868

Fernwood Court

6700 W. Appleton Ave. • 449-9900

St. Paul's Dining Center (Formerly at Algonquin School)

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
8080 N. 47th St., Brown Deer, WI • 357-7002

SPEAK OUT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

COMMENTS: _____



Mail Your Response to:

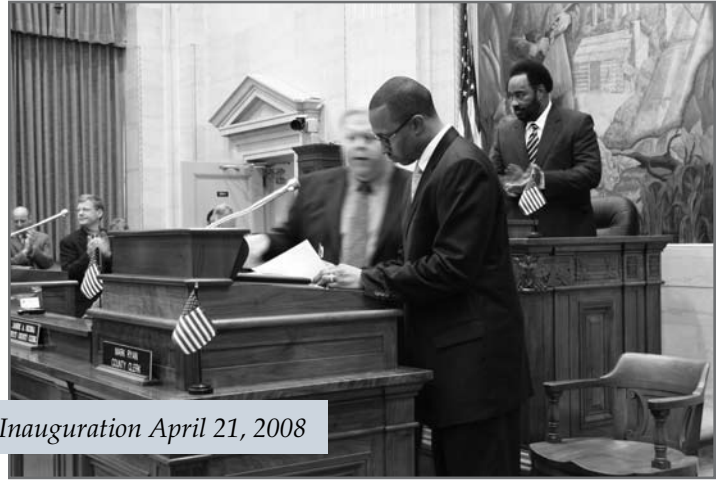
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Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

You may also e-mail
your response to:
johnny.thomas@milwcnty.com



Green Bay Packer Wide Receiver,
Donald Driver



Inauguration April 21, 2008



Senior Statesman 2009 Event



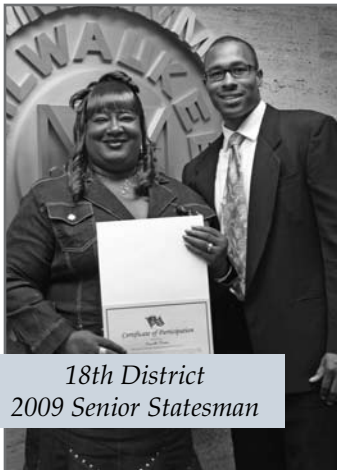
Supporting Transit



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)



Pastor John McVicker - CTK



18th District
2009 Senior Statesman



Grand Opening Celebration



News Conference - Stimulus Funds

SUPERVISOR THOMAS' TIMELINE OF ISSUES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2008 - PRESENT

APRIL

- John Thomas elected County Supervisor, 18th District
- Sup. Thomas appointed by Chair to Personnel Committee; Economic & Community Development Committee; and Finance & Audit Committee (Vice Chair); begins committee work

MAY

- Board reappoints Sue Black Director of Parks

JUNE

- Sup. Thomas speaks at Gilbert Stuart Elementary School 40th Anniversary
- Sup. Thomas is guest speaker on AM 1290 with Cassandra McShepard
- Sup. Thomas takes part in Milwaukee's Juneteenth Celebration
- Granville Senior Center celebrates 25th Anniversary

JULY

- Sup. Thomas hosts Milwaukee County Senior Statesman Program

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

- Board Implements County Strategic Fiscal Plan

NOVEMBER

- Barack Obama elected 45th President
- County voters approve advisory referendum on 1% sales tax for Parks, Transit, & Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Board votes to keep St. Michael's Hospital building as an option for County mental health facility by sustaining County Executive's veto
- Board votes to negotiate a purchase & development agreement with UWM for northeast quadrant of County Grounds

JANUARY 2009

- House of Correction transferred to Sheriff's Department
- Sup. Thomas named to Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Task Force to pursue economic stimulus funds
- Board votes to create working group to study ways to improve County's Call Center for social service applicants
- Board establishes policy to address the Call Center crisis
- New Granville Senior Center opens at Elks Club on Good Hope
- Sup. Thomas is keynote speaker at Kaplan College graduation

FEBRUARY

- Board recommends RTA Task Force's proposal for an RTA to Gov. Doyle, including funding and structure that would benefit Milwaukee County
- Board's Black History Month invocation presented by Pastor John McVicker of Christ the King Baptist Church
- Board votes to issue Pension Obligation Bonds
- Sup. Thomas facilitates Senior Statesman event

MARCH

- Student Government Day at County Courthouse – Vincent High School Student Sharlay McCullum

APRIL

- Sup. Thomas hosts Unity Caucus luncheon
- Sup. Thomas hosts Community Brainstorming
- Board votes to pursue economic stimulus funds
- Sup. Thomas accepted to Government Finance Officers Association – Advanced Government Finance Institute
- Sup. Thomas speaks at Arbor Day celebration at Gilbert Stuart Elementary School

MAY

- Board submits and approves RTA recommendations to State

JUNE

- Sup. Thomas facilitates Foreclosure Seminar

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY



In March, the County Board once again held its annual Student Government Day, with each County Supervisor hosting a student from a participating high school in Milwaukee County. They visited the Courthouse, attended presentations by Supervisors and County Board staff, toured facilities that house the three branches of County government and sat alongside their Supervisor for an entire meeting of the County Board.

