



Spring 2009

Patricia Jursik Report

8th District Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik

Milwaukee County
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Milwaukee, WI 53233

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Legislative Assistant:
Alexis Gassenhuber

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance and Audit
Judiciary, Safety
and General Services
Transportation, Public Works
and Transit

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

RTA Task Force, Chair
Economic Stimulus Task Force



Dear Constituents:

After a successful second election to serve as your Supervisor on the Milwaukee County Board, I have focused on my pledges to advocate for the services and policies that you care about: preserving our [parks](#), fighting for a healthy [transportation](#) system, and making responsible [fiscal](#) decisions that hold the line on taxes.

As a member of the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, I have helped oversee smooth operations of the Airport, urging repairs to our County roads, particularly [College Avenue](#), and directing attention to the impending [fiscal crisis in our transit system](#), which could decimate our bus routes.

I led a coalition of elected officials to tell the State that we are not interested in proposals to demolish the [Dan Hoan Bridge](#). Our residents depend on this bridge and believe that we, as a state, should invest in its maintenance.

Our Parks system continues its recovery from June 2008 storms that caused an estimated \$20.5 million in damage. I advocated for restoration of Mill Road and the Pedestrian Bridge in South Milwaukee, two treasured structures maintained by Milwaukee County. However, much work remains to preserve our many Parks that suffer from deferred maintenance. I am proud of our wide range of Parks offerings, including [cycling opportunities](#), [summer concerts](#), and [dog-friendly areas](#). Our Parks need involved users and a dedicated source of funding to stay great!

As a member of the Committee on Finance and Audit, I considered the County Executive's Recommended 2009 Budget, keeping in mind the priorities that my constituents have articulated: maintain our [roads](#), [bridges](#), and [transit system](#); effectively manage our [Airport](#); preserve our [parks](#) and other assets; and keep property taxes under control. I continue to run my own office in a fiscally responsible manner as well to be a good steward of your tax dollars. My 2008 and 2009 travel budget was \$0.

The highlighted topics are discussed in more detail in this newsletter. (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Please continue to contact me with your budget concerns as we enter 2010 Budget deliberations this fall.

In addition, my role on the County Board's [Task Force on Economic Stimulus](#) has allowed me to provide input and identify opportunities for our district to receive needed funding. I authored the County's current policy to seek Economic Stimulus funding, which was approved on a 16-2 vote by the full Board.

I strive to keep 8th District residents informed of my work on the Board. I am one of the first Supervisors to create a monthly e-newsletter to keep constituents updated on issues affecting our district. If you don't yet receive the monthly update via e-mail, contact (patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com) and request to be

put on our list or you may view E-Updates by visiting my website, www.county.milwaukee.gov/Jursik, and clicking on the "E-News" tab on the right side of your screen.

My office is ready to address your needs for County information and services. I encourage you to call (414-278-4231) or e-mail (patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com) with your concerns. I will attend to these matters with the aid of my Legislative Assistant, Alexis Gassenhuber.

Most sincerely,



Patricia Jursik

PARKS CORNER

Friends of Grant Park

Contact: Don Lawson, 764-0612

Meetings: 7pm on 2nd Tuesday of each month at Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Ave., South Milwaukee. Join us for our Pullin' O the Green fundraiser in March, Garlic Mustard Weed Outs and Birdwalks in May, autumn Buckthorne eradication and Celtic Halloween, as well as informative events.

Grant Park "Park Watch"

Contact: Jody Johnson, 764-7262

Meetings: 7pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month at Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Ave., South Milwaukee. Please call to confirm; location and date may vary.

Updates on vandalism / unlawful activity in the park. Be the eyes and ears for our county sheriff's patrol to help preserve our beautiful park.

