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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Judiciary, Safety &
General Services

Personnel

Transportation,
Public Works & Transit

INSIDE

The 2006 Milwaukee County Budget	2
Park East Redevelopment Compact Planting for Today and for Tomorrow	3
New Additions to Our Neighborhood Parks	4
How Should We Fund Our Parks? Park Watch/Neighborhood Associations	5
Congratulations	6
The National Soldiers Home Historic District	7
Museum Coupon Comments for Supervisor Weishan	8

Dear 16th District Resident:

Almost six years ago I began serving as the County Supervisor for what was then the 22nd District and now has been redistricted into the 16th District. It has been an honor to listen to your thoughts, concerns and ideas regarding our area. Since I began my role as your County Supervisor, I have worked hard to take the lead on issues and represent not only the residents within the district, but also all citizens of Milwaukee County. Currently, I am a member of three Milwaukee County Board Committees; Judiciary, Safety and General Services, Transportation, Public Works and Transit, as well as, Personnel. I also serve on the boards for the Milwaukee Symphony and America's Freedom Center. Most recently, I was named the Chair for Milwaukee County's Aquatics Committee.

As residents of Milwaukee County, I encourage you to take the time to get involved in community activities, get to know those who live around you and keep apprised of the issues facing our community and this county as a whole. Together we must all take the lead for our district to reach its true potential.

I encourage you to call my office with any concerns, questions, or suggestions you may have to improve our district. I look forward to continuing to work with you to solve the challenges our community may face, but to also share in the joys of its triumphs.

Have a safe and prosperous holiday season.

Best regards,

John F. Weishan, Jr.
16th District Supervisor

Exchanging Ideas

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent you and our neighbors of the 16th District. In an effort to reconnect and/or meet with new constituents and neighbors, it has been suggested and I propose to you, that if you would like to get a small group together and meet at your home or a local establishment, it would be my pleasure to attend. Representing you, these meetings are intended to accommodate your schedules, while allowing me to get your perspectives, opinions, and input on what requests and concerns you may have for the community.

I believe that the future holds great opportunities for change within our district and throughout the county. If we are going to create positive changes and transform our neighborhoods, we must work together. I don't want political positions or issues to divide us. These discussions are open to all; therefore, I encourage you to organize a couple of your neighbors or friends and give my office a call with a date and time that you would like to get together. You can reach my assistant Jessi or me at 278-4255.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

The 2006 Milwaukee County Budget

The 2006 Budget is very important to all the citizens of Milwaukee County. It will either be a budget that returns Milwaukee County to the path of fiscal responsibility or one that limits the rights of citizens, erodes the economic fabric of our community and weakens the long term financial stability of Milwaukee County.

The County Executive's 2006 proposed budget was neither balanced, nor a savings to the taxpayers of Milwaukee County. The Walker budget had some very glaring omissions.

Pension Plan

The massive under-funding of the pension plan by \$27 million is not a responsible approach to managing the county's finances. No matter how onerous one finds the amount required to fund the pension, Milwaukee County is required to pay it and abdicating this responsibility will only lead to higher payments and higher taxes in the coming years. An actuarial review completed by the firm Milliman, Inc. of the Walker proposal put the increased cost to taxpayers at \$69.2 million.

Court System

Under-funding the court system strikes at the heart of American democracy. Intentionally depriving the court system of needed resources to function results in limiting a person's ability to seek justice. America's core beliefs of commitment to due process and our constitutional rights can not be allowed to take second place to bumper sticker campaign slogans. The short-sighted cuts will only lead to greater expense for the taxpayers, slower courts result in longer stays in the Jail and House of Correction which increases expenses. The state circuit court system in Wisconsin is a shared expense between Milwaukee County and the State of Wisconsin, County Executive Walker has blamed the state for not providing enough funding for the courts. I would remind former State representative Walker that he was chairman of the State Assembly's correction & courts committee from 1999 to 2002 and that he had no problems with the funding arrangement then. Funding then and now has remained stagnant even as costs have risen.

Transportation "The BUS"

Transportation fare increases of 23% are unacceptable and erode the economic fabric of Milwaukee County. The business community relies heavily on the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) to provide a low cost transportation network that enables workers to get from home to work and back again. MCTS provides education institutions in Milwaukee County with reliable and cost effective transportation for students. The proposed increases will only shift cost to consumers, students and school property taxpayers.

