

ALDERMAN Jim BOHL



5th District | 286-3870 | jbohl@milwaukee.gov | www.milwaukee.gov/district5

Dear Neighbor:

The need for city government to look at ways of paying for services and improvements that DO NOT rely on help from taxpayers has never been more urgent.

That is one reason why my plan to use millions from current and future city tax incremental districts (TIDs) to fund street reconstruction projects is being described as an innovative idea. Not only does it avoid using current taxpayer dollars to pay for infrastructure work, it also will provide valuable training and job opportunities for city residents for many years to come. Read more about this plan on page 4 of this newsletter.

In a matter of only a few hours, June storms dumped between two to six and a half inches of rain throughout portions of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. One observer in the 5th Aldermanic District recorded a rainfall total of 4.22 inches during the storms, and in the 5th District alone there were 63 reports of flooded basements, and a total of more than 650 similar reports citywide. On page 2 read about my efforts to find out why these basement back ups have been occurring, and learn about ways property owners can prevent them from recurring.

Also in this newsletter, you'll see recently-taken photos of Hartung Quarry Park (families have already discovered the park's new playground!) and get an update on what will be happening next at the newly transformed public space. There's also an article about a new collaborative effort to turn around a cycle of chronic nuisance households and non-responsive landlords in Milwaukee neighborhoods, information on a change in the law that allows the city to tow "for sale" vehicles parked on city streets without a permit, information to help you prepare for winter, and much, much more.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Please have a safe and healthy fall season.

Sincerely,

Jim Bohl
Alderman, 5th District



Committee Assignments

- CHAIR • Licenses Committee
- MEMBER • Judiciary & Legislation Committee
- MEMBER • Steering & Rules Committee
- CHAIR • Taxicab Review Board

View meetings on the web at: www.milwaukee.gov/channel25

Please Attend My Town Hall Meetings

I will hold two town hall meetings this fall to meet residents and discuss important issues affecting 5th District neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

The meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. and will encompass the following dates, locations and topics:

- **Wednesday, October 21** at 95th Street School, 3707 N. 94th St., in the gym (6:00-6:45 – discussions related to the future of the Hartung Quarry Park; 7:00-8:30 – general town hall involving Police, Neighborhood Services and DPW issues).
- **Tuesday, October 27** at Engleburg School, 5100 N. 91st St., in the gym (6:00-7:30 – focus on the 2010 city budget).

I look forward to seeing you there!

West Side Plan Open House

The city's proposed West Side Plan will be featured during an open house in the 5th Aldermanic District on **Thursday, October 22, starting at 6:45 p.m.**

The open house will be held at the **Faith United Church of Christ, N. 78th St. and W. Hope Ave.**, and Alderman Bohl is scheduled to attend.

The event will include an overview of the market analysis for the plan and a final presentation of the draft plan.

Go to the city's website at www.mkedcd.org/planning/plans/West/index.html to learn more about the West Side Plan.



Alderman Bohl joins 7th District Police Captain William Jessup and others installing security sensor lights as a pilot program in the Hawkeye Block Club Neighborhood near 76th and Hampton.

Hartung Park – Tot Lot Open, Landscaping Ongoing

Parents of young children have already discovered the new tot lot/children's play experience at Hartung Quarry Park, where workers and equipment have helped transform a former landfill into a beautiful new public space at W. Keefe Ave. and N. Menomonee River Parkway.

Alderman Bohl, who has been actively working on the Hartung project since 2001, said the first phase of work on approximately six acres on the northwest quadrant of the seventeen acre site is now fairly complete. "Needless to say people who live in the area who have been intimately involved in this project are excited because they've witnessed a landfill become an outdoors area where residents from Milwaukee and nearby Wauwatosa can relax, recreate and enjoy themselves," he said.

The work during the past six or seven months has included crews moving tons of soil and completing the grading work, laying down topsoil, sod and seed, planting additional trees, creating paths, and constructing the playground, Alderman Bohl said.

