

# NEWSLETTER *Winter Edition*

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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Department of Public Works  
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Communications  
Committee Members

Preston Cole  
David Sivyer  
Wanda Booker  
Cecilia Gilbert  
Ronald Melanz  
Shannon Davis  
Tamara Schneider  
Marvece Sandles  
Jeffrey Kluslow  
Najjar Abdullah

## MILWAUKEE'S BOULEVARDS WIN OLYMPIC GOLD

Milwaukee's boulevards are receiving rave national and local reviews. Within the past year, the City of Milwaukee has received two prestigious awards—a 2007 Green Star Honor Award from the Professional Grounds Maintenance Society (PGMS), and a 2007 Mayor's Urban Design Award.

The PGMS Green Star Awards program brings national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence. Unlike other complementing landscape award programs that recognize outstanding design and construction components, the PGMS Green Star Awards program recognizes organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to maintenance excellence.

The PGMS awards committee understands the challenges that major cities face in the midst of shrinking budgets and workforce. To that end, they found the work of Milwaukee's landscape and grounds maintenance crews to be highly deserving of a PGMS Green Star Honor Award in the Public Works site category.

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## CRIME STOPPERS

The morning of Thursday, July 24, started like any other morning for the north side topping crew. They were working in the area of N. 64<sup>th</sup> and W. Silver Spring when, around 11 AM, they heard the shouts of a crime in progress.

They observed a young man accost a woman who was pumping gas on the corner. The assailant then ran off with her purse. Thinking quickly, Brian Marion and Najjar Abdullah took off in pursuit, Brian in a vehicle and Najjar on foot. As Najjar chased the perpetrator along city streets, Brian circled around through the backyards.



At N. 64<sup>th</sup> St. and W. Sheridan Av. the suspect ran off the road with Najjar in pursuit. As he ran between the residences, Brian was waiting. Brian met the thief with a shoulder block that knocked him off his feet. Najjar and Brian then held him until the police arrived. The "Good

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## INSPECTORS AID IN CITY'S HEALTH, SAFETY AND BEAUTIFICATION



The City of Milwaukee employs several types of inspectors to maintain the overall health, safety and aesthetics of our City. Department of Public Works (DPW) inspectors—Environmental Services play a key role in the City's overall maintenance and beautification.

In 2003 DPW created the new position of sanitation inspector. The sanitation inspectors position has evolved into two categories--field inspector and self-help inspector, each with varying job responsibilities.

The field sanitation inspector enforces Chapter 79 (the solid waste regulations section of the City of Milwaukee Code of Ordinances), issues clean up orders to premises not maintained in a clean and sanitary manner, and issues nuisance cart orders for carts not returned to storage by 10 p.m. on collection day, or for placing garbage in recycle containers and carts. They also issue cart orders when snow is not shoveled to provide clear and unhindered paths to garbage and recycle carts for safe and efficient collection.

Sanitation inspectors also issue orders for bulky collections over the four-cubic yard limit. When an inspection is performed at any premises all matters regarding nuisance garbage and litter, building code violations and nuisance vehicles are referred to the appropriate inspection department.

The self-help sanitation inspectors work at the City of Milwaukee's Self-Help Centers. They maintain the security and cleanliness of the facility by verifying proof of residency at the gate, inspecting items residents dump, and maintain the overall cleanliness and order of the self-help facility.

DPW/Environmental Services inspectors work to keep Milwaukee clean and green.

## *Achieving A Dream-* PERCY HOPSON



When asked why he would rather be a nurse—and eventually, a nurse practitioner—than a doctor, Percy said, “Nurses deal with the patient holistically, and are involved with patients as people. Doctors treat the symptoms.”

Percy Hopson has worked in various City departments, including Forestry, Streets and Underground Services (Sewers). Currently, he works in the Sanitation Department as Support Staff for Sanitation North.

Though Hopson has been with the City since May of 1995, many people don't know that he has been pursuing a degree in nursing since 2003. He already has a four-year degree in Sociology and a two-year degree in Surgical Technologies. In December 2008, Percy will be one of four Black students, and the only Black male student, graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Nursing Program.

A devout family man, Hopson has been married for six years and has one son. While working full-time and raising a family, Hopson is about to accomplish his dream of becoming a nurse.

“The experience of taking care of my mom, and seeing what she and my grandmother went through while receiving patient care, made me want to do my part to improve healthcare services,” said Hopson.

“I have been able to accomplish my goals through perseverance, hard work and the unwavering support of others. When things got hard, my wife and friends reminded me why I was working so hard,” he said.

Hopson attended classes after work and during vacations. Tuition benefits were helpful in financing his goals. The flexibility of his current position and his coworkers and supervisors/management has helped immensely in his bid to educate and promote himself.

Percy's immediate goals are to focus on becoming an intensive care unit (ICU) nurse. In the next five to seven years, he will work toward earning his doctorate degree as a nurse practitioner. His long-term goals are to start a clinic that helps disadvantaged communities. He hopes to inspire and uplift spirits, while healing the bodies of those less fortunate in our community.

## Recycle For Good, Milwaukee!

by Becky Curtis, Recycling Program Assistant, DPW  
11/17/08



LET'S MAKE MILWAUKEE CLEAN & GREEN.  
MilwaukeeRecycles.com

This fall, Milwaukee's recycling program has a brand-new look. The *Recycle For Good* campaign launched on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 boasts attention-grabbing print, online, and radio ads, as well as larger than life ads on some of the recycling trucks themselves. Not only about looks, a major goal of the campaign is to motivate increased, long-term recycling participation through public education and outreach. "We want to encourage residents to recycle more, and to provide them with the information that they are seeking", said Rick Meyers, City of Milwaukee Recycling Specialist.



The recycling information has been put together with Milwaukee residents in mind, and is available on a new user-friendly website, [www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com). Plans for upcoming neighborhood recycling projects are also underway.

In Wisconsin, recycling supports 97,000 jobs and diverts 1.6 million tons of recyclables from landfills annually<sup>1</sup>. "Recycling is an easy way for everyone to help the environment and support our economy", Meyers said. "It supports jobs, saves the city money, conserves landfill space, keeps valuable resources from going to waste, and reduces pollution". Annually, Milwaukee residents recycle approximately 25,000 tons of material, but equal amounts of recyclables are thrown away. "Through this campaign we aim to provide recycling education and outreach so that everyone can improve their recycling habits" said Meyers.

## 2009 BUDGET PROCESS STILL MOVING

At the time of this article, Mayor Tom Barrett has issued his budget veto letter to the Milwaukee Common Council. The Council will consider these vetoes at its November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Stay tuned.

The 2009 budget process was challenging in many ways for Environmental Services. Proposed reductions affected many of our core programs; i.e., snow pay for managers, street tree pruning, construction and demolition debris removal. It should be noted that many Council members spoke very highly of our programs and service delivery offerings.

However, none met with more angst than snow pay for managers. Snow pay is critical for our management team and has been in place since the 1970's. That being said, our ability to articulate its cost effectiveness is critical.

I'd like to thank all Environmental Services managers and employees for their input. Environmental Services owes a debt of gratitude to Wanda Booker for her tireless advocacy for snow pay and creating the snow pay briefing document for all elected officials and our budget office. It provided the needed information for members to make their final decision.

All in all, we must remain diligent in finding ways to be more efficient to provide low cost, high quality services and look for increased revenue opportunities. "Got ideas"? It is never too late to get them to us, the 2010 budget process begins in three months.

- Preston Cole

*Milwaukee's Boulevards Win Olympic Gold continued from page 1*

Recent PGMS Green Star Award recipients include the Biltmore Estates, Smithsonian Institute, George Bush Presidential Library, and many other widely recognized governmental and commercial sites. While other cities have been recognized for downtown boulevard landscape improvements, no city has been recognized for a 120-mile boulevard system. Milwaukee's award winning boulevards are featured on the PGMS website at <http://www.pgms.org/2007greenstar/category2a.htm>



*PGMS Past President Mike Mongon, (left) presents PGMS Green Star Award to Scott Baran, Landscape Designer for the City of Milwaukee.*

*Crime Stoppers continued from page 1*

Samaritans" then returned the stolen purse to Marge Hull, a local resident.

The quick reactions of these brave and physically fit men thwarted a crime in progress and kept the actions of a thief from disrupting the life of an innocent victim. Channel 6 showed up on site shortly after and featured this incident prominently on their 6 o'clock newscast.

## WHO KEEPS MILWAUKEE CLEAN? YOU DO!

Some people would have you think that the garbage collector doesn't have an important job. But those who visit our City would beg to differ. A recent study led by the Spirit of Milwaukee found that out-of-town visitors ranked the cleanliness of the City as the second strongest impression they have of southeastern Wisconsin counties that make up the M7 region. The strongest impression was the friendliness of the people. This is something that we should all be proud of. Thanks to all the employees who contribute to keeping Milwaukee Clean & Green.



### THE HARLEY 105

A special shout out to all the ES men and women who went above and beyond to make sure Milwaukee shined in the national spotlight for the Harley Davidson 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Hats off to all collection, boulevard and support staff who contributed to showcasing Milwaukee as a clean & beautiful City.

*Coming soon:*

**Department of Public Works - Environmental Services Blog!**  
**More information available in next newsletter edition.**



Got a question, comment, or suggestion? Let us know about it.  
Email us at [ESfeedback@dpw.net](mailto:ESfeedback@dpw.net)

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