

ALDERMAN Jim BOHL



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

Dear Neighbor:

As autumn has greeted us with a beautiful splash of colors that reminds us of just how lucky we are to live in an area with an abundant canopy of trees, my newsletter brings you valuable news about your city government. As always I have included articles that inform and illustrate my efforts to promote positive change and to support the values and quality of life of our residents.

In this edition of my newsletter you will read about my efforts to facilitate an exciting new community garden, my work on clamping down on “short term” loan stores that prey on Milwaukee consumers, my efforts to help fix the city’s broken street repair and maintenance system, a proposal I’ve authored to regulate for-profit donation bins, some good news for the Hartung Park project and many other informative items. You will also find articles about city services that will help you get ready for winter.

As always, if you have issues I can assist you with or suggestions for improving our city, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Have a safe and enjoyable fall season. It is truly a pleasure serving you.

Sincerely,

Jim Bohl

Alderman, 5th District



Committee Assignments

VICE CHAIR • Licenses Committee

MEMBER • Judiciary & Legislation Committee

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

Ald. Bohl To Host Fall Town Hall Meeting

Ald. Bohl has scheduled a 5th District town hall meeting, an opportunity for you to talk about the important issues facing your neighborhoods and to voice your concerns. The meeting will be held **Monday, November 26 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.** in the library at Milwaukee Lutheran High School, 9700 W. Grantosa Dr. Please enter the set of doors at the western end of the canopied walkway. *I hope to see you there!*

One Call That’s All...286-CITY (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, library hours to garbage pickups.

Ald. Bohl says the city continues to seek ways to improve communications with residents, and 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.



Ald. Bohl (seated) welcomed foreign exchange students from Germany when they visited City Hall this summer. Kimberly Montgomery of the Mayor’s Office (seated far left), served as a liaison for the group, which was hosted by the Milwaukee School of Languages, located in the 5th District.

Council Adopts Ald. Bohl's Installment Loan Store Resolution

An ordinance written by Ald. Bohl is now helping to rein in installment loan outlets that prey on city residents.

In September the full Common Council passed Ald. Bohl's ordinance, which allows the city to rezone business categories related to short-term loan agencies.

Successful previous efforts by Ald. Bohl to restrict businesses that have been associated with predatory lending practices – payday loan stores and title loan outlets – resulted in many “installment loan” or “short term loan” stores popping up in the city to evade regulation.

These short-term loan businesses pose the same potential for problems that have been associated with their payday loan “cousin” facilities – namely predatory lending, gaudy signage, the perception of a neighborhood in decline and the risk of increased crime. Ald. Bohl's ordinance forces short-term installment businesses to apply for a special use zoning permit before they can operate. This process requires a public hearing where neighbors and the alderman can fight against the issuance of this permit.

Ald. Bohl said debt-inducing outlets such as payday loan stores and short-term loan outlets can bring a broad range of problems to neighborhoods. “These businesses can bring financial ruin to people who don't realize what the terms of the loan are and/or what the interest is on the money they're borrowing,” he said.

“These loan outlets can also attract negative attention to a neighborhood and can cause people to look at an area in a negative light, and I believe it's part of my job to fight against that,” the alderman said.

Donation Boxes Spur Need For Regulations

Ald. Bohl has sponsored an ordinance that regulates the large clothing, shoe and goods donation bins that are popping up across the city.

Most of these bins are not a part of the churches or charity organizations they are often placed near; rather, they are part of a company's campaign to gather goods for sale overseas. Many of us may deposit our goods in the boxes thinking we're sharing our wares with those less fortunate, but reinforced with the news of items being shipped overseas for big profit, Ald. Bohl has taken action. “Because the city cannot legally remove the boxes, the idea is to over-regulate them to the point where we drive them out,” he said.

“Not only are these red and sometimes blue bins deceiving good-hearted residents, often their contents are not removed in a timely fashion and junk accumulates around them. They have become a visible eye-sore in our community,” Ald. Bohl said.

