



# Patricia Jursik *Update*

8<sup>th</sup> District Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik  
901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Courthouse RM 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233  
Phone: 414-278-4231 Fax: 414-223-1380  
E-mail: [patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com](mailto:patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com)  
Website: <http://www.milwaukee.gov/Jursik>



December  
2009  
E-NEWS

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance and Audit

Judiciary, Safety and General Services

Transportation, Public Works, and Transit

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee on Long Range Transportation Planning

Economic Stimulus Task Force

Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Chair

RTA Task Force, Chair

## 2010 Budget

This was a particularly difficult budget year for Milwaukee County and many other public and private organizations. I voted against the budget the County Board crafted since it raised the property tax levy by nearly 4% during a recession. The County Executive sent back 35 vetoes to reduce the levy to 0. I voted to support many, but not all of these vetoes. I sought the best information about proposed cuts and made difficult decisions on behalf of the residents I represent. The final collective votes of the Board resulted in a tax levy increase of just over 2%. Below are some of the critical issues that we addressed in the vetoes.

I supported preserving parks maintenance. If you visit Grant, Warnimont, Sheridan, or our other parks, you will see that years of cuts have taken their toll. We must not neglect our responsibility to care for the parks that our grandparents built for us during the years of the Great Depression.

I supported the County Executive's proposal to privatize housekeeping. This provision reduced the County workforce by some 200. I disagreed with the proposed outsourcing of security at the Courthouse. This is not only dangerous, but is also not cost-effective. It was tried previously at the Courthouse and failed. One argument for privatizing security is that the federal buildings have privatized security. However, security staff at federal buildings receive higher pay than at the Courthouse because federal facilities have armed guards. Due to back-up from Sheriff deputies, the Courthouse security staff is both safe and cost-effective.

I took exception that the proposed budget and several vetoes made cuts on the backs of the mentally ill. The County Executive proposed outsourcing many mental health functions. I investigated and found that the private sector would not be able to substitute for Milwaukee County's services, because these services are not profitable. Additionally, as many South Milwaukee constituents reminded me, if our County fails to provide mental health services, the municipalities will be forced to pick up the expense. This was illustrated when a South Milwaukee police officer waited through a full shift with a person who needed to be committed. We need law enforcement on the streets to keep us safe, not waiting hours for mental health processing.

I voted twice against the proposed vehicle registration fee. Despite misinformation on this matter, the "wheel tax" was never part of the budget and never received the votes needed to gain approval. While the wheel tax was not adopted, it is clear that we will need to find a method to support our bus system with some means of dedicated funding. Our transit system needs to be removed from property tax support. As I have argued many times before, we are the only county that supports the bus system with

property tax dollars!

I did not support the County Executive's proposed \$11 million water park, but I did support his veto of the \$6 million for indoor pool enhancements. This is a bad time for building any new park facilities or additions without careful study. I favor maintaining existing pools like our cherished Grobschmidt and Sheridan Pools.

The Farm and Fish Hatchery (FFH) is tax levy neutral. We closed a dorm in the House of Corrections and are working with judges to put inmates on the Huber Work Release program to work at the FFH. Hunger Task Force operates the FFH and invested \$150,000 of their own money to develop a food source at the farm. As a result, Milwaukee County's Parks get trees and bushes, the Hunger Task Force gets fresh food for their food pantries and the Zoo gets fish for the penguins!

I appreciated hearing from hundreds of constituents about their concerns with the budget. If you did not receive a reply to a call or e-mail please know that our phones were over-whelmed with callers the two days prior to the veto meeting. My assistant and I were not able to keep up and we are still logging callers.

### **Coalition to Save the Hoan Presents Petitions to the Governor**

I took great pride in delivering your 8,079 signatures to the Governor's office! What a great response; thank you everyone. Many of your elected leaders also personally signed a [letter](#) which was presented along with the petitions to Governor Jim Doyle and Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi.



Photo: Supervisor Patricia Jursik, on behalf of the Coalition to Save the Hoan, presents a letter and petitions to John Zapfel in Governor Doyle's Milwaukee office, asking the Governor and Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi to recognize and support the wishes of the more than 8,000 constituents who signed a petition asking the State to re-deck the current Hoan Bridge and abandon any alternatives.

The letter was delivered after a series of public hearings held throughout 2009 and requests the following action from the State of Wisconsin:

- Direct the Department of Transportation (DOT) to immediately commence the needed engineering study to obtain the actual cost to re-deck the Hoan Bridge.
- Direct DOT to discontinue the planning for alternatives to the Hoan Bridge.
- Provide funding for the re-decking of the Hoan in the next biennial budget.

We presented these items on behalf of more than 8,000 residents who have expressed their wishes. The Coalition has determined that the Hoan Bridge is vitally important to south shore communities, the Port of Milwaukee, General Mitchell International Airport and the entire Milwaukee metropolitan area. We cannot have any further delays in the plans to re-deck this bridge.

Although the collection of petition signatures has concluded, the Coalition will remain vigilant of any future attempts to remove the bridge. More information on the Coalition to Save the Hoan can be found [here](#).

Congratulations to the residents who made their voices heard about the proposal to remove the Hoan Bridge!