Friends of Sheridan Park

Contact: Pat Jursik, 278-4231,
patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com

First meeting: Monday, June 22 at 6:30pm at Sheridan Pavilion. This group is being reformulated to become a force for the care and maintenance of Sheridan Park. Last summer, my office worked closely with the Sheriff to eradicate some bad behavior in the park. It became apparent that we need a watchdog group for Sheridan Park as well as a group of Friends to enhance the use of the park for our South Shore communities.

Friends of Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse, Inc.

Contact: Nancy Wucherer, 571-1191

Website: www.southmilwaukee.org/millpond

Meetings: 6:30pm on 2nd Tuesday of each month
April - Sept at Grant Park Clubhouse
Oct - Mar at Marquette Manor

Sat, July 25: 4th Annual Great Duck Race
2pm at Oak Creek Parkway, Grant Park

Sat, Sept 19: 3rd Annual Beach Walk
5pm at Grant Park Beach

Sat, Oct 10: Watercourse clean-up – 8am-Noon

Sat, Nov 7: Starry Night Gala
6pm at Italian Conference Center

Sat, Dec 12: 3rd Annual Old Fashioned Holiday Tea
11:30am-2pm at Grant Park Clubhouse

Sponsored by Friends of the Mill Pond & South Milwaukee Historical Society

Friends of Patrick Cudahy Park

Contact: Tina Dondajeski, 881-8494,
cudahyparkfriends@sbcglobal.net

Meetings: Time and location varies, please contact above.

DOINGS IN THE PARKS

Pedal in the Park with Pat



On my annual bike ride, you can enjoy cycling along one of my favorite segments of our County's Oak Leaf Trail by riding through Sheridan Park's lake vistas and wooded trail stretches. One of my priorities as your Supervisor is to protect our portion of the "emerald necklace" of parks. Join my third annual bike ride on June 18, 2009, with a concert in Sheridan Park to follow! This will be an event you won't want to miss and it's FREE! Mark your calendars! See details below.

At "Pedal in the Park with Pat," with Deputy Suszek of the Sheriff's Targeted Enforcement Unit

Preserving Our Parks

Consider joining one of the Friends groups, participate in Weed Outs to remove invasive plants, volunteer with Park Watch, and use the parks responsibly to preserve these assets for generations to come.

Please Do the Doo-doo (new dog litter bags)

Clean up after your pet; use our parks for exercising your dog and respect others that come after you! The Parks Department has installed dog bag stations in Grobschmidt, Sheridan, and Warnimont Parks with donated, recycled plastic bags. Please use one to clean up after your pet if you forget to bring your own bag. Thanks to the Parks Department, our community donor, and all parks users for your efforts to keep our Parks clean!



Dogs are welcome in the Parks but must avoid picnic, playground, beach, and other marked areas.

Due to the success of dog parks, the County Board is considering developing more off-leash dog parks. On the south side, we are fortunate to have Runway Dog Park at 1214 E. Rawson Avenue (between Pennsylvania/Nicholson and Howell). Later this summer, the Parks Department will open another dog exercise area in Bay View Park on the northern end of St. Francis, overlooking Lake Michigan. For information on dog park permits, please fill out the request on the back of this newsletter or call 257-PARK (7275).

PARKS EVENTS

Thursday, June 18th

Pedal in the Park with Pat - FREE Bike Ride
6pm Meet at Sheridan Park Pavilion with helmets and bikes. Cycle the Oak Leaf Trail to Grant Park, returning in time for the concert below.

Bluegrass Allstars concert
6:30-8:30 pm in Sheridan Park, Area #1
Join Cudahy's own Dan Nimphius and group for virtuoso picking! Sponsored by Milwaukee County Parks.

