

SHELDON WASSERMAN

3RD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020



SHELDON A. WASSERMAN

Milwaukee County Board
3rd District Supervisor

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COMMITTEES

Parks, Energy & Environment,
Chair

Health and Human Needs



Dear Neighbor,

COVID-19 pandemic. Who, at the beginning of this year, would have known what that meant? I've been in government for a number of years, and never predicted I would serve during a viral pandemic. Serving as your County Supervisor during these difficult times is a challenge and an honor. In this newsletter, I would like to update you on County government issues.

After being sworn in for my new term on April 20, I was honored to be appointed as Chair of the Parks, Energy, & Environment Committee (PEEC). This is especially an honor for District 3, since my predecessor, Gerry Broderick, was the long-time chair of this committee. PEEC oversees parks and parkways, recreation, museums and cultural institutions, arts, the University Extension Program, and the Zoo.

Our Parks system is facing a difficult and uncertain future, and I cannot overemphasize the severity of the situation. In the 1980s, we had over 1300 full time Parks employees. We now have only 240. The Parks Department once relied upon earned revenue to make up only 20% of their budget. Now 60% of the budget depends upon earned revenue, and Milwaukee County Parks current formula relies more on this revenue than any other similarly sized parks system in the country. Money raised at our golf courses, beer gardens, and marina props up our parks system. If we don't continue to bring in more revenue each year, services are cut. I am concerned that revenue generation has become the focus of the Parks Department and priority for County government. Programs and parks that do not make money are liabilities. This is our unfortunate reality and influences what our priorities are.

I, along with County Board Chair Marcelia Nicholson and our Parks Department, have asked the Wisconsin Policy Forum to evaluate options for the future of our parks and see what we can do to change this untenable situation. In 2021, Parks faces another \$700,000 budget reduction. If the County stays on our current path, the Department will face similar cuts every year. Unless there is a new sustainable source of government funding our parks will wither, and services will be cut. The County is faced with difficult decisions. Do we want a few high-quality parks with amenities and services, or many parks with bare bones services? Do we want to have our parkways mowed or pools open? These are real questions, and triage decisions are being made. I need your help in figuring out where we should go next. I'm painting a bleak picture, but we do have some bright spots that I'll highlight later in this newsletter. If you haven't already, check out the Love Your Parks campaign at loveyourparksme.com, and learn how you can help our parks.

The County as a whole continues to face a debilitating structural budget gap. The 2021 Budget makes some investments in the health and well-being of our citizens but falls short in many ways. This budget is the first created with County Executive David Crowley and Board Chair Nicholson in their new leadership roles, and I was glad to see the two branches of government work collaboratively. As hard as the Board of Supervisors works to manage the County's dollars, there aren't enough funds to sufficiently provide for our constituents. You can learn more about this structural budget gap and solutions the County has proposed to address the gap at county.milwaukee.gov/FairDeal.

This fall, I co-hosted an online listening session with District 1 Supervisor Liz Sumner. The full Board also held their Budget Public Hearing virtually, and it was great to hear from so many constituents. I encourage you to continue to reach out with questions, comments, and concerns you may have. Your input is extremely valuable to me and our District. I have included a survey that I ask you please consider completing. You can do so at tinyurl.com/yxa5vep3 or by mailing the attached paper version to my office. Please also consider following my County Facebook page for additional District 3 updates. I look forward to hearing about the issues that are important to you. My office is always open, and I will continue working to make District 3 a great place to live.