For this year's Student Government Day, Supervisor John Thomas' student guest was Sharlay McCullum, daughter of Janet McCullum of N. 87th Street in Milwaukee and Charlie McCullum of Yazoo City, Mississippi. The third of six siblings, Sharlay is concluding her junior year at Milwaukee's Vincent High School.

This young lady is impressive in her youthful accomplishments, serious attitude and aspirations. At Vincent, she takes all Advanced Placement (AP) courses, including 12th grade AP English, plus third-year Spanish. Several times in her secondary school career she has been on the Honor Roll.

Sports are on Sharlay's schedule as well. This past winter she was student manager of Vincent's championship '08-'09 girls' basketball team, and as spring approached, she was preparing to play for Vincent's 2009 girls' softball team.

Perhaps most impressive about Sharlay McCullum is her focus on a career. Because she has very much enjoyed opportunities in science classes to mix chemicals and breed plants, her current career goal is to become a biochemical engineer.

For her college minor, Sharlay is currently considering theology. An active youth leader in her church, Christian Abundant Life Ministries, she feels strongly that her achievements could not have occurred without her faith and trust in God and that without God, nothing is possible. The future appears to be rosy for a serious, competitive, introspective, hard-working young lady like Sharlay.

Milwaukee County Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

We desperately need to identify a dedicated funding source to provide the local portion of mass transit costs. New buses have not been purchased since 2005, as those dollars have been diverted just to keep the system up and running. If we cannot secure this dedicated funding by next year, we risk losing most night, weekend, and freeway flyer service. On top of that, the entire route network would have to shrink to stay afloat. A smaller transit network would make it more difficult to connect workers with jobs in our community. I am doing everything I can to avoid that scenario.

I am pleased that, late last year, County Board Chairman Lee Holloway appointed me to the RTA Task Force to study and make recommendations to implement regional transit in Milwaukee County and southeast Wisconsin in general. As a member of this Task Force, I was involved in crafting several recommendations that were adopted as Milwaukee County policy by the full County Board:

- Buses should have the highest priority in funding mass transit
- Dedicated funding should be achieved through a sales tax and corresponding property tax relief
- A Regional Transit Authority should be developed to operate the system
- Funds generated in each county should be spent on transit projects in that county
- Milwaukee County should have the largest representation on an RTA
- Debt, legacy costs and contractual obligations must be addressed

It is clear that our transit system can no longer be supported with property tax dollars. Milwaukee County cannot impose a sales tax without first getting authority from the State of Wisconsin. We at the County Board took a bold first step by asking voters for their support last November. On election day, 52% of voters approved a small increase in the sales tax in exchange for reducing property taxes and providing additional support for mass transit, parks, recreation, culture and emergency medical services. Thanks to that support from you, the voters, state lawmakers are advancing legislation largely consistent with Milwaukee County's request.

As of this writing, the legislature's Joint Finance Committee has approved the creation of a Regional Transit Authority within Milwaukee County to levy a sales tax and operate our bus system. State Lawmakers also approved a separate authority to operate the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail line.

All of these projects are exciting developments that should be completed if we are serious about providing more options for individuals to get from place to place in Milwaukee County and beyond. I am honored to work on your behalf to develop the best possible transit infrastructure and move Milwaukee County forward.

--Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas

SUPERVISOR TO SHARPEN FINANCIAL SKILLS

Each summer, financial professionals from county governments in the Midwestern states apply for an opportunity to attend the Advanced Government Finance Institute, a one-week intensive course given in Madison. The course is intended to bolster the ability of county department heads, senior managers, and finance directors to make wise decisions on matters that involve the funds that taxpayers entrust to a county's government. Supervisor Thomas applied and is one of only 50 professionals "who have demonstrated leadership in the public sector" who have been accepted into this summer's program.

The course deals with topics such as finance, organizational leadership, strategic planning, economic trends and team building. These are all topics that will enable Supervisor Thomas, experienced in private sector financial and accounting skills, to apply those skills effectively to county government.

The annual institute is presented by the nonprofit Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the leading organization in its field.