



Patricia Jursik *Update*

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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

South Shore Economic Development Forum

I, along with Milwaukee County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, will proudly co-host a South Shore Forum for Economic Development on March 16. The event includes participation from the two candidates running for Milwaukee County Executive as well as St. Francis Mayor Al Richards, Cudahy Mayor Tony Day and South Milwaukee Mayor Tom Zepecki.

The topics to be addressed will include the Hoan Bridge, the possible extension of 794 Lake Parkway, Airport and Aerotropolis, Mass Transit, Great Lakes Water Compact, Parks, the Lakefront and other issues important to economic development.

South Shore Forum for Economic Development
Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
901 15th Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI



This event provides a great opportunity for South Shore residents to hear from current and future policymakers on issues relating to jobs and economic development. We are proud to bring this exchange of ideas to the constituents we serve and have the opportunity to hear from our candidates for County Executive as well.

A [map and driving directions](#) are available [here](#). If you plan to arrive by automobile, please park in the northwest parking lot and enter through door #9. South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center is also accessible via the Pennsylvania portion of bus [Route 15](#).

Hoan Bridge



A new round of repairs is scheduled to begin this spring and be completed in fall. The DOT has planned a \$15 million fix similar to what was done last summer. This will continue to patch certain areas to keep the bridge safe. The bridge still needs to be re-decked. I have tried to find out why DOT continues to delay the engineering studies that will define the total cost of the re-decking, but they have refused to disclose this information. I will continue to press for it.

Budget Repair Bill

Governor Walker's [budget repair bill](#) has galvanized the state and has the country watching. I know there are strong feelings by constituents on both sides. I choose my words carefully, trying to keep the political game points out, as I do whenever I write this County newsletter. Our Personnel Committee received a briefing from legal counsel on the various changes to collective bargaining.

I, personally, have come full circle on this issue. In the late 1970s while I was just a young teacher in my twenties, I experienced the strike by teachers at MPS where I taught sixth grade. I faced first-hand the choice of being in school to teach my students which I felt strongly about as a young professional, yet my colleagues had set up a picket line to establish a firm position that it was necessary to stand together and fight for, among other rights, the right to live where one wanted. I did honor the picket line and did not go into the school; I also felt very guilty for not being in my classroom with my students. This was the last strike by public employees in Wisconsin since Wisconsin established mandatory arbitration to prohibit employee strikes after this action. MPS also passed the residency requirement after my husband and I had already purchased our home in Cudahy. I left teaching the next year to attend law school. We have now come full circle as the Personnel Committee also learned that strikes may again become part of employee actions. Mandatory bargaining as we know it that prevented public employee strikes will be gone. Governor Walker has carved out public safety to avoid police and fire strikes, but what about nurses in the mental health hospital or a host of other public services like the courts or public facilities?

The budget repair bill may also cut \$20 million in revenues to Milwaukee County. This will be a very hard hit for us. The governor states that he is giving the tools needed for local officials to deal with this deficit by reducing pension and health care costs since the employees will no longer have the power to negotiate these benefits. What's being left out is the fact that Walker, as our county executive, had already put these reductions in Milwaukee County's budget even without ever obtaining union agreement, so in effect, Milwaukee County has already lost the tools that Walker refers to. If this budget repair bill becomes fact, it is my prediction that we will lose the ability to continue providing transit in Milwaukee County in its current form and be forced to make other deep cuts in services.

Is there some ability to compromise? Is it necessary to deal with the entire budget deficit in one year after the worst recession since the Great Depression? I hope all constituents will call on our state leaders to find a way to compromise. My office has also worked to contact our legislators to urge them to find reasonable compromise regarding the plight of Milwaukee County.

O'Donnell and Lakefront Planning

Last summer's tragedy and subsequent investigations revealed deficiencies in the O'Donnell parking garage. Recognizing that the institutions and businesses along Milwaukee's downtown lakefront need parking, particularly to meet increasing demand in summer, the County Board has directed that the structure be restored quickly. At the same time, our County needs to plan for the long term future of the site.

I am sponsoring a resolution for long-range lakefront planning for the area from Veterans Park to the I-794 interchange and from the Lake to O'Donnell Park and the Downtown Transit Center. Under my resolution, a committee would consider alternate uses for the two facilities among other future uses of the lakefront and preservation of green space, ultimately developing a common vision among lakefront stakeholders.



Speaking on the floor of the County Board.

The public would be able to give input as the committee brainstorms and studies options. Representatives from Milwaukee County, Parks Department, City of Milwaukee, War Memorial, Milwaukee Art Museum, Discovery World, Lakefront Development Advisory Commission, Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Summerfest and UWM's School of Architecture and Urban Planning would comprise the committee.

Reconstruction of East College Avenue

Howell Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue

A contractor will perform this project beginning in April depending on weather. We anticipate completion in November. Traffic will continue to use the roadway in this section.

Pennsylvania Avenue to Packard Avenue

This segment of College Avenue will be closed to through traffic during major construction from April until November 2011, but access will be provided to local businesses and residents. A contractor will be awarded this project in March. Milwaukee County has agreed with United States Postal Service to coordinate construction.

Gas Pipeline Along East College Avenue

Lanes will remain open during installation from February and through the end of April 2011. MMSD has been managing installation of a landfill gas pipeline at about 6 to 10 feet underground. The installation is performed through directional drilling which avoids upsetting the road. MMSD will restore the roadside through topsoil, seed and erosion mat. The low-pressure pipeline will deliver gas from Emerald Island Landfill in Muskego to Jones Island, where it will offset energy costs to treat water and provide savings to sewage district users.

