

Alderman

Robert W. Puente

9th District



WINTER 2009

Dear 9th District Residents,

As your alderman I've sworn to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the 9th District, and across our great city. This vow I will never compromise, even when the economy is spiraling and times are as tough as they are now. I don't gloss over things, and I will always give it to you straight.

While this newsletter includes some news that's difficult to deal with (see page 5 city budget story or page 6 story on state disposal fee), it also contains good news about crime (see pages 6 and 7) and about developments (see pages 2 and 3). The reality is that crime is headed in a downward direction, and businesses are still investing in Milwaukee and the 9th District. I promise I will continue doing all I can to make sure those positive trends continue.

In this newsletter you'll find information on efforts to fight the H1N1 flu, a new prescription discount program, a display focused on the City Hall restoration project, the Block Watch Program, tips to help you prepare for the winter season, ways you can access my office and city services via computer, and much, much more.

Please have a safe and peaceful holiday and winter season.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Puente
Alderman - 9th District



CONTACT INFORMATION

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair
Ambulance Service Board

Vice Chair
Public Safety Committee

Member
Public Works Committee
Housing Authority



Display Focused on City Hall Restoration

Milwaukee City Hall Restoration artifacts and informational boards will be on display at the Milwaukee County Historical Society, 910 N. Old World Third St., until July 31, 2010.

The roughly three-year award winning City Hall exterior restoration project was completed in late 2008. Restoring the 114-year-old National Historic Landmark and architectural gem was a huge project that included replacing bricks and mortar, terra cotta, copper, roofing, and structural elements. Also, all of the building's 1,900 windows were removed and retrofitted with energy efficient glass.

As a member of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, Alderman Puente closely monitored the restoration project, which was completed on time and on budget.

Alderman Puente Named Board Chairman

Members of the city's Ambulance Service Board have elected Alderman Puente the board's chairman.

A member of the Ambulance Service Board since 2008, Alderman Puente now guides the panel in its deliberations and actions. The board serves primarily in an advisory capacity to the Common Council's Public Safety Committee (Alderman Puente is vice chair of that committee) in matters regarding certificates for ambulance service providers participating in the city's emergency medical services system.

Appointed by Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Alderman Puente's term on the Ambulance Service Board expires April 16, 2012.



Milwaukee's Future:
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

April 1, 2010 is Census Day!

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Find out more at: www.milwaukee.gov/2010census

DEVELOPMENTS

Alderman Puente Helps Open Huge New Pick 'n Save

The large (102,000 square feet) and bustling new 24-hour Super Pick 'n Save store at 7401 W. Good Hope Rd. held an opening in October that was truly "grand," Alderman Puente said.

"Roundy's Supermarkets is and has been a generous corporate citizen and partner in our community, and the grand opening celebration included live music, specials and an opening ceremony featuring generous donations to local charities," he said, referring to \$1,000 donations made to two area churches (see photos below).

The new Super Pick 'n Save at 7401 W. Good Hope Rd. employs 200 workers and is in a building that formerly housed a Home Depot. The new store replaces the former Pick 'n Save at 7830 W. Good Hope Rd.

The new store features a bank, liquor store, and pharmacy.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Pick 'n Save included Alderman Puente and (from left) Tony Doran of Maple Terrace Block Watch, Milwaukee Municipal Court Judge Valarie Hill, Pick 'n Save store director Joe Verdeyen, Pick 'n Save director of area operations Bob LaBello and Bob Kucharski of Hawokeye Block Watch.



Roundy's Supermarket Makes Donations

As part of the festivities at the opening of the new Pick 'n Save, Roundy's Supermarket, Inc., made donations to two area agencies.

Alderman Puente was joined (from left) by Rev. Dr. Willie Little, Jr., associate pastor at St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pick 'n Save store director Joe Verdeyen, St. Peter-Immanuel food pantry coordinator Darlene Feinberg, Rev. Donald Weiss, administrative pastor at St. Peter-Immanuel and Pick 'n Save director of area operations Bob LaBello, for the presentation of the \$1,000 donation to the St. Peter-Immanuel food pantry.