County Board Actions

The County Board's changes were an attempt to responsibly run county government without placing an undue burden on its citizens and future generations. Some items of interest were the limiting of increases to bus fares, funding of the court system and pension. All the changes made to the budget improved it, but in the end it still was a budget I could not support. Fundamental change is still needed. Without positive leadership in the County Executive's office, leadership that will honestly confront county problems such as health care costs and state mandates, we will continue to see phony budgets that place blame rather than produce solutions to problems.

County Executives Vetoes

The 2006 budget was not a budget that was designed to meet the needs of the citizens of Milwaukee County in accordance with their ability to pay, but a budget created to meet the political needs and aspirations of one individual, County Executive Walker.

The County Executive issued 7 vetoes, 4 with financial implications, one dealing with the amount of money placed in the contingency fund and three related to funding pension obligations. To the detriment of the Milwaukee County taxpayers, the County Executive attempted to veto the County Board's action to fulfill its obligations and lower future costs related to employee pensions. By under-funding our pension obligations in 2006, the County Executive would increase taxes in the future by \$69 million. Increasing the cost to taxpayers next year and beyond is not a responsible solution to Milwaukee County's fiscal problems.

Milwaukee County does not need any more governing by slogans. What it needs and you the citizens deserve is well thought out solutions to fund transportation, parks recreation and culture, health and human services. These issues, along with incentives for economic growth, must be addressed before any meaningful property tax relief can occur.



Park East Redevelopment Compact

*A Winner for
Milwaukee Residents*

With the sale of the second parcel of Park East freeway land approved in September 2005 by the County Board, Milwaukee County residents continue to reap the benefits of the Park East Redevelopment Compact (PERC). The PERC is a set of guidelines that govern the sale of park east land ensuring that the development of the area will be to the benefit of the entire Milwaukee county community. Standards for wages and environmental concerns are addressed in the compact along with encouraging local hiring and construction of affordable housing.

With the completion of the sale of the second parcel of park east land, \$120 million of tax base will be added to Milwaukee County. Job creation and lower taxes are not at odds with the PERC as some detractors have indicated, but rather the PERC promotes quality development that maximizes the benefits for the citizens of Milwaukee County.

Planting for Today... And For Tomorrow

Hunger Task Force Working to Secure Long-Term Stability for County Farm

In efforts to deliver more fresh produce to Milwaukee's needy, Hunger Task Force together with Milwaukee County, has prepped the House of Correction Farm and Fish Hatchery for this years growing season. Questions still remain; however, about its long-term sustainability.

The farm itself has 35 acres devoted exclusively to growing fresh produce such as apples, cauliflower, green beans and tomatoes. This year, we've increased the arable acreage and are introducing two new crops, bok choy and napa. All produce is distributed free of charge to area food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. In 2004 the farm yielded 267,000 pounds of fresh produce.

Last December the County appointed a task force to identify strategies to ensure the facility's long-term financial stability. Currently, Supervisor Weishan serves on this task force. Some of these strategies include expanding the existing fish hatchery and recycling program, and creating a horticulture program. Fundraising and tax levies will keep the farm running in the short-term as long-term funding is being secured. Taxpayers who help fund the facility, however, have not always been fully educated on its value or the investments that have already been made. Besides the produce that is grown, the farm operates a nationally recognized recycling program that saves taxpayers \$50,000 annually. Trees for our parks are grown on the site. And, as with all these projects, inmates learn valuable skills that they can use after incarceration.



Claude Wojtysiak, Hunger Task Force farm operator of the House of Correction farm and fish hatchery. The fish hatchery stocks 17 county park lagoons with pan fish, perch and trout--40,000 fish annually.

New Additions to Our Neighborhood Parks

This fall **Euclid Park** received a new playground along with a complete renovation of the basketball court. The new playground and basketball court were completed in October and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 30 to celebrate the new addition to the park and the neighborhood.



Future additions will happen this upcoming year at **McCarty Park** pool. The changing rooms will be renovated and planning sessions will be held this spring to get public input on design aspects and to hand out information. Construction to this site will begin at the end of the 2006 swimming season.

Also, this past year **Jackson Park** received three new tennis courts and a basketball court. The new tennis courts are equipped with lights, so you can enjoy a match after work and into the evening. If you would like to take advantage of this new site, it is located in the northeast section of the park by the lagoon.



