



Alderman
Robert W. Puente
9th District

SUMMER 2009

Dear 9th District Residents,

It's summer in Milwaukee and that can only mean one sure thing: it's time for road construction.

On page three, you will read about major road projects affecting the 9th District, including Good Hope Road, Brown Deer Road, Mill Road and N. 76th St. As always, I ask for your patience as these projects move forward – in time the work will be finished and we'll all enjoy better roadways and fewer bumps on our daily drives.

Looking back over my last few district newsletters, I noticed that although I've consistently trumpeted the benefits of the Block Watch program, I have not focused on the relationship between crime statistics and active Block Watch neighborhoods. So, on page four, I've included an article that delves into the ways Block Watch groups make crime statistics dip down by reducing the opportunities for criminals and by having members working together and communicating with each other and with police.

In this newsletter you'll also find updates on district developments, new honors for Growing Power's Will Allen, the (three-peat) state champion Vincent High School girls' basketball team's visit to City Hall, an article on the now-complete City Hall restoration project, ways you can access city services via computer, information on self-help centers and disposing of hazardous waste, and much more.

Please have a safe and peaceful summer.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Puente
Alderman – 9th District



CONTACT INFORMATION

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Vice Chair
Public Safety Committee

Member
Licenses Committee
Public Works Committee
Housing Authority
Ambulance Service Board

Will Allen and Growing Power

Will Allen, founder and CEO of Growing Power (55th and Silver Spring), was the recipient of another award for his efforts. Last year he received a "genius" grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur foundation. In early May 2009 it was announced that Mr. Allen was one of three winners of the first-ever Growing Green Awards from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). There were three categories for which the NRDC received nearly 140 nominations. Mr. Allen won in the Food Producer category where he had been one of the three finalists in that category.

Mr. Allen is an urban farmer who is transforming the cultivation, production, and delivery of healthy foods to underserved, urban populations. He uses a holistic farming model that incorporates both cultivating foodstuffs and designing food distribution networks in an urban setting. The internships and workshops hosted by Growing Power engage teenagers and young adults, often minorities and immigrants, in producing healthy foods for their communities and provide intensive, hands-on training to those interested in establishing similar farming initiatives in other urban settings. Through these and other programs still in development, Allen is experimenting with new and creative ways to improve the diet and health of the underserved and often under-nourished urban low-income population.



During a tour of Growing Power's headquarters (at N. 55th and W. Silver Spring Dr.) last year, Will Allen showed Alderman Puente, Mayor Tom Barrett and others the anaerobic digester (left) which Growing Power uses to convert biomaterials (i.e. animal manure) into methane-rich biogas (natural gas) that can be used as fuel.

DEVELOPMENTS



Direct Supply, Inc.



Andy's Gas Station



Alderman Puente joined Mayor Tom Barrett and others in recognizing Greg Reilly (left) from Direct Supply, Inc. and Andy Khullar (right) from Priya Corporation, owner of Andy's Gas Station, with the presentation of 2009 Mayor's Design Awards.

District Gets Two More Design Award Winners

Alderman Puente joined Mayor Tom Barrett and others late last month during the 2009 presentation of the Mayor's Design Awards, recognizing design excellence and historic preservation. The 9th District had two 2009 award recipients:

Direct Supply, Inc. 6767 N. Industrial Dr.

This company didn't take the easy route of joining two windowless buildings with another plain structure. It used curves and reflective surfaces to upgrade its space. (Continuum Architects + Planners).

Andy's Gas Station 8200 W. Brown Deer Rd.

A repurposed building gets a creative, dual personality, as a gas station and a bank. (Excel Engineering).

Last year **Mortara Instrument**, 7865 N. 86th St., brought home one of the coveted design awards.

The awards recognize everything from renovations of existing buildings to the construction of new ones, from streetscaping to facade makeovers, covering a breadth of design that includes architecture, landscaping, interior design, commercial development and more.

