



MARINA'S MESSAGE

NEWS YOU CAN USE **MAY 2011**

Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! This past month we welcomed two, new Supervisors to the County Board: Supervisors Biddle and Haas. In addition, County Executive Abele was sworn in and has already begun working closely with the County Board. It is definitely a new day in Milwaukee County Government, with lots of important things waiting to be worked on together. In this edition you will find an editorial I wrote in the Journal Sentinel and more information on my fight against the cuts to quality of life services proposed in the State Budget.

Milwaukee County Board Committees

Vice-Chair, Health & Human Needs

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

Recently in Milwaukee County

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Marina in Our Community

Steven Krieser Earns Eagle Scout

Save Our Ride!

Testimony at State Budget Hearing

Marina Speaks at MATC Green Vehicles Conference

Save the Date

South Shore Park Watch Weed Out

Layton Blvd. West Neighbors Mining for Silver Dinner

Summer Print Newsletter Coming Soon!

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A New Day in County Government, Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic

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Editorial by Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic

With much of the focus on the state Capitol this year, local elections received less attention than they deserved. After more than eight years of conservative governance by Scott Walker, the voters of Milwaukee County wanted a change. On April 5, they elected Chris Abele as their next county executive.

In addition, Eyon Biddle and Jason Haas were elected to fill open seats on the County Board. With these changes, only seven of our 19 members were on this board just a decade ago. These new, hardworking individuals will contribute ideas and energy to discussions already gaining momentum at the board. We stand ready to work with the new administration.

So, now what?

Even though the board was forced to make many tough decisions in the past, nearly impossible budget challenges lie ahead. As governor, Walker has proposed major cuts that will negatively affect Milwaukee County's citizens. Among other things, the governor wants to cut support for elderly care, mass transit and mental health services, which hurts those who need the most help. This is poor public policy.

We must present a united front to preserve our quality of life. We must take a team approach to defend ourselves against the governor's assault on local government. The County Board is already on the path to create a stronger county. We will work with County Executive Abele to finish the job we started, beginning with these three areas:

Mental health: The board has fought against funding cuts to these services. We led the way in funding 333 affordable, inclusive housing units for individuals with mental illness who have nowhere else to turn. Under Chairman Lee Holloway's leadership, we adopted major changes in how we

provide mental health services to receive more Medicaid funding. The board created several community-based initiatives to develop a plan for a new, modern mental health facility. The time to adopt and implement these plans is now.

Sustainability: The board unanimously adopted Green Print legislation I authored and has supported nearly \$10 million in energy-saving upgrades to our infrastructure. But we can do so much more in this area. The new county executive can find more savings by focusing on this issue and adding a professional sustainability director to aggressively implement the Green Print. This is an untapped opportunity to stimulate the local economy and create sustainability jobs.

Park East: The board successfully pushed to hire an economic development director last year. We embraced good development such as a Milwaukee School of Engineering project to serve as a catalyst in the Park East corridor. We have prioritized sustainable development, minority hiring and livable wages. Teamwork in attracting new businesses and jobs to our land is the only option, and we will benefit from a county executive who views the city of Milwaukee as an ally. A priority must be addressing the unacceptable unemployment rates among African-American males. The board has formed and funded a task force to focus on much-needed solutions to help our residents get back to work and support their families.

This is a new day in Milwaukee County. We will work together to make progress and get the people's business done. We may not agree on everything, but increased cooperation will provide great returns for our constituents. Better mental health services, increased sustainability efforts and bringing new development and jobs to the Park East are great places to start. Our residents want to be proud to live in Milwaukee County, where our enriched quality of life can continue to flourish.

Steven Krieser Earns Eagle Scout



Steven Kyle Krieser earned the rank of Eagle Scout this year. His service project consisted of constructing a prayer garden at Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Its purpose is to provide a memorial for past members and friends and to serve as a respite for the community to use and view. The garden took 399 hours to complete, and we congratulate Steven for his hard work and contribution to our community.

Left: Supervisor Dimitrijevic & Eagle Scout Steven Krieser at his award ceremony.

Save OUR Ride

On Monday, April 11th, Supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic, Patricia Jursik and Jim “Luigi” Schmitt, along with Supervisor Jason Haas, invited residents to join a coalition of Supervisors, transit advocates, and members of ATU Local 998 riding the bus to a public hearing of the State Legislature’s Joint Finance Committee. The coalition asked State lawmakers to “Save OUR Ride” and preserve funding for the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS), which continues to face a funding crisis.

“A healthy transit infrastructure is critical to our growth. Arbitrary cuts with no ability to increase local revenues could be a final blow to our transit system. We need to tell the Joint Finance Committee to support transit funding to Milwaukee County,” said Supervisor Dimitrijevic.

