



Alderman
Robert W. Puente
9th District

FALL/WINTER 2008-2009

Dear 9th District Residents,

This year has included several significant “firsts” for our district, our city and our nation.

The first MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant ever awarded in southeast Wisconsin was given to Will Allen of Growing Power, whose headquarters is located in the 9th District. Also, the first Mayor’s Urban Design Award ever bestowed in the 9th District went to Mortara Instrument. You will learn more about both of those honors in this edition of my newsletter.

And, without doubt the biggest “first” of all – for our nation and for its great history – is the election of Senator Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States, making him the first African American commander-in-chief.

In this newsletter you’ll find updates on the Job Corps site and Granville Station, information on the N. 76th St. roadway improvement project, tips to help you prepare for this winter season, information to help fight/deal with foreclosure, ways you can access city services via computer, information on a 9th District “hero” 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

Vice Chair
Public Safety Committee

Member
Licenses Committee
Public Works Committee
Housing Authority
Ambulance Service Board

New Appointment for Alderman Puente

Alderman Puente can add Ambulance Service Board to his list of committee memberships. On October 7, 2008 Alderman Puente was appointed to the board by Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.

As a member of the Ambulance Service Board, Alderman Puente will join with other members to serve as an advisor to the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee in matters regarding certificates for ambulance service providers participating in the city’s emergency medical services system. Alderman Puente’s term on the Ambulance Service Board expires April 16, 2012.



Prior to the September 16 Common Council meeting at City Hall, Alderman Puente presented Najjar Abdullah, a 9th District resident and city Department of Public Works Forestry Division employee, with a Common Council commendation for bravery and selflessness. While on duty in a city neighborhood on July 24, Mr. Abdullah and a fellow Forestry worker heard shouts of a crime in progress and responded immediately, witnessing a young man accosting a woman and running off with her purse. Mr. Abdullah pursued the assailant on foot, chasing him through neighborhoods and eventually ending up in backyards near N. 64th St. and W. Sheridan Ave. where he and his Forestry colleague, Brian Marion, cornered the criminal and helped to hold him until police arrived. “The woman’s purse was safely returned to her, and by Mr. Abdullah’s brave and selfless actions he kept a thief from disrupting the life of an innocent victim,” said Alderman Puente.

DEVELOPMENTS



Will Allen Wins Prestigious MacArthur Foundation Grant

Will Allen, the founder and CEO of Growing Power – headquartered in the 9th District at N. 55th and W. Silver Spring Dr. – received a \$500,000 “genius grant” from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in September, the first time the prestigious grant has been awarded to a person in the Milwaukee area.

The MacArthur Fellows Program awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction, and bases its Fellows award decisions on three criteria: exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishment, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work.

Alderman Puente sponsored a Common Council commendation congratulating and recognizing Mr. Allen on the accomplishment, and he presented it to him during a special ceremony at Growing Power that included Mayor Tom Barrett and others. “Very simply, Will Allen is someone who truly cares about his fellow neighbors, his community and the future,” said Alderman Puente.

“He has made Growing Power a force to inspire communities to build sustainable food systems that are equitable and ecologically sound, creating a just world, one food-secure community at a time and is driven by his own goal of making sure everybody in the world has access to the same healthy, safe, affordable food,” the alderman said.

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

Update on Job Corps Site

The construction bid process for the Job Corps site near N. 60th and W. Green Tree Rd. closed at the end of October.

In August two meetings were held for contractors interested in bidding on the Job Corps project. A pre-bid meeting was held to explain to any interested contractor the federal bidding process and the other was a walk-through of the site for those contractors who were interested. The U.S. Department of Labor Job Corps office is now reviewing the responses and plans to issue a contract soon. Construction is now expected to begin in March 2009.

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.

The Job Corps facility will include educational buildings, dormitories, a cafeteria and recreational facilities serving 250 students.