How should we fund our parks?

It has become very apparent to even the casual park visitor that the quality of our park system has been declining over the past few years due to the fact that the cost of operations has out paced the growth in resources dedicated to the park system. I, along with many others, feel it is time to find new funding sources for the parks, recreation and culture activities in Milwaukee County. Funding sources that meet the budgetary needs of the system and provide property tax relief for taxpayers.

In an effort to reduce the property tax levy by \$30 million and increase the resources available to the parks, recreation and culture activities in Milwaukee County, I believe a county-wide 1/2% sales tax should be instituted.

The 1/2% sales tax option would provide a \$100 reduction in the average homeowner's property tax bill. (Average home value \$150,000)

Along with providing property tax relief, a 1/2% sales tax would generate the needed revenue to address the severe funding shortage facing our parks, recreation and culture venues.

The 1/2% sales tax option will allow Milwaukee County to increase security in our parks and make needed repairs to park facilities, as well as provide adequate support to recreational and cultural venues like the Domes, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and the War Memorial on the lakefront.

The goal of this initiative is to provide property tax relief and make a long-term commitment to our parks, recreation and cultural institutions in Milwaukee County. Our community has a long history of supporting great parks and providing outstanding recreational opportunities to our citizens, but today we are at a point where, without a change in the way we fund the system, it will only continue to fall into disrepair.

Park Watch and Neighborhood Association Contacts

ALCOTT PARK

Ms. Audrey Norman
327-4282

EUCLID PARK

Mr. Gaylord Hodgson
543-3513
Mr. David Kuemmel
543-8645

FAIRVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Mr. Tom Burlowski
543-6227

JACKSON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Mr. Kenneth Franzen
604-0197

LIBERTY HEIGHTS

Ms. Rebecca Thome
454-0855

MCCARTY PARK

Ms. Kathy Czaplewski
543-2665

Congratulations

Senior Statesman: Doraine Schindler Phyllis Staszak



Thank you Doraine and Phyllis for representing the 16th district in the Milwaukee County Senior Statesman Program. Doraine and Phyllis participated in a two-day learning session that teaches Statesman how to be advocates on behalf of the concerns of seniors. They attended a County Board meeting, met government officials, visited a courtroom, toured the jail, and participated in many events that provide insight to the workings of County Government. Please contact the Milwaukee County Department of Aging at 289-6873 if you are interested in becoming a Statesman in 2006.

Student Government Day: Ann Kaiser

Each year the Milwaukee County Board, along with the Milwaukee County American Legion, hosts a Student Government Day. On April 28th, students spent the day participating in various events to familiarize them with county government functions. This year Supervisor Weishan had the pleasure of meeting Ann Kaiser, who attends Pius High School and has a bright future ahead. Ann, thank you for your interest and participation in our program. Please contact Alicia Griffin at 278-4051 if you are interested in participating in the next Student Government Day.



Woman of Achievement Award 2005

The General Federation of Women's Clubs has recognized Pat Hladilek for her dedication to numerous organizations, clubs, and overall struggle for improvement of the quality of life for others by honoring her with the "Woman of Achievement Award 2005." Pat personifies generosity through her contributions, involvement and organization of community events such as the Veterans' Day Chili supper, the Ladies Day Off Dinner, candidates voter forum, a shoe drive that collected over 200 pairs of shoes, a pill bottle recycling program for a local free clinic and lastly her devotion to the PTA on a local, state, and national level. She also works with Meadowmere Assisted Living Apartments and Mitchell Manor Senior Living Community. Thank you for ALL that you do for our community.



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony:

Deputy Timothy Lorch
Deputy Bryan Lee
Deputy Leslie Wachowiak

On September 17th three of your neighbors were honored in an Awards Ceremony held by the Milwaukee County Sheriff's office for their tireless commitment to the Sheriff's Department and for their dedication to the community.

Deputy Leslie Wachowiak received the Volunteerism Award for her work with Special Olympics. Deputy Wachowiak is a Special Olympics board member and has helped organize numerous Special Olympic events including the Polar Plunge, The Semi-Tractor Pull, the Roof-Top Challenge and the Law Enforcement Torch Run.



Deputy Bryan Lee received the Sheriff's Award for Valor that is awarded to sworn officers or citizens who in the course of duty risk life or personal injury and whose actions positively affect the citizens of Milwaukee County. Deputy Lee is being honored for his selfless act of bravery while in pursuit of an armed robber.