The awards event was held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Alderman Puente credited both Andy's and Direct Supply for their exemplary "corporate citizenship" and their willingness to reinvest in Milwaukee. "Both companies have invested in Milwaukee in many ways, especially in creating and providing valuable job opportunities for city residents. The fact that each has reinvested again by creating truly magnificent building developments that are pleasing to the eye is an even greater credit to them and a sign of their commitment to Milwaukee," he said.

Pet Waste-Leash Laws

Let's face it, there are few experiences as aromatically unpleasant as stepping on dog poop. And, if a lazy or uncaring dog owner leaves it on your grass or in a park area, then it's no accident.

But not only is it unsightly, pet waste left on the lawn or next to the sidewalk washes into storm drains which carries it directly into our rivers and Lake Michigan.

Please, on behalf of your neighbors, double-bag pet waste in plastic bags. Seal the bags and then put them in the green garbage cart. If you have any questions, call 286-CITY (2489).

Alderman Puente would also like to remind residents that city law prohibits an owner from permitting an animal to be at large. In other words, dogs must be leashed at all times except when they are confined in a fenced yard.



Contact Alderman Puente Online:
Website: www.milwaukee.gov/district9
Email: rpuent@milwaukee.gov

Ordinance Changes Result in Increased Fees for Code Violations

With the warm temperatures and rain, flowers have begun to bloom, the grass is growing and along with that also come weeds. Property owners with weeds or turf grass more than nine inches tall will be subject to a \$25 fine and given three days to comply. This ordinance applies to all properties within Milwaukee.

If the property owner does not comply with the ordinance requirements, the city will cut the violating portion of the property at the cost of the property owner. Properties mowed by the city will also be subject to an additional special charge of \$65 (increased from \$50). Subsequent failure to comply within the same calendar year will result in further city abatement and a \$100 special charge (increased from \$75).

Violating properties will be posted only once within the calendar year. Repeat violations will be mowed immediately and not receive the three-day compliance window. Any costs incurred by the city to abate or remediate weeds on the property will result in additional special charges. Special charges will be due 30 days after billing date. If not paid within that time the charges will be placed on the property tax roll.

This ordinance is designed to keep to a minimum the amount of pollenization of the weeds that can cause hay fever and minimize the potential for house vermin.

Residents received cart tags the week of March 30th reminding them that curbside collection would resume April 20th. Carts must be taken to their curbside collection point and returned to their storage location by 10:00 p.m. on collection day. Properties where carts are found to be in violation will incur a \$25 initial assessment. There is a \$35 special charge (increased from \$20) for city workers to return the cart to its storage location and a \$60 special charge (increased from \$35) for abatement of subsequent offenses within the same calendar year. Charges were increased to adequately reflect the costs of providing this service.

Common Council members supported and approved these ordinance changes.

Proposed New Police District Boundaries

On Thursday, June 4 Police Chief Edward Flynn presented the Common Council's Public Safety Committee his proposed plan to re-district MPD police districts and to change some personnel assignments. Alderman Puente, the vice chair of the committee and a retired MPD captain, asked the chief questions about how the new personnel assignments and the new district boundaries would affect the 9th District and the city as a whole.

The proposed district boundary changes do not affect the 9th Aldermanic District; we are still entirely in Milwaukee Police District Four. The only change to District Four boundaries is a small portion at the very southeastern end of the Police District that is located in another Aldermanic District.

The chief has sole authority to implement the re-districting, which he envisions putting into effect sometime in July.



Major Street Construction Project News

North 76th Street

There is still some finishing work being done on this Wisconsin Department of Transportation project between West Clinton and West County Line Road. These items include landscaping, concrete sidewalk, permanent pavement markings, two modular block walls at the north side of the project, and remaining intersection lighting/traffic signal work. All remaining work operations are scheduled to be completed by early June, depending upon weather.

West Good Hope Road

Milwaukee County is resurfacing West Good Hope Road between North 76th Street and 107th Street. The project, which started in early May, is expected to be completed by the end of October. The State of Wisconsin is repairing the bridge over the Little Menomonee River in conjunction with this resurfacing project.

