

12th District Alderman

James N. Witkowiak



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Dear Friends,

These are exciting times in our neighborhoods as we prepare for new developments on Mitchell St., a new hotel to house the many who will come to see the Harley-Davidson Museum and even new businesses like Walgreens.

As always, you'll find news on the happenings in our district, important contact information and reminders about city services during the fall and winter seasons and opportunities to be involved in the City of Milwaukee and District 12.

I have enjoyed working with you in our district this year, seeing our streets rejuvenate and grow, and I look forward to all the positive changes the new year will bring. I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to sharing 2008 with you!

Sincerely,

James N. Witkowiak
Alderman, 12th District

Food Safety Inspections Available Online

A new City of Milwaukee website is offering Milwaukee's first system that lets visitors review inspection records of city restaurants, food stores and other outlets that serve food. The Food Establishment Inspection Reporting System, available at www.milwaukee.gov/fi, provides timely information on the current city codes compliance of any restaurant, tavern or food store in the 12th District or anywhere in the city.

The search capabilities of the Food Establishment Inspection Reporting System are very flexible. For example, one may search by:

- City of Milwaukee aldermanic district
- ZIP code
- Establishment name
- Establishment street address

Inspection reports currently go back to January 2007 with special inspections starting June 2007. New records are added daily. "Citizens can be actively engaged in the inspection process by utilizing this system," Ald Witkowiak said.



Cesar Chavez Drive Dedication

Business owners along S. Cesar Chavez Drive joined the mayor and Ald. Witkowiak to unveil new banners and signs that mark the street's Hispanic business district. The signs and banners were unveiled in September in time for the Mexican Independence Parade Sunday, September 16. Business owners along Cesar Chavez Drive formed a business improvement district to improve the commercial district's appearance and public safety and to create special events to promote the area.



Committee Assignments

- CHAIR** Licenses Committee
- MEMBER** Community & Economic Development Committee
- MEMBER** Steering & Rules Committee

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

Exciting New 12th District Developments



Iron Horse Hotel

District 12 will soon have a new place for tourists to hang their hats – and their helmets. The Iron Horse Hotel, developed in conjunction with the new Harley-Davidson Museum, will be a 102-room hotel with luxury accommodations and special features that appeal to the average motorcycle traveler. The boutique hotel will be in a converted warehouse at 500 W. Florida St. Though the hotel is expected to house guests of the Midwest Airlines Center, the Potawatomi Bingo Casino and Rockwell Automation, part of its draw includes unique elements that motorcyclists will appreciate.

There will be sturdier hooks in the rooms to hold leather apparel, benches to help with taking off boots, and covered parking to keep bike seats dry.

The hotel has benefited from an ordinance initiated by Ald. Witkowiak authorizing expenditure of \$275,000 of development funds held by the city. The funds will help with nearby retaining walls and street repairs to accommodate the building and its occupants.

“This is a great addition to the district and the city,” Ald. Witkowiak said, “It’s a great location and another unique tourist destination for the city.”

Revving Up For Summer 2008

Milwaukee’s newest tourist development will usher in **Harley-Davidson’s 105th anniversary next summer** – that’s when the new Harley-Davidson Museum is slated to open. Expected to draw 350,000 visitors annually, the museum will be one of Milwaukee’s biggest attractions.

The finishing touches on the facilities are still under way on W. Canal St. in the Menomonee River Valley. The steel structure of the building is largely in place. Exposed steel, rivets and glass are meant to reflect Milwaukee’s and Harley’s industrial heritage. The museum will feature the motorcycles, of course, but will also have on display bits of Harley-Davidson history (like the first bike, stamped “01”) and demonstrations of processes like how the bikes are detailed and built.

The museum site will also host green spaces where the public can hang out for free, though the museum tour does come with a fee.

Ald. Witkowiak said, “Harley-Davidson has long been a part of Milwaukee’s history. To be able to share that publicly with visitors to our city is ideal.”

The Harley-Davidson Museum is set to open in summer 2008 and will bring many new tourists and jobs to Milwaukee.

New Walgreens at S. 14th St. and W. Burnham St.



