

MARINA'S MESSAGE

NEWS YOU CAN USE SEPTEMBER 2011

Dear Friends,

I hope you and your family had a great Milwaukee summer! Here at the County Board we are preparing to adopt our 2012 Milwaukee County Budget. The State of Wisconsin made major cuts to our transit system and many other services which are important to our community. In this Special Budget E-News you will find an overview of our budget adoption process and information on town hall meetings in our neighborhood I am holding to listen to your concerns regarding the budget. I hope you contact my office or attend a meeting on the 2012 Budget. Your opinion matters!

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

Legislative Update

Domestic Partnership Legislation Becomes Law

Bike/Pedestrian Access on Hoan Bridge

Recently in Milwaukee County

The County Budget

[Public Policy Forum 2012 Budget Preview](#) (link)

New Picnic Tables at South Shore Park

Sup. Dimitrijevic Receives Recognition from Equality WI

Save the Date

[Bay View Bash September 17th!](#) (link)

Lunch with MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton

Budget Town Hall Meetings

[Alverno Presents Global Union September 17 – 18](#) (link)

South Shore Park Watch Bluff Weed-out & Planting Day

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Private Model: Aurora



Supervisor Dimitrijevic speaks about the domestic partnership benefit plan she authored. Milwaukee County will join Aurora Healthcare, the largest private-sector employer in Wisconsin, in extending this benefit.

Domestic Partnership Bill Signing



Supervisors and advocates from Equality Wisconsin attend the public signing ceremony of the Domestic Partnership Benefits Legislation, making it law in Milwaukee County.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Access on Hoan Bridge

On August 23rd, State Representatives from the South Shore neighborhoods hosted a meeting at the Beulah Brinton Community Center to discuss bicycle and pedestrian access on the Hoan Bridge. Over 250 citizens attended the meeting to voice their opinion on the matter. Many of the speakers supported some form of bike and pedestrian access to connect Bay View directly with downtown.

The options being studied include closing one or more traffic lanes to accommodate non-motorized vehicles, widening the bridge in some fashion to add the bike/pedestrian path or suspending a secondary bridge under the current structure. The State Department of Transportation will decide this fall whether any of these options will be included in the reconstruction project of the Hoan Bridge.

In addition, the Long-Range Lakefront Planning Committee has included adding bike and pedestrian access to the Hoan Bridge reconstruction project as part of their final plan, which they will present to the County Board this month.



The County Budget

On September 29, the County Board will receive County Executive Chris Abele's 2012 Recommended Budget.

As you know, the State of Wisconsin recently adopted their Biennial Budget, which was full of major funding cuts for services in Milwaukee County. The Public Policy Forum, an independent organization, analyzed the County's current fiscal situation along with the cuts from the State. There is a link to the report and a chart that details the State's cuts in Milwaukee County.

Perhaps one of the most devastating cuts is the 10% reduction in funding for our Milwaukee County Transit System, the largest system which transports the most people in the State of Wisconsin. Our residents depend on this critical infrastructure to get to work and school. Many senior citizens and disabled persons rely on our bus system as their only mode of transportation. This is a basic quality of life service and an economic development tool. Many constituents have told me they don't want to live in a community that does not value this service.

In the next few weeks, you will receive a reminder letter of the many ways you can participate in the budget process and I hope to hear from you or see you at one of the budget town hall listening sessions I will host in our neighborhood. Now is the time to reach out to the County Executive as he finalizes his recommended 2012 budget. You can call his office at 414-278-4211 to voice your opinion on which County services must be preserved.

In addition, you will receive a budget survey from me in the mail and online so I can hear from you directly regarding the 2012 Milwaukee County Budget. This information is critical to me as I work on your behalf during this process.

This chart below comes from the Public Policy Forum 2012 Milwaukee County Budget Preview. [Click HERE](#) to view the entire report. This chart is on page 13 and details how the 2011-13 State Budget negatively impacts Milwaukee County services.

ITEM	2012 IMPACT
State Shared Revenue	(8,316,885)
Transit Operating Aids	(6,858,300)
Paratransit	1,450,000
Child Support Base Funding	(3,664,779)
Youth Aids / JCI Charges	(3,550,092)
Income Maintenance Legacy Costs	(4,900,000)
Courts Programs / Victim Witness Assistance	(1,230,911)
Mental Health / AODA	(1,217,123)
General Transportation Aids	(427,901)
TOTAL	(\$28,715,991)

The County Budget Process

April 1

Preliminary Preparation:
Direction to County
Departments on preparation of
the subsequent year budget.