This past March Alderman Puente (second from left) joined with the franchise owners and corporate officers in opening Milwaukee's newest Culver's location -- in the 9th District at 7515 W. Good Hope Rd. "The business and shopping area around 76th and Good Hope is thriving and will make a great home for the new Culver's," the alderman said.



Mortara Instrument Wins Coveted Design Award

One of the city's 22 coveted Mayor's Urban Design Awards for 2008 resides proudly in the 9th Aldermanic District. Mortara Instrument won for its international world headquarters, which is located at 7865 N. 86th St. (just south of Bradley Rd.).

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

Mortara, a world leader in electrocardiography products, was recognized for additions to its beautiful headquarters building, which is nestled comfortably in a scenic wooded area. "I'm very pleased and proud of Mortara's many accomplishments, including the recognition that a Mayor's Urban Design Award brings," Alderman Puente said. "The building's attractive design speaks for itself, and I tip my cap to Mortara and the architects."

Well Worth the Wait

The majority of the work to improve N. 76th St. from W. Clinton Ave. to the County Line should be completed this month, Alderman Puente said.

The work is slightly behind schedule because of the heavy rains in June and a mix of utility and soil issues. Although the paving will be completed, some work – such as landscaping and permanent road markings – may be carried over until the 2009 construction season.

This segment of N. 76th was much longer in lineal distance than the segment from W. Florist Ave. to Clinton Ave. (completed in 2007), which sometimes made it seem like the project would never end, the alderman said.

"It's been a long couple years, and the community has been very patient with the process," said Alderman Puente. "I like the end result and, best of all, it's almost done."

New improvements include replaced pavement, curb and gutter, drainage structures, street lighting and traffic signals, new street markings and the addition of new sidewalks. "The changes are definitely worth the wait. We will see improved traffic flow and hopefully fewer accidents," added the alderman.

In order to keep side roads open and maintain traffic, construction operations were done in stages. Access to properties was maintained at all times, and a series of public information meetings were hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Project Manager Phil Bain throughout the project to answer questions and address any concerns.

The affected stretch of N. 76th is a major transportation route in the city and the improved section was last reconstructed in 1968.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Phil Bain (WISDOT), 262-548-8809 or Fred Moeller, Construction Leader at the WISDOT Field Office, 371-9792.



Ald. Puente and Mayor Tom Barrett joined the Milwaukee Women's Legion Post 448 during a 2008 4th of July parade. It was the first time members of Post 448 had marched together in any parade.

Granville Station Has New Owners

Granville Station (the former Northridge site) has recently been sold to U.S. Toward Enterprise Group, Inc. Located in Germantown, Maryland. The company has both U.S. and Chinese investors.

The Department of City Development (DCD), through comprehensive planning with stakeholders and consultants, determined that this site should be a mixed-use redevelopment that would include housing, neighborhood retail, and perhaps some office or back-office use. DCD officials are currently contacting the new owners in order to meet and discuss possible plans for redevelopment at this location.

Smoke Detector = Life Saver

In the wake of recent fatal fires that took the lives of two Milwaukee residents who were in homes with no working smoke detectors, Alderman Puente is re-emphasizing the importance of having operational smoke detectors in every home. The National Fire Protection Association reports that 65% of reported home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke detectors. The NFPA also reported that an estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms.

Alderman Puente said having a smoke detector is an absolute necessity – and NOT a luxury. “A stereo system is a luxury – a smoke detector is a lifesaver,” he said. “You can live without a stereo, but you and your loved ones might not survive to see tomorrow if you don’t have a working smoke detector in your home.”

According to the Milwaukee Fire Department, the NFPA and nearly all other safety experts, it is indisputable that smoke alarms save lives. Here are some key things to remember about smoke alarms/detectors:

- First, make sure a smoke detector is installed on every level of your home, including the basement.
- Make sure smoke detectors are placed outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.

