

# MARINA'S MESSAGE

NEWS YOU CAN USE **DECEMBER 2011**

**Dear Friends,**

The election season begins on December 1. This means my office will no longer send out our e-news via email. Don't worry, we will still continue to provide important updates, the January-March editions of the e-news will be available for you to view on my website [here](#). I encourage you to check back each month to see what's happening in our neighborhood and also follow my updates on Twitter. Lastly, I hope you will take time to review our 2012 Budget Report Card. Using the surveys and contacts you have made to me regarding the County Budget, I have hi-lighted the issues most important to you. See you soon in our neighborhood!



## **2012 Budget Report Card**

## **Legislative Update**

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## **Marina in our Community**

Seeking Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Nominations

WisDOT Hoan Bridge Meeting Information Now Available Online

Marina Presents Awards to Volunteers at LBWN Annual Gathering

## **Save the Date**

Bay View Christmas Tree Lighting

City of Milwaukee Needs Bilingual Poll Workers for 2012 Cycle

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### Milwaukee County Board Committees

Parks, Energy, & Environment

Intergovernmental Relations

Transportation, Public Works & Transit

Chair, County Board Information Technology

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging

Lakefront Development Advisory Commission

Milwaukee County Research Park Board

### Community Memberships

Salvation Army Advisory Board

South Side Business Club

Sierra Club

Assn. of Marquette University Women

Bay View Neighborhood Association

American Council of Young Political Leaders

Bay View Historical Society

South Shore Park Watch

Bay View Lions Club

Inter-Organizational Council of Bay View

Bay View High School Alumni Association

9 to 5, Nat'l Association of Working Women

South Side Scholarship Foundation

Board of Directors, Emerge Wisconsin

UMOS Community Service Block Grant  
Advisory Committee



Budget & Policy Issues	County Executive Abele 2012 Budget Proposal	County Board of Supervisors 2012 Adopted Proposal	Supervisor Dimitrijevic Amendments & Votes
 Parks	<p>CUT the Parks Department by nearly \$3.5 million but increased revenue projections despite a history of falling short of past &amp; current targets. The result is the proposed layoff of 55 people.</p>	<p>(1) Increased parks seasonal staff hours from 366,683 to 411,446 for an expenditure increase of \$500,000. (2) Rejected a proposal to add even more hours at a cost of \$999,010.</p>	<p>(1) Voted FOR the partial restoration of seasonal staffing for the Parks Department (2) Voted FOR the larger restoration of seasonal staff.</p>
 Transit/Paratransit	<p>Proposed massive transit cuts due to cuts in state transit aid. Applied for temporary new federal aid that can delay the cuts. Proposed significant fare increases for elderly &amp; disabled paratransit riders.</p>	<p>(1) Removed budget language that specified deep cuts in transit. Any future route cuts or modifications need further debate. (2) Implemented a smaller increase in the paratransit fare.</p>	<p>(1) Voted FOR amendment to remove references to specific transit cuts. (2) Authored Amendment for a smaller paratransit fee increase of \$.75 to \$4.00 each way.</p>
 Public Safety	<p>Slashed the Sheriff's Department budget by \$14.7 million &amp; claimed that it would not impact public safety. Proposed changes would have eliminated 240 positions including an estimated 133 deputy sheriffs.</p>	<p>(1) Restored some of the funding to preserve deputies, retain critically important medical staff, &amp; implement needed reforms. (2) Stipulated that money saved by health &amp; pension concessions by deputies will be used to preserve remaining deputy positions that are scheduled for layoff.</p>	<p>(1) Voted FOR the Amendment (2) Co-Sponsor of the Amendment</p>
 Economic Development	<p>Proposed to use up to \$5 Million to establish &amp; fund the Milwaukee County Economic Development Corporation, a separate nonprofit corporation, which would be directed by an outside board including elected officials, appointees of the County Executive, &amp; selected business representatives.</p>	<p>Rejected the CEX proposal &amp; instead adopted the Ready to Work initiative (\$1M) to invest in workforce development &amp; training &amp; funded an Economic Development Fund (\$1M) to invest in business start-up, retention, &amp; growth. Both initiatives are funded from land sales without a tax levy impact.</p>	<p>Co-Sponsor of the Amendment</p>
 Emergency Medical Services	<p>Eliminated the full \$3 million payment to municipalities for paramedic services. The EMS program is a premier example of regional cooperation.</p>	<p>Restored half of the EMS funding - \$1.5 million. Changed the distribution formula to recognize the higher population of Milwaukee &amp; encourage successful consolidated services such as those in the North Shore.</p>	<p>Second Co-Sponsor of the Amendment</p>
 Federated Library System	<p>Cut library funding; took advantage of a change in state law that eliminated the previous "maintenance of effort" requirement with regard to stable funding to the library.</p>	<p>Restored library funding to the 2011 level; this is essentially the same level of annual funding that has been provided to our county library system for more than 10 years.</p>	<p>Co-Sponsor of the Amendment</p>
 Employee Healthcare	<p>Proposed that employees &amp; retirees pay between 29-34% of their healthcare through higher premiums, deductibles, co-pays, &amp; drug costs. This would transfer about \$25 Million in costs from Milwaukee County to our employees &amp; retirees.</p>	<p>Increased total employee paid share of healthcare from 12.6% to 25%. This is more than most public sector employees &amp; more comparable to the private sector. Premiums would increase at a more modest rate but most other changes still apply.</p>	<p>Voted FOR the Amendment</p>
 Wellness Program	<p>Suggested that a staff workgroup study the development of a wellness program later in 2012. The concept is that wellness programs help to reduce future costs through prevention.</p>	<p>Adopted a wellness program with a mid-year implementation that credit participants who take part in health screening &amp; assessment. Surcharges apply to smokers &amp; those who do not participate.</p>	<p>*Author of the Amendment</p>
 Transparency & Open Government	<p>No Proposal</p>	<p>Implement phase 2 of the legislative workflow &amp; agenda management project, including internet archiving &amp; streaming of live audio/video of County Board &amp; Committee Meetings.</p>	<p>*Author of the Amendment</p>
 Information Technology	<p>Suspended plan to transition to thin client technology. Suspended previous hardware replacement schedule &amp; budgeted only for minor repair.</p>	<p>Directed IMSD to study the use &amp; implementation of open source software in order to save money &amp; improve technology performance.</p>	<p>Co-Sponsor of the Amendment</p>
 Contingency Fund	<p>Budgeted only \$1 Million on the assumption that nothing major will go wrong in 2012. In recent years the fund has generally had at least \$6-8 Million &amp; this money has often been needed to fix unforeseen financial crisis.</p>	<p>Added another \$550,000 to the fund. Rejected an amendment to increase the fund by \$1,450,000. This amendment would have increased the fund by 200% above the CEX &amp; would still have been less than 50% of the normal level.</p>	<p>Voted FOR BOTH Amendments to increase the Contingency (Emergency) Funding. Co-Sponsor of the major amendment to increase the fund.</p>