A community planting event for the demonstration rain garden was a success, and the limestone Silurian Reef outcroppings are in place just east of the tot lot. A pond that would help store storm water runoff is being planned for the southern portion of the park, with a stone labyrinth to be installed nearby. The pond, which would include surrounding trees,



plantings and walking paths, is expected to be completed during 2010.

The quarry, used as a landfill for the city since 1964, will reach its capacity in the next couple of years and plans to use the area as a public park with approximately 10 single-family homes along the eastern and southern boundaries were approved with a resolution approved by the Common Council in 2006. A \$250,000 state Department of Natural Resources grant— matched by \$200,000 included in the 2008 city budget and \$50,000 that had been previously allocated for the project – were the primary funding sources for the first phase of work on the park.



Views from the recently constructed tot lot and foreground at Hartung Park.

Basement Flooding/Sewer Backup Issues Get Aired

At Alderman Bohl's request, representatives from the city's Department of Public Works and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District appeared before the Common Council's Public Works Committee at City Hall on September 10 to provide information and answer questions about the large number of flooded basements and sewer back ups that resulted from heavy rains on June 18-19, 2009.

In a matter of only a few hours, storms late June 18 and early June 19 dumped between two to six and a half inches of rain throughout portions of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. One observer in the 5th Aldermanic District recorded a rainfall total of 4.22 inches during the storms, and in the 5th District alone there were 63 reports of flooded basements, and a total of more than 650 similar reports citywide.

Alderman Bohl said he requested the information-sharing public testimony to try to find answers to questions about what happened during and after those destructive storms. "Short of a fire or tornado, there's little worse for a homeowner than a flooded basement," Alderman Bohl said. "The danger and damage they cause and the hassle of cleaning up what's left behind is something you never forget."

"I hope residents will watch the video provided here from that meeting, and click on the Power Point presentation and other documents to learn more about how and why flooded basements occur, and how homeowners can take measures to minimize or even prevent basement flooding in the first place," he said.

If you or someone you know experiences a flooded basement caused by a sewer back up, please first call **286-CITY(2489)** – the one-stop number for people who need service or information from DPW. DPW can then respond and inspect the area to see if the main sewer line is clogged. If it's determined that the main sewer is not clogged, then the property owner may call a plumber to look into what's causing the problem.

To read about special valves and preventive plumbing equipment (including the "pros and cons" of the plumbing choices) that can help property owners fend off future back ups please visit www.milwaukee.gov/district5 and click on the document links.

Teaming Up to Fight the Flu

Mayor Tom Barrett and Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker have launched the annual city-wide influenza awareness campaign entitled "Let's Team Up Against the Flu!" by offering free seasonal flu shots to the public and unveiling a unique partnership to promote vaccination and good hygiene practices.

The campaign, which will appear on county transit buses and large billboards throughout the city, features Brewers starting pitcher Yovani Gallardo, right fielder Corey Hart and second baseman Rickie Weeks. There will also be a school poster campaign starring Bucks guard Charlie Bell. "This year's campaign is especially exciting because it comes at a time when the world has heightened awareness of the need for influenza vaccination to ensure the prevention of illness and disease in their community," said Commissioner of Health, Bevan K. Baker. "As I emphasize every year, vaccination against influenza is the best way to keep yourself and your loved ones safe from this serious illness."

Alderman Bohl said individuals should educate themselves to make wise choices on how to best protect themselves from the seasonal flu as well as H1N1 swine flu. "I encourage constituents to check out my web page for specific information about vaccinations, the availability of vaccines, and other helpful information," he said.

Please go to www.city.milwaukee.gov for that additional information.



City of Milwaukee website
www.city.milwaukee.gov

Ald. Bohl's website
www.milwaukee.gov/district5



Alderman Named Chair of Taxicab Review Board

Alderman Bohl has been named chair of a seven-member review board to study issues of taxicab charges, fares and regulation including vehicle and driver standards. Alderman Bohl had previously chaired the city's Taxicab Task Force.

Alderman Bohl said the board will make written recommendations related to specific actions and policies that can be taken or adopted to improve taxicab services in the City of Milwaukee.