- If you have a smoke detector with batteries, please check those monthly and replace the batteries annually. All smoke detectors operated by batteries should be replaced every eight to 10 years.

- Remember to never disable your smoke alarm—even temporarily.

For example, if it sounds while you’re cooking, instead of taking the batteries out, clear the air by waving a towel near the smoke alarm, or if you have a hush button on your alarm press that.



- In general, smoke alarms should be placed in the center of a ceiling, or 6 to 12 inches below the ceiling if placed on the wall.
- Do not install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- In addition to having working smoke alarms in the home, have a fire escape plan as well. The two combined will increase you and your family’s protection in case of a fire.
- Lastly, the Milwaukee Fire Department will come and install a smoke detector in your home if you are a Milwaukee resident and eligible to receive one. Call the Milwaukee Fire Department Smoke Detector Hotline at 414-286-8980.

Pet Waste-Leash Laws

You shouldn’t have to watch where you step in our neighborhoods but unfortunately there are people who neglect to pick up after their pets. 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 the DPW Call Center at 286-8282.

Ald. Puente would also like to remind residents that city law prohibits an owner from permitting an animal to be at large.





Answering Your Questions About New Motor Vehicle Fee

In September the Milwaukee Common Council adopted a Motor Vehicle Registration Fee (MVRF) to help pay for badly needed street maintenance and paving projects. After receiving an increase in calls about this new fee for vehicle owners, Alderman Puente would like to make sure you have the facts.

The new fee is \$20 for automobiles, light trucks and station wagons registered in the City of Milwaukee. The revenue from the registration fee will be used to settle special assessment charges against neighboring property owners for roadway paving projects and to lower assessment rates on alleys and sidewalks. The funds will also be used for maintenance of streets and/or street lighting and traffic control. The \$20 registration fee increase will show up on bills for December renewals that were mailed beginning October 31, 2008.

Several other assessments will have modifications. There will still be a special assessment for alleys, sidewalks, and driveways, but rates are lower for alleys and sidewalks than in 2008.

Only projects approved after April 15, 2009, are adopted into the resolution, and therefore projects approved before that date will not receive a lowered assessment.

To inquire about possible repaving of your street please call 286-2460 and DPW will check to see if any future paving is scheduled.

Fighting Foreclosure & Protecting Neighborhoods

In cooperation with Mayor Barrett and other city leaders, Alderman Puente is working to help fight foreclosures that are threatening the stability of some Milwaukee neighborhoods. The mayor has asked for a court-ordered moratorium on foreclosures, and has also launched the Milwaukee Foreclosure Partnership Initiative.

As the housing industry continues to experience turbulence nationwide, more Milwaukee families face the dangers of predatory high-cost loans, unscrupulous lending practices and the frustration of not knowing who to trust. Currently Milwaukee has more than 1,500 bank-owned foreclosures, and (as recently as September) foreclosure filings in the city are up 56% in 2008 versus 2007. The fact is, unfortunately, in these uncertain times some residents will be unable to protect their homes.

Homeowners are urged to **seek help early** if they are having trouble making their mortgage payments, and should talk to their lender if they are at least 30 days delinquent. Acting soon is critical – the chances of avoiding foreclosure improve dramatically the sooner homeowners seek help.

The following is a list of agencies that can provide help for those facing foreclosure:

- **Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) Hotline:** 1-888-995-HOPE Provides FREE counseling 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in English and Spanish. Counselors will link callers with their lender or a local NeighborWorks organization.
- **STOPP (Strategies To Overcome Predatory Practices) Hotline:** 1-414- 278-9190. Callers to the hotline receive FREE assistance from staff, which can review loan documents, provide input and advice, work with the borrower's lender and bring in other STOPP partners to assist as necessary. This initiative by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council utilizes a coalition of community based organizations, the housing industry and government to identify and eliminate unfair practices.