## Wellness Plan Will Pay Off Later: Supervisor Dimitrijevic

By Marina Dimitrijevic

Milwaukee County faces a number of budget challenges for 2012. Once again, we have a county executive balancing the budget through employee health care changes. Many of my colleagues on the County Board understand that a team approach is needed to help solve these issues. While we have made significant progress to reduce our health care costs, we need to be creative in addressing our long-term fiscal sustainability.

That's why I am pleased to "STEP Up" to the challenge and encourage a Stronger Team through Employee Participation. My STEP Up wellness plan will inspire employees to live healthier, resulting in lower health care costs in Milwaukee County.

This is not a new concept; rather, this type of wellness initiative is already used by a number of public- and private-sector employers in our region, including the City of Milwaukee, City of Chicago, Milwaukee Public Schools, Northwestern Mutual and Quad/Graphics.

A healthier workforce is a more productive workforce. Unfortunately, a small number of unhealthy workers can add up to the majority of our employee health care costs. Under the Step Up model, employees are encouraged to take greater responsibility for proactively managing their health. They will be rewarded for both participating and for becoming healthier. Imagine the power of preventative health if Milwaukee County achieves a 90% participation rate, similar to the City of Milwaukee.

According to the American Journal of Health Promotion, every \$1 investment in wellness results in \$3.50 in savings from lower health care costs and



lower absenteeism. The Journal found that absenteeism from illness decreases by 27%, health care costs fall 26% and worker's compensation and disability claims decrease by 32%.

In the STEP Up wellness structure, employees participate in an annual screening and develop a plan to help them stay or get healthy. They then meet with a health professional and receive reminder phone calls. Health care costs are driven by a handful of diseases that can be managed or prevented. But the required lifestyle adjustments are easy to put off, especially if the problem isn't detected.

So far, six of my colleagues have joined me in co-sponsoring STEP Up in the 2012 Budget. I encourage the full County Board to make this smart, creative investment. It will pay large dividends in the future.