West Mill Road

Milwaukee County has agreed to fund the reconstruction of West Mill Road from 56th to 84th Street for the funds it received as part of the transportation funding it received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), commonly known as the "federal stimulus".

West Brown Deer Road

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) is planning on improvement to Brown Deer Road between North 91st and 124th Streets. The roadway improvement itself will be funded 100% by the WISDOT. Engineering work is being done this year and it is anticipated that work will start in 2010.



Construction work started on the Job Corps site in March and it is expected to be open in the fall of 2010.

Developments

Pick 'n Save moving to Home Depot site

The Pick 'n Save store located at 7830 W. Good Hope Road will be moving into the old Home Depot site at 7401 W. Good Hope Road. The new Pick 'n Save location will be larger – 102,000 square feet as opposed to 62,000 square feet at the current location. The new location is undergoing remodeling and refurbishing at this time and it is anticipated that it will be open this fall.

Super Steel

Super Steel has plants at 7900 W. Tower Avenue and 7100 W. Calumet Road and will be improving its buildings and purchasing new equipment. They are closing one of their factories in New York and will also be moving some of that equipment to their buildings here. The improvements are expected to create about 150 new jobs. Super Steel, which makes railroad cars and products for the auto, construction, and agricultural industries, received a loan from the city Redevelopment Authority that is a forgivable as long as they meet certain job targets each year.

OPCMIA

The Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association (OPCMIA) of the United States and Canada is planning to build a 10,000 square foot office building and training facility at 8701 N. Lauer Street in the Towne Corporate Park of Granville for OPICMA Union Local 599. OPICMA is a labor union that represents plasterers and cement masons in the construction industry in North America and, at over 140 years old, it is the oldest Building and Construction Trades Union in the United States.

Block Watch Program Can Help Cut Crime in Your Neighborhood

The Block Watch program provides residents with specific information on how to reduce or eliminate opportunities for crime. And it works. But block watch groups can also do so much more. The support of local businesses is vital to the block watches and the support of block watches is vital to local business. They can accomplish many things by working together that they may not be able to do if working alone. This cooperation is essential to making a neighborhood a cohesive community.

Block Watches have been a priority of Alderman Puente during his service on the Common Council, and he would like to see continued expansion in the 9th district. "Get to know your neighborhood and your neighbors and become proactive in improving the quality of life in the 9th District," said Alderman Puente.

To become involved in a Block Watch you can contact a community liaison officer for the 4th Police District at 935-7248. If you'd like Alderman Puente to attend a Block Watch meeting, please call his office at 286-2868.

Hazardous Waste Collection and Self-Help Disposal Centers

Many products in your home, garage and yard contain hazardous materials. Improper disposal of these products can cause fires, injuries to people and animals and groundwater contamination. Keep your home safe by disposing of hazardous products properly.

Please do not put hazardous waste in the garbage or recycling container. Take products like pesticides, paint, solvents and other potentially harmful chemicals to these sites arranged by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District:

Milwaukee

City of Milwaukee Self Help Center
3879 West Lincoln Ave.
Friday and Saturday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Menomonee Falls

Veolia Environmental Services
W124 N9451 Boundary Rd. (124th St.)
Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City of Milwaukee residents have two convenient locations where they can recycle or safely dispose of a wide variety of items. When you arrive at a self-help center, you will be asked to provide proof of City of Milwaukee residency or property ownership. You will then be directed to unload your vehicle.

The self-help centers take large items like appliances and scrap metal, as well as disposal items like used car batteries. For a complete list of items accepted at self-help centers, go to www.mpw.net/Pages/selfhelp.htm to see acceptable items and schedules for our centers. The centers are located at **6660 N. Industrial Rd. and 3879 W. Lincoln Ave.**



Direct Link Between Crime Stats & Block Watches

According to police experts throughout the U.S., there is a direct link between reduced criminal activity – and reported crimes that show up in crime statistics – and Block Watch activity.

