

The Broderick Report

By Supervisor Gerry Broderick

For Residents of Milwaukee County's 3rd District

Spring 2010

Both Pain and Sacrifice in 2010 Budget

On November 18, 2009 the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors overrode 22 of the 34 budget vetoes the County Executive placed before us and passed the 2010 Milwaukee County Budget. The adopted budget raised the County's property tax levy by 2.18%, the lowest increase in six years.

One can never truly feel good about a budget that includes the loss of family supporting jobs and the continuous battle to retain fundamental quality of life services that, in many cases, determines the health and well-being of Milwaukee County's most vulnerable citizens.

There should be some mention of victory as the majority of my colleagues voted to override the proposal to litter Lincoln Memorial Drive with parking meters. They also defeated the senseless annual pitch to dissolve the Farm & Fish Hatchery. What logic is there for eliminating a program with no tax levy impact that provides food to local food banks, fish for county parks and even feeds the penguins at the zoo?

While the 2010 Adopted Budget attempts to balance the needs of the departments against exponentially increasing fixed costs and a weak economy, it relies heavily on employee concessions to provide that balance. Unless and until these personnel issues come to fruition, all departments face the possibility of employee layoffs. Given the current skeletal staff that exists throughout most county departments, additional layoffs continue to significantly impact the ability to provide quality of life services and programs for 2010 and beyond.

I would like to thank members of the Finance and Audit Committee for their long, hard and painstaking work on a difficult budget. I would also like to thank the many callers to my office, particularly the residents I represent in District 3, for sharing their thoughts and opinions during the 2010 Budget process.

2009 Total Percent Amount of Taxes Per Taxing Authority

Milwaukee County represents 16% of your tax dollar



* State of Wisconsin share is approximately one cent
* Total may not add to \$1.00 due to rounding

Assembly Bill 504 stalls in Madison

The residents of Milwaukee County voted to support a 1% sales tax to provide property tax relief for residents by removing transit, parks, recreation, culture, and emergency medical services from the levy. Despite the public's endorsement, the Governor and the Legislature failed to include this measure in the 2009-2011 State Budget. As a result, our Milwaukee County Parks System is left without a viable funding mechanism to address \$300 million in deferred maintenance. Unfortunately, the degradation of our park facilities likely will increase.

Last fall, Representative Christine Sinicki and Senator Lena Taylor introduced legislation to provide Milwaukee County the authority

to take parks off the levy and enact a half-cent sales tax for parks, recreation, and culture. I went to Madison, along with other supportive Supervisors, to testify at the State Capitol in support of this legislation, Assembly Bill 504.

AB 504 would provide \$37 million in property tax relief for residents while dedicating a funding stream for our parks and cultural institutions, like the Milwaukee County Zoo, the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, and the Federated Library System. Passage of AB 504 is really a last chance to breathe life into our deteriorating park system. While the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means did vote to support this bill and move it forward, it is stalled in the Joint Committee on Finance. I urge you to contact your State Representative and Senators. Ask them to grant this crucial funding source.

CONTACT 3RD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR GERRY BRODERICK

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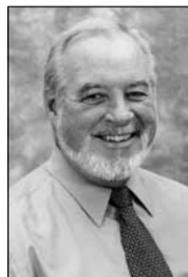
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MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53221-1425



County Supervisor Gerry Broderick
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Domestic Partnership Study Fails

If you listen to the County Executive you have to decide which side of his mouth you want to believe. In past statements the County Executive expressed that Milwaukee County employee's benefits should resemble private sector benefits packages. He could have and should have approached local corporations such as AT&T, Aurora, Froedert, Medical college of Wisconsin, Northwestern Mutual, US Bank, GE Healthcare, Johnson Controls and Miller Brewing to research the fiscal and administrative costs of providing Domestic Partnership benefits.

Instead the Walker Administration decided to broadcast an illusory cost and a deliberate falsehood suggesting approval of this item would enact legislation immediately, which prompted an overwhelming number of calls to County Board members in opposition to the study. The fact is the proposed study, if passed, would have utilized internal research resources and therefore would have come at no cost to tax payers.

The City of Milwaukee, at a cost of \$233,000 for 30 families, included domestic partnership in its family benefits since 2001, while Milwaukee Area Technical College currently covers just seven families.

Most calls to my office, however, were in favor of the study and encouraged me to support this initiative.

We All Need to Be Counted!



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

In less than 10 minutes (the time it takes to fill out the 2010 United States Census Form) you can help decide the distribution of more than \$400 billion dollars in federal funds to states and communities and guide decision makers in planning for new hospitals, roads and other community facilities.

