



# Patricia Jursik *Update*

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E-NEWS

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Economic & Community Development, Chair

Finance, Personnel & Audit

Transportation, Public Works & Transit

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Lake Parkway Extension Advisory Committee, Chair

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Governing Board

Milwaukee Art Museum, Trustee

Milwaukee County Federated Library System, Trustee

Milwaukee County Research Park Corporation Board

Milwaukee Gateway Aerropolis Corporation

*Dear Constituents and Friends:*

*Happy New Year. May 2013 prove to be a productive and healthy year for our South Shore.*

*I know that you share my sadness at the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary. Please remember that Milwaukee County has resources for residents experiencing mental health crises. More information is available [here](#). Our communities are served by programs like [Wraparound](#) and its [Mobile Urgent Treatment Team](#) that help youth with complex mental health and emotional needs. Let us all resolve to be vigilant and to seek help when it is needed.*

*Very truly,  
Pat*



*At left: Veterans from the Cudahy War Memorial celebrate the lighting of their Christmas tree donation in the Milwaukee County Courthouse rotunda's December 2012 holiday display.*

## Lake Parkway Extension Added to Regional Transportation Plan

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) added the extension of the Lake Parkway to the Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. On December 5, 2012, the Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the six-mile extension.



The amended Regional Plan now anticipates growth and future needs for the Lake Parkway (State Trunk Highway 794) by extending it from its current endpoint at Edgerton Avenue to State Trunk Highway 100 in Milwaukee County. The Regional

Plan was adopted in 2006 to help guide transportation development through 2035.

An extended Lake Parkway will provide the necessary transportation infrastructure to promote economic development in Milwaukee County's South Shore and around the Port of Milwaukee and General Mitchell International Airport. We are part of the increasingly powerful lake corridor mega-region that stretches from Gary, Indiana through Chicago, Illinois to Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. I call upon State elected officials to fund this important corridor project.

## Seven Bridges

Throughout December 2012, a contractor repaired the large lakeside bridge at Seven Bridges trail in Grant Park. Many of us were alarmed at the lack of erosion controls; at the excessive removal of trees and walls to access the site; and at the road that was built to lower a back hoe to the bridge level. This was all outside the job description.

At this point, I am working with the Parks Department and engineering staff to demand the best remedy for this sad situation. Milwaukee County will not make further payments until the contractor repairs the damage, plants trees and takes other steps. We will do our best to get this rectified.

## Mill Pond Inspection

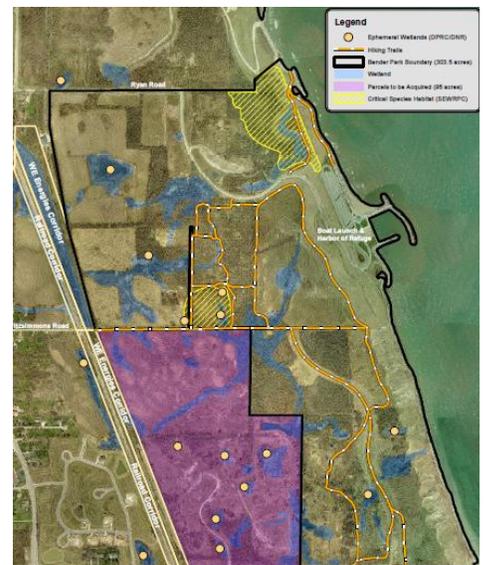
In November 2012, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources inspected the dam at the Mill Pond in South Milwaukee. The DNR issued a Dam Safety Report requiring:

- the removal of vegetation from specific areas under the supervision of an engineer
- the maintenance of healthy grass cover on the embankments
- a structural evaluation by an engineer of the spillway abutments to determine if masonry repairs are required
- the repair of the sluice gate, which is currently inoperable
- the installation of two benchmarks

At this time, the DNR rates the Mill Dam's sufficiency as "conditionally fair" based on the needed improvements. The DNR has set a deadline of June 1, 2014, for these improvements.

## Bender Park and Hunting/Trapping

In February 2012, the Conservation Fund submitted an application to the State of Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to acquire [95 acres of land adjacent to Bender Park](#) in Oak Creek, just south of the Eighth Supervisory District. The Conservation Fund uses its real estate expertise and resources to save natural resource-rich lands threatened by development or fragmentation. It hopes to acquire three parcels (shown in **purple** in the map at right) and to transfer them to the Milwaukee County Parks Department for incorporation into Bender Park for long-term protection.