The ordinance, which was passed by the Common Council in October, sets clear rules for the donation bins and requires their owners apply for and maintain permits for use. Other requirements include that the permits be clearly displayed and that the bin's owner must keep it free of graffiti and clear of accumulated debris/items. Liability insurance and strict regulations for where the bins may be placed as well as a requirement of three inch lettering on the bin's front informing potential donors if the company is for-profit are also part of the proposed ordinance. If the bin owner fails to adhere to the regulations, the ordinance also includes a means for the city to seize the bins.

“I encourage charitable giving, but to be fooled into thinking your donation stays in the community and helps those in need is what I'd like to prevent,” the alderman said.

Residents may consider donating their goods to local, reputable organizations like churches, Goodwill or the Salvation Army. If you're interested in learning more about local charity options, go to www.charity-charities.org/charities/WI/Milwaukee.html for a list of just some of the agencies doing work in the Milwaukee area.

Get 5th District Info Via E-Notify

Are you interested in receiving information from Ald. Bohl concerning news and information affecting the 5th 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 Ald. Bohl sends out a notification. Go to www.milwaukee.gov/enotify to sign up – make sure you check the “5th District News and Information” category.

In addition to 5th 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.

NOTE: State election law prohibits use of the E-Notify system by elected officials between December 1 and early April during an election year.

Home Grown: Community Garden Sprouts A Successful Start

Hard work by a coalition of dedicated groups has brought a unique community asset to the 5th Aldermanic District.

A special dedication event was held at the Maple Tree/Millwood Park community garden, 10400 W. Daphne St. (east of Maple Tree School), on Saturday, August 18. Hosted by Ald. Bohl, it included Mayor Tom Barrett, MPS Superintendent William Andrekopoulos, Will Allen of Growing Power, neighborhood residents and a large group of contributing volunteers and stakeholders. Clouds and a few raindrops didn't dampen the celebration as residents and volunteers also worked a bit on the garden and enjoyed a hearty cookout.

Ald. Bohl, who championed the project at City Hall and spearheaded the effort to bring in partners and funds to support it, said the Maple Tree/Millwood Park community garden is the product of a coordinated effort of the City of Milwaukee, Growing Power, Maple Tree School (MPS), the Millwood Park Neighborhood Association, the Granville Heritage Neighborhood Association, West Granville Presbyterian Church and area businesses, churches and individuals. "Over the past year-and-a-half this coalition has worked diligently to foster the creation of a community garden to serve Maple Tree School and the surrounding neighborhood," he said, noting that the coalition raised \$12,000 in direct and indirect contributions to support the project.

"The garden represents the first MPS recreational site partnership for the non-profit Growing Power, which has a proven record of success in their promotion of urban community gardens in the City of Milwaukee and across the country to produce healthy home-grown food," Ald. Bohl said.

A June resolution by the MPS Board of School Directors approved the two-acre garden site at Maple Tree. Vegetables planted at the site will include items like collared greens, carrots and turnips and the hope is to have the garden's first yield later this season.



The new Maple Tree/Millwood Park community garden was dedicated during a special ceremony and celebration held in August at the two-acre garden site just east of Maple Tree School. Joining Ald. Bohl at the ceremony and also speaking were (pictured - background); Maple Tree Principal Deb Jupka, Pastor Dee Anderson, Mayor Tom Barrett and former Milwaukee County Supv. and Growing Power board member Robert Krug.

As part of its involvement in the partnership, Maple Tree School is including urban agriculture as part of its school curriculum, summer school program and Community Learning Center activities to promote sustainable farming methods, entrepreneurial skills and healthy eating habits. The garden will not only benefit the students of Maple Tree School, but plots will also be provided to children and families of the surrounding Millwood Park Neighborhood.



City of Milwaukee website
www.city.milwaukee.gov

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



City Hall News Conference

In October Ald. Bohl led a City Hall news conference where he and other Council members demanded immediate implementation of the plan for redrawing Milwaukee police district boundaries. The plan has been in the works for some time and was initially set to take effect in February 2007, but seemingly constant delays have kept it on the shelf.