A "perfect storm" of factors spurred the idea for the review board, including large increases in fuel prices in recent years, continued emphasis on boosting tourism in Milwaukee, and the need to provide citizens with reliable, affordable quality transit options, Alderman Bohl said.

"Excellent taxicab service is an integral part of serving visitors coming to Milwaukee and enhancing or detracting from the image of Milwaukee in the eyes of visitors," he said. "Also, thousands of Milwaukee residents, including persons with disabilities and the elderly, rely on affordable taxicab service to assure access to health care, grocery stores and other commercial enterprises."

Membership includes local taxicab industry representatives, a representative of VISIT Milwaukee, a citizen and a representative of the Milwaukee County Program for Persons with Disabilities.

Ordinance Allows City to Track, Recoup Costs On Neglected Properties

On March 3, 2009 the Common Council approved an Alderman Bohl-authored measure to track and recoup costs associated with properties where garbage, lawn care, snow shoveling and other basic homeowner duties are ignored or neglected.

The ordinance provides an initial inspection charge and increases other special charges when the owner or occupant fails to comply with code provisions to keep sidewalks clear of snow, to return garbage and recycling carts to original positions after pickup service or fails to mow grass or weeds. The intent of the ordinance is to recover actual costs related to processing complaints, inspecting premises and other costs of administration including printing, public education, and accounting.

The ordinance, co-sponsored by Alderman Nik Kovac, provides an initial charge of \$25 if, upon inspection, the inspector determines that the owner or responsible party is in violation. The ordinance increases the special charge for failure to return a service cart to original storage after notice or order to do so from \$20 to \$35 for the first violation following written notice or order, and from \$35 to \$60 for a subsequent violation in a calendar year.

In addition to contracted cost for city work in removing snow or mowing lawns, the ordinance also:

- Provides a special charge of \$65 for failure to mow grass or weeds, and a special charge of \$100 for each subsequent violation within the calendar year.
- Further increases the special charge for failure to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice from \$25 to \$45 for the first violation and each additional violation in a calendar year will be subject to a special charge \$90.



Current Events in Residential Housing Market Spark Need for New Regulations

Alderman Bohl sponsored and helped pass an ordinance that requires the owners of abandoned residential properties pending foreclosure or in foreclosure proceedings to perform regular maintenance and upkeep such as snow removal and lawn care. The Common Council passed the ordinance in December.

Events in national and local residential housing markets have recently resulted in significant increases in mortgage loan defaults and in foreclosures on residential properties. Such properties create a great deal of concern for the health, safety and welfare of surrounding neighborhoods by contributing to a decline in property values of nearby residences, increasing the risk of fire, offering increased opportunities for crime, and—in some cases—creating an unattractive public nuisance.

“These properties can become blighted and can create risk for the community and families in the area, and the city can prevent these risks by regulating the management of abandoned properties,” he said. The ordinance sets specific requirements for inspection and maintenance of abandoned residences and includes penalties against the responsible parties for failure to take corrective action.

Further, because it is often difficult to trace the official ownership of foreclosed properties as they float through the banking system, this ordinance helps establish a process that requires parties with a mortgage lien interest in the residential property to inspect the property once a foreclosure action has been initiated. If it is determined that the property is abandoned, the ordinance requires registration of the property with the commissioner of Neighborhood Services.

The City of Milwaukee can then regulate the regular maintenance of the property and impose a fine structure on the mortgage or banking companies that are neglecting their responsibilities to the property, the neighborhood and the public.

“The City of Milwaukee is working very hard to weather the foreclosure crisis and is providing a variety of resources to residents. One service we can also provide is to help make banks responsible for the properties they hold and help keep property values in our neighborhoods intact,” Alderman Bohl said.

Other resources are available to residents facing foreclosure, including a number of approved agencies to help with credit counseling and mortgage information help. Go to www.milwaukee.gov or www.mkedcd.org/milwaukeestrong for more information.

City’s TID Districts Could Provide Millions for Local Street Work, Create Jobs



Alderman Bohl is joined by several of his Common Council colleagues as he unveils his plan for utilizing city tax incremental districts for local roadwork.