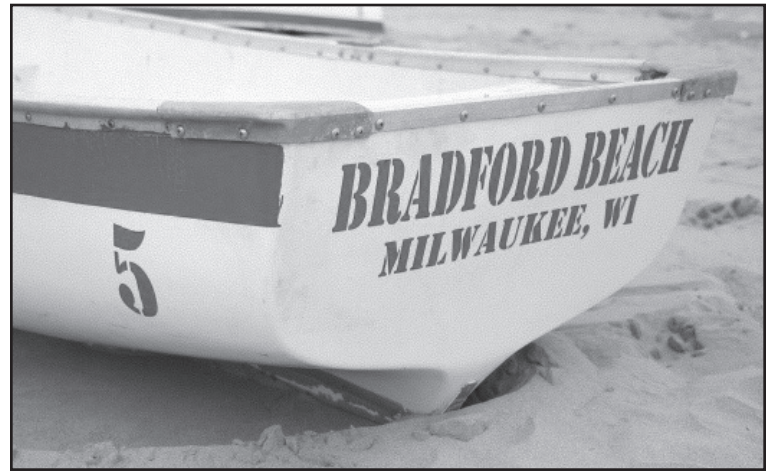
Sincerely,

Sheldon A. Wasserman – County Supervisor, District 3

Bradford Beach Lifeguards

During 2020, due to the COVID-19 crisis, our Aquatics programs faced significant cuts. For the first time in many years, we did not have lifeguards at Bradford Beach. While I still hope that all our pools can be fully staffed next summer, I made sure that funding for lifeguards at Bradford Beach was explicitly included in the 2021 Budget.

County lifeguards have a longstanding tradition of excellence. They help keep swimmers safe and help prevent people from entering the water when conditions are unsafe. I will continue to fight to keep our beaches guarded.



Lake Park Ravine Bridge Updates

Plans to reopen the Ravine Bridge in Lake Park are moving forward! This bridge is the crown jewel of Lake Park and reopening it has been my top priority. The bridge design process is now 90% complete and construction is scheduled to begin next summer.

Our Parks Department and the Lake Park Friends (LPF) have been working hard to keep everything on track. I want to thank the LPF for funding the long-term maintenance agreement for the bridge. Without their help, the bridge would never have been reconstructed. I'm looking forward to the bridge being open again in the Fall of 2022, and I hope to see you at a ribbon cutting ceremony!

You can find more info about this project, and other Parks projects, online at county.milwaukee.gov/parksprojects. Learn more about the Lake Park Friends at www.lakeparkfriends.org.



McKinley Beach Safety Study

This summer, Milwaukee's lakefront experienced a string of tragedies. Three individuals lost their lives in the water at McKinley Beach. To prevent others from drowning, it was decided to close McKinley Beach for the remainder of the year.

This November, I authored an amendment to the 2021 Budget that provides funds to the Parks Department to conduct a safety study at McKinley Beach. The Parks Department will study the design of the beach and break walls, look closely at rip-currents, and make suggestions if remediation is needed. The budget amendment was supported by the Board of Supervisors and became a part of the 2021 Adopted Budget. An initial report will be available at the March 25th County Board meeting.

I urge everyone to pay attention to all posted warning signs and use sound judgement when visiting our lakefront and waterways.

Milwaukee County 3rd District Survey - Your Opinion Matters!

District 3 Neighbors: This survey is also online at tinyurl.com/yxa5vep3. All responses must be completed and returned by February 1, 2021.

1. Milwaukee County's Courthouse, our Safety Building, and the Mitchell Park Domes are falling into disrepair. The estimated cost to repair these facilities is at least \$400 million. Our County Parks also have at least \$200 million of deferred maintenance. It is not possible to fund all these ventures. Where do you believe we should allocate our limited resources? Please rate each option 1-5 with 1 being the lowest priority and 5 being the highest.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Public Museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Milwaukee County Courthouse repairs | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Milwaukee County Transit System & Paratransit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Safety Building | <input type="checkbox"/> g. Mitchell Park Domes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Medical Examiner Facility | Additional Priorities: _____ |

2. Which scenario is generally preferable? Parkland would not be sold in either scenario.

- a. Many parks, but with basic and limited services (infrequent mowing, restrooms closed, etc.)
- b. Fewer parks, but with high-quality services (swimming pools, wading pools, tennis courts, etc.) and other parkland not maintained

3. Would you vote to raise the sales tax by 1% and increase the wheel tax by \$15 to increase funding for Milwaukee County government expenses?