Pullin' O' the Green

Join [Friends of Grant Park](#) in their annual benefit to preserve and enhance Grant Park on Sunday, March 13. This year, proceeds will support a security camera system at the Beach House to improve safety and combat vandalism.

Admission gets you a meal (your choice of corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew or Irish potato and kale soup), beverage or a beer and an evening of great music by the Garlic Mustard Pickers. Adults pay \$15 and children pay \$5. Tickets will be available in advance at local businesses, including Parkway Floral, Wild Flour Bakery and Nona's Café or by calling 764-7262.

The event will be held at Grant Park Clubhouse at 100 Hawthorne Avenue in South Milwaukee. Seatings are available at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Contact 764-0612.

St. Francis Education & Fixx Coffee are Real Milwaukee

Kudos to teacher Emily Kingsley. She teaches Special Education classes at St. Francis High School and obtained real world jobs for all the students in her class. Ben Opala, a student in Ms. Kingsley's class, got a job at [Fixx Coffee House](#). Ben was so excited about his job and thought Fixx was such a great coffee shop that he took it upon himself to contact reporter Tony Clark from Fox 6's Real Milwaukee show that goes on site to feature a business or new location around



Ms. Kingsley with reporter Tony Clark and student Ben Opala.

town. Shari Franz, owner of Fixx, not only got a great new employee; she got some free marketing help from Ben as Fixx was featured on Real Milwaukee. This was a win/win situation for all due to a creative teacher that went the extra mile for her students. I was happy to share the moment with Ben, his teacher and Fixx on January 31st.

Response to the Blizzard

The Parks Department, with limited staff and inadequate equipment, had challenges managing the heavy snowfall and high drifts in early February. Removing snow from emergency access and school routes was prioritized for safety. I appreciate the team effort by Parks staff to clear the walkways.

Facilities Planning



Jail cells converted to office (above) and storage (below) space.



To address facilities planning, the Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee visited the Safety Building in the Courthouse Complex. The structure was completed in 1930 for use as a jail, but today it houses courtrooms and office space for the District Attorney and Sheriff's office. The Committee toured old jail cells which comprise 25% of the building and now serve as office and storage area. It would be cost prohibitive to remove the old iron bars.

While storage and converted office space are good, necessary uses, there may be ways to optimize this area. Our committee is developing some recommendations for a comprehensive facilities plan. We have discussed developing a strategic comprehensive facilities plan. The plan would review efficiency and cost effectiveness; assess underutilized, vacant or obsolescent space; determining safety issues; maximize usage, sustainability, and potential real estate value; and recommend a plan of action and priorities. Also, many in Committee have cautioned against using land sale proceeds to fund ongoing expenditures. It is good practice to budget use of land sale proceeds upon actual receipt since anticipated proceeds are subject to delay and adjustment.

Community Calendar

Thursday, March 3 – Oak Creek Lakefront Redevelopment Open House

2-5 p.m. open house followed by 7 p.m. presentation with question and answer session. At Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Avenue, Oak Creek.

Saturday, March 5 – Family FREE Day at the Zoo, 9am-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

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

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

Thursday, March 10 – Grant Park “Park Watch” meeting, 6:30pm

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

Thursday, March 10 – Friends of Grant Park meeting, 7pm

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

Sunday, March 13 – Pullin’ O’ the Green, seatings at 4:30pm or 6:30pm

Join Friends of Grant Park in their annual benefit to preserve and enhance Grant Park. Admission gets you food, beverage or a beer, and an evening of great music by the Garlic Mustard Pickers. Regular admission: \$15 adults, \$5 children. Advance tickets will be available in advance at local businesses, including Parkway Floral, Wild Flour Bakery, and Nona’s Café. At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av., South Milwaukee. Contact 764-7262

Tuesday, March 15 – Polymer Clay Class, 10am-Noon

Learn to make a box, a penguin or a pen. Please bring a 2 pack of colored clay. Fee of \$3. Preregistration is required at 481-9611.

Thursday, March 17 – County Board Meeting, 9:30am

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200.

Friday, March 18 – St. Patty’s Day Party, 4:30-7pm

At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy. Catering by South Woods, with a choice of corned beef and cabbage or broiled cod, followed by entertainment by Glen Castle Irish Dancers. Cost: \$15. Preregistration is required at 481-9611.

Wednesday, March 23 – AARP Driving Course, Noon-4pm

Cost to participate is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-AARP members, with some insurance companies offering discounts. Pre-registration required at 768-8045. At Grobschmidt Senior Center, 2424 15th Avenue, South Milwaukee.

Wednesday, March 23 – January, February & March Birthday Celebration, 12:30pm

Come and celebrate with your friends at Kelly Senior Center. Enjoy games, prizes, birthday cake, coffee, singing and fun. At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy.

Thursday, March 24 – [Music Under Glass](#), 6:30-8:30pm

Copper Box performs Americana & Accordion Rock. Enjoy the new lighting of the domes with light shows at the break and following the concert. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. Regular admission applies. 649-9830



Tuesdays, starting March 29 – Handbuilding Classes, 1-3pm

Fee is \$40 for this four-week class. Preregistration is required at 481-9611. At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy.

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

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

Thursday, March 31 – Milwaukee County Open House, 9am-4pm

Tour the Courthouse Complex, learn about County resources and meet elected officials and staff of various departments. On the second floor of the Milwaukee County Courthouse at 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee.



Ongoing:

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](#). View the [schedule of music](#).



AARP Tax Preparation 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 Preparation 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](#).