Christ the King Baptist Church, 7750 N. 60th St., received a \$1,000 donation for their Samaritan Project, Inc., a literacy program offered by the church. Alderman Puente was joined (from left) by Pick 'n Save store director Joe Verdeyen, Ministry and Program Development Director at Christ the King Baptist Church Sharron Jewel, Carla Washington from the Samaritan Project, and Pick 'n Save director of area operations Bob LaBello at the presentation of the donation.

Developments:

Rocky Rococo's is opening a new location at 8300 W. Brown Deer Rd. (the old Boston Market location). They plan to be open for business in December.

Weld Specialties, a distributor of welding supplies and industrial gases, is expanding its facilities at 8929 N. 107th St. They made improvements to their products showroom and are also planning a 7,500 square foot addition.



Design Specialties recently invested in a state of the art 40,000 square foot factory at 11100 W. Heather Ave. They manufacture custom, high quality glass fireplace doors and are recognized as the leading product and design innovator in the industry. They have been in business since 1983.



At 8701 N. Lauer St. (N. Lauer and W. Brittany Way – just south of Brown Deer Rd.), work is far along on the 10,000 square foot office building and training facility for the **Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International (OPCMIA) Union Local 599**. OPCMIA represents plasterers and cement masons in the construction industry.

Western Products, 7777 N. 73rd St. is combining two parcels of land in order to accommodate additional facilities. Western Products is a leading manufacturer of snow plows for four-wheel drive pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles. They also produce snow and ice removal equipment, such as sand and salt spreaders.



As evidenced by this photo taken in November from just outside the Job Corps site near N. 60th St. and W. Green Tree Rd., work on constructing the multi-building facility is moving ahead steadily, with plans for the center to be in full operation in September 2010.

Buildings Going Up at Job Corps Site

Construction crews have truly been hard at work at the Job Corps site near N. 60th St. and W. Green Tree Rd. Alderman Puente, who has toured the site and received updates from the U.S. Department of Labor Job Corps office, said the campus is taking shape. "Once crews finished up the primary foundation, infrastructure and underground utilities work, the buildings started to take shape and the site has truly been transformed," he said.

Alderman Puente said federal officials are hopeful to have buildings completed and open by the end of the year, and they've indicated that bids for the center's overall operations are being reviewed, with the likelihood that an operator will be named by March 2010.

The Job Corps facility will include educational buildings, dormitories, a cafeteria and recreational facilities serving 250 students. The Milwaukee location will be the second Job Corps facility in Wisconsin and will provide enrolled students with the opportunities to learn a trade, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find a quality job.



During the summer of 2009 Alderman Puente (center) was given a guided tour of the Job Corps site to see firsthand the progress of construction work at the campus.

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 W. 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.

Visit www.milwaukee.gov/hazardouswaste for more information.

Self-Help Centers

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. The centers are located at 6660 N. Industrial Rd. and 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. Please visit us on the web at www.milwaukee.gov/selfhelpcenters to see acceptable items and schedules for our centers.

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.



Beware Illegal Dumping

Unfortunately, once again Alderman Puente has been advised that when the Self Help Center on N. Industrial Rd. is closed, some people have been illegally dumping their material at the front gate.

BE FOREWARNED: Milwaukee police are giving special attention and surveillance to deal with the problem.

Bring Block Watch Program to 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 of the program in the 9th district. "If you join forces with your neighbors and form a Block Watch group, you will become proactive in improving the quality of life in the 9th District," said Ald. 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, call 286-2868.

License Plate Sticker Theft – Don't Be An Easy Target

Did you know that state law and city ordinance requires you to properly display valid vehicle registration while parked in the public right-of-way even if you are registered with the State of Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles? You must have a license plate and an annual registration sticker or your vehicle may be cited and towed. Make sure that your license plate is attached to the rear bumper of your vehicle and the annual registration sticker is placed in the lower right hand corner of your rear license plate.