Joining Ald. Bohl at the news conference were (from left): Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.; Ald. Willie C. Wade; and Ald. Michael J. Murphy.

Fix Needed For Broken Street Maintenance System

Long before this summer's media report detailing a grim study about the City of Milwaukee's badly backlogged street maintenance program, Ald. Bohl had been working on possible ways to fix the city's broken street repair system.

In fact for years Ald. Bohl called for the city to end what he terms its "Band-Aid approach" to street maintenance, and back in July the Common Council's Public Works Committee heard his proposed resolution that would authorize the Council to hire a consultant to review and evaluate the condition of city streets and its maintenance and reconstruction procedures. While the proposed resolution was held, Ald. Bohl's proposal spurred him to request that City Comptroller Wally Morics initiate an audit of city infrastructure and maintenance and work internally with a consultant to provide prospective policy changes for the mayor and Council.

Comptroller Morics cited in an August media report a 163-year average timeline to repair neighborhood streets in Milwaukee. Ald. Bohl said the Comptroller's study aptly describes the serious shortcomings of the city's current street maintenance program, but a deeper, broader review is needed as soon as possible.

"Over the past two decades we've witnessed a rapid decline of road conditions and a near dismantling of the city's road maintenance system," Ald. Bohl said. "And I'm afraid our patchwork approach to road maintenance in recent years has led us to a point where residents have literally lost faith in city government's ability to keep streets and alleys safe and in good repair. Part of any solution to Milwaukee's street maintenance problems must be a strategy that ensures a more cost effective way for the city to maintain roadways," Ald. Bohl said.

A systematic decline in the conditions of city roadways is perhaps most visible during the freeze-and-thaw period of late winter and spring, when potholes proliferate on streets throughout Milwaukee.

The city has had to weigh "difficult choices" in recent years when faced with road repair decisions, Ald. Bohl said, but he also contends three factors have exacerbated the problem:

- A large increase in the assessable portion (the amount paid by adjacent property owners) of project costs. Starting in 2002 the share went from the city picking up 75% of the cost to a point where nearly

half the cost is paid by property owners and this has resulted in about 2/3 of proposed street and alley repaving projects being voted down by residents.

- Deep cuts in regular road maintenance and tarring.
- Drastic movement away from sustainable roadway repaving schedule and system.

To get the city's street repaving program back on the right road, Ald. Bohl said the city needs to start by resuming reasonable and effective preventive maintenance. "We've cut our crack filling crews and our pothole filling crews to the bone, and it shows," he said.

Ald. Bohl said, "We're finally addressing a debate that's been swept under the rug for over 20 years. I give Mayor Barrett credit for recognizing this in his 2008 city budget and looking at a multi-year plan on getting us back to reasonable maintenance levels. We've got more work to do, but this is a great start."