An innovative proposal from Alderman Bohl to use millions from current and future city tax incremental districts (TIDs) to fund badly needed street reconstruction projects is being described as an ingenious way of paying for infrastructure work while also providing valuable training and job opportunities for city residents.

The proposal has strong Common Council support, too, evidenced by a recent unanimous passage by members of the Council on Alderman Bohl’s ordinance (file 090623) specifying street-paving costs be included in the plans for newly-created TIDs.

Alderman Bohl said the TID funding for roads plan (trumpeted earlier this year by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorial board) will initially be limited to a handful of TIDs and could free up millions for street reconstruction and maintenance work. If the initiative is extended citywide, project plans could be amended for some or all of the city’s other active tax incremental districts (TIDs) to increase the project costs for each district by the equivalent of approximately one year’s worth of the district’s incremental tax revenue. He said the additional project cost could then be used to fund street reconstruction work within one half mile of a TID boundary.

The ordinance covering newly-created TIDs would include paving projects anticipated to occur within the district and within one half-mile of the district’s boundaries within the next six years (as identified by the city’s most recent six-year local street paving program).

“Funding sorely needed infrastructure work using TID dollars will have little or no impact on our already overburdened present tax levy, while allowing us to also provide valuable jobs and training for city residents who will be hired on to good jobs that pay prevailing wages,” Alderman

Bohl said. “This plan is a win-win for the city of Milwaukee.”

According to the city’s Legislative Reference Bureau, the estimated aggregate annual tax increment for the 48 current city TIDs (May 2008) is \$30.27 million.

The plan comes after the recent passage of Wisconsin Senate Bill 223, which specifically allows cities to use TID funds for infrastructure improvements within a one-half mile radius of the TID district’s boundaries. According to Alderman Bohl, who met regularly with Common Council President Willie Hines and department heads to craft the strategy, the city Department of Public Works has already identified more than \$15 million in street work that meets the TID boundary criterion.

“The maintenance of our city streets and roadways is a core responsibility of local government,” said Alderman Bohl. “By converting portions of our TID funding to public works projects, we have the potential to catch up on overdue road projects while exponentially increasing job opportunities right here in Milwaukee.”

Alderman Bohl said a December 2008 City Comptroller audit report on residential street maintenance he initiated reported that city budgets have underfunded local street replacement and reconstruction for at least two decades, and that 214 miles of local streets (21%) are in poor condition.

To catch up on street maintenance, the audit suggested the city would need to appropriate approximately \$25.5 million per year to achieve a 1:1 ratio of service life to replacement cycle. For perspective, funding in recent years has been in the \$7 million range with the city riding a budget cycle blip from the state in its most recent budget allocation – a little over \$9 million for local road reconstruction, he said.

Capital Improvements Committee to Tackle Infrastructure

A recent Comptroller's audit examining the city's maintenance and replacement programs for local residential streets that was requested by Alderman Bohl offered a stark portrait of the condition of Milwaukee's streets, but it also offered scenarios whereby the city could "catch up" by investing several million dollars each year to repave and repair streets.

The audit's "catch up" scenarios exposed the critical need of better and smarter planning for repair and replacement of city infrastructure, and that sparked Alderman Bohl and his Common Council colleagues to create and approve the new Capital Improvements Committee (approved by the full Council on March 3, 2009).

Alderman Bohl, a longtime critic of the city's street paving program and reconstruction cycle, said the committee will help "greatly improve the status quo" by providing much needed oversight. "The audit made it crystal clear that the way we've been handling infrastructure repair and replacement is severely lacking coordination and oversight, and that's exactly what the Capital Improvements Committee will provide," he said.

The committee will develop, maintain, and update a long-term capital improvements strategy for the city's construction and maintenance of its infrastructure and facilities. The committee will evaluate individual city departmental capital improvement recommendations and prepare an annual six-year capital improvements plan based on city priorities and objectives.

