



# Patricia Jursik *Update*

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February  
2011  
E-NEWS

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance and Audit

Judiciary, Safety and General Services

Personnel, Chair

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee on Long Range Transportation Planning

Economic Stimulus Task Force

Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Chair

RTA Task Force, Chair

## Conflict with the Acting County Executive

I am concerned that Acting County Executive Holloway appointed a director of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) without sending the matter before the Board for confirmation as required by Wisconsin Statutes. Corporation Counsel, the office that provides legal advice to the County, has confirmed that these statutes do control with regard to this appointment.

The Acting Executive initially refused to refer this item to the Finance & Audit Committee as required by Board rules so that this matter may come before the Board at its next meeting. I requested that the confirmation of the appointment be placed on the agenda of the Personnel Committee which I chair. On January 28, the Personnel Committee voted 6-0 to deny the confirmation of Rene Booker as DAS Director.

Although Acting County Executive Holloway acknowledged on January 27 that the Board does need to confirm his appointment, he and the Acting Chairman have yet to bring it to the Finance & Audit Committee in time to send it before the full Board when it meets on February 3. State Statutes [59.17](#) and [17.22](#) explain that appointments to the five most significant offices shall be sent before the Board for confirmation at the soonest possible meeting. To wait until the following Board meeting on March 17 would deny the Board its responsibility to consider key confirmations. I have written a letter calling for a special meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee and hope that a majority of members sign it in order to hold this meeting on Wednesday, February 2.

It is my position that the confirmation of Marvin Pratt as the Interim County Executive would be meaningless if we do not first confirm the appointment of Mr. Booker as the Director of DAS, the highest appointive office in County government. Mr. Booker will in fact be running the County and Mr. Pratt has already been quoted as stating he intends to be a place holder in this process. Given this statement, Mr. Booker under the appointment of Chairman Lee Holloway would be directing the business of County government at the same time he is a candidate for this office.

I have also been concerned that our own staff is being compromised during this temporary stay of the Chairman in the County Executive's office. The balance of powers that protects the interests of our constituents by keeping the policy makers, the Board, separated from the executive is now being compromised. These are transitional times, but I do know that neither Holloway nor Booker has the voter's mandate to be making these major changes during a time that should be transitional.

## Public Policy Forum Frames the Real Issues

Constituents are trying to determine for whom to vote as County Executive in the primary. The Public Policy Forum has put out an excellent summary of the issues.

Too often the mailings sent by candidates lack detailed information. While I cannot take a political position with regard to endorsements in this newsletter, I can refer you to a good forum to help identify the real issues that all of us hope the candidates will address. Please visit [www.publicpolicyforum.org/pdfs/2011ElectionBrief.pdf](http://www.publicpolicyforum.org/pdfs/2011ElectionBrief.pdf)

### **Chairman's Appointee Fires Benefits Manager**

Acting County Executive Holloway has stated that Mr. Booker fired David Arena. Mr. Arena directs the health insurance and pension benefits for the county and was the chief architect for the millions of dollars of savings in health care benefits. I also fear that the firing of David Arena has compromised the planning done by the Long Range Strategic Planning (LRSP) Committee as it works to control the ballooning costs of retiree health care which currently has no cap.

### **Appointment to County Executive**

Marvin Pratt was appointed Interim County Executive. The Board will vote whether to confirm him on Thursday, February 3. I will be meeting with Mr. Pratt to determine if he can be an independent executive during this time of transition.

### **O'Donnell Park**

Following the tragedy at O'Donnell Park resulting from a panel falling off the structure, the County Board has carefully studied the options for the structure. We have decided to proceed with repair. It is critical to the institutions at the Lakefront that the parking garage be restored promptly. The director of the Betty Brinn Children's Museum testified that attendance has suffered during the parking facility's closure. The director of the Milwaukee Art Museum is worried about how to plan for the heavy traffic his museum will experience in the summer. Summer festivals will demand additional parking accommodation. Moreover, Milwaukee County is losing revenue while the parking structure remains closed.

The 2011 Budget, passed in November 2010, provides funding and authorization to repair O'Donnell. In December 2010, Requests for Proposals were issued and firms were considered and selected to perform internal repair and restore the façade. Repairs are scheduled to be completed on June 22.

I appreciate Michael Cudahy's suggestion that Milwaukee County dream big when it comes to O'Donnell Park at the Lakefront. The O'Donnell structure will not last forever, so indeed we must be ready with a vision for alternate uses. However, the repairs are necessary for the coming years. A proposed 30-day delay in repairs at O'Donnell Park would result in reopening the facility much later in summer. Supervisor Gerry Broderick and I are sponsoring a resolution calling for long-term planning for the Lakefront. The City of Milwaukee has created plans for this area that have yet to be approved by the Common Council.

### **Hoan Bridge Engineering Studies**

Wisconsin Department of Transportation is nearing completion of the in-depth inspection report of the Hoan Bridge. WisDOT has promised to provide the completed engineering study to my office. We eagerly anticipate the release of the report which will allow us to plan and budget for the desperately needed re-decking of the bridge. We are also pleased that bicyclists during the Ride for the Arts and runners during Summerfest's half-marathon will enjoy the great views from this great bridge.



## Skating at Sheridan Park

Skating at the Sheridan Lagoon is open to the public! The warming house is open and the rink is lit at night. Skating has been well attended. It is particularly popular with hockey players, but is open for general use as well.

For details including hours, location and a hotline with updates, please see page 4.

## Community Calendar

### **Thursday, February 3 – County Board Meeting, 9:30am**

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

### **Friday and Saturday, February 4 & 5 – Streets of Old Milwaukee Come Alive, 10am-2pm**

Experience the Streets of Old Milwaukee as docents in period attire share stories and artifacts that highlight Milwaukee businesses and homes as they were 100 years ago. Enjoy music by the Milwaukee Liederkrantz Chorus. Free with Milwaukee Public Museum admission.

