



Patricia Jursik *Update*

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E-NEWS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Health & Human Needs

Judiciary, Safety and General Services, Vice Chair

Parks, Energy & Environment

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Lake Parkway Extension Advisory Committee, Chair

Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Chair

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Governing Board

Milwaukee Art Museum, Trustee

Milwaukee County Federated Library System, Trustee

Milwaukee Gateway Aerotropolis Corporation

2012 Budget

Throughout the month of October, I have attended hearings on the County Executive's 2012 Budget. The Finance and Audit Committee has reviewed plans for funding each organizational unit including the courts, mental health, transit, sheriff, highways, district attorney, parks, airport and many others.

I am concerned about various services including Emergency Medical Services, public safety, paratransit, express bus service and impact on the Route 15 and other programs. To resolve these concerns, I have sponsored several amendments to the budget that will be useful to our district, yet sensitive to keeping taxes in line.

The Finance and Audit Committee's proposed version of the budget would increase taxes by 2.17% to preserve services. Please contact me at (414) 278-4231 or patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com to share your opinion on this matter. If you do not support a tax increase, please keep in mind the consequences: loss of paramedic service; loss of 133 Sheriff's deputies; and a sharp hike in paratransit fares for seniors and residents with disabilities.



Listening to 2012 Budget Hearings in October

Proposed Express Bus and Route 15 Changes

Freeway Flyers would continue at the same service levels.

The County Executive has proposed and secured funding for express bus service. [A map of this proposal is available here.](#) Express bus routes stop less frequently and get riders to their destinations more quickly. This would affect our South Shore in the following ways:

The new Bayshore-Airport Express bus would run from the Airport (along Howell and Chase Avenues), through Downtown Milwaukee, along Oakland Avenue, past UW-Milwaukee to Bayshore Mall. It would operate every 15 minutes during rush hour times and a little less frequently during off-peak times and weekends.

Route 11 would be eliminated, with most of its route being taken up by the Bayshore-Airport Express and Route 15.

Route 15 would be impacted in the following ways:

- Service on Clement, Pennsylvania and 15th Avenues would be replaced by a new Route 52.
- The new Route 15 would maintain service on Chicago and Packard Avenues.
- Every Route 15 bus would make a loop at Madison, 5th and Columbia Avenues through South Milwaukee.
- Although Route 15 would continue to Downtown Milwaukee, it would no longer service UW-Milwaukee. Instead, it would travel through Riverwest along Holton Street and Port Washington Road to Bayshore Mall. Students who reside in the South Shore could take Route 15 northbound to Downtown and then transfer to the Bayshore-Airport Express bus or a frequent Route 30 bus to reach UW-Milwaukee.

I am relieved that the County Executive's administration was able to achieve federal funding for transit service. This has spared us from drastic service cuts due to the State's \$6.8 million cut to our transit system. The federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding is a short-term solution until we can establish dedicated funding for transit. CMAQ funding cannot be used for existing service; it requires that we create new routes. The routes must target areas to maximize ridership demand and potential.

Paratransit

The County Executive's 2012 Budget proposed to increase the paratransit fare from \$3.25 to \$4.50. This would be a great hardship on our residents with disabilities and the elderly who need van service.

I sponsored an amendment to limit the paratransit fare to \$4.00. I proposed to offset this cost by limiting the domestic partnership benefits to only married couples or same-sex couples that file on the registry, but eliminated the non-married couples. Although my amendment failed at the Finance Committee level, another version succeed which also would limit the fare to \$4.00.

Family Care

On September 26th, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, under the direction of Governor Scott Walker, formally requested a waiver from the Federal CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services), requesting permission to create waiting lists for the Family Care program. The wait list started July 1. **The list already includes 482 elderly citizens and 1,501 individuals with disabilities.**

As a member of the newly formed Aging and Disability Resource Center Governing Board in Milwaukee County, I am concerned about services for the elderly and disabled in our County. Prior to July of this year, Family Care was a creative, innovative program that maximized resources, eliminated waiting lists, and kept folks out of more costly nursing homes when community care was appropriate.

As County Executive, Governor Walker [took pride in eliminating waitlists](#) for Family Care, an efficient use of our tax dollars. A waitlist would be a step in the wrong direction and could potentially force needy elderly residents into costly nursing homes.

