



# Patricia Jursik *Update*

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February  
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E-NEWS

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance and Audit

Judiciary, Safety and General Services

Personnel, Chair

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee on Long Range Transportation Planning

Economic Stimulus Task Force

Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Chair

RTA Task Force, Chair

## Lake Parkway Extension

I have sponsored a resolution to study the extension of 794 Lake Parkway south into South Milwaukee and Oak Creek.

The Milwaukee County Board's Committee on Transportation approved this resolution on a 6-0 vote after hearing compelling testimony from South Milwaukee Mayor Zepecki, South Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce President Bryan Lorentzen, Cudahy Chamber of Commerce President Ray Glowacki, and St. Francis Association of Commerce President Shari Franz. These leaders expressed support for the extension on behalf of their communities.

The full Milwaukee County Board will consider the resolution at its meeting on February 4.

The Lake Parkway feeds into the Hoan Bridge and the entire Interstate freeway system in Wisconsin. 794 Lake Parkway is our gateway to Milwaukee and beyond. We must do everything we can to enhance the seamless transport of people and goods throughout this corridor.

The resolution calls for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to create a study committee to investigate the feasibility and desirability of extending the Lake Parkway to Ryan Road or to Racine County. The resolution also requests that the cities of St. Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, and Milwaukee notify SEWRPC that they support the study, the results of which will be provided to Milwaukee County and all affected municipalities.

We have seen significant population growth in our south shore communities, and the Lake Parkway provides direct access to Cudahy at Pennsylvania Avenue, St. Francis at Howard Avenue, Milwaukee at Oklahoma Avenue