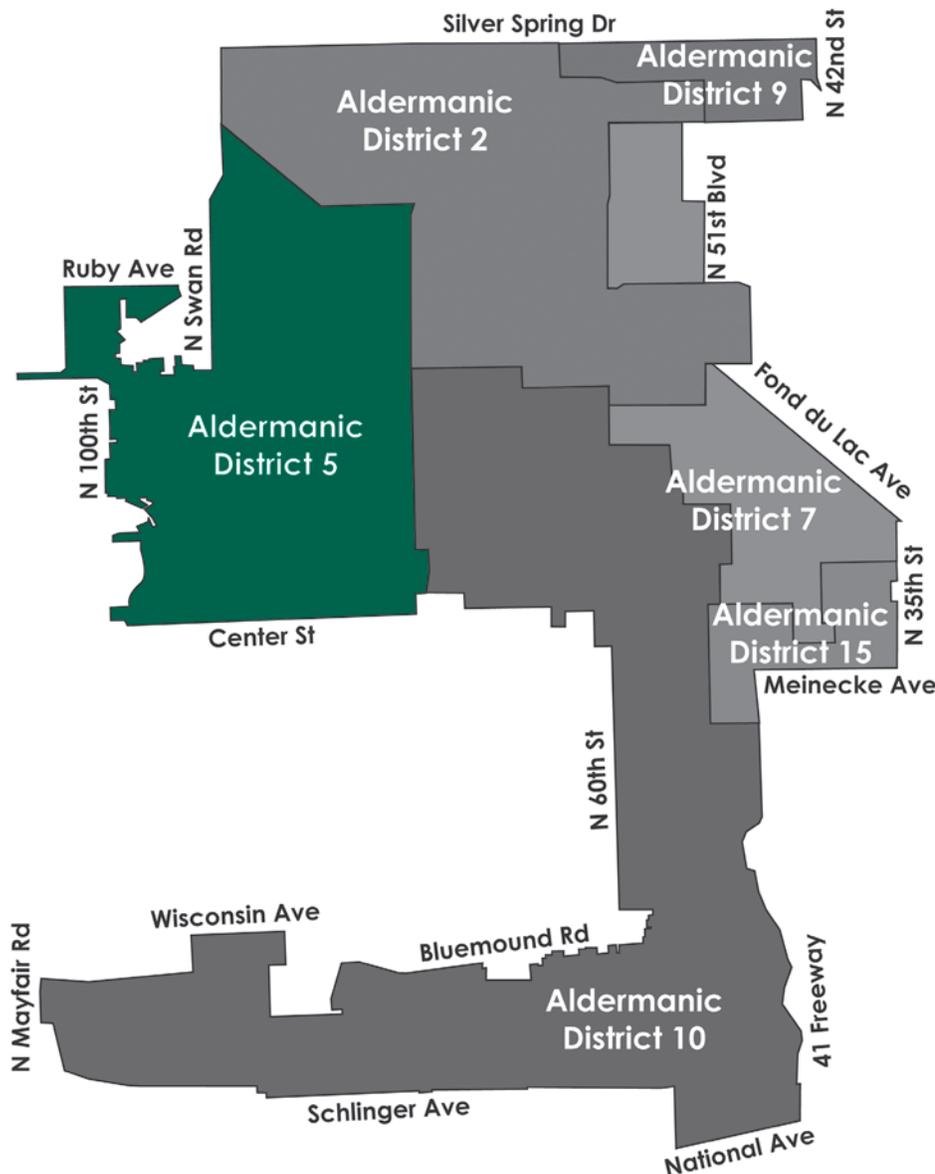
West Side Comprehensive Plan To Launch

The City of Milwaukee, in partnership with the local community, will be undertaking a comprehensive planning process to establish a vision for future development within the city.

We have established twelve planning areas that cover the entire city and the West Side is one of these areas. As part of the West Side planning process, you can participate in future forums or take online community surveys to help evaluate the assets and opportunities in the area.

To learn more and sign up for notification, visit the Department of City Development website at www.mkedcd.org/planning/plans/west or call 286-5863.

West Side Area Plan Boundaries



Help Milwaukee Vote – Be A Poll Worker

The City of Milwaukee Election Commission has recently launched “Help Milwaukee Vote,” a poll worker recruitment campaign to ensure that Milwaukee’s voting sites have sufficient staff during the busy 2008 elections. The Election Commission relies on the participation of more than 2,000 poll workers to provide coverage at the city’s 198 voting sites.

“We need strong public support of our local elections so that our polling sites run efficiently and with accuracy,” said Sue Edman, Election Commission executive director. Ald. Bohl encourages the many civic-minded people in Milwaukee to consider dedicating time to supporting the importance of elections.

Election dates in 2008 are **February 19** (Spring Primary/Presidential Preference), **April 1** (Spring General Election), **September 9** (Fall Primary) and **November 4** (Fall General/Presidential Election). Available shifts include a full day from 6:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., or a split shift from 6:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Poll workers receive \$15 for attending a two-hour mandatory training class, and \$84.15 for working a full day, or \$42.08 for a split shift. Poll workers are usually assigned to a site within their Aldermanic District.

Please contact (414) 286-3491 for additional information or visit the Election Commission website at www.milwaukee.gov/election.