June 1

Departments submit new
position requests.

June 15

Departments submit capital budget
requests.
Departments submit operating
budget requests.

July & August

Department of Administrative
Services and County Executive
review of department budget
requests.

August 15

Department of Administration
submits summary of budget
requests to the County Board

September 29

County Executive presents the
Recommended Budget to the County
Board. The Budget is then referred
to the Finance and Audit Committee
for review

October

Finance and Audit Committee reviews the Recommended Budget in
public budget hearings scheduled throughout the month. Check [here](#) for
details on which departments are reviewed on which days.

October 31

County Board public hearing on the
budget, 7:00 p.m. at the Washington
Park Senior Center.

November 7th

County Board Annual Meeting and the adoption of the budget and tax
levy. During this meeting, the County Board acts on the Amendments by
the Finance and Audit Committee as well as amendments submitted by
individual Supervisors.

November 16

Consideration of County Executive
budget vetoes and final adoption of
property tax levy.

January 1

County Executive and departments begin utilizing budget to provide
public services.

Recently in Milwaukee County

New Picnic Tables at South Shore Park

Supervisor Dimitrijevic is sitting at one of the nine new picnic tables she helped bring to South Shore Park at a recent South Shore Farmers Market.

“It is important to continue to improve our neighborhood parks. Every table, play-set and new tree count. We are also working on improving the South Shore Beach,” said Supervisor Dimitrijevic.



Supervisors Dimitrijevic & Biddle Recognized by Equality WI

Milwaukee County Supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic and Eyon Biddle, Sr., will be honored by Equality Wisconsin later this month.

Both Supervisors were the lead sponsors of a resolution to extend health benefits to domestic partners of Milwaukee County employees. The initiative was approved by the County Board and signed by the County Executive.

“It’s an honor to receive this recognition,” Supervisor Dimitrijevic said. “I appreciate the support the County

Board received from Equality Wisconsin as we shepherded this resolution through the legislative process.”

Supervisors Dimitrijevic and Biddle will be recognized for their efforts at the Equality Wisconsin Annual Member Meeting on Wednesday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Church Parlor Room, 2717 East Hampshire Avenue in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele will also address those in attendance.

Save the Date

Lunch with MPS Super. Thornton

Join Milwaukee Public School System Superintendent Gregory Thornton about the future of Bay View High School. Saturday, September 24, 12-2pm at Bay View High School.

Budget Town Hall Meetings

Supervisor Dimitrijevic invites you to participate in a discussion of the 2012 Budget at two meetings she will host in October.

October 12, 12:30-1:30pm

OASIS Senior Center, 2414 W. Mitchell St

October 10, 6:00-8:00pm

South Shore Park Pavilion, 2900 S. Shore Dr.

Alverno Presents Global Union Sept 17-18

September 17-18 2011 Humboldt Park 12- 5 PM
It's six bands you've probably never heard of, playing in beautiful Humboldt Park for two days in September. Six bands we love so much, we refuse to charge you for it. Yes, it's FREE. And it's good. Or so you seem to think. Because every year, you show up in even bigger numbers. Which is probably why, year after year, at least one of the bands winds up coming back to Milwaukee to play to a crowded room of folks like you, who saw them first with us at Global Union. Click on the image to visit the [website](#).



South Shore Park Watch Bluff Weed Out & Planting Day

When: Saturday, September 24, 1-3pm

Where: South Shore Park - Meet at the Oak Leaf Trailhead near the playground.

This is a great opportunity to work with our community to promote native plants and wildlife diversity.

Please volunteer. All ages and abilities are welcome! We can't do it without you!

Bay View Bash!

Milwaukee County Supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic and Jason Haas are inviting their neighbors and all Milwaukee County residents to the 8th annual Bay View Bash September 17th. Both Supervisors will have a booth set up at the event to talk with constituents, answer questions about Milwaukee County Government and provide informational materials. [Click the headline](#) to visit the Bash site.

The 2011 Bash will be held on Kinnickinnic Ave. between Potter and Clement 11am to 10pm.

The Committee on Finance and Audit is hosting a public meeting on the budget this month:

September 14, 6:00-7:30pm

Kosciuszko Community Center, 2201 S. 7th St.

About the Project – In cooperation with Milwaukee County Parks, the South Shore Park Watch is leading a native bluff restoration effort between the Oak Leaf Trail and South Shore Drive. This naturalization project will enhance and secure the bluff by removing invasive species and replacing them with native plants.