Deputy Timothy Lorch received the David Demos Award for his skill in crisis negotiation. Deputy Lorch has found a way to give hope to the hopeless when citizens are close to committing suicide. His efforts allow Milwaukee's most distraught citizens a second chance at life.



Setting a Record in Milwaukee County Pools: Patricia Roszak

This story begins 20 years ago with a nurse determined to lead a healthy lifestyle and Milwaukee County's Pulaski indoor pool. Since 1984 Pat Roszak has been recording her laps in Pulaski pool, and last December she set a record of swimming more than 15,000 miles. Through her personal accomplishment of endurance, dedication and determination, Pat has swam an astonishing distance that is comparable to swimming the Rio Grande, Amazon, Nile, St. Lawrence, Mississippi, and the Danube Rivers combined! Everyone at the pool has nicknamed Pat the "pools spokesperson" and she now serves, along with Supervisor Weishan, as an advocate for Milwaukee County pools on Milwaukee County's Aquatics Committee.



The National Soldiers Home Historic District

The National Soldiers Home Historic District in Milwaukee, Wis., which includes 90 acres of ground and 25 post Civil War era and turn-of-the-20th century buildings, carries the legacy of thousands of American veterans who preserved America's freedoms and returned home carrying the scars of their sacrifices.

For nearly 150 years, veterans have called the National Soldiers Home Historic District home. The site was one of America's first three federal soldiers homes, established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1865 and is the only one of those sites whose original Soldiers Home—majestic **Old Main** (photo)—still stands.



President Lincoln established Soldiers Homes—including Milwaukee's, then the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers—at the urging of Milwaukee women who, upon seeing sick Civil War soldiers living in the streets, determined to build a home “for the men who bear the burden of war.” In 10 days in 1864, they raised \$100,000 to do so and gave birth to America's federal veteran care system, today's U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Each of the original Soldiers Home sites was also constructed as a recuperative village under the belief veterans would convalesce faster in a community. Milwaukee is the only original site with that village in tact—a showcase of the origins and evolution of veteran, elderly, and institutional care in America. This village surrounds **Old Main** (1867-1869) and includes the **Hospital** (1879); **Recreation Hall** (1894); **Ward Memorial Theater** (1883) where entertainers from Bob Hope to Nat King Cole performed and a massive 1887 stained glass window depicting General Ulysses S. Grant hangs; the Queen Anne-style **Home Chapel** (1889), the first multi-denominational chapel built on federal property (which veterans built when the government would not); **Barracks** (1884, 1908-1909); **Headquarters** (1896); **Wadsworth Library** (1891); **Governor's Mansion** (1868); **Surgeon's Quarters** (1887) and other staff housing; a four-story **Quartermaster Storehouse** (1895), and park-setting recreation areas. Village buildings embody a range of architecture and were designed by prominent architects, including Edward Townsend Mix and Henry C. Koch.

National significance is not confined to the buildings, however. Significant value lies beneath headstones in the district's **Wood National Cemetery** (1871), the final home for veterans who served in American wars, from 1812 through today. Most notable are graves of 54th Massachusetts Regiment (the first federal African American regiment) members, Wisconsin Colored Troops, and Medal of Honor recipients.



Despite the plethora of American history, few, even in Milwaukee, know the district exists. Though the National Register of Historic Places listed the district just this June (2005), it remains truly a hidden national treasure.

The Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is working to raise awareness of and appreciation for this national treasure both in Milwaukee and throughout the nation. The Foundation's mission is to protect, preserve and further the historic integrity and veteran legacy of all the buildings and grounds in the National Soldiers Home Historic District. In early 2005, the Foundation board voted to be informative and vigilant concerning the entire district while specifically focusing its preservation and restoration efforts on four especially unique buildings: the 1883 Ward Theater, the 1891 Wadsworth Library, the 1889 Home Chapel, and the 1869 Headquarters building. The Foundation is currently focused on restoring and reopening the district's 1889 Home Chapel, built by veterans and opened as the first multi-denominational chapel on federal property and the first such chapel in Wisconsin. For more information, visit www.soldiershome.org or call 414.389.4135.



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- County Map
- County Parks Guide
- County Transit Guide
- Milwaukee County Golf Course Discount Card Application
- Other Info:

Comments for Supervisor Weishan:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

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