Ald. Bohl Calls For “Small Box” Licensing

Ald. Bohl has sponsored an ordinance that would demand accountability by requiring some stores to be licensed before they can operate near residential areas.

The ordinance would require general retail establishments that are 6,000 square feet or larger, with fewer than the required off-street parking spaces and located in close proximity to residential areas to obtain a license from the Common Council.

Ald. Bohl said many of these locations – loosely referred to as “dollar” stores – create or have the potential to create negative impacts on the health, safety and welfare of the surrounding neighborhood. “These locations are frequent generators of litter, they create parking and traffic congestion and violations, they attract various types of criminal activity, and are often associated

with loud noise and other unruly behavior on the part of their customers,” he said.

For example, Ald. Bohl said a popular “dollar” store located near N. 79th St. and W. Burleigh St. has been the target of armed robberies and has attracted other criminal activity. In addition, the store’s overflowing dumpsters and trash and litter surrounding the store have been longstanding items of concern.

What the license requirement will do is hold these establishments to police, health department and neighborhood services codes for conduct that will now be enforceable through the Council’s license granting and renewal process.

A further requirement of licensing such stores is that, according to the ordinance,

no general retail license will be granted to any person or agents of corporations who do not live in the state of Wisconsin. Such a regulation means that if any action needs to be taken in relation to the establishment, it will be much easier to contact and work with the store’s agents and hold them accountable.

“With this ordinance, the city will be better able to serve the community by supporting and regulating businesses that best serve their clients while also working to prevent the problems caused by those that don’t,” Ald. Bohl said.

The proposed ordinance has been heard at the Council’s Licenses Committee and is currently undergoing revision.

Thank You!



< Ruzinski Retires

Retiring Deputy Inspector Anna Ruzinski, a 26-year veteran of the Milwaukee Police Department, was honored at the September 25, 2007 Common Council meeting at City Hall. Ruzinski, who has been named police chief in Menomonee Falls, has been a longtime 5th District resident. Ald. Bohl was among those offering praise for her work with the council, MPD and the city. “I’ve never been with her on the shooting range, but I hear she’s a straight shooter there and she’s a straight shooter in life,” Ald. Bohl said as he thanked her for her years of service.

< Whiten Retires

This summer Ald. Bohl congratulated retiring Assistant Chief of Police and 5th District resident Joseph Whiten on his 26-year career with the Milwaukee Police Department. During his career Whiten served as a police officer, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and deputy inspector of police. In 1992, Whiten took over the coordination of the department’s Recruit Training and In-Service programs and served as deputy director of training. Ald. Bohl is proud to have had the opportunity to work with Assistant Chief Whiten and said, “I hope retirement brings to you all the rewards your career and service have earned.”

Not Too Late To Make Plans For Winter

While still a few months away, winter will arrive soon enough in Milwaukee, and that means we can expect some snow emergencies. So Ald. Bohl wants to remind all residents of some of the requirements during snow and ice control operations.

Remember that public safety is the first priority during snow and ice control on the city's 1,400 miles of city streets. Streets are prioritized based on traffic volume, public transportation routes, access to emergency services and schools.

The Response Depends On The Storm

The Department of Public Works will use only one or two salt trucks to tackle intermittent salting of isolated slippery spots, but a full scale plowing for a big storm will use over 360 pieces of equipment, supplemented by private contractors. The most common operation is a general ice control in which 90 salt trucks are sent out citywide.

During a major storm, a general plowing is called and may take 12 to 18 hours to complete the initial plowing followed by several more days cleaning up after parked cars, touching up intersections and widening streets.

Move Your Car To Help Snow Removal

The single biggest problem during major snowstorms is parked and abandoned cars. The plows try to get as close to the curb as they can but those "snowbirds" get in the way and prevent them from completing the job. Ald. Bohl asks that you move your vehicles so plows can clear the streets curb to curb. Remember it is illegal to park in one place for more than 24 hours.

The Milwaukee Public Schools make a number of school playgrounds available for overnight parking during snow emergencies. Call the DPW Information Center at 286-8282 for the location of a playground nearest your home.