Information for homeowners, counselors and others is also available online:

- **Hope Now:** www.hopenow.com or www.wisconsinforeclosureescue.com
- **Homeownership Preservation Foundation:** www.995hope.org and www.ForeclosureHelpandHope.org
- **National Foundation for Credit Counseling:** www.housinghelpnow.org
- **The NeighborWorks® Center for Foreclosure Solutions:** www.nw.org
- **For tips on how to avoid foreclosure, visit the HUD website at:** www.hud.gov/foreclosure/index.cfm

Local HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agencies for Post-Purchase Assistance:

- **Acorn Housing Corp.**
315 W. Court Street, Ste. 204-C
Milwaukee, WI 53212
Phone: (414) 444-6902
Toll Free: (866) 444-6893
- **Career Youth Development, Inc.**
2601 N. Martin Luther King Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
Phone: (414) 264-6888 x231
- **HBC Services, Inc.**
10533 W. National Avenue, #300
West Allis, WI 53227
Phone: (414) 727-5700
- **Housing Resources, Inc.**
8532 W. Capitol Drive, #201
Milwaukee, WI 53222
Phone: (414) 461-6330
- **Sci-Tech Development, Inc.**
5401 N. 76th Street, #103
Milwaukee, WI 53218
Phone: (414) 364-3701

Making Plans For Winter

Ald. Puente 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. "Sometimes plows must make four to six passes down a street to clear it curb to curb," said Ald. Puente, "and while the city tries to do this at one time, it's best to wait, if possible, until the plows finish before shoveling out your driveway approach."

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.

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.



Alderman Puente addresses an audience member's question during his district-wide town hall meeting October 21 at Destiny Youth Plaza at N. 76th St. and W. Good Hope Rd. Also participating were (from left): Jeff Mantes, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works; Mayor Tom Barrett; Assistant Chief Gregory Habeck of the Milwaukee Police Department; Lt. Ray Banks, MPD District Four; and Community Liaison Officer Julie Strache, also of MPD District Four.

Ald. Puente 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.

"Hardship" Assistance Can Help

Is shoveling your sidewalk after a big Milwaukee snowstorm a "mission impossible" because of age or disability? Ald. Puente 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 or private walkways
- Shoveling done only when plowing operations are called
- There is a \$10.00 flat rate each time the sidewalk is cleared
- Call Sanitation Division at 286-3345 for application

Garbage Collection

During the winter the city removes the requirement to take your garbage and recycling carts to the curb. Because sanitation crews who collect garbage and recycling materials also plow snow, collection days may change during the winter. And a labor agreement provides that there are no collections when the air temperature (not wind chill) at 6:00 a.m. is -10 degrees or colder. There will be no garbage or recycling collection during the Christmas holiday (Dec. 24-25, 2008) or New Year's holiday (Dec. 31 and Jan. 1). After the holidays the day of garbage collection will move one weekday for each of those days. For example Dec. 24 collection moves to Friday, Dec. 26 and Dec. 25 collection moves to Monday, Dec. 29.



City of Milwaukee Neighborhood Speed Watch Program

Speeding drivers on residential streets is one of the most common complaints received by the Milwaukee Police Department and the Milwaukee Dept. of Public Works. The City's Neighborhood Speed Watch Program encourages neighborhood residents to become involved in addressing this problem, and is a part of Milwaukee's new Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

Neighborhood Speed Watch is a public awareness program in which concerned citizens can take an active role in solving the problem of speeders in their own neighborhoods. City residents record speeds and license numbers of cars traveling in excess of speed designations on neighborhood streets. Notification is then sent from the City to the registered owners of those vehicles.

A minimum of two volunteers are required at all times during the speed watch. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older to participate. Volunteers under the age of 21 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older. This allows high school and college students to participate in the program.

If you are interested in this program, contact David Schlabowski, Milwaukee Department of Public Works, 841 N. Broadway, Room 918, Milwaukee, WI 53202 via letter, phone 286-3144 or email at dschla@mpw.net

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 needed that may be needed, check the Milwaukee Development Center at www.mke.dcd.org or call 286-8211.