Not Too Late To Make Plans For Winter



We all know that soon winter will arrive in Milwaukee, and that means we can expect some snow emergencies. So Ald. Witkowiak 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.

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. "I know we can be patient and cooperate with Public Works during bad weather," said Ald. Witkowiak, "and while the city tries to do this promptly, 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 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. Witkowiak 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. Witkowiak 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.

There is no garbage/recycling collections on these holidays:

- **Thanksgiving** Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23, 2007
- **Christmas** Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007
- **New Year's** Monday, Dec. 31, 2007 and Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** Monday, Jan. 21, 2008

PLEASE NOTE: 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.

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.

Goldmann's Closing And Mitchell Street Development



"I can remember coming here as a kid with my mother," Ald. Witkowiak said at Goldmann's department store on its last day of business, September 28, 2007. Many local residents gathered to say goodbye to the 111-year icon of Milwaukee's Mitchell Street history.

The store, known for its quirky style and hard to find items and sizes, had a number of closing celebrations in the weeks leading up to its final key exchange with DK USA, the company who purchased the legendary store.

But both Milt Pivar and Jerry Lewis, the store's owners, say they are excited for the changes the sale will bring. With new funding for redevelopment (see story at right) approved and dedicated residents and store owners committed to keeping Mitchell Street one of

Milwaukee's finest, the restored Goldmann's will house a number of new stores and a proposed museum honoring the independently owned department store's rich history.



Winter Parking Starts Dec. 1

Parked and abandoned cars are among the biggest problems faced by city crews when they plow our city streets. Ald. Witkowiak wants to remind you that winter parking restrictions are in effect throughout the city from December 1st until March 1st, and motorists should look for signs describing the parking restrictions along streets that are affected by winter rules. These possible restrictions could include:

- **Specific Side Parking** – No parking on one or both sides of the street Dec. 1 - March 1. In some areas there may also be a posted monthly alteration of the prohibited side.
- **4" Rule** – Certain residential streets are posted "No Parking When 4" of Snow or More." No parking is allowed on the side of the street where the sign is posted until snow has been removed.
- **Route Towaway Zone** – No parking is allowed during declared snow emergencies on highways marked with "Snow Route Towaway Zone" signs.
- **Night Parking During Snow Emergency** – If a snow emergency has been declared, night parking regulations are in effect from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on all city streets regardless of the winter parking regulation.
- **Milwaukee Public Schools** make some playgrounds and parking lots available for overnight parking during declared snow emergencies and clean-up periods. Call the DPW Information Center at 286-8282 for the location of a playground nearest your home.

Please remember that some winter parking regulations are not posted. If you are unsure about regulations in your area and want information on a particular street, call the DPW Parking Enforcement Section at 286-8350. Streets are also listed on the Department of Public Works website at www.mpw.net under parking information.

Free Landlord Training

Landlords can learn to screen new tenants and how to deal with nuisance properties by enrolling in the City of Milwaukee's FREE Landlord Training Program. You'll receive five hours of training and a 100-page manual.

Fall/Winter 2007 Schedule:

- **Tuesday & Wednesday, November 13th & 14th**
6:00 p.m. Sign-In, Class from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Milwaukee Safety Academy, 6680 N Teutonia Ave.
(Little Theatre Room – Parking in rear of building)
- **Wednesday, December 5th**
9:00 a.m. Sign-In, Class from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Anderson Building, 4001 S. 6th St, 3rd Floor
(Parking is available on the street)

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

For information or to register call Program Assistant Jeanne Hagner at 286-2954 or e-mail jhagne@milwaukee.gov.

Mitchell Street Improvements Approved



A plan to provide \$3.1 million in city funds for improvements along Historic Mitchell St., one of Milwaukee's oldest commercial districts, won approval this summer.

The Common Council's Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee unanimously recommended approval for the proposal, which would fund street improvements and building repairs in an area both north and south of W. Mitchell St., from S. 5th St. to S. 16th St. The area would also encompass the commercial area south of W. Forest Home Ave., between S. 13th St. and S. 15th St.