Upper Right: Supervisors Schmitt, Dimitrijevic & Jursik speaking to the press outside the budget hearing.

Lower Right: Members of the coalition riding the bus to the budget hearing at State Fair Park.



Marina's Testimony at State Budget Hearing on April 11

"I am Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic. I am joined today by Supervisors Pat Jursik, Luigi Schmitt, and Supervisor-Elect Jason Haas.

Together, we represent about 200,000 people in Milwaukee County, from the South Shore communities of Bay View, St. Francis, South Milwaukee and Cudahy to Wauwatosa in the western part of the County.

Today, we rode the bus here because we support transit, and we support those riders and businesses that depend on the Milwaukee County bus system to get people to and from work every day.

The proposed budget delivers a quadruple whammy to our bus system:

- It delivers a 10% cut in transit aid;
- It fails to deliver a dedicated funding source approved by Milwaukee County voters;
- It finances transit from the general fund; and
- It limits the ability of local officials to go to the levy to support transit.

We ask you to Save OUR Ride."



"As a member of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging for eight years, I can share with you first-hand that our seniors are truly scared about how this budget will impact the everyday quality of their lives.

The Milwaukee County Department of Family Care serves over 7,500 individuals, including about 1,000 with developmental disabilities. The rest are elderly clients.

The proposed enrollment cap would result in a wait list for Milwaukee County's elderly population for the first time since November 2002.

Milwaukee County certifies 150 seniors a month for Family Care. These seniors would have to wait for care under the cap.

The cap also would eliminate the ability of Milwaukee County to further remove persons with disabilities from the current waitlist of about 2,000. This wait list could grow by 75-85 people a month.

A promise was made to our community; we ask you to keep it! On behalf of our constituents, we thank you for allowing us to testify. And remember: transit is a transportation service, not a social service. About 45% of individuals, who use transit, take the bus to work or other job-related activities.

We need you to Save Our Ride."



Marina Speaks at MATC Green Vehicles Conference

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic spoke at the “Driving Toward 2020 Green Vehicles Workshop” at the Milwaukee Area Technical College on Friday April 29th.

“Promoting fuel efficient vehicles and alternative fuels results in cleaner air and greater energy independence,” Supervisor Dimitrijevic added. “Milwaukee County has already received \$120,000 in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant federal stimulus funds to help purchase clean vehicles for our fleet, including vehicles used by the Parks Department.”

“I’m excited to have participated in this workshop, detailing Milwaukee County’s goals in enacting the Green Print. We have already achieved a number of milestones since the Green Print was signed in 2007,” Supervisor Dimitrijevic said. “A key provision within the Green Print is the purchase of hybrids and other vehicles powered by alternative fuels.”

Above: Supervisor Dimitrijevic speaking at the conference.

Right: Supervisor Dimitrijevic with a Chevrolet Volt, one of the new green vehicles at the conference.



Left: Supervisor Dimitrijevic, a member of the Commission on Aging presents at the Commission on Aging meeting, Friday April 29th

South Shore Park Bluff Weed Outs

South Shore Park Weed Out Days

Saturdays, May 7 and 21, 9:00am – Noon

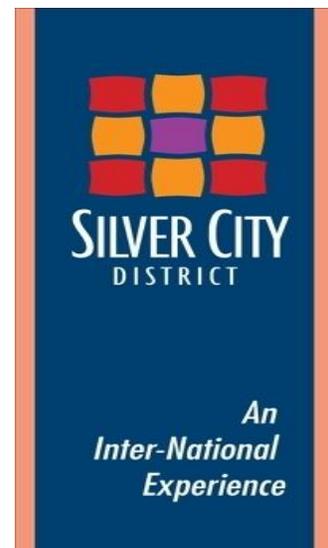
Meet: South Shore Park Pavilion, 2900 S Shore Drive

The Weed Outs are part of the greater plan to restore the bluff and return native plant species along the lake front trail. All ages and abilities are welcome and no previous experience is necessary! Volunteers should wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and bring gloves.

Come enjoy the sense of community a Weed Out creates and the positive impact of our efforts. The Weed Outs are sponsored by South Shore Park Watch and supported by the Park People of Milwaukee County.

Mining for Silver Dinner

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Silver City! Their 4th Annual Mining for Silver Dinner & Auction will be held on Thursday, May 5th from 6-9pm. Enjoy authentic Mexican cuisine, games, raffle, and live auction. Sponsorships are available for this event. Contact Beth at 414-380-4680 for more information.



Summer Print Newsletter Coming Soon

Watch your mailbox for our annual summer printed newsletter. It should be out in early June! This year's newsletter will include a removable calendar of fun summer events.