### **City of Milwaukee Attempts to Delay Re-decking of the Hoan**

In spite of the overwhelming show of support for the Hoan Bridge, we need to continue to monitor this issue. On Friday, November 27, a letter from the City of Milwaukee was shared with my office. The letter asks for delay of the re-decking in the guise of an environmental impact study that will review alternatives to the Hoan and development potential. This letter was written by the Department of Public Works of the City of Milwaukee to Transportation Secretary Busalacchi. [Click here](#) to read more. We will see what comes of this letter.

### **Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee**

Our final 2010 budget contains a potential deficit of \$17 million since we required employees to take salary and benefit concessions that have not yet been agreed to. For this reason the 2010 budget is at best a tenuous agreement which will require the Board to re-visit and fix this budget many times throughout 2010. It is clear that we must put our financial house in order.

To do this, I first introduced a resolution last summer to require Strategic Planning, and now have pushed to get the meetings moving forward. The first meeting took place November 30. I was appointed to this committee along with Supervisors John Thomas and Lynn De Bruin. Three members of the County Executive's cabinet and three leaders of the community, Rob Henken of the Public Policy Forum, Tim Sheehy of Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce and Richard Abelson of AFSCME, were also appointed. This group elected me to chair the committee. Our charge is to get a strategic plan in place before we start our 2011 budget deliberations.

### **Nature up Close**



Students from Park View Elementary School of Cudahy enjoyed a visit to Falk Park in Oak Creek with *Nature in the Park* naturalists this fall. UW-Cooperative Extension, Wehr Nature Center and Milwaukee County Parks collaborate through *Nature in the Parks* to take school, youth, or summer camp groups into the parks and reach out to libraries, schools, and other locations. For details, visit [milwaukee.uwex.edu/natres/nip/index.cfm](http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/natres/nip/index.cfm) or call 425-8550.

### **Give the Gift of Parks**

Consider visiting the Milwaukee County Parks kiosk at Southridge Mall or the Parks office (9480 Watertown Plank Rd.) for your holiday shopping. Now available:

**Dog tags** for Milwaukee County Off-leash Dog Parks: \$20 annual fee

**Golf gift cards and golf discount card renewals.** Shoppers making a \$100 purchase of golf gift cards will receive \$20 in free golf! Discount card prices are listed [here](#)

**Unlimited golf membership** New in 2010!

Eagle package (all Milwaukee County courses with the exception of Brown Deer): \$999

Hole-in-one package (all Milwaukee County courses including Brown Deer): \$1,499

## Community Calendar

### **Monday, December 7 - Garlic Mustard Pickers play at Fixx Coffeehouse, 7pm**

Enjoy Renaissance Christmas tunes from South Milwaukee's own Celtic musicians at Fixx Coffee House, 3558 E. Sivyer Av., St. Francis (Just off of Packard Av., between the Carleton Grange Pub & Foamation Cheesehead Factory). <http://fixxcoffeehouse.com> 482-0919  
<http://thegarlicmustardpickers.org>

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

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

### **Thursday, December 10 – Friends of Grant Park meeting and FREE Owl Prowl, *changed to 6pm***

At Grant Park Clubhouse (100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee). Please bring a snack or drink to share. Following a brief meeting, will have a short program on the Owls of Wisconsin, followed by an Owl Prowl out along the golf course. Please dress for the weather and be aware that searching for owls requires a certain level of quiet. 764-0612

### **Saturday, December 12 - Christmas Party, Noon-4pm**

At Groschmidt Senior Center, 2424 15<sup>th</sup> Av., South Milwaukee. Baked ham lunch catered by Pulaski Inn, dancing music provided by the Bryan O'Donnell Band and entertainment provided by the Glen Castle Irish Dancers. Tickets are \$18. The last day to purchase tickets will be December 1. Participants need to be senior center members.

### **Saturday, December 12 – Holiday Bake & Cookie Sale, 1pm**

By Friends of Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse. At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. 571-1191

### **Monday, December 14 – Cudahy Historical Society and Cudahy Family Library Annual Holiday Dinner, 5pm**

Dinner at Pulaski Inn. \$20 tickets for purchase at Cudahy Family Library, 3500 Library Dr., Cudahy.

### **Thursday, November 17 – County Board Meeting, 9:30am**

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

### **Saturday, December 19 – Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, dawn to dusk**

Those of you experienced in bird identification are welcome to help identify and count birds - for whatever time you have - via walking, driving, and even in your backyards in the southeastern Milwaukee County count area. For more information, 414-764-9244.

### **Monday, December 21 – Garlic Mustard Pickers play at Nona's Cafe, 7pm**

Enjoy Renaissance Christmas music at 2206 10th Av, South Milwaukee (just north of the Post Office). <http://thegarlicmustardpickers.org>

### **Wednesday, December 30 – Cudahy Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 6pm**

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

### **Friday, January 1, 2010 – Cool Kite Festival, Noon - 5pm**

Kite-flying lessons available with purchase of a kite. Ice artists in action. 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

### **Ongoing:**

#### Through January 3: **Christmas Floral Show, “A Children’s Holiday,” at the Domes**

Featuring a 27-foot decorated tree, large-scale rocking horse, and hundreds of breathtaking poinsettias. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. Regular admission applies. New weekend hours 9am-4pm. Weekends 9am-5pm. 649-9830 [www.county.milwaukee.gov/router.asp?docid=10117](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/router.asp?docid=10117)