Also, as a direct nod to the Comptroller's audit, the committee will prepare a report describing the condition of the city's infrastructure networks and facilities and the adequacy of effort made to preserve such infrastructure and facilities and eliminate any deferred capital maintenance. Based on these reports, each May the committee will submit to the Department of Administration Budget and Management Division a capital improvements budget for construction and maintenance of infrastructure and facilities for the ensuing fiscal year, and prepare semi-annual progress reports, with emphasis on the status of large-scale capital projects, for submission to the Common Council.

To see the detailed Council file that created the Capital Improvements Committee go to milwaukee.legistar.com and enter file number 081215.

State Disposal Fee Hike Sends Message: Recycle, Reuse & Reduce

The City of Milwaukee may pay an extra \$2 million in state taxes for garbage disposal. The 2009-2011 State of Wisconsin biennial budget increased state taxes on garbage disposal by over 120%. This raises City of Milwaukee tipping rates over 35% by October 1, 2009.

In light of these increases, Alderman Bohl said it's critical for residents to reduce the amount of solid waste generated that ultimately winds up in the landfill. A major suggestion is to recycle as many items as possible. Now more than ever, residents need to take these suggestions seriously to help minimize disposal costs and contain fee increases.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Recycle all recyclable items in your city recycling cart/bin including newspapers, junk mail, magazines, phone books, cardboard, metal food containers, glass jars and bottles and #1 and #2 plastic
- Donate used clothing, televisions, furniture and other items that still have a useful life to charities or second hand stores (visit MilwaukeeRecycles.com for a list of organizations)
- Grind up your leftover food scraps in your garbage disposal
- Use a compost bin for coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable scraps, leaves and other yard waste (visit www.mpw.net/Pages/compostbin.html)



City of Milwaukee Trick or Treat Saturday, October 31st, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Official Trick or Treat hours in the City of Milwaukee will be held on Saturday, October 31st from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Normally, if October 31st falls on a weekday the official hours are designated to be held on the following Sunday.

My Take On MPS Truancy Crisis

The news release from Milwaukee Public Schools sent back in September 2008 carried a headline of "The Facts on Truancy, Attendance in MPS."

Aside from the Legislative Audit Bureau's shocking revelation showing that 46% of MPS students are habitually truant, to me the release (and the headline) showed that MPS has its head firmly buried in the sand when it comes to "the facts" on truancy.

For example, the news release touted the district's 15-year partnership with the Milwaukee Police Department's TABS (Truancy Abatement and Burglary Suppression) program, which has two two-person MPD TABS squads combing the entire city for truant students. While chairing the city's Truancy Abatement Task Force, I was provided with MPS internal audit data that showed that the seven-year average for TABS student intakes was 19 students per day at both TABS locations. With an average of 4,000 MPS students unexcused for absence absent on any given school day, this means that TABS addresses .0025% of these absences.

The cumulative effect of having officers in two two-person units comb the entire city for truants is about as effective as handing two pails to two Titanic crewmen and saying "start bailing!"

The release also touted MPS involvement in the Milwaukee Alliance for Attendance – an almost inactive body that rarely meets – and it misleadingly referenced the 2006 state DPI target goal for attendance (85%) as if that's evidence that it's OK to suffer some level of truancy (although the state figure does not cover "habitual" truancy, which is rampant in MPS).

I have toured the TABS Program and been impressed with the work it does given its limited resources, but I believe it's time for MPS and the city to stand up and admit that what's being done to stop truancy isn't adequate.

I have and I will continue to appeal for greater resources to ensure kids are off the streets and in schools where they belong.



Know the Rules For Outdoor Fires

Ever wonder about rules for outdoor “fire pits?”

Alderman Bohl said although the City of Milwaukee code does not include the words “recreational fire pits” or “outdoor fireplaces,” it does include regulations for controlled outdoor fires. But he urges extreme caution because of the significant danger to life and property these fires can cause. “I know some residents enjoy a controlled outdoor fire from time to time, but personally I would not want the level of risk they pose – especially when a gust of wind can carry an ember into a child’s eye, into some dry brush, or even on to a home or garage,” he said.