Don't let thieves ruin your day by making it easier for them to steal your license plate or your annual registration sticker. Reduce your chances of being a victim of crime by following this advice: **Install a license plate frame with a clear plexiglass cover over the rear license plate to protect the license plate as well as the registration sticker.** Although it may not prevent every theft, it will make it more difficult for the criminal. If you are the victim of theft of your license plate or registration sticker, immediately report it to any State of Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicle Service Center or call (414) 266-1000.

The City of Milwaukee's 2010 Budget

By Alderman Puente

Public safety is one of my top priorities and that was reflected in my votes on the city's 2010 budget. The entire \$1.44 billion city budget was approved 13-2 on November 6.

The Council worked to reduce unpaid furloughs for police officers, and no police officers or firefighters will be laid off.

Mayor Barrett vetoed the Council's action to reduce the number of MPD furlough days from his proposed four to one. The mayor's veto action to restore one of the cut furlough days was sustained by the Council on November 24.

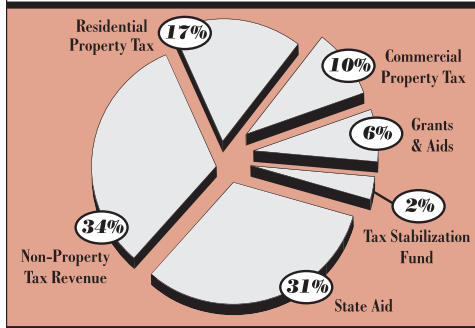
Falling property values have pushed up tax rates overall, however, and the combined tax rate for Milwaukee homeowners (including county, city and MPS rates) will rise from \$24.03 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$25.98.

The budget included some important changes in our public works practices, including recycling collection that will take place regularly every three weeks -- an increase from the once-a-month pick ups of prior years.

Also, as a Council we voted to freeze our own wages for two years (the same freeze affecting most other city workers) and we are included in the four furlough days. We restored funding cuts to the city Arts Board.

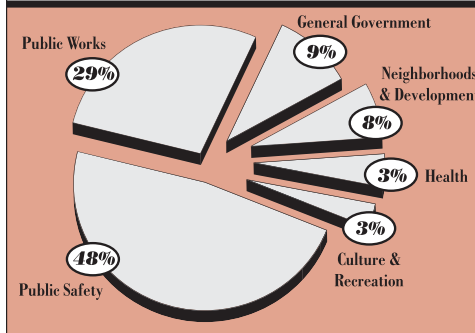
The amended 2010 tax rate is \$8.89 per \$1,000 of assessed value, and the tax levy will increase 4.1% -- going from more than \$237 million for 2009 to \$246.8 million for 2010. The mayor's original budget called for a levy increase of 4.4%. The new tax levy means that the owner of a \$150,000 home will see a \$120.00 increase in the city portion of the tax bill, from \$1,213.50 to \$1,333.50.

2010 Budget Sources of City Revenue*



Non-Property Tax Revenue (\$ IN MILLIONS)	\$ 291
State Aid	\$ 271
Property Taxes: Residential	\$ 149
Property Taxes: Commercial	\$ 85
Grant & Aid Projects	\$ 53
Tax Stabilization Fund (TSF)	\$ 13
* Total	\$ 862

City Services Provided by this Revenue*



Public Safety (\$ IN MILLIONS)	\$ 410
Public Works	\$ 254
General Government	\$ 79
Neighborhoods & Development	\$ 68
Culture & Recreation	\$ 28
Health	\$ 23
* Total	\$ 862

*Excludes G.O. debt service paid by the City for MPS purposes.

City Hall Complex Earns LEED Certification

Milwaukee's City Hall complex has been honored for its energy and resource efficiency. The complex has earned a Silver rating from the U.S. Green Building Council through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

Accepted by Mayor Barrett during a September 2009 ceremony, the LEED certification was in the "Existing Buildings" category, and the City Hall complex earned a Silver rating, having gained 45 of a possible 92 LEED points. There are more than 3,000 LEED certified buildings in the U.S., but none -- as far as research has determined -- has included a National Historic Landmark such as City Hall.