Cleaning Out Means Knowing the Rules

When getting ready to clean out garages, attics and basements, there are a few things residents need to remember.

Although city crews will remove bulky items, they will not collect the following: appliances, household hazardous waste, more than five tires, construction material, paint, waste oil or other hazardous liquids and more than four cubic yards of brush. Place your unwanted items at your collection point on your scheduled pick up day.

Other Options For Getting Rid of Large Items & Amounts

Ald. Puente says there are several ways to avoid any cost:

- Spread out the amount for pickup on regular garbage collection days.
- Reserve a large dumpster for neighborhood weekend cleanups (May to Oct. only).
- Use the city's Self-Help Centers.

Bulky materials can be taken to the Self Help Centers at 6660 N. Industrial Rd or 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. The city collects household hazardous wastes each Friday and Saturday between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the city's permanent collection station at the Self-Help Center at 3879 W. Lincoln Ave.

Large roll-off dumpsters can be reserved from the Sanitation Division for weekend neighborhood cleanups (May to October only). If you'd like to volunteer or organize your neighborhood cleanup, please contact Ald. Puente's office for information on reserving a dumpster for your cleanup date or call the DPW Call Center at 286-8282.



The Civil Air Patrol is the civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. They conduct cadet, emergency services and aerospace education programs. The cadet program is aimed at youths aged 12-18 and brings together young adults with the goal of becoming outstanding aerospace leaders and to be of service to their communities. Officers volunteer their time not only to mentor the cadets, but also participate in emergency services by helping in search and rescue operations and disaster relief efforts.

Formed in 2005, the Timmerman Composite Squadron is one local unit of the Civil Air Patrol. They meet Monday evenings. If you are interested in learning more about aerospace education, like to fly, enjoy working as part of a team, and would like to make new friends, you can find more information on the Civil Air Patrol and all that they do, please visit the website: www.gocivilairpatrol.com



Alderman
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FALL/WINTER 2008-2009

Have A Safe & Enjoyable Winter!

Disposing of Holiday Trees



Residents of the City of Milwaukee have two options for dealing with the removal and disposal of holiday 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, Christmas 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 located at 6660 N. Industrial Rd.

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

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Need To Contact The City? Couldn't Be Easier (286-CITY)

In addition to contacting his office, Ald. Puente wants you to know there are many ways to get information, request services, register complaints or comment on issues important to you. Among them: One Call, That's All.

Or There Are High-Tech Options

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 section and click GO. The new search engine will take you to the proper department in either the city or the county.

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

And the city can also communicate with you with E-Notify. This easy-to-use, internet tool allows the city to send such information as city news, common council meetings, 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.



286-CITY (2489)

then press:

3 Police/ Fire Non-Emergencies

- 1 Police
- 2 Fire

4 Mayor/ Common Council

- 1 Mayor
- 2 Common Council/ City Clerk's Office
- 3 Licensing Division

5 Department of Public Works

- 1 Parking Operations
- 2 Milwaukee Water Works
- 3 Street Maintenance, Street Lighting, Traffic Control, Sewers, Forestry and Sanitation including Solid Waste/Recycling

6 Department of City Development

- 1 Housing Authority, Public Housing, Rent Assistance
- 2 Development Center, Permits, Occupancy Applications, Zoning, Historic Preservation, Property Research
- 3 Business Assistance Programs
- 4 City-owned Real Estate, City Planning, Low Interest Home Renovation Loans

7 Health Department

- Immunizations, Medical Assistance, WIC, Communicable Disease Control

8 Library

- 1 Library Hours
- 2 Renew Library Items
- 3 Other Services

9 Department of Neighborhood Services

- 1 File complaint for Building Code Violations, Litter, Graffiti, Nuisance Vehicles
- 2 Inspection Services

0 Customer Service Representative

- For all other City departments and services

CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES