



# 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 Aerotropolis Corporation

## 2013 Budget

The County Executive's proposed budget includes some upgrades for our district. We will see traffic cameras at Layton & Packard Avenues. Grant Park's Wil-O-Way will receive needed repairs. The Oak Creek Parkway in South Milwaukee will have lighting replaced in advance of expected road repairs in future years. I have worked with our parks and environmental engineering staff to fund stream bank stabilization for the Oak Creek in 2014. This bank restoration will keep much sediment from accumulating in the Creek and in the Mill Pond downstream. However, in many ways, I was disappointed with the proposed budget.

A local think tank placed an opinion piece in the October 18 Journal Sentinel, pronouncing that this is a budget season marked by "a relative sea of tranquility." The media itself has painted a rosy picture of the County Executive's 2013 Recommended Budget while only sparsely reporting on issues.

In fact, many residents were not pleased with this budget. The County Executive's proposals would have several negative impacts on our South Shore communities. The Finance, Personnel & Audit Committee, of which I am a member, made many revisions to improve the County Executive's budget.

## Parks Patrol

The Finance, Personnel & Audit (FPA) Committee voted 9-0 to reject the Memo of Understanding that would have contracted out parks patrol. The Milwaukee Police Department would have received \$1.6 million in exchange for policing County parks in the City of Milwaukee while the suburban police departments would have only received a total of \$125,000 to patrol County parks throughout the suburbs.

Instead, the FPA Committee affirmed that the Sheriff's Targeted Enforcement Unit (TEU) should continue to do this job and should receive sufficient funding. The South Shore communities include many lakefront parks which attract a lot of activity and require the presence of deputies or the rapid response of an enforcement unit. Our local police departments will continue to perform most of the day-to-day patrolling. They do an excellent job.

## Emergency Medical Service

The FPA Committee added \$500,000 in funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), bringing the total allocation to \$2 million. The countywide EMS program is a successful cooperative model that includes training, certification and continuing education of Emergency Medical Technicians (basic and paramedic). Milwaukee County EMS hosts the Communications Center which provides consultation to paramedics onsite and shares information among dispatched paramedics, ambulances,

medical control physicians, hospitals and other emergency personnel. Milwaukee County EMS uses state-of-the-art technology to develop electronic patient care records. This program improves the quality and efficiency of emergency response in our community.

Under the EMS program, eight municipalities have contractual agreements to provide Advanced Life Support (paramedic-level emergency medical services). The City of South Milwaukee provides service to Cudahy while St. Francis is served by Milwaukee. Oak Creek provides service in its own city and back-up service to other cities. This is truly a metro government approach.

## **911 Calls**

Under the FPA Committee's plan, the Milwaukee Police Department will directly receive all 911 cellular calls originating in the City of Milwaukee instead of having them transferred by the Sheriff. Currently, the Sheriff's Department takes such calls from two major cell carriers.

## **Long-Term Planning for Facilities**

After two years of chairing the Long-Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee that produced a plan to downsize County facilities now that our workforce has shrunk by nearly half since 1990, it was most disappointing that no goals were placed in the County Executive's budget to complete this planning. Last year, I authored an amendment to provide more than \$400,000 for a study of our facilities so that work on this important project could begin. This work is currently underway with C.B. Richard Ellis as the contractor.

This year, I again authored an amendment to spell out the goals for the facilities redesign and to include this project in our 2013 Budget since the Executive's budget largely ignored the issue. A comprehensive facilities plan is set to realize the following goals:

- Maximize value leveraged through a sale
- Consolidate County holdings based on best use
- Consider the safety of the building while also reducing costs of operation
- Mitigate long-standing liabilities associated with ownership of a facility
- Reduce the geographic scope of real estate holdings

My amendment requires that the Facilities Assessment Team return to the Committee on Transportation, Public Works & Transit (TPWT) in April 2013 with either a report on the progress of strategically downsizing County holdings or a report on alternate recommendations based on the Team's studies. The TPWT Committee shall aim to develop a strategic facilities plan in time for the 2014 budget.

I call on the County Executive and his staff to take leadership of this effort and work with the Board to get it done.

## **Administrative Downsizing and Elimination of Bonuses**

While the County Executive stated that his budget was a "cost to continue" budget with no tax increases, this budget actually created dozens of new administrative positions without revenue to pay for this staff. Instead, the County Executive increased health care costs for current employees, taking this savings to pay for these new positions. The FPA Committee reduced these positions, which included a lobbyist for the Executive's

office, and returned the health care costs to last year's level but increased deductibles. Our employees pay about 25% of their health care costs currently. The Committee also removed the \$500,000 bonus created by the County Executive.

## Nurses

The County Executive's proposed budget removed health insurance for part-time nurses and nursing aides at the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) and also cut nurses at the jail with an outsourcing plan. Currently, the County pays BHD nurses less than many other facilities even though we staff a 24/7 mental health facility. The County offered health care in order to recruit weekend, half-time nursing staff as a solution to staffing problems. Removing the benefit could have caused loss of these workers and could have threatened patient care. While the County does not generally provide health benefits to part-time staff, this plan was created to incentivize nursing staff. The Executive's cuts were not well thought-out, and the FPA Committee returned the benefits and also kept our nurses at the jail. Milwaukee County has been under court orders for more than 12 years regarding health care at the jail, and these cuts could have placed our County in jeopardy of violating the terms of the court order.

## Budget Input

There were many other initiatives in the budget. What do you think about the 2013 Budget proposal and amendments? Please contact me at [patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com](mailto:patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com) with your thoughts.

I have heard public testimony and received communications from many constituents about budget matters. Most callers opposed having the County tax levy pay for City of Milwaukee policing of the parks. The County Board also held a public hearing on October 29 to gather feedback.

On November 5, the County Board will consider amendments and then adopt a budget. The County Executive will have the chance to make vetoes. The County Board will consider any vetoes on November 14.

## Chat with the Chair Visits Cudahy

County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic will hold a "Chat with the Chair" on November 26 in Cudahy. Residents are invited to meet the Chairwoman, ask questions about County government and explore ways for Cudahy and Milwaukee County to work together.

### Chat with the Chair – Cudahy

**Monday, November 26, 2012, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Cudahy Family Library's Winter Garden Room**  
3500 Library Drive, Cudahy

As part of her effort to unify Milwaukee County, the Chairwoman is holding listening sessions in all 19 municipalities in Milwaukee County. I am pleased to welcome the Chairwoman to the 8th District.



## Cudahy Park

Cudahy Park recently saw negative activity. In response, the Parks Department has removed graffiti; We Energies filled an asphalt patch and removed plywood; the Cudahy Police Department and the Sheriff's Targeted Enforcement Unit have increased their

presence at the Park; and we are partnering with the Cudahy School District and neighbors to increase positive activities.

Please help us to keep close watch over this park. If you witness someone vandalizing the park, please notify authorities or call my office at 414-278-4231.

### **Lakefront Parks Meeting: Please Join Us!**

Our lakefront parks in the South Shore face common challenges, including bluff erosion, beach health and safety. In an effort to facilitate cooperation, the Friends of Grant Park will host a combined meeting of lakefront park friends organizations on Thursday, November 8, 2012, at Grant Park Golf Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Avenue, South Milwaukee. This event will start at 6 p.m. and include a potluck. The Friends of Grant Park, Sheridan Park Friends, South Shore Park Watch and others will attend. All residents interested in our lakefront parks are welcome to participate.

### **Seven Bridges Repair**

The Parks Department plans to restore the large lakeside bridge at Seven Bridges soon. The contractors hope to begin construction in late November and complete work by the end of 2012. While Seven Bridges shall remain open to the public, some areas will be obstructed to accommodate heavy machinery. Reconstruction of the large lakeside bridge will be prioritized. The crew will then repair the footbridge by Wil-O-Way.

To protect this sensitive area, we need to use the official paths. Unfortunately, visitors have climbed down and eroded the ravine while the bridge has been out of service.

### **Lake Parkway (794) Extension**

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) completed technical work for the potential extension of the Lake Parkway. Federal and State agencies have reviewed the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. SEWRPC's Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation Planning and SEWRPC's Planning and Research Committee will both consider the Lake Parkway Extension in early November.



### **General Mitchell International Airport**

Airport Director Barry Bateman appeared before the Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee to outline his plan for consolidation of concourses at the airport. The Board has approved a plan to relocate Delta Airlines to Concourse D. Eventually Concourse E will be completely closed and more flights will be scheduled at C and D. This creates efficiencies and better business for the many merchants in the concourses. Airports all across the United States are experiencing similar retractions as the airline industry experiences major changes. Southwest Airlines is becoming the fastest growing carrier at Mitchell. The County Board and the Airport administration are looking for ways to facilitate more direct flight opportunities at Mitchell.

### **Aerotropolis Receives \$7,500 Grant**

The Milwaukee Gateway Aerotropolis is coordinating regional economic efforts and promoting a strong economy in the South Shore. An aerotropolis requires coordination of airport-centered commerce, real estate development and various transportation options. The FPA Committee approved a grant of \$7,500 to advance efforts to build the aerotropolis around General Mitchell International Airport.

The Gateway to Milwaukee's Executive Director Tom Rave appeared at the Economic

& Community Development Committee in October to report on efforts to generate greater logistics and interconnectivity for business that use our Airport and other modes of transportation. His presentation is posted [here](#).

## **Community Calendar**

**Thursday, November 1 – County Board meeting, 9:30am**

**Monday, November 5 – Budget Adoption meeting, 8:30am**

**Thursday, November 8 – Potluck & Combined Meeting of South Shore Lakefront Park Watch Friends, 6pm**

At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. Hosted by Friends of Grant Park, 764-0612 [www.fogp.org](http://www.fogp.org)

**Wednesday, November 7 – Flu Shots, 10am-Noon**

Free with a Medicare Part B or Medicare Advantage card. At Kelly Senior Center, 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy.

**Thursday, November 8 – Taste of South Milwaukee, 4-8pm**

Sponsored by South Milwaukee Lions Club and including 16 local restaurants serving tastings and samples. At Salvatore's, 1919, 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Milwaukee. [Details and ticket prices](#).

**Saturday, November 10 – Holiday Bazaar, 9am-1pm**

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

**Saturday, November 10 – Oak Creek Veterans' Day, 9-10am**

At the Oak Creek Veteran's Memorial, northeast corner of 6th and Rawson.

**Sunday, November 11 – South Milwaukee Veterans' Day**

**10:45am step off** from American Legion Post 27, 920 Monroe Avenue to march to the South Milwaukee Veterans Memorial just north of 10th & Rawson Avenues. Weather permitting, a short ceremony will be held at the Memorial.

**Monday, November 12 – Cudahy Veterans' Day, 9am**

In Cudahy High School's field house, 4950 South Lake Drive, Cudahy. Details are [here](#).

**Tuesday, November 13 – Friends of Mill Pond meeting, 6:30pm**

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

**Wednesday, November 14 – County Board meeting to consider any vetoes, 1:30pm**

**Saturday, November 17 – Annual Heritage Place Tree Lighting, 3:30-5pm**

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

**Sunday, November 25 – 12:30pm Parade & 1pm Old Fashioned Christmas**

Kickoff at 12<sup>th</sup> & Milwaukee Avenues in South Milwaukee. Parade ends at South Milwaukee City Hall and Community Center. Following the parade, children can visit Santa at City Hall, make crafts movie, and enjoy refreshments in the Senior Center. City tree lighting at 5:30pm.

**Monday, November 26 – Chat with the Chair, 6-7pm**

County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic holds a listening session at Cudahy Family Library's Winter Garden Room, 3500 Library Dr., Cudahy.

**Wednesday, November 28 – Cudahy Neighborhood Watch meeting, 6pm**

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