



In the Works

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Mayor Barrett, DPW Accepts \$10,000 for National Recycling Contest



U.S. Conference of Mayors honored the City for its innovative campaign



(Left to right) Preston Cole, Environmental Services Superintendent, Brenda Pulley, Vice President, Corporate Communications and Affairs, Novelis, Inc., Jeff Mantes, Commissioner, DPW, Judy Sheahan, Executive Environment Policy Director for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Mayor Tom Barrett and Mary Bengsch, Recycling Specialist pose with over-sized \$10,000 check. The City of Milwaukee won in both divisions of the Can for Cash contest.



Mayor Tom Barrett places the last can on the line to create the "world's longest continuous line of aluminum cans."

It's Official! City of Milwaukee Beats Guinness Book of World Records for Longest Line of Cans!

The City of Milwaukee has been recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest continuous line of aluminum cans. Official word from the Guinness Book of World Records was received on March 15, 2005. The record attempt was made as part of the "Cans for Cash" contest the City had entered into sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Novelis, Inc. in November, 2004.

On Saturday, November 13, 2004 at one of the City's

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Mayor Tom Barrett, DPW Commissioner Jeff Mantes, Environmental Services Superintendent Preston Cole, and Recycling Specialist Mary Bengsch were present on March 15th to receive a \$10,000 check for winning the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Novelis, Inc. sponsored "Cans for Cash" contest. This was the first year for the contest.

The City of Milwaukee won two categories of the contest, each worth \$5,000 — the city that collected the most aluminum cans during the two-week contest, and the city that uses the most innovative ideas to promote recycling. Milwaukee competed in the top division of the competition, which was for cities with populations of 250,000 or larger. The final tally for can collection was 559,977 cans or 280 tons collected from November 2–15, 2004.

"It is an honor to win the inaugural Cans for Cash Contest," said Mayor Barrett. "This contest was the first step towards launching Milwaukee's 2005 recycling efforts, and the \$10,000 grant is going to be used towards citywide recycling education and promotion."

Activities used to increase recycling during the competition included an aluminum can education and collection program with Milwaukee Public Schools elementary schools, and an attempt to break the Guinness World Records for the longest line of aluminum

cans. Additionally, specially labeled "Cans for Cash" recycling containers were located throughout the city.

Ms. Judy Sheahan, Executive Environment Policy Director for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, was on hand to congratulate the City of Milwaukee for winning the contest, and Ms. Brenda Pulley, Vice President, Corporate Communications and Affairs, Novelis, Inc., presented the over-sized check to Mayor Barrett.

Recycling remains a top priority for the City of Milwaukee and the Environmental Services Division. During the past few years, recycling participation has been slowly eroding. Steps have been taken to reverse the trend in 2005 by implementing new recycling programs initiatives. Since the beginning of the year, overall aluminum recycling numbers are about 350 tons above the same period last year.

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Mayor Barrett Dedicates Playground to Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski

First Wisconsinite to Receive Medal of Honor for Vietnam War

On Tuesday, April 12, 2005, Mayor Tom Barrett honored Milwaukee native Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski by renaming the Cleveland Avenue Playground to Modrzejewski Playground. The mayor was joined by Modrzejewski's family, friends, and members of the Wisconsin Chapter of Vietnam Veterans, the Polish American Congress, Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division, Department of Public Works Buildings & Fleet Division and many others to witness the dedication. The playground is located at 1020 West Cleveland Avenue, near the neighborhood he grew up in.

Robert Joseph Modrzejewski was born (July 3, 1934) and raised in Milwaukee. He began his military career with the United States Marine Corps when he was 23 years old. He fought in the Vietnam War and rose to the ranks of Colonel. On March 12, 1968, during a ceremony at the White House, President Lyndon B. Johnson presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to Robert Modrzejewski "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty", during Operations Hastings.



Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski stands underneath the sign of the playground rededicated in his honor. The playground is one block through a neighbor's yard from his original home in Milwaukee.

Colonel Modrzejewski spent most of his early childhood living on the southside of Milwaukee. Much of his spare time was spent at the playground near his house playing baseball and basketball. In his speech at the dedication, the Colonel spoke of the days when a portion of the playground was flooded during the winter and the neighborhood kids would skate there. He also learned how to swim at Cleveland playground.

The Colonel received his Medal of Honor for his participation in Operation Hastings. Over a three-day period, July 15–18, 1966, in an enemy infested jungle area, his company established a blocking position at a major enemy trail network. Right after landing, his company encountered a reinforced enemy platoon in a well organized defensive position. Then Major Modrzejewski led his men in the successful seizure of the enemy platoon which contained large quantities of ammunition and supplies. That evening, a numerically superior enemy force counterattacked in an effort to retake the vital supply area, thus setting the pattern of activity for the next 2.5 days. The enemy assaulted the company in overwhelming numbers, but each time was repulsed by the



Colonel Modrzejewski signed autographs for the crowd of veterans, family, friends and fans that attended the ceremony. Colonel Modrzejewski retired after serving 30 years in the Marines. He then taught Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and physical education for seven years. The Colonel and his wife Diane, are now enjoying their retirement in San Diego, California. Colonel Modrzejewski is Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.



Mayor Tom Barrett, Colonel Robert J. Modrzejewski and his nephew Kevin Bilello. Kevin Bilello was instrumental in getting the name of the playground changed for his uncle.

Marines. The second night, enemy struck in battalion strength, and major Modrzejewski was wounded. Although exposed to enemy fire, and despite his painful wounds, he crawled 200 meters to provide critically needed ammunition to an exposed element of his command and was constantly present wherever the fighting was heaviest. This occurred despite numerous casualties, a dwindling supply of ammunition, and the knowledge that they were surrounded. The then Major skillfully directed artillery fire to within a few meters of his position and courageously inspired the efforts of his company in repelling the aggressive enemy attack. His unit also withstood another major attack although they were vastly outnumbered and weakened by the previously fighting. Major Modrzejewski reorganized his men and calmly moved among them to encourage and direct their efforts to heroic limits.

During his speech at the dedication, Colonel Modrzejewski said that he was not a hero, that he was just doing his job like all the other members of the armed services, and like those who are serving today.

"Colonel Modrzejewski sets an example of athletics, outdoor recreation, and patriotism that we can all follow," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "Through his military career and dedication, he has defended our country and our freedom. Modrzejewski Playground will serve as a reminder of his accomplishments."



Mayor Tom Barrett Participates in 40th Annual Arbor Day Program

Tree Dedication to Honor Thomas H. Wynn Sr., Co-Founder of VETS Place Central

Mayor Tom Barrett was joined by other elected officials and dignitaries at the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd., 3330 West Wells Street, in celebration of Arbor Day, April 29, 2005. This year's Arbor Day program was a dedication ceremony honoring Thomas H. Wynn Sr., co-founder of the Center for Veterans Issues, which opened VETS Place Central in 1992.

In addition to the tree dedication, there was an "honoring of the land" performance by the Indian Community School and a performance by the Texas Bufkin Academy choir. A VETS Place Central veteran performed a poetry reading.

VETS Place Central provides holistic services and transitional housing for up to 75 veterans. Through their "Veterans United for Community Service Program," veterans and community members unite to provide volunteer services to the community. VUCS brings veterans and the community together, united around the issues of homelessness, youth, and the elderly while focusing on the training and empowerment of all returning veterans.

Also attending the Arbor Day program were President of the Common Council Willie Hines, Alderman Robert Bauman, and Sheriff David Clarke. Thomas H. Wynn Jr., put some of his father's ashes around the small tree so that as it grew his father would become a part of it. His son, Thomas H. Wynn III helped to plant the tree.

2005 marks the fortieth consecutive year that the

City of Milwaukee has celebrated Arbor Day at area schools and facilities, and for the twenty sixth year, Milwaukee has received national recognition as a "Tree City-USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Tree plantings and ceremonies took place in each of the 15 aldermanic districts in celebration of Arbor Day.



Mayor Tom Barrett addresses the crowd at one of the 40th Annual Arbor Day Programs at a tree dedication in honor of Thomas H. Wynn, co-founder of Vets Place Central. Several neighborhood school children attended the event, as well as members of Thomas Wynn's family, friends, other veterans' groups and community organizers.



Young men from the Indian Community School perform an "honoring of the land" ceremony as part of the City's 40th Arbor Day celebration.



Thomas Wynn III helps to plant the tree dedicated in his grandfather's honor.

Guinness Book of Records

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garages, located on 30th and Ruby Street, 59 volunteers gathered to line up aluminum cans to beat the previous record, which had stood at 27,378. Volunteers lined up cans for 2.5 hours on tape that had been placed on the floor. The event was videotaped for verification and two independent sources had to sign papers as witnesses of the event. The total amount of cans lined up was 33,952 cans or 1.35 miles. Mayor Tom Barrett placed the last can on the line, which had been signed by volunteers.

More than a hundred stations across the country, including ESPN Zone, carried spots heralding Milwaukee's accomplishment.



Tape was put on the floor of the empty garage to form a line for the cans to be placed.

PEOPLE IN THE WORKS

Administration Division

New Hires

Theresa M. Allen, Accounting Assistant II, Parking
Jeffrey J. Darling, Parking Meter Technician, Parking

Promotions

Arlanda M. Freeman, Personnel Payroll Assistant II
Richard S. Jensen, Communications Assistant III, Parking
Maureen S. Vargo, Communications Assistant III, Parking
Stephanie D. Washington, Communications Assistant III, Parking
Tharics S. Winters, Communications Assistant III, Parking

Infrastructure Services Division

New Hires

Karrin A. Farrenkopf, Office Assistant I, Underground
Sergio W. Heredia, Engineering Technician I, Construction
Demetrius D. LeFlore, Engineering Technician I, Underground
Noah P. Olejniczak, Engineering Drafting Technician I, Underground
Paul J. Ristau, Engineering Technician I, Construction

Promotions

Willie J. Croom, Laborer, Electrical Services
Debra J. Gross, Electrical Services
Ricardo G. Hernandez, Electrical Mechanic, Electrical Services
Anthony J. Kotecki, Civil Engineer II, Underground
Thomas J. Landre, Civil Engineer III, Transportation
John Loftus III, Civil Engineer II, Transportation
Dennis J. Miller, Electrical Services Manager-Senior, Electrical Services
Frank G. Pero, Laborer, Electrical Services
Terrence J. Slama, Engineering Drafting Technician II, Transportation
Mark A. Wynn, Laborer, Electrical Services

Retirements

Wayne J. Blaszczyk, Cement Finisher, Streets & Bridges
Robert Gallo, Bridge Laborer Crew Leader, Streets & Bridges
Anthony G. Sardina, Street Repair Supervisor, Streets & Bridges

Operations Division

New Hires

Byron D. Butler, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Michael D. Cintron, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation

Aniese, Clay, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
James L. Connor, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Gentle Dills, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
David W. Donohue, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Joseph P. Harris, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Christel Hart, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Donnie Joiner, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Alan Jones, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Donald Kustelski, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Patrick A. Liebsch, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Gerald D. Lierman, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Vincent Lopez Jr., Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Dante L. Nash, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Kenneth Nunnery, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Bobby Philips, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Absalom D. Refeld, III, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Kurt A. Sherwin, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Brian Singleton, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Andre Starks, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Ronald J. Thelaner, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation

Promotions

Kirk L. Black, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Tracey L. Phillips, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Edward L. Roundtree, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Michael T. Strehlow, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Christopher A. Taylor, Operations Driver/Worker, Sanitation
Gina A. Santiago, Accounting Assistant II, Administration

Retirement

Michael Cyrulik, Sanitation Supervisor, Sanitation
Alvin Godfrey, Security Guard, Facilities
Thomas W. Strankowski, Field Service Mechanic

Milwaukee Water Works

Promotions

Richard L. Geldon, Water meter Technician II
Gary K. Gibson, Water Distribution Manager
Ben Glatzel, Water Distribution Supervisor
Dorothy J. Triplett, Water Distribution Laborer

Retirement

John F. Wensierski, Water Distribution Laborer

In the Works is published quarterly by the
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National Recycling Contest

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According to the Aluminum Association, a Washington based trade group, aluminum is the most valuable material in the household recycling bin. Last year nearly \$1 billion was paid for recyclable aluminum beverage cans, yet nearly 50 percent of all aluminum cans produced were not recycled.