Alderman Puente, a strong supporter of Block Watch and a retired Milwaukee police captain, said he knows firsthand that active, involved Block Watch groups reduce crime. “Block Watch members not only learn how to deter crime from happening in the first place, they are actively working with police and keeping an eye out for suspicious activity, which also helps solve crimes and bring criminals to justice,” he said.

Other ways Block Watch groups help push crime statistics downward:

- Block Watch members learn about ways to deter crime from an MPD community liaison officer (CLO).
- The Neighborhood – Getting to know who your neighbors are helps determine who is supposed to be in the neighborhood and who might not belong. In other words, being able to identify someone suspicious and calling the police. Looking out for each other. Residents must take a stand and be vigilant at all times. Examples: turning outside lights on at night,

environmental design such as keeping bushes trimmed short so that a criminal does not have a place to hide in waiting.

- Building relationships with the Milwaukee Police Department and other entities/ persons within city government, such as Alderman Puente.
- Learning how to work with the police department - How to call police and how to witness a crime safely and then filtering the information to the police department. This is important as filtering information to the police department is vital in solving crimes. If a resident witnesses the crime and does not call police, then they are part of the problem. The criminal knows these kinds of neighborhoods and will continue the crime spree in the same area. The person who never calls because they fear calling the police will eventually become a victim. All entities must work together – police, alderman, residents, property owners, Department of Neighborhood Services, etc.
- Attacking the “crime triangle”: If the criminal has the OPPORTUNITY, the ABILITY and the DESIRE, a crime will be committed. If just one of these options can be taken away from the criminal, the chances of the crime occurring are slim.

Residents can access the city’s crime stats Internet link by going to www.milwaukee.gov/compass.

Residents can use the “community mapping” function/application to search out robbery, theft, burglary, etc. and crimes in their area.

Residents can also sign up for E-Notify (www.milwaukee.gov/enotify – on the city’s website) and receive an email when a crime does occur in or near the area of where they live.

Thinking About Putting Up A Fence?

If you are, check the city rules on fences before you put it up. People have had to take down fences after spending money on them because they were too high, in the wrong place or facing the wrong way. For more information on rules governing fences and other permits that may be needed, check with the Milwaukee Development Center online at www.mkedcd.org or call 286-8211.



Wearing shirts that proudly herald their 2007, 2008 and 2009 “three-peat” WIAA Division I state basketball championships, members of the 2008-2009 Vincent High School girls hoops team listen attentively as Alderman Puente reads a Common Council commendation he sponsored during the March 25, 2009, Council meeting in the Common Council Chamber at City Hall. The team received a standing ovation from the Council and then (right-above) posed for a photo with head coach Marquis Hines and Alderman Puente. Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs (far left), Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. (rear) and Alderman Willie Wade (far right) are also pictured.

Get Information You Need Via Email & E-Service

If you have a computer and Internet access, keeping informed about what's happening in the 9th District, the city, and the county and finding government information and services online is just a few clicks away on the Milwaukee Portal Page.

Go to www.milwaukee.gov, simply type a keyword or phrase in the site search bar and click GO. The search engine will take you to the proper department in either the city or the county.

Another city initiative called E-Service provides an online request form that allows citizens to request a service without knowing which city department provides that service. E-Service cuts at least two-days off the process.

Also Get 9th District Info Via E-Notify

Are you interested in receiving information from Alderman Puente concerning news and information affecting the 9th District and the city?

Simply register a valid e-mail address and password at the City of Milwaukee's "E-Notify" link, and you'll be emailed whenever Alderman Puente sends out a notification. To sign up, go to www.milwaukee.gov/enotify – make sure you check the "9th District News and Information" category. In addition to 9th District information, users also have the ability to use the system to receive informational city updates and news releases in a wide array of subject and department categories.

And the city can also communicate with you via E-Notify. This easy-to-use Internet tool allows the city to send such information as city news, Common Council and other meeting agendas, notices of applications for licenses (i.e. taverns), police crime bulletins by neighborhood, meeting and bid notices and many other topics to subscribers' email accounts based on selections made by the individual citizen.



Saving Energy One Bulb at a Time

By the end of this year, all of Milwaukee's city-operated traffic signals will be changed to bright, energy-saving light-emitting diodes.

Since 2004, the Milwaukee Department of Public Works has converted stoplights, turn signals and walk lights from incandescent bulbs to LEDs at more than 400 of the 737 stoplight-controlled intersections under the city's jurisdiction.

As a result, the City of Milwaukee has earned more than \$100,000 in reward from We Energies for the savings the project generates. LED lights use significantly less energy, therefore they emit less pollution. In addition to the environmental and financial benefits, LED lights appear brighter, increasing safety.

The LED also last six times longer than regular bulbs, so they are replaced less frequently.

The city is continuing to explore new ways to save energy through lighting. In the near future, existing streetlights may be converted to LED lighting, particularly in the Historic Third Ward, where the light poles already are close together. That would cover about 500 of the city's 67,700 streetlights.

For more on energy and cost saving projects initiated by the City of Milwaukee, go to www.milwaukee.gov/greenteam to learn more about our Office of Sustainability.

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin

Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent

Did you know that every month 100 Milwaukee County children enter foster care? Right now, there are approximately 2,600 children in foster care. These children come from diverse backgrounds and have a wide range of needs. What they have in common is a need for a nurturing, temporary place to call home.

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, in partnership with the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, is working to make connections in the community. In their work as adoption and foster care advocates, they see how the lives of children and families have been affected when a family is in distress. But they also see what good can happen when a community pulls together and helps a family through difficult times.

Their goal is to get their information out to the community and help recruit much needed foster homes. Most people don't even realize the great need that we have in our city for quality foster homes. Keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility, and involves the collaboration between child welfare agencies, schools, neighbors, associations and businesses.

If you would like to obtain more information about foster care go to www.cssw.org or call 414-264-KIDS.

Organize a Neighborhood Cleanup!

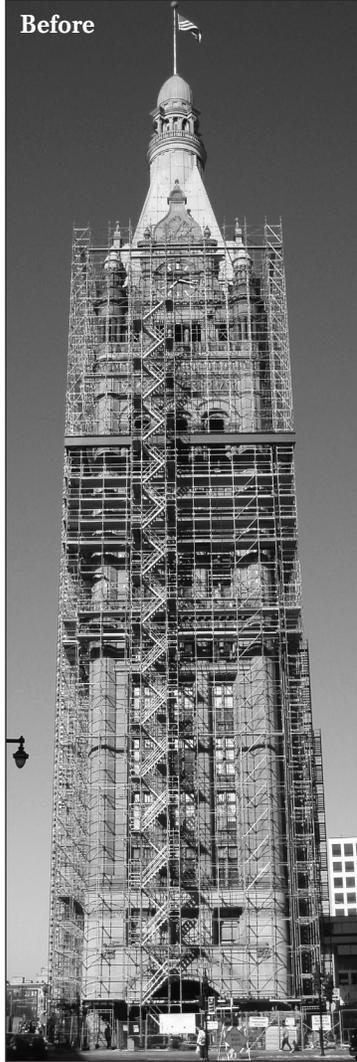
Do YOU want to help make your neighborhood a better place to live?

Get a group of concerned residents together and form a group to help clean up. A block cleanup can be a great way to get to know the people in your community while helping to spruce it up.

You can register your cleanup group by calling Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, and they will provide cleaning materials and garbage bags. Call them at 272-5462. Large roll-off dumpsters can be reserved from the Sanitation Division for weekend cleanups. Call 286-2489 if a dumpster is needed for your cleanup date (these dumpsters are NOT for private, individual use). Availability is limited.



Before



City Hall's Facelift: History In The (Re)Making

The four-year project to protect and preserve the exterior of Milwaukee's 114-year old City Hall has finally been completed and the National Historic Landmark is now free of its scaffolding. The external renovations on the building included upgrades to 1,900 windows, repairing sandstone, replacing hundreds of thousands of deteriorating bricks and replacing the copper roofing on the building's two spires. The biggest challenge was repairing the bricks as the original bricks were shaped and constructed differently than those used today. The masonry construction method used in the late 19th century is much different than what's acceptable today. Also, nearly 13,000 near identical replications of terra cotta sculptures and forms on the building were created to replace those that had chips, cracks and general deterioration.

Other changes to the building included restoring the four-faced bell tower clock to its original look—a backlit white face with black hour markers. The tower itself was rebuilt from the inside out, ensuring its structural integrity for at least another 100 years.

The reconstruction and preservation project was headed by local architectural firm Engberg Anderson. The Janesville firm JP Cullen Construction completed the exterior restoration work. The building earned the rarest designation of the National Parks Service when it was named a National Historic Landmark.

"City Hall is one of only a few government buildings on the National Historic Registry that is still used for government or municipal work. The preservation of this iconic space was the largest project Milwaukee's Department of Public Works has ever taken on and the result was outstanding. I encourage residents to come down and view their City Hall," Alderman Puente said.

After



Landlord Training

The award winning landlord training program operates out the Department of Neighborhood Service's downtown office. The goal is to teach landlords fundamental ways to keep illegal activity out of their property.

The classes are FREE and held on a regular basis through out the year at various locations. They are held on evenings and weekends to accommodate virtually anyone's schedule. The classes are held in either a one day 5-hour session or separated into two different days with 2 and a half hour sessions each day. Attendees get a free 100 page comprehensive manual and handouts on a variety of legal and business issues related to managing a property.

"I highly recommend landlords in our district take advantage of the program; it offers many resources and support to property managers that help keep good tenants in the area," Alderman Puente said.

The program offers many classes through the summer and fall. Advance registration is required; call Jeanne Hagner, 286-2954, Program Assistant or email at jhagne@milwaukee.gov to schedule.

Upcoming Landlord Training Sessions

Tuesday, June 30th, 2009

9:00 A.M. – Sign-In

9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. – Class

Anderson Building – 4001 S. 6th Street, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, July 14th & Wednesday, July 15th, 2009

6:00 P.M. – Sign-In

6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. – Class

Milwaukee Safety Academy – 6680 N. Teutonia Avenue
(Little Theatre Room - Parking in the rear of the building)

Saturday, July 25th, 2009

SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY – ESPAÑOL SOLAMENTE

9:00 A.M. – Sign-In

9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. – Class

Anderson Building – 4001 S. 6th Street - 3rd Floor

Go to www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining to learn more.



Alderman
Robert W. Puente
9th District

SUMMER 2009

Have A Safe & Enjoyable Summer!



City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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Alderman Puente welcomed Dr. Willie Little Jr., pastor of St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran Church (located in the 9th Aldermanic District), to the Common Council Chamber inside City Hall earlier this year. Pastor Little delivered the invocation prior to a regular meeting of the Milwaukee Common Council.

Clip & Save

**2009
Summer
Events
Guide**

*Stick it on
your fridge!*

2009 Summer Festivals

June 25-July 5	Summerfest	Henry Maier Festival Park
July 9-12	Bastille Days	East Town
June 26-28	Greek Fest	Wisconsin State Fair Park
July 10-12	South Shore Frolics	South Shore Park
July 16-19	Festa Italiana	Henry Maier Festival Park
July 23-26	German Fest	Henry Maier Festival Park
Aug. 6-Aug. 16	Wisconsin State Fair	Wisconsin State Fair Park
Aug. 7-9	Arab World Fest	Henry Maier Festival Park
Aug. 13-16	Irish Fest	Henry Maier Festival Park
Aug. 21-23	Mexican Fiesta	Henry Maier Festival Park
Sept. 11-13	Indian Summer Festival	Henry Maier Festival Park

2009 Other Events

July 3	U.S. Bank Fireworks	Veterans Park
July 13-19	U.S. Bank Championship	Brown Deer Park
Jun. 3-Oct. 28	Westtown Farmer's Market	Zeidler Union Square
Jun. 5-Oct. 24	East Town Market	Cathedral Square
Aug. 20-23	A La Carte at the Zoo	Milwaukee County Zoo