Bender Park contains diverse ecology and is a precious flyway for birds. The adjacent three parcels, in their undeveloped state, help to buffer these natural resources. Moreover, these parcels offer high value wildlife habitat. They contain six documented ephemeral wetlands; eight acres of permanent wetlands; and two drainage channels that connect the parcels hydrologically to Bender Park.

Under State statute changes in 2007, lands acquired with Stewardship funds must be open for public hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has determined that hunting and trapping must be allowed on the three parcels under consideration for 2012 Stewardship acquisition funding. Such activity could be limited to bow hunting and live trapping.

The Parks Department has drafted an ordinance amendment to allow limited and controlled hunting and trapping. It has also proposed proper public awareness efforts and permitting to comply with State rules, regulations and seasons. The Parks Department recommends holding a public meeting to solicit input, although a meeting date has not yet been set. More information is available [here](#).

### **Curbing the Pension Backdrop**

The County Board continues to enact reforms in the aftermath of the pension backdrop benefit adoption. You may remember that in 2009, Milwaukee County obtained a settlement of \$45 million when it sued the actuarial firm that provided advice at the time of the adoption of the backdrop benefit. On December 20, 2012, the County Board voted 15 to 3 to amend the ordinances pertaining to the backdrop.

Under this most recent backdrop modification, if and when a member becomes eligible for and elects a backdrop at some future date, the monthly benefit used to calculate the amount of the backdrop will be limited to the monthly pension benefit that the member would be eligible to receive as of September 1, 2012. The change limits future accrual of the backdrop. It does not take away any pension benefits already earned. This modification is estimated to provide savings of more than \$15 million. [Here](#) are details.

### **Family Care Expansion**

Milwaukee County's [Department of Family Care](#) helps to connect residents to long-term care services. The County's Managed Care Organization (MCO) provides long-term care to frail elders (age 60 and older) and to people ages 18 to 59 with physical or developmental disabilities.

Milwaukee County's Department of Family Care has requested authorization to operate an MCO to provide services to the neighboring counties of Racine, Kenosha, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha and Walworth. I opposed this expansion because the governance model does not fit the geographic region. I also had concerns that the service model for Milwaukee County was diminished, following the last expansion when Milwaukee County added Racine and Kenosha.

### **Franklin Facility: House of Correction or Jail?**

Until 2009, the House of Corrections was run by a superintendent. Poor management had led to excessive overtime and budgetary deficits. To resolve this problem, the County Board asked the Sheriff to take over the House of Corrections, which is located in Franklin. To Sheriff David Clarke's credit, he managed the facility and corrected these problems. To his discredit, the Sheriff also refused to cooperate with the many programs that had traditionally been administered at the Franklin facility, including job

training programs, drug and alcohol programming, electronic monitoring, and work release privileges.

In December 2012, Sheriff Clarke filed a lawsuit against Milwaukee County to stop the transfer of the House of Correction to a superintendent. At the time that the County Board considered bringing back a superintendent (in Autumn 2012), the Sheriff indicated he was not opposed to the transfer. In October 2012, he discussed the House of Corrections, stating, "It is not one of the core functions of the sheriff, the county jail is." During the budget process, the Sheriff vowed to work with the Board while we were also restoring 26 Sheriff Deputies for the Targeted Enforcement Unit and Park Patrol. Apparently, the power of the purse that the Board controls caused the Sheriff to be unusually taciturn on his opposition to the transfer. Once the budget was safely passed, the Sheriff chose to sue Milwaukee County to stop the transition instead of being forthright during budget deliberations.

The basic premise of the Sheriff's lawsuit is that he views the Franklin facility as basically a second County jail. Inmates remain in the facility without release privileges or programming. The Sheriff calls critics of his management style naïve, suggesting that any programming at the House is just social engineering. While the Sheriff may be entitled to his fundamentalist beliefs, he is not entitled to make policy for the entire County. The Board has supported running a House of Correction as an alternative to a jail stay. Clearly the Sheriff runs a jail, but the statutory guidelines permit the County to operate a House of Correction and to appoint a superintendent to oversee such programs. My e-newsletter will provide updates as the case progresses through the courts.