The plan, proposed by the Department of City Development, is designed to help improve some key buildings, such as the Goldmann's building and the Modjeska Theatre, and help retain and attract businesses.

The city financing would pay for new streetlights and security cameras to help fight crime, especially graffiti and vehicle vandalism.

Also, neighborhood homeowners could seek \$10,000 loans to make exterior improvements. And city funds also would be available to help renovate commercial buildings. The city funds would be repaid through property tax revenue

generated within the area. It would take an estimated 18 years to repay those funds.

The proposal, which also won Common Council approval in September, comes as Goldmann's department store closed its doors on September 28. Business owner Don Kim plans to redevelop the building to house several retail stores, offices and a Goldmann's museum.

Also, a non-profit group that recently bought the Modjeska Theatre is preparing a campaign to raise \$8 million to \$10 million in private funds to do renovations.

Take Ownership Of Your Neighborhood

There are many challenges facing the city, and it's important that everyone who lives in the community takes ownership of their neighborhoods. Ald. Witkowiak wants to remind you that one very important way you can do that is by forming or joining a Block Watch neighborhood organization. Block Watch is a free, community-based, crime prevention program administered by the Community Services Division of the Milwaukee Police Department.

The goal is to help residents organize their neighborhoods to prevent crime in the community. Nobody knows a neighborhood better than the people who live in that neighborhood. Participants watch out for their neighbor's property and report suspicious activities to the police. Block Watch is a great way to get to know your neighbors, and by collaborating with police make our neighborhoods safer.

Each police district sponsors a community liaison officer and a series of crime analysis meetings for the area. Ald. Witkowiak highly encourages you to get involved in these meetings and be a positive force for change in your neighborhoods.

District 2 Upcoming Crime Analysis Meetings

- November 28, 2007 at 2601 W. Howard Ave.
 - District 2 Community Liaison Officer: Jose Artaga, 935-7228
- Meetings for District 2 are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.*

District 6 Upcoming Crime Analysis Meetings

- November 28, 2007
 - District 6 Community Liaison Officers can be reached at 935-7278
- Meetings for District 6 are held on the last Wednesday of each month starting at 6:30 p.m. at the District 6 Station, 3006 S. 27th St.*

Veterans: Access To Information & Benefits

If you're a veteran of the U.S. armed forces and need assistance with benefits and information, please call:

Federal VA Benefits Line

1-800-827-1000

Clement Zablocki VA Medical Center

(414) 384-2000

WI State Dept. of Veterans Affairs

(608) 266-1311 or 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387)

Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office

(414) 382-1727

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).



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Leaves you have bagged can be taken to the Self-Help Centers, 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. or 6600 N. Industrial Rd., for disposal. Ald. Witkowiak 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 the Self-Help Centers at 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. or 6660 N. Industrial Rd. where they will be composted or turned into mulch.

Mural Dedication At Witkowiak Park



This summer, the **Hope House Shining Stars Youth Program** took on the challenge of creating a public mural. The program, designed to give children a safe environment that fosters learning through educational and recreational activities, typically involves events for children living in the shelter as well as children from the neighborhood around Hope House.

The summer program opens children's eyes to new experiences and learning opportunities. In the past, the children in the program participated in a variety of learning experiences through daily fieldtrips to places such as botani-

cal gardens, museums, nature centers, working farms and petting zoos.

This year, however, the children and staff took on the challenge of painting city property when they chose to design a mural for Witkowiak Park, named for Norbert Witkowiak, the alderman's late father. With the help of Ald. Witkowiak, the group received all the necessary permissions and took on the community art project. "Finding a way to use city property for a painting or art project like this is very hard. Ald. Witkowiak really helped make this possible," said Stephanie Saniter, community liaison for

Shining Stars. Students interviewed residents in the area to hear stories about the neighborhood in the past, to learn about the residents who lived there and to understand the image of the area.

The neighborhood images and stories were incorporated into the mural that is now a permanent part of the students' neighborhood. To thank Ald. Witkowiak for his help in finalizing the project, the students invited him to visit the completed mural as it was dedicated in late August.