Please Shovel Your Sidewalks

A reminder that property owners and occupants are required by city law to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow or ice within 24 hours after the snow and ice have stopped falling. Failure to do so could result in the city doing it and charging you.

"Hardship" Assistance Can Help

Is shoveling your sidewalk after a big Milwaukee snowstorm a "mission impossible" because of age or disability? Ald. Bohl wants you to know that city sanitation workers may be able to give you a helping hand.

If you are a senior citizen or disabled and living in a single-family, owner-occupied home, and physically unable to do the shoveling, you may be eligible for "hardship" assistance.

Eligibility requirements:

- Resident must own the home
- Others in home must also be unable to shovel
- Only the public sidewalk is cleared, no driveways
- Shoveling done only when city plows streets
- \$10.00 flat fee put on tax bill for this service
- Call Sanitation Division at 286-3345 for application

Winter Garbage Cart Collection

Because sanitation crews who collect garbage and recyclables also plow snow, collection days may change during the winter, especially after a heavy snowstorm or especially frigid temperatures.

- **Thanksgiving:** No garbage or recycling collection on Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23, 2007.
- **Christmas:** No garbage or recycling collection on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007.
- **New Year's:** No garbage or recycling collection on Monday, Dec. 31, 2007 and Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** No garbage or recycling collection on Monday, Jan. 21, 2008.

After these holidays, the day of garbage collection moves one day later in the week. There is no change in the collection of recyclables after the holiday. *NOTE: All garbage collection dates from Dec. through April are tentative because of possible inclement weather.*

Remember that summer curbside collection of garbage carts for households without alleys ends November 30, 2007. Sanitation crews will collect the carts from their storage areas. Households with alleys are not required to change their procedures since they are emptied at the alley line.



ALDERMAN Jim BOHL

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Help Is Available

Remember that in addition to contacting Ald. Bohl's office for help with your concerns, there is one number, 286-CITY (2489), that can put you in touch with the right department for any questions or concerns about hundreds of city services.

The popular **Call for Action** booklet is also still available. Please call the alderman's office at 286-3870 or e-mail Legislative Assistant Todd Peterson at tpeter@milwaukee.gov if you'd like a copy mailed to you.



There is an online version of the booklet available at the city website at: www.milwaukee.gov/callforaction. This version also contains links to relevant departmental webpages for additional subject information.

Mayor's Proposed Budget Includes Hartung Park Funds

As part of Mayor Tom Barrett's proposed 2008 city budget, \$200,000 has been recommended to help attract a state stewardship grant that can be used to convert the old 16-acre **Hartung Quarry** landfill into a neighborhood park.

The \$200,000 funding – part of the mayor's "**Healthier Neighborhoods**" initiative – was one of the items Mayor Barrett spoke about in his September 25th budget address.

"This is excellent news, and I commend the mayor for including it in his budget," said Ald. Bohl.

"This money will be added to \$50,000 in city funds already in place and would constitute the city's portion of a matching, \$250,000 Department of Natural Resources stewardship grant to help pay for phase one of park improvements next year," he said.

For more information, please log on to the Hartung Park Community Association website at www.hartungpark.com or contact Ald. Bohl's office at 286-3870.

Fall Leaf Collection

Residents are asked to rake leaves into the street at the curb for collection by Department of Public Works Sanitation crews through November 15. After November 15, sanitation crews will still pick up remaining leaf piles as long as weather permits. Residents are asked to please note the date when collection crews will be operating on your block – and to make sure vehicles are not parked so as to hinder or prevent collection efforts (if you are unsure about your collection date, call 286-8282).

Leaves you have bagged can be taken to the nearest Self-Help Center at 6600 N. Industrial Rd. for disposal. Ald. Bohl urges residents not to put Halloween pumpkins, brush or branches on the leaf pile, and to keep the leaves away from fire hydrants, sewer grates and storm drains in the street.

Holiday Tree Disposal

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

Trees may also be taken to a Self-Help Center where they will be composted or turned into mulch. The nearest Self-Help Center is located at 6600 N. Industrial Rd.