## **Community Calendar**

### **Monday, December 31, 2012 – New Year's Eve Family Celebration at the Domes, 6-9pm**

A night of entertainment, music and food! Enjoy live entertainment for the whole family, including a magician, balloon sculptures, interactive music by the Garlic Mustard Pickers, Juggler Gypsy Geoff, children's crafts, party favors and much more! Zilli's Hospitality will offer food and beverages for purchase. Admission: \$10 for adults at the door or advance purchase, \$5 for kids ages 4-17 and free for children age 3 and younger. No strollers.

**Monday, December 31, 2012 – Ride FREE on all regular Milwaukee County buses, beginning at 8pm** until the regular ending times of most routes. Additionally, thirteen routes (shown [here](#)) will extend service until 4am the next day, operating each half hour. Thanks to Miller Lite for its sponsorship of the free rides. [www.ridemcts.com](http://www.ridemcts.com)

### **Tuesday, January 1, 2013 – Cool Kite Festival, 11am-5pm**

The "Kite Whisperer" will provide kite-flying lessons. All are welcome to participate in this "fun flight" with a kite brought from home or one purchased at the event. Witness the giant kites of Yves Laforest. Watch ice artists in action and take a horse-drawn carriage ride for a small fee. Complementary hot chocolate and coffee while it lasts, thanks to Caribou Coffee. Dress warm. At Veterans Park, 1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee. [www.giftofwings.com](http://www.giftofwings.com) 277-9121

### **Tuesday, January 1, 2013 – FREE Day at the Zoo, 9:30am-2:30pm**

Milwaukee County residents with ID 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, January 8 – Friends of Mill Pond meeting, 6:30pm**

At Marquette Manor (2409 10<sup>th</sup> Av, South Milwaukee). 571-1191 [www.smfomp.org](http://www.smfomp.org)

### **Thursday, January 10 – Grant Park Watch & Friends of Grant Park meeting, 6:30pm**

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

Friends of Grant Park: 764-0612 [www.fogp.org](http://www.fogp.org)

**Saturday, January 19 – John Mueller’s Winter Dance Party, 8pm**

The official live and authentic re-creation of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper's final tour visits South Milwaukee. Audiences are charmed by over two hours of hit songs of the 50's era. At the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15<sup>th</sup> Av, South Milwaukee. Tickets available for purchase at [www.southmilwaukeepac.org](http://www.southmilwaukeepac.org) and 766-5049.

**Wednesday, January 30 – Cudahy Neighborhood Watch meeting, 6pm**

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

**Ongoing:**

**THE DOMES**

**Music Under Glass, 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)



**“Let it Snow” holiday show at The Domes until January 6, 2013**

At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. 649-9830. Hours and admission are posted [here](#).

**ICE SKATING**

**At Sheridan Park Lagoon, 4800 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy**  
Bring your own skates. Open weather permitting.  
Call 257-PARK (7275) for current conditions.

**Sheridan Lagoon** opens when ice is sufficiently thick.

**At Red Arrow Park, 920 N. Water St, Milwaukee**  
(accessed via the Green Line, [www.ridemcts.com](http://www.ridemcts.com))  
FREE rink. Skate rental: \$7 (ages 17 and under) or \$8 (18+) (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/RedArrow1930.htm>

**Red Arrow Rink** is open  
WEATHER PERMITTING

**Hours**

Dec. 26-30: 10am-Midnight  
Dec. 31: 10am-1am  
Jan. 1-3: 10am-8pm

Jan. 4 - Feb. 3:

Mon.-Th.: 11am-8pm  
Fri.-Sat.: 11am-11pm  
Sun.: 11am-6pm

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM**

**“Real Pirates” exhibit – through May 27, 2013**

Experience the Golden Age of Piracy aboard the Whydah, one of the most successful pirate ships of her day, and learn about her roots as a slave ship and subsequent takeover and conversion into a pirate ship in the early 1700s. In 1717, a storm put an end to the Whydah's sailing days, and she sank with most of her crew aboard—as well as the bounty from more than 50 captured ships. Centuries later, underwater explorer Barry Clifford and his team located the wreck and painstakingly unearthed her treasures, making her the first fully authenticated pirate ship ever to be discovered in U.S. waters. Organized by National Geographic and Arts and Exhibitions International.

Visit [www.mpm.edu/pirates/visit/](http://www.mpm.edu/pirates/visit/) for rates and information.