In addition to obtaining an accurate count of the United States populace as a whole, determining the precise population in the State of Wisconsin determines the districts of the state legislature and the number U.S. Congressional seats to represent Wisconsin.

The 2010 U.S. Census mandated by the U.S. Constitution is user friendly, fast, protects your privacy and is the law.

Please take the time to fill out and return your 2010 U.S. Census questionnaire; it's important that all citizens of Milwaukee County be counted.

For more information visit www.census.gov.

North Point Lighthouse Lives Again



North Point Lighthouse in Lake Park.

North Point Lighthouse in Lake Park may look placid, but is actually bustling with activity. Open since 2007, and now with a dedicated crew of docents, the tower and keeper's quarters museum is open to public every Saturday afternoon 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Groups are welcome by appointment. On weekdays, school groups can learn about the lighthouse, its place in Milwaukee maritime history and experience the museum's many maritime artifacts.

The Fresnel lens that lit tower for decades is on display, rotating now as it did then. The Milwaukee Harbor Fog Bell is prominently displayed and can be electronically "rung". The museum has many other historical and nautical items, some with connections to former keeper families.

Lighthouse activities include summer adventure camps for elementary school age students and Girl Scout Troops' badge work. In addition, an adult lecture series on lighthouse and maritime topics is held in the fall. Volunteer gardeners have worked to remove invasive species and installed finish landscaping. The lighthouse hosts fundraisers to support its programs, and it can be rented for intimate private events such as weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birthday parties or for non-profit or corporate events.

For more information or to book the facility for a special event, please contact May Klisch, Operations Manager at 414-332-6754, keeper@northpointlighthouse.org, or see the web site at: www.northpointlighthouse.org.

Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum

Old industrial land along the Milwaukee River will soon be home to the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. As the first and only arboretum in Milwaukee, the 40 - acre wheelchair accessible "living classroom" will focus on recreation, research and teaching while significantly improving the riverfront and the community.

The arboretum, as envisioned, will extend from North Avenue north to Locust St., bordered on the west by the Milwaukee River and on the east by the Oak Leaf Trail traveling north through Riverside Park. The

projected 100,000 annual visitors can expect a wonderful experience. There are over 80 tree species native to Wisconsin and the vision is to have each species represented in the Arboretum. Trees will be maintained by the Urban Ecology Center as part of a long-term lease.

Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee for raising more than \$430,000 and to the Urban Ecology Center, the River Revitalization Foundation and the Milwaukee County Parks for formulating this exciting plan.



Parks Director Sue Black and Staff Receive National Recognition

Milwaukee County Parks Director Sue Black and her team brought home the National "GOLD" Medal Award in 2009. The American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff, and elected officials.

Milwaukee County Parks Director Sue Black's outstanding ability to develop valuable

partnerships with sponsors and volunteers enable her and her extraordinary staff to maintain our revered parks system.

Every year, the County Board fills holes left in the wake of the County Executive's annual funding and staff cuts. Amazingly, every year, Director Black finds a way to make the very best of a daunting situation.

Kudos to Director Black, her staff, the many sponsors and dedicated volunteers for their commitment to the Milwaukee County Parks System.



Estabrook Park Improvements and New Bridge are Results of Shorewood/Milwaukee County Cooperation

With the help of a \$25,000 donation from the Village of Shorewood, a dog park has been added to Estabrook Park's recreational facilities. The dog park is a large, fenced-in area where dogs can get exercise and socialize, free of their leashes. Happy dogs (and their owners) have been making good use of the dog park since it opened last year.

In a cost-sharing effort, Milwaukee County cooperated with the Village of Shorewood to develop the dog park.

Dog owners using the area are required to have proof of their pet's current rabies vaccinations. The dogs also need to be licensed through their owner's local municipality. Dog owners should follow the rules and suggestions at the Exercise Areas. Dog tags may be purchased at Boerner Botanical Gardens, the Wilson Recreation Center, the Milwaukee County Parks Administrative Offices, the Wisconsin Humane Society or MADACC (Milwaukee Domestic Animal Control Commission) during normal business hours.

The annual cost for a Milwaukee County resident dog tag for the 2010 Calendar year is \$25. Passes for seniors or persons with disabilities is \$15. An additional dog tag is \$5. For more information, visit www.countyparks.com or call (414) 257-PARK.

It is of interest that Milwaukee County and Shorewood are also cooperating on replacement of the railroad bridge over Capitol Drive



on the west side of the Village. The bridge, which was constructed in 1925 to eliminate traffic backups caused by 40 or more trains crossing Capitol Drive each day, is now part of the County's Oak Leaf Trail. Replacement of the bridge is part of Shorewood's Capitol Drive reconstruction project due to begin in May 2010.