The complex includes the historic City Hall building, the Zeidler Municipal Building and the 809 Building, which boast 666,446 square feet of space.

Alderman Puente, a member of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, said efforts to improve energy efficiency in the City Hall complex have been ongoing for decades, and gained momentum during a major interior renovation in the mid-1990s and again after Mayor Barrett took office.

"This administration has done an outstanding job of making sustainability and 'green' initiatives a high priority," said Alderman Puente. "We're proud of the LEED certification, and we're even happier that our efforts to save energy have helped control and reduce our use of energy here at City Hall."



Town Hall Meeting

In late October more than 200 people attended Alderman Puente's town hall meeting at Direct Supply, Inc., 6767 N. Industrial Rd. Also taking part in the lively and informative meeting were (from left): Commissioner of the Department of Public Works Jeff Mantes, Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee Police Department Assistant Chief Gregory Habeck, and MPD 4th District Capt. Jerome O'Leary. Attending but not shown: Art Dahlberg, commissioner of the Department of Neighborhood Services.

Get Information You Need Via the Internet

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.

E-Service Request

Another city initiative called E-Service Request 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.

Go to www.milwaukee.gov/eservices to sign up. By using E-Service Request you can register a request, resolve an issue or express an opinion.

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.

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.



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%. Effective October 1, 2009, this raised City of Milwaukee tipping rates more than 35%.

In light of these increases, **Alderman Puente 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:

- 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 www.milwaukee.gov/recyclingideas 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.milwaukee.gov/compost)

Crime Stats Moving in the Right Direction

Alderman Puente said he is pleased by the overall reduction in crime and violent crime in Milwaukee reflected in statistics released by Milwaukee police in October.

According to the MPD statistics, overall crime decreased 12.3% through the first nine months of this year when compared with the same period in 2008, **marking the seventh consecutive quarter in which crime has dropped in the city.**

Violent crime – including homicides, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults – are down 18.2% when compared with 2008 and 25.2% when compared with 2007, according to the data.

"That's huge – and very good news for our city," Alderman Puente said of the one-quarter decrease in violent crime in two years.

"Milwaukee officers and command staff – all the way from Chief Edward Flynn down to district commanders, our patrol officers and all support staff of the MPD – deserve great credit for doing the things that are keeping our crime numbers on the downward slide," he said. "Block Watch groups, businesses and citizens are also a part of the equation, as they've developed stronger communication and connections with MPD in recent years, which helps prevent crime and leads to safer neighborhoods."

Property crimes -- burglaries, thefts, auto thefts and arsons -- decreased 11.1% when compared with 2008 and 12.2% when compared with 2007, the statistics show.

The number of homicides in the city in the first nine months of this year, 56, is the same as the total for the first nine months of 2008, but last year's total of 71 homicides was the city's lowest number of killings since 1985.

Auto theft dropped 30.5% when compared with the first nine months of 2008 and 37.2% when compared with the same period in 2007, a decrease that Chief Flynn has called "remarkable."

Milwaukee has Prescription Discount Program

City residents have the opportunity to save on prescriptions because Milwaukee is participating in the National League of Cities' (NLC) Prescription Discount Card Program (administered by CVS Caremark Corporation), Alderman Puente said.