Transportation Director Appointment

County Executive Abele recently announced the appointment of Frank Busalacchi to head Milwaukee County's Department of Transportation, Public Works and Transit.

Given Mr. Busalacchi's history of opposition to the Hoan Bridge, I will closely question his ability to address transportation needs in the South Shore. This appointment will be reviewed at the committee level in early December and could be considered by the full County Board at its December 15 meeting.

Proposed Cell Tower

The Parks Department and AT&T are [requesting that AT&T be allowed to place a telecommunications tower in Veterans' Park](#) at the Downtown lakefront. In exchange, AT&T would construct a new shelter with accessible restrooms and would provide some revenue to the Parks Department for use of the land.

I am concerned that this initiative has not gone through proper channels. The Request for Proposals (RFP) process in negotiating with vendors ensures fairness and transparency in land and lease dealings. Additionally, the public trust doctrine governs use of lakebeds, ensuring good stewardship and use for public purposes, to benefit the majority. One cell tower sets a precedent for other cell towers and similar uses.

I have received numerous communications from constituents and the Parks Committee heard testimony from many residents who oppose the cellular tower agreement. The Committee voted to lay over this item so that staff may review and our legal counsel may comment.

Greene Park

Greene Park in St. Francis will see many improvements. The construction contractor plans to rebuild the parking lot with the first layer of asphalt by the end of the year, weather permitting. The entire project should be completed by mid-June of 2012. We look forward to many opportunities for recreation at Greene Park.

Greene Park, like many of our parks, is now officially dog-friendly. This means that residents can walk their dogs while respecting other parks users by complying with these rules:

- Dogs must remain on leashes

- People must clean up after their dogs

- Dogs must stay away from picnic areas, children's play areas and athletic fields

Seven Bridges

Repair of the lakeside bridge at Grant Park's Seven Bridges Trail has been let for bids. This will be a winter project. The Parks Department apologizes for the long delays.

I received information from the Parks Department that funding had already been allocated to Seven Bridges repair. Recently, the County Executive vetoed an artistic bus shelter in Bay View in part to fund Seven Bridges repair, according to the County Executive's office. I have expressed great concern to staff about a project that we were told had funding secured and now is being forced to compete with other projects. I am meeting with the administration to further investigate this issue.

College Avenue

The contractors are still on schedule to complete College Avenue on November 18, weather permitting. Crews are currently paving the roadway, medians and median curb and gutter.

The Airport is installing an access road over College Avenue which will run parallel to

the runway overpass. The eastbound median lane will be closed to create room for crane access during construction.

Hoan Bridge

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation recently released a [draft report](#) evaluating various options for bicycle accommodations on or alongside the Hoan Bridge. DOT will hold a [public meeting](#) on this matter on November 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 1001 W. St. Paul Avenue, Milwaukee.

I would like to clarify my position on one matter. Incorrect information on my position was given by a talk radio show. I remain opposed to the removal of a traffic lane on the Hoan Bridge itself for a bike/pedestrian lane. We cannot afford to lose a valuable traffic lane. During the ongoing bridge deck repair, we have seen the dangers of two lanes of traffic; in an emergency, a lane is shut down and passage of traffic becomes reduced to a bottleneck. Additionally, the Hoan Bridge itself was built to handle many heavy semi-trailer trucks, while a bike/pedestrian cantilevered structure would be built to different, less expensive standards. If there is to be a bike/pedestrian lane (which I think could be quite exciting on the lakefront), it must be separate from the vehicular traffic lanes. I have been consistent in my position on this. Since several constituents called to inquire about the incorrect reports, I thought it would be good to clarify it again in this newsletter.

South Milwaukee Goes Pink

Police Chief Ann Wellens is leading her department and city in the fight against breast cancer. City of South Milwaukee staff, along with South Milwaukee School District students and staff, wore pink on October 18, a citywide day to support breast cancer awareness. My office also participated.

The “City of South Milwaukee Goes Pink for Breast Cancer Day” is held in cooperation with Justice for a Cure 2011, a law enforcement partnership with Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The week of October 16-22 was designated South Milwaukee Justice for a Cure Week.