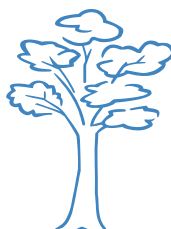
Thursday, July 16

Steve Cohen concert
6:30-8:30 pm in Grant Park, Picnic Pavilion, Area #5. Sponsored by Milwaukee County Parks



Thursday, August 20

Garlic Mustard Pickers concert
6:30-8:30 pm in Grant Park, Picnic Pavilion, Area #5. Sponsored by Milwaukee County Parks



FINANCE AND AUDIT

Pension Obligation Bonds

Milwaukee County has an under-funded pension and is required by federal rules to budget over a five-year period to correct the under-funded amount. Additionally, we are penalized 8% for the under-funded pension. We have been living on a credit card and Pension Obligation Bonds (POBs) are a way to consolidate our debts and become responsible by paying off these high penalties. I worked with County Executive Scott Walker in getting this done because I felt it was fiscally responsible.

We have listened to good expert advice. I explored the issue of doing nothing and the result is much worse. For this reason, I voted with 10 colleagues and the County Executive in favor of issuing POBs. It appears that we did this at the right time as we realized an interest rate of 6.3%, just before rates began to climb.

Mercer Lawsuit

Milwaukee County is involved in a lawsuit with Mercer, the advisor hired by Milwaukee County. We have alleged that Mercer was negligent in giving advice to the board regarding the backdrop and other pension benefits. This lawsuit was scheduled to go to trial during the publication of this newsletter. Please check my monthly e-newsletter for more information as the trial proceeds.

Economic Stimulus

As the new Presidential administration delivers an economic stimulus package, I have worked to ensure that our South Shore communities receive a fair share of consideration for funding needed infrastructure repair. Chairman Lee Holloway has appointed a task force on behalf of the County to address this issue and asked me to be a member. As such, I have an opportunity to advocate for our South Shore communities.

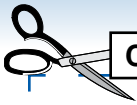
2010 Budget

My role on the Finance and Audit Committee allows me to study the upcoming budget and determine what will be necessary to keep our County sound. We expect the County Executive to present his 2010 budget proposal in September. We will consider this proposal during our autumn proceedings. As we look to next year, it will be very difficult to continue the services at the present level while keeping taxes in check. I will look for every opportunity to keep our budget reasonable and hold the line on taxes. Please contact me with your budget concerns.

While learning about Milwaukee County's precarious fiscal situation, I have come to appreciate the fiscal challenges that our County faces. We will have to make sacrifices to fulfill our mandated roles (like courts and social services), while at the same time striving to maintain the "discretionary" programs (like parks and transit) that residents depend on to meet basic needs and enhance their quality of life. I take this responsibility seriously and practice it in the way I run my own County office. My office returned 86% of my budgeted office account to the County budget. My travel expenses were \$0 in 2008 and 2009.

Meet my Legislative Assistant Alexis Gassenhuber





CLIP AND SAVE!

8th DISTRICT SUMMER 2009 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fridays, May 1 thru Nov
10am - 2pm
Cudahy Farmers Market
4700 Packard Ave, Cudahy
414-483-8907

Thursdays, May 14 thru
end of Oct, 10am - 2pm
**South Milwaukee
Farmers Market**
1304 Manitoba Ave,
South Milwaukee
262-835-4386

JUNE

Wednesdays, June 3 – Aug 26
River Rhythms
Pere Marquette Park

Thursdays, June 4 – Sept 24
Jazz in the Park
Cathedral Square Park

June 6 – 12
**Milwaukee Bike
to Work Week**
Bike Federation of Wisconsin

June 7
Miller Lite Ride for the Arts
Downtown Milwaukee

June 12 – 14
PrideFest
Henry Maier Festival Park

June 18
Pedal in the Park with Pat,
6pm
Bluegrass Allstars concert,
6:30-8:30pm
Sheridan Park Pavilion #1

Saturdays, June 19 – Oct 17
8am - Noon
South Shore Farmers Market
South Shore Park