[www.mpm.edu/events](http://www.mpm.edu/events) 278-2702

### **Saturday, February 5 – Ice Fishing Clinic, 9am-3pm (Hourly, last workshop starts at 2 pm)**

Learn about ice fishing basics at this FREE event for youth 15 years of age and under. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. The indoor instructional component will go on no matter what the weather, while the ice-fishing component is dependent on the weather and ice conditions. Milwaukee County Parks, Milwaukee County House of Correction Fish Hatchery, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Council of Sport Fishing Organizations sponsor this clinic and provide all needed equipment. Join the fun at the following locations:

**Humboldt Park**, 3000 S. Howell Av.

**Scout Lake**, 5902 W. Loomis Rd. - wheelchair accessible

**Wilson Park**, 1601 W. Howard Av.

For groups of 20+ or for more information, please call 263-8614 in advance.

[www.county.milwaukee.gov/IceFishing10254.htm#fishingclinic](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/IceFishing10254.htm#fishingclinic) (Check for updates)

### **Saturday, February 5 – Family FREE Day at the Zoo, 9:30am-4:30pm**

All visitors receive free admission. The parking fee remains in effect. At Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 West Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee. [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org) 256-5466

### **Tuesday, February 8 – Friends of Mill Pond meeting, 6:30pm**

At Marquette Manor (2409 10<sup>th</sup> Av, South Milwaukee). 571-1191

### **Thursday, February 10 – A Long View Across Milwaukee County, 1-2pm**

FREE program. Jim Uhrinak, Land Restorationist from the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy, will discuss the significance of the Niagara Escarpment as a statewide geologic and natural resource. Please call 481-9611 to reserve your seat. At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy.

### **Thursday, February 10 – Grant Park “Park Watch” meeting, 6:30pm**

At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. 764-7262

### **Thursday, February 10 – Friends of Grant Park meeting, 7pm**

At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. Followed by an “owl prow” and cross country skiing. 764-0612

### **Monday, February 14 – Ice Cream Social at Kelly Center, Noon**

\$1 a scoop with toppings. At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy.

### **Tuesday, February 15 – FREE Valentine concert, 1pm**

David Skinner, runner-up for the Milwaukee County Golden Idol, will sing heartfelt tunes at Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy.

**Saturday, February 19 – The Making of Milwaukee by John Gurda, 7:30pm**

John Gurda delivers a computer presentation based on his tremendous book depicting Wisconsin's history from its wilderness past to the complex patterns of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. At South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15<sup>th</sup> Av, South Milwaukee. To purchase \$5 tickets, please contact 766-5049. [www.southmilwaukeekeepac.org/index.htm](http://www.southmilwaukeekeepac.org/index.htm)

**Sunday, February 20 – Winter Blast in Bay View, Noon-4pm**

Music, children's activities and a Chili Cook Off (\$1/bowl). Performances by the Garlic Mustard Pickers (1:30-2:30pm). Presented by Bay View Neighborhood Association and Milwaukee County Parks. At South Shore Park Pavilion, 2900 S. Shore Dr. [www.bayviewneighborhood.org](http://www.bayviewneighborhood.org)

**Wednesday, February 23 – Cudahy Neighborhood Watch meeting, 6pm**

At Cudahy Family Library, 3500 Library Dr., Cudahy. 414-324-5531

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**Ongoing:**

**THE DOMES**

**Music Under Glass, Tuesdays and Thursdays until March 31, 6:30-8:30pm** Enjoy the new lighting of the domes with light shows at the break and following the concert. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. 649-9830. [Regular admission applies](#). Check out the schedule of music at: [www.county.milwaukee.gov/FloralShowampEventSc10360/MusicUnderGlass.htm](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/FloralShowampEventSc10360/MusicUnderGlass.htm)



**ICE SKATING**

**At Sheridan Park Lagoon, 4800 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy**  
*(located at the blue spot on [this map](#))*  
Bring your own skates. Open weather permitting. Call 257-PARK (7275) for current conditions.

**Sheridan Lagoon** opens when ice is sufficiently thick.  
M-F: 3-8 pm; Sat-Sun: Noon-8pm

**At Red Arrow Park, 920 N. Water St, Milwaukee**  
*(accessible via Route 15, [www.ridemcts.com](http://www.ridemcts.com))*  
FREE rink, \$7 skate rental (includes tax) or bring your own. Enjoy the adjacent warming house with restrooms and hot beverages! Closed for blizzard, wind chill or cold weather advisories from the National Weather Service. Details: <http://county.milwaukee.gov/RedArrow11930.htm>

**Red Arrow Rink**  
through Closing Day:  
Mon.-Th.: 11am-8pm (with skate rentals beginning at 2pm)  
Fri. & Sat.: 11am-11pm  
Sun.: 11am-8pm

**TAX ASSISTANCE**

**AARP Tax Assistance at Cudahy Family Library**

February 3 through April 14

Wednesdays 10am-7pm & Thursdays 10am-3pm

In the Winter Garden Room, Cudahy Family Library, 3500 Library Dr., Cudahy. 769-2244

**Tax Assistance at MATC Oak Creek**

Through April 13

Wednesdays 4-7pm & Saturdays 9am-Noon

Assistance for people who earn less than \$49,000 in annual family income. The first 25 clients will be assisted at each session. Enter at the back of the cafeteria, Room A100. At MATC, 6665 S. Howell Av, Oak Creek. Please bring the items posted here:

[www.milwaukee.tec.wi.us/matc\\_news/2011\\_VITA9.html](http://www.milwaukee.tec.wi.us/matc_news/2011_VITA9.html)