The railroad last used the bridge and connecting tracks in the 1970s. Since then, the County has developed the Oak Leaf trail as a beautiful hiking and biking trail that extends from south of Hampton to Lake Michigan, north of the War Memorial. Shorewood will replace the train bridge with a new pedestrian bridge that will serve as a gateway entrance into the Village. To learn more about the Capitol Drive construction schedule, bypasses and pictures of the new bridge, see www.capitoldrive.info.



Experience what the Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Museums have to offer

Where can you go to enjoy a classic movie, panel discussions, jazz and classical music series, art exhibits, beautiful gardens, and a host of fun special events? Simple . . . the Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums!

The best way to enjoy all these events is membership to the CAVT Museums. Membership entitles you to free entrance and free or reduced pricing to all of our events. We're expanding our programming and events

for 2010 and membership is a great way to take advantage of all that the museums offer at a budget friendly price.

We promise, once you discover all a CAVT membership offers you'll be a regular visitor!

Visit www.cavtmuseums.org for more information or contact us at 414/278-8295 (Charles Allis) and 414/271-3656 (Villa Terrace).

Neighborhood Associations and Park Groups

- A** Brady Street Association
1844 N. Oakland Ave., Milwaukee 53202
Grant Gehweiler, President • (414) 975-4914
- B** Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association
3425 N. Bartlett Ave., Milwaukee 53211
Joseph Klein, President • (414) 628-3380
- C** East Village Association
3314 N. Hackett Ave., Milwaukee 53202
Mike Bondar, President • (414) 276-8130
- D** Mariners' Neighborhood Association
3467 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee 53211
Mike Rosen, President • (414) 967-1108
- E** Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
2954 N. Frederick Ave., Milwaukee 53211
Gerard Capell, President • (414) 962-4638
- F** Historic Water Tower Neighborhood
3450 N. Lake Dr., Milwaukee 53211
Sandra Mc Sweeney, President • (414) 788-5939
#1 contact: Jeff Bentoff
President HWTN 2010 • (414) 964-9433
#2 contact: Dawn McCarthy,
Secretary HWTN 2010 • (414) 964-8120
- G** Riverside Park Neighborhood Association
2494 N. Bartlett Ave., Milwaukee 53211
Terri Kinis, President • (414) 964-7669

Lake Park Friends
P.O. Box 71197, Milwaukee 53211
Tom Chaney, President • (414) 962-1680

East Town Business Association
770 North Jefferson St., Milwaukee 53202
Kate Borders, Executive Director • (414) 271-1416

North Point Lighthouse Friends
2650 N. Wahl Ave., Milwaukee 53211
May Klisch, Operations Manager • (414) 332-6754

The Riverside University High School Foundation
1615 E. Locust St., Milwaukee 53211
Jan Gibson, President • (414) 291-9076

Shorewood Senior Resource Center
2010 E. Shorewood Blvd., Shorewood 53211
Elizabeth Price, Program Director • (414) 847-2727

Urban Ecology Center
1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee 53211
Ken Leinbach, Director • (414) 964-8505

River Revitalization Foundation
1845 N. Farwell, Ste. 100, Milwaukee 53202
Kimberly Gleffe, Executive Director • (414) 271-8000

Friends of Bradford Beach
703 E. Lexington Blvd., Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
Deborah Lukovich, Chair • (414) 803-3229

East Side Condominium Association (ESCOA)
Bob Wurtz, President robsu@sbcglobal.net

Preserve Our Parks
5690 N. Dexter Ave., Glendale 53209
John Lutz, President • (414) 702-7288

The Park People
1845 N. Farewell Ave., Ste. 100
Milwaukee 53202
Jim Goulee, Interim Executive Director
(414) 273-7275



JOIN IN!

You can have an impact on the quality of life in your neighborhood by becoming an active member of one of these neighborhood associations or community groups. Check out the contact information listed here and **GET INVOLVED!**

East Side Business Improvement District
Oakland Avenue Business Improvement District
2122 N. Prospect Ave.
Milwaukee 53202
Jim Plaisted, Executive Director
(414) 272-5823

Shorewood Business Improvement District
Tim Ryan, Harley's:
A Store For Men
tryan@harleys4men.com

Upper East Side Business Improvement District
Clark Kaufmann, Clark Graphics
Kaufmann.c@sbcglobal.net

East Side Business Improvement District
Peg Silvestrini, Beans and Barley
peg@beansandbarley.com

MPD District #1
Community Liaison Officer
Officer Peter Graber
(414) 935-7701 • 8am-4pm
pgrabe@milwaukee.gov

UW-Milwaukee Neighborhood Relations
Laura Bandemer-Purifoy
Chapman Hall, Room 180
PO Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Office: (414) 229-4035
neighbors@uwm.edu