We are taking a page out of success stories from both the public and private sector. The time is now for Milwaukee County to credit our employees who want to improve their health while reversing the trend of rising health care costs.

View the article at JSOnline.com [here](#).

The above article was published in the November 2, 2011 edition of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Supervisor Dimitrijevic plans to introduce STEP Up as separate legislation in 2012.

## Seeking Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Nominations

It is once again that time of year for the Milwaukee County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame nominations. Established in 1997, the Hall of Fame honors five outstanding seniors in Milwaukee County who have served the community as volunteers and as advocates on behalf of the elderly.

Nominees must show distinguished volunteer service in any one or combination of the following categories:

- Voluntary service of an educational, community or humanitarian nature.
- Exceptional contributions as a volunteer in efforts to improve the lives of people regardless of race, creed or national origin.
- Voluntary service in advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin senior citizens.

We would like to honor them. A ceremony and celebration will be held in May.

I appreciate your help in spreading the word to nominate someone. Please send out to all your lists, add to your newsletters, or simply share when you are out in the community.

For the nomination form and to view previous Senior Citizen Hall of Fame awardees, please visit:

[www.milwaukee.gov/county/aging](http://www.milwaukee.gov/county/aging)

Nominations are due February 13, 2012.

## WisDOT Hoan Bridge Meeting Information Now Available Online

About 250 people attended the meeting on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> where WisDOT discussed the study findings. The project team continues to receive numerous e-mails and comment forms, which they are cataloging.

If you are interested in viewing the presentation, WisDOT staff has uploaded it to YouTube; Please see the links.

Check out the WisDOT website about the Hoan Bridge Re-Deck [here](#).

The YouTube video of the presentation is divided into 5 sections parts.

[Opening remarks](#)

[Introduction and Purpose](#)

[Existing Conditions](#)

[Study Criteria & Alternatives](#)

[Traffic Structures and other next steps](#)

## Marina Presents Awards to Volunteers at LBWN Annual Gathering

Last month, Supervisor Dimitrijevic attended the Layton Boulevard West Neighbors' Annual Gathering. There, LBWN unveiled a Quality of Life plan, which they have been working on in partnership with the Zilber Family Foundation to improve the neighborhood. In addition, LBWN presented awards to the winners of their "Most Improved Porch Contest." Supervisor Dimitrijevic was present to assist in awarding the neighborhood's best volunteers. "Active neighbors and volunteers are what make the Layton Boulevard West Neighborhood one of the best places to visit, buy a home, or open a business. I was proud to help honor our volunteers; they are the ones who work day to day to improve our community," said Supervisor Dimitrijevic.

Top: Silver City residents Jose and Maria Miramontes receive a volunteer award from County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic.

Bottom: Layton Park resident Bobbi Elizondo receives a volunteer award from County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic.



## City of Milwaukee Needs Bilingual Poll Workers for 2012 Cycle

The Milwaukee Election Commission recently received notification from the United States Department of Justice – Voting Rights Section that the City of Milwaukee is subject to the language assistance provisions of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. In addition to providing all voting materials in Spanish, the Election Commission must provide bilingual poll workers at those polling sites identified as having a large concentration of Hispanic voters.

An analysis of census data and Election Commission registered voter data indicate that the 34 wards in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic Districts contain the highest concentration of Hispanic voters. Until the Government Accountability Board assigns voters to their new wards and aldermanic districts as a result of redistricting, the Election Commission cannot determine the exact number of bilingual poll workers needed to be in compliance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. The Election

Commission has, however, estimated that 100 bilingual poll workers will be needed to cover the 34 wards if those participating choose to work a full day (6:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.) or 200 workers if a half day is preferred (6:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.).

All workers must attend ONE of several two-hour training sessions which are tentatively scheduled for the week of January 30 – February 3, 2012. Workers will be compensated for attending training as well as serving on Election Days.

Please forward this request and if you know of anyone that may be interested, please have them contact Oscar Tovar at [oscar.tovar@milwaukee.gov](mailto:oscar.tovar@milwaukee.gov) or (414) 286-2200.

For more information, click [here](#).

## Bay View Christmas Tree Lighting

The Inter-Organizational Council of Bay View invites you to attend the annual Bay View Christmas Tree Lighting:

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Bay View American Legion Post 180  
2860 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Highlights of the event will include:

6:00pm Christmas Caroling by  
Bay View High School Choir

7:00pm Tree Lighting and a special visit by  
Santa Claus

This is a free event welcome to anyone. Refreshments will be provided by the Bay View Area Redcats and Bay View American Legion Post 180.