Fire pits are *legal* given the following conditions:

1. CONTAINERS FOR OPEN BURNING.

- a. Open burning shall be conducted only in an approved and listed container or a substantial burner built of metal, concrete or brick, well covered or screened to prevent the escape of sparking and burning embers.
- b. A burner shall not be operated within 15 feet of any combustible construction. Open flame cooking devices, including charcoal burners and LP gas burners, are exempt from this requirement for one and 2-family dwellings.
- c. Open burning shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4- A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck shall be available for immediate utilization.

2. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.

The commissioner (of the Department of Neighborhood Services) may delegate limited authority to the police department to enforce open burning regulations.

To read more of the code, go to:
cctv25.milwaukee.gov/code/volume2/ch214.pdf

You Can Report Loud Car Stereos

People living, working and playing in our city are expected to obey all laws and adhere to certain acceptable levels of behavior that respect the privacy and dignity of their neighbors and others.

That latter expected level of behavior and discourse has been shattered in recent years by the ear-cracking, bass-thumping car stereos that seem to rattle our windows at all hours of the day and night. In an effort to help reduce those obnoxiously loud car stereos, the Common Council has approved an ordinance that allows Milwaukee citizens to take action by lodging complaints against owners of vehicles blasting excessively loud music or sounds generated by car stereos by simply providing a license plate number, the date and time of the violation and their name and contact information.

I am a proud sponsor of this newer ordinance, which was roundly approved by the Council.

So, here’s how it works:

- If you encounter a vehicle with loud music or sounds blaring from it, get the license plate info and please call the Milwaukee police non-emergency phone number – **933-4444**. Try to

remember the location and time you witnessed the vehicle, too.

The ordinance mirrors the city’s nuisance property ordinance, which allows the city to issue tickets and fines to property owners when police are called to investigate multiple complaints at a home or building. Under the nuisance vehicle loud noise ordinance, the owner of a vehicle that is the subject of a loud stereo complaint would receive a warning for the first complaint but would be charged for the cost of enforcement on any subsequent complaints, meaning fines of at least \$100 could be levied for each subsequent occurrence.

With the nuisance property ordinance, any unpaid fines or charges go directly on the owner’s property tax bill, and under this ordinance, charges and fines will go directly to the owner of the vehicle – no matter who might have been driving at the time of the violation.

I strongly encourage you and your neighbors to take advantage of this innovative tool that I believe can help reduce the level of noise that sometimes disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of our homes and neighborhoods.



Silver Lane Business Improvement District

Alderman Bohl has been working on forming a Silver Lane Business Improvement District (BID) which would include businesses on both Lover’s Lane and W. Silver Spring Dr.

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a public/private partnership in which property and business owners elect to make a collective contribution to the maintenance and development of their particular commercial district. A BID takes on a variety of activities some of which include streetscape projects, litter removal, business development, media and public relations and public safety enhancement. A BID not only promotes a positive image of a commercial district, but also a BID

structure helps serve as an economic development tool for business associations, merchant groups and community development corporations.

The Silver Lane BID would be designed to enhance the commercial district near Lover’s Lane and Silver Spring through streetscaping and safety improvements, which will help local businesses. Alderman Bohl has been instrumental in bringing property owners, who want to beautify the intersection between Lover’s Lane and Silver Spring, together.

Alderman Bohl hopes the Silver Lane BID will be approved by the Common Council in November 2009.

Pilot Program Attacking Nuisance Properties Combines Resources, Making an Impact

The Milwaukee Police Department's 4th Police District, working with Alderman Bohl, has instituted a new program to address nuisance properties that's making headway. In collaboration with the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) and Housing Division in the County's Department of Health and Human Services, the program is aimed to help turn around a cycle of chronic nuisance households and non-responsive landlords in Milwaukee neighborhoods.

The project involves the police department sharing nuisance property information and other potentially serious police reports with the housing entities at the city and county. This information on tenant run-ins with the law and potential landlord unresponsiveness could be used in program eligibility hearings for landlords or tenants in the federally funded Section 8 housing program. Section 8 housing allows tenants to secure quality housing and only pay 30 to 40% of their income while federal monies cover the gap. The bonus to landlords is a guaranteed payment from the city or county through the local administration of federal funds each month.