- Yes, to both Sales Tax only Wheel Tax only No, to both

4. What should happen with the road running through Lake Park and under the Ravine Bridge?

- Re-opened to vehicles as it previously was Re-opened strictly as pedestrian/bike path
- Hybrid option where the road is sometimes closed to traffic

5. Should the food vendor at Bradford Beach expand the footprint of their restaurant into the upper level of the Bradford Beach bathhouse?

- Yes No

6. For e-updates, please provide your email address: _____

You may also sign up at www.milwaukee.gov/Wasserman.

7. Additional comments:

To submit by mail, please send to:

Sheldon Wasserman, Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St. Rm 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233



Active Streets a Success in Estabrook Park

This summer, I worked with the Shorewood Village Board and our Parks Department to make sure the Estabrook Parkway would be included in the new Active Streets program. A section of the Parkway was closed so that everyone could walk, run, bike, skateboard and rollerblade – while staying socially distant.

It was great to see so many families enjoying the space. I even saw children learning to ride their first bicycles! The closed section of the Parkway also served as a great home for the Shorewood Farmers Market, who do a great job every year.

I would also like to thank Friends of Estabrook Park for all the work they do in keeping the park a gem. I'm looking forward to the Active Streets program returning to our Parks next summer.

Food Truck Festivals

Two food truck festivals will be held along the lakefront next summer. These festivals will generate revenue for our Parks system and bring people from across the County together.

The festivals will prioritize new and ethnically diverse food offerings and not compete with our current vendors. The events will also conform to all public health guidelines and Milwaukee County guidance on the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope to see you at the lakefront next summer!



3RD DISTRICT MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Sheldon A. Wasserman

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WEAR A MASK

WASH YOUR HANDS

STAY SAFE MKE

#StaySafeMKE

Get up-to-date information on FREE Milwaukee County Attractions at:

county.milwaukee.gov/freedays

Service Guide for 3rd District Milwaukee County Residents

County Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman 278-4237

Airports

Mitchell International Airport 747-5300
Timmerman Airport 461-3222

Child Support Enforcement 615-2593

Clerk of Circuit Court 278-5362

County Clerk 278-4067

County Executive 278-4211

County Treasurer 278-4033

Courts

Civil Division (small & large claims) 278-4120
Criminal Division 278-4538
Children's Court 257-7700

Department on Aging 289-6874

Department of Health and Human Services 289-6877

District Attorney's Office 278-4646

Election Commission 278-4060

Emergency/Public Safety

Sheriff (non-emergency) 278-4766
TDD Emergency 278-5252
Burn Center Hotline (24 hours) 272-2876
Emergency Management (24 hours) 257-4709

Suicide Prevention/Intervention/Mental Health Crisis... 257-7222

Fraud Hotline 93-FRAUD

House of Correction 427-4700

Jury Services

General Information 278-4469
Reserve Juror Message 985-6000

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 273-7121

Marriage Licenses/Passports/Fishing Lic. 278-4067

Medical Examiner 223-1200

Mental Health Complex

General Information 257-6995
Admitting (Emergency) 257-7260

Milwaukee Art Museum 224-3200

Milwaukee County Historical Society 273-8288

Milwaukee County Parks

Boerner Botanical Gardens 525-5600
General Information 257-7275
Parks Hotline 257-5100
Organized Sports 257-8030
Golf Office 257-8024

District 3 Parks

Big Bay 964-0064
Bradford Beach 962-8809

Cambridge Woods 962-8809
Estabrook 964-0064
Gilman Triangle 962-8809
McKinley 273-5224
Prospect Triangle 962-8809
Veterans 962-8809
War Memorial & Art Center Grounds 273-5533

Milwaukee County Zoo 771-3040

Milwaukee County Sports Complex 281-2694

Milwaukee Public Museum 278-2702

Municipalities

Milwaukee 286-CITY (2489)
Shorewood 847-2700
Whitefish Bay 962-6690

Office of Persons with Disabilities 278-3932

Register in Probate 278-4444

Register of Deeds 278-4021

Rent Assistance 278-4894

Transit System

Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares 344-6711
Customer Comments 937-3218
Transit Plus 343-1700

UW-Extension 256-4600

Veterans Services 266-1234

Victim/Witness Service 278-4667