South Milwaukee High School’s Advanced Marketing class played a key role under the direction of business instructor David Fix. Students Derek Dole, Maddie Fakler, Kayla Kohel, and Jacob Grant coordinated publicity for the week and sold over 1,000 t-shirts to raise more than \$4,000 for this worthy cause.

I would like to recognize the leadership of Police Chief Ann Wellens and express gratitude for residents and businesses who contribute to breast cancer research. I wore pink on October 18 in support of families affected by breast cancer and to raise awareness about prevention and early detection. Our County Board will go pink during our next Board meeting on November 3.

Those who wish to donate or find information may visit <http://ww5.komen.org> or call 1-877- GO.KOMEN (877-465-6636).

Community Calendar

Monday, October 31 – County Board Public Hearing, 7pm

At Washington Park Senior Center (4420 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee).

Thursday, November 3 – County Board meeting, 9:30am

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

Thursday, November 3 – [Music Under Glass](#), 6:30-8:30pm

Streetlife with Warren Wiegratz performs R&B & smooth jazz. Enjoy the new lighting of the domes with light shows at the break and following the concert. Food and beverages are available for purchase. No carry-ins. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. [Regular admission applies](#). 649-9830



Friday, November 4 – Lesley Kagen book reading, 1-2pm

FREE. Local bestselling author Lesley Kagen will read from her latest work, “Good Graces,” answer questions and sign books. At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy, 481-9611.

Saturday, November 5 – Buckthorn and Invasive Honeysuckles Weed-out, 9am-Noon & 1-4pm

Help clear buckthorn (for those of age 18+) and other woody stem invasives. Bring eye protection (safety glasses or goggles) and a pair of loppers (anvil style) or pruning shears if you have either. Meet at the [Area 1 parking lot \(by the tennis courts\) in Grant Park](#). Please RSVP if possible to Don Lawson at 764-0612. www.fogp.org

Saturday, November 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 256-5466

Monday, November 7 – County Board Budget Adoption meeting, 8:30am

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

Tuesday, November 8 – Friends of Mill Pond meeting, 6:30pm

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

Thursday, November 10 – Grant Park Watch meeting, 6:30pm

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

Thursday, November 10 – Friends of Grant Park meeting, 7pm (following Park Watch)

At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. 764-0612 www.fogp.org

Saturday, November 12 – Holiday Bazaar, 9am-1pm

FREE admission. Baked goods, homemade crafts, raffle items, white elephant / rummage sale, and lunch items available for purchase. At Grobschmidt Center, 2424 15th Av., South Milwaukee. 768-8045

Wednesday, November 16 – County Board meeting of possible vetoes, 1:30pm

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

Saturday, November 19 – Annual Heritage Place Tree Lighting, 3-5pm

Enjoy music, warm beverages for purchase, and a visit with Santa. At 10th & Milwaukee Av., northwest corner, South Milwaukee. Sponsored by South Milwaukee Association of Commerce, 762-2222 x141.

Thursday, November 24 –Thanksgiving FREE Day at the Zoo, 9:30am-2:30pm

All Milwaukee County residents with ID receive free admission. The parking fee remains in effect. Visit the new cotton-top tamarind twins and the three lion cubs! At Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 West Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee. milwaukeezoo.org 256-5466

Sunday, November 27 – 12:30pm Parade & 1pm Old Fashioned Christmas

Kickoff at 12th & Milwaukee Avenues, South Milwaukee. Parade ends at South Milwaukee City Hall and Community Center. Children’s crafts run from 1-4:30pm. Events from 1 to 5pm include a visit with Santa, stockings, a movie, and food for sale. City tree lighting at 5:30pm.

Wednesday, November 30– Cudahy Neighborhood Watch meeting, 6pm

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

Ongoing:

Music Under Glass, Tuesdays and Thursdays through March, 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



Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt

The world of Cleopatra VII, lost to the sea and sand for nearly 2,000 years, surfaces in Milwaukee, featuring nearly 150 artifacts from Cleopatra's time. At the Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street, Milwaukee. Visit www.mpm.edu/cleopatra/visit/ or call 223-4676 to purchase timed-entry tickets. Check out the Monday discount for Milwaukee County residents!