In just the first couple months of the project, police checked 791 4th District MPD addresses listed with the Section 8 program for nuisance activity. Of those 791 addresses that were checked, 33 separate addresses/properties were either written up with a first letter, received a

rejection letter, were charged for police services, or the owner responded and their abatement plan worked (which would then make the property listed as an ABATED nuisance property), according to Alderman Bohl.

"HACM and the County's Housing Division do not have the resources to keep updated criminal records on all of their participants or to investigate every nuisance property immediately. With the help of District 4's program, the information will be proactively shared with the housing authorities and that's very enabling," Alderman Bohl said.

According to the Housing Authority, there is a 14- to 18-month waiting list to participate in the Section 8 program.

The effort to step up enforcement by sharing police department reports was proposed by Captain Eric Moore and Lt. Charles Berard of the 4th Police District to Alderman Bohl as a means of creating greater accountability in the Section 8 program. "I appreciate the work of current Capt. Jerome O'Leary, Lt. Berard and the police community liaison officer at District 4, Julie Strache, who handle the nuisance property monitoring," the alderman said. "Their out-of-the-box thinking has the potential to really shake things up when it comes to landlord and tenant accountability."

For Sale Vehicles Will Need Permit if Parked in Public Right of Way

The days of slapping a "For Sale" sign in the back window of your vehicle and parking it out on the street in Milwaukee are over. The ordinance is not supported by Alderman Bohl.

A Common Council vote on April 14, 2009 approved a citywide ordinance requiring any vehicle for sale on public property to display a special \$40 city permit, no matter if the vehicle currently displays valid day and/or night parking permits. Specifically, the ordinance requires a seller to meet certain criteria and then purchase the \$40 permit from the Department of Public Works before a vehicle could be parked on the street or in a public lot

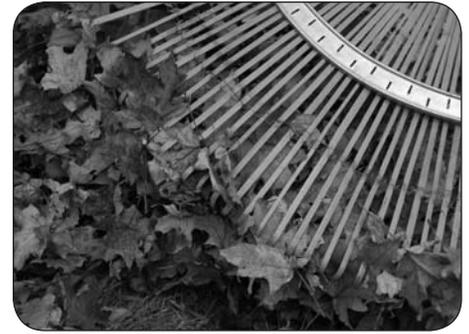
with a "For Sale" sign on it. The criteria that must be met to receive a permit include proving that the applicant owns the vehicle or that the applicant has the permission of the owner to sell the vehicle on the owner's behalf. Also, the vehicle's identification number cannot be altered in such a way as to render it illegible. Each "For Sale" vehicle will require a permit and each permit will be valid for six months.

The city will be able to tow parked for sale vehicles not displaying the permits.

Alderman Bohl said the ordinance was intended for aldermanic districts with more density and larger numbers of neighborhood-level vehicle sales. "I believe this law is excessive, arbitrary, and confusing in that it creates blanket language covering the entire city when it was really meant for areas where these 'for sale' cars are a bigger problem," he said.

"It's not a good fit for the 5th District," he said.

The permits will be sold only at the city tow lot, 3811 W. Lincoln Ave., during its normal business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.).



Rake Leaves Into the Street

City of Milwaukee residents can rake leaves into the street from October 1st through November 15th for pickup by city crews. After November 15th leaves can be taken to a city self help center (the center most convenient for 5th District residents is located at 6660 N. Industrial Rd.). City crews will wrap up leaf collection efforts the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Residents are asked to rake their leaves into the street at the curb for collection by Department of Public Works Sanitation Division crews. **After November 15th, sanitation crews will still pick up remaining leaf piles as long as weather permits.** If you still have leaves not yet raked into the street, after street collection ceases you must bag them and take them to a city self help center for disposal.

For more information, the DPW Call Center is available during business days from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (414) 286-CITY (2489). You can always make other special pickup requests online, at any time of day, using DPW's online direct service request form (go to www.mpw.net).