June 19 – 21
Lakefront Festival of Arts
Milwaukee Art Museum

June 19 – 21
Polish Fest
Henry W. Maier Festival Park

June 25 – July 5
Summerfest
Henry W. Maier Festival Park

JULY

July 3
Fireworks Kite Festival
Milwaukee Lakefront

July 8 – 11
Great Circus Parade Festival
Milwaukee's Lakefront

July 9 – 12
Bastille Days
East Town

July 10 – 12
South Shore Frolics
South Shore Park

July 12
Great Circus Parade
Downtown Milwaukee

July 16 – 6:30-8:30pm
Steve Cohen concert
Grant Park Area #5

July 16 – 19
Festa Italiana
Henry W. Maier Festival Park

July 23 – 4-9pm
**South Milwaukee Evening
on the Avenue**
10th and Milwaukee,
South Milwaukee

July 24 – 26
German Fest
Henry W. Maier Festival Park

July 25
Great Duck Race
Mill Pond, South Milwaukee

July 31 – Aug 2
Sweet Apple-Wood Festival
Cudahy Park

AUGUST

Aug 5, 6pm - 10pm
**St. Francis National
Night Out**
Milton Vretenar Park

Aug 6 – 16
Wisconsin State Fair
Wisconsin State Fair Park

Aug 7 – 9
Arab World Fest
Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Aug 13 – 16
Irish Fest
Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Aug 20 – 23
Milwaukee A La Carte
Milwaukee County Zoo

Aug 21 – 23
Mexican Fiesta
Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Aug 31
Labor Parade and Labor Fest
Zeidler Park and Henry W.
Maier Festival Park

SEPTEMBER

Sept 19
**Friends of Mill Pond Sunset
Beach Walk**
Grant Park Beach,
South Milwaukee

Sept 11 – 13
Indian Summer Festival
Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Milwaukee County FREE DAYS for 2009

**FREE Complimentary Admission to Milwaukee County Residents
with a valid ID on the following days:**



**Milwaukee
County Zoo**
November 7, December 6
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day
New Year's Day

**Milwaukee
Public Museum**
FREE every Monday
(additional charges apply for
the Humphrey IMAX Dome,
Daniel M. Soref Planetarium
& special exhibitions)

**Milwaukee
Art Museum**
FREE every Wednesday
(excludes special exhibits)

**Mitchell Park
Domes**
FREE every Monday
from 9AM until Noon
(excludes major holidays)

TRANSPORTATION

Airport Goes Local

General Mitchell International Airport is a gateway to Wisconsin. It is the first impression that many visitors have of Milwaukee. When the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee received a proposal for subcontractors to offer food, beverages and other amenities, most were non-local franchise operators. I advocated for and successfully won contracts with local businesses to occupy concession areas in Mitchell International Airport. As a result, we have brought in local vendors including Alterra Coffee Roasters and Nonna Bartolotta's. Already Usinger's Deli, Miller Brew House, and Legends Bar were fixtures at our Airport. We expect some more local vendors in the future. Enjoy these vendors the next time you use our airport!



Supervisor Jursik enjoys a cup of coffee from a local vendor at General Mitchell International Airport.

College Avenue Update

College Avenue construction, from Pennsylvania to Howell Avenue, will proceed as scheduled despite the delays in construction of the US Postal Service distribution facility and related roundabouts. Milwaukee County will widen College Avenue to a 4-lane boulevard from Pennsylvania to Howell in 2010 and General Mitchell International Airport will construct the tunnel between 2009 and 2011.

Transit

As your County Supervisor, I remain determined to preserve bus service, a lifeline for many of my constituents. I am pleased that South Shore routes remained intact in 2009 and the transit system now offers a monthly bus pass for \$60. Part of this commitment includes seeking a dedicated funding source for transit. Our transit system has been devastated by continuous funding cuts and now faces a crisis. When the County first took over the bus system, the County adopted policy stating no more than 50% of funding could come from property taxes. This policy has been ignored, and County property tax dollars currently fund 65% of our bus system. At the same time, buses have not been replaced and service has been cut. We now find that we are at a crossroads in transit planning. It is clear that buses can no longer be funded with property tax dollars.

Regional Transit Authority

At the end of 2008 and into 2009, County Board Chairman Lee Holloway appointed me to lead a Task Force scrutinizing the Recommendations of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority (RTA). One of our own great constituents, Tom Kujawa of Cudahy, the former director of the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS), agreed to serve on the Task Force. Special thanks to Tom for his insight and efforts throughout! We heard comments from experts in transit, economic development, and tourism as well as community leaders. We also reviewed the doomsday scenario if our deteriorated buses are not replaced soon due to lack of bus purchases over the last number of years.

From this testimony, the Task Force extracted several priorities: Buses have the highest priority in transit; Dedicated funding for transit should be from a sales tax and must give property tax relief; A Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is endorsed; Transit money raised in a county must stay in the county to support transit; Milwaukee County, which has the largest population, must receive proper representation on an RTA; Address other issues including debt, legacy costs and contractual obligations.

Preserving the Hoan Bridge

I adamantly oppose the possible demolition of the Dan Hoan Bridge, and I authored a letter demanding more information regarding proposals to replace it with a boulevard, ground-level bridge and open area for developers. Replacing the Hoan with ground level lift bridges is not a satisfactory alternative along I-794. Much of the rapid development in the southern portion of Milwaukee County is due to vital transportation links like the Hoan Bridge.

I coordinated a coalition of elected officials opposed to the possibility of tearing down the Hoan. Together with my office, Cudahy Mayor Ryan McCue, St. Francis Mayor Al Richards, South Milwaukee Mayor Thomas Zepecki, along with Supervisors Marina

Dimitrijevic and Christopher Larson and Milwaukee Alderman Terry Witkowski, signed a letter sent to Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi asking the State to change course and plan for the necessary upkeep of the current Hoan Bridge design.

I also have communicated with our State Senator, Jeff Plale, who heads the Committee on Transportation and Tourism. I asked for information from DOT to see if financial studies estimating the cost to repair the Hoan have been conducted and if comparative ones on the cost of surface streets are underway. I am reprinting the reply here for your information.



SENATOR JEFF PLALE
SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, UTILITIES, AND RAIL

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 7882
MADISON, WI 53707-7882

800-361-5487 - MADISON
414-744-1444 - MILWAUKEE
SEN.PLALE@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV

December 11, 2008

Dear Supervisor Jursik:

Thank you for contacting me concerning the financial studies related to repairing the Hoan Bridge. I apologize for the delay in response.

Per your questions regarding the Hoan Bridge, I contacted the Department of Transportation (DOT) to acquire some answers for you. I was informed that the deck replacement and repainting of the Hoan is estimated in today's dollars to cost \$220 million. However, the DOT does not have a detailed cost of demolition of the Hoan Bridge. Further engineering is required to adequately assess the cost of the project.

Once again, thank you for contacting my office. Do not hesitate to do so in the future should further questions or concerns within state government arise. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Jursik".



Supervisor Patricia Jursik
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT 1630



Cut along here and mail your response to Supervisor Jursik



Mail Your Response to:

Milwaukee County
Supervisor Patricia Jursik
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

You may also e-mail
your response to:
patricia.jursik@milwcnty.com

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
☐ YES! I would like to receive Supervisor Jursik's monthly E-Update via E-mail.

Please check the following Milwaukee County items you would like to receive:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County At a Glance | <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County Bus Transit Map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County Road Map | Bus Schedules: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County By Bike Map | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 - Drexel & Chicago to Downtown
Milwaukee, UWM & Bayshore Mall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs in the Park Brochure | <input type="checkbox"/> 89 - St. Francis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Leaf Birding Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 - Lake Dr./Layton to Southridge Mall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County Golf Course Map | <input type="checkbox"/> 88 - Cudahy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County Zoo Brochure | <input type="checkbox"/> 48 - South Shore Flyer to Downtown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee Public Museum Brochure | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NACo Prescription Discount Card | |
| - more savings this year | |