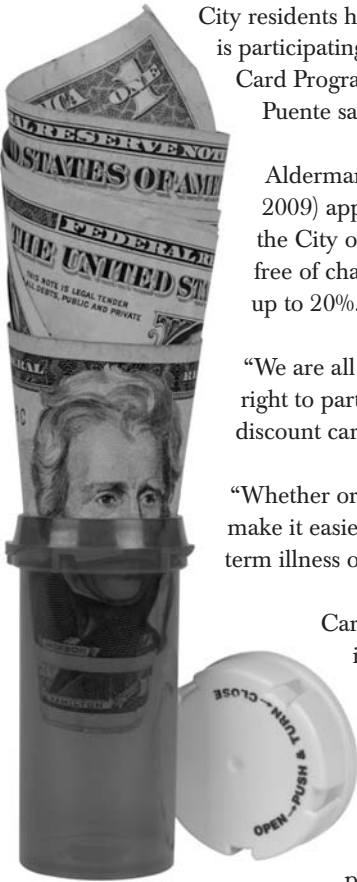
Alderman Puente voted in favor of a Common Council resolution (April 2009) approving the city's participation in the free program, which allows the City of Milwaukee to offer prescription drug discount cards to residents free of charge. Cardholders may be eligible for discounts that average up to 20%.

"We are all affected by the current economic climate, and as a city we were right to partner with the National League of Cities to make this prescription discount card available for our residents," said Alderman Puente.

"Whether or not an individual has prescription coverage, this program can make it easier for residents to afford the drugs they need to deal with a short-term illness or to stay healthy by managing a chronic condition," he said.

Cards are available at several locations throughout the city, including all Milwaukee Health Department clinics and several community clinics and organizations at no cost to city residents. City residents can call toll-free 1-888-620-1749 or visit www.milwaukee.gov/health or www.caremark.com/nlc for assistance with the program.

The discount cards are good at more than 59,000 participating pharmacies across the nation and at over 80 Milwaukee locations.



FREE Landlord Training

The award winning landlord training program operates out of 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 throughout the year and advance registration is required. Call program assistant Jeanne Hagner at 286-2954 or email her at jhagne@milwaukee.gov to schedule.

DNS is in the process of setting up sessions for 2010. These dates will be posted online at our website once they are confirmed.

To learn more, please visit us online at: www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining

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.



Forbes' Magazine – Milwaukee is 2nd Safest U.S. City

The Milwaukee metro area ranked second safest on Forbes' magazine's list of the nation's 40 largest metro areas in four categories: violent crime, workplace deaths, traffic fatalities and natural disaster risk.

The list, released in October, said the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis area ranked No. 1 in having a low natural disaster risk, but ranked second overall to the safest city, Minneapolis-St. Paul, which ranked in the top 10 in all four categories.

The Milwaukee area ranked fourth-best in traffic deaths, 11th in workplace deaths, and was 24th out of the 40 metros in violent crime. Portland, Oregon, ranked third, and Boston and Seattle tied for fourth in Forbes' rankings.



Alderman
Robert W. Puente
9th District

WINTER 2009

Have A Safe & Enjoyable Winter!

Disposing of Holiday Trees

City of Milwaukee residents have two options for dealing with the removal and disposal of trees.

Garbage collection crews will pick up the tree if it is placed where the garbage is collected. If your garbage collection is in an alley, holiday trees must be placed at the alley line for collection, not on the street. Only those residents whose garbage is collected from the street may place their tree at the curb to be picked up. Trees collected by garbage crews will be taken to a landfill.

Under the state recycling law, trees may be disposed of in landfills because they are not considered yard waste. Trees may also be taken to a Self-Help Center where they will be composted for use by city forestry crews. The Self-Help Center nearest the 9th District is at 6660 N. Industrial Rd.

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

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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 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 Puente 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 the city’s website for specific information about vaccinations, the availability of vaccines, and other helpful information,” he said.

For more information, call the flu hotline at 211 or visit our website at www.milwaukee.gov/flu.

Salvation Army Sandwich Making at Red Arrow Park



At the 2009 Feed the Kids kickoff, Alderman Puente was one of the volunteers who helped to make a total of 1,800 lunches for Milwaukee children. Over 75% of Milwaukee County students are eligible for free or reduced rate school lunches. The Salvation Army Feed the Kids Summer Lunch Program is the only mobile summer feeding program in the City of Milwaukee and is a major contributor in continuing nutritional care throughout the summer and meeting the needs of children in the Greater Milwaukee area.