Sanitation Services urges residents to do the following:

- Do not put leaves in plastic bags.
- Put Halloween pumpkins in your green garbage cart or on a compost pile, not on leaf piles in the street.
- Please keep debris, such as flowers and vegetable plants on top of your leaf piles at the curb.
- Do not put brush in the leaf piles.
- Keep piles away from sewer grates.
- Keep debris away from storm drains in the street.
- Do not put plastic bags of leaves in the street. Empty them and put the empty plastic bags in the garbage. The leaves collected by the city are composted but plastic bags will not decompose.

Large amounts of branches should be piled away from overhanging trees. Call (414) 286-CITY (2489) for a special brush pickup or go to www.mpw.net to make a direct service request online.



Pay Tickets or Get the Boot

Not paying City of Milwaukee parking tickets could lead to the booting, towing and impounding of parked vehicles under recent legislation authored by Alderman Bohl.

The Common Council legislation directs the city's Intergovernmental Relations Division to seek introduction of state legislation to allow for the towing/booting and impounding of vehicles for unpaid parking citations and allowing the city to refuse releasing the vehicles until all outstanding citations are paid or adjudicated.

Alderman Bohl said the recent ordinance change, allowing the city to tow and impound parked vehicles not displaying proper registration stickers, has been effective, and this change would be similar, he said.



"There's a small percentage of people who thumb their noses at paying fines, and in hard economic times this translates into tens of millions of dollars in unpaid fines," he said. "It's an insult to those who pay their fines, taxes and other obligations on time."

The City of Milwaukee's Outstanding Debt Task Force in 2005 submitted a final report that recommends the move to get state legislation to allow for the towing/booting and impounding of vehicles for unpaid parking citations and refusal to release the vehicles until all outstanding citations are paid or adjudicated.

ALDERMAN Jim BOHL



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Jim Bohl

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"Between a Rock and a Hard Place" – An Eye-Opening Report

In August 2009 the Public Policy Forum issued "Milwaukee's Fiscal Condition: Between a Rock and a Hard Place – an independent third-party analysis," a report presenting an analysis of the fiscal condition of the City of Milwaukee government, applying a professional financial evaluation system of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Alderman Bohl strongly suggests that city residents, taxpayers and stakeholders read the report. "The report details how state reductions and restrictions on tax aids are negatively impacting city government, as well as the problems it's causing for property values and businesses of every size," he said.

"In other words the report gives readers a glimpse of the major challenges we face as a city, and why the Common Council and the Mayor are considering fairly drastic budget reductions that will greatly impact city services for years to come," he said.

Please go to www.publicpolicyforum.org/pdfs/CityOfMilwaukeeFiscalCondition.pdf to see the report document.

PLEASE BE ADVISED

CALL FOR ACTION BOOKLETS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE

One Call For City Info

286-CITY (286-2489). That one number can connect you with 21 departments, 8,800 employees and 100s of city services, ranging from building permits to parking permission to library hours to garbage pickups. Ald. Bohl says this one-stop number for city services makes it even easier to find the right department and person to handle your complaint or request. Residents will still call 911 for emergencies but can use the new number for any other calls. Of course you can always call Ald. Bohl's office at 286-3870. And the following important phone numbers are still active:

Important Phone Numbers

Common Council	286-2221
Mayor Tom Barrett.....	286-2200
Fire/Police/Ambulance	911
Fire - non-emergency	286-8999
Police - non-emergency	933-4444
Dist 4 non-emergency	935-7242
Dist 7 non-emergency	935-7272
Health Department.....	286-3616
Domestic Violence/assault.....	286-2997
Parking Hotline.....	286-8350
Public Works.....	286-2489
<i>(special pickups, street lights, potholes, garbage/trash pickups, water, sewers)</i>	
Graffiti hotline	286-8715
Nuisance issues.....	286-2268
<i>(debris, litter, abandoned/illegally parked vehicles, code violations, landlord/tenant problems)</i>	
City of Milwaukee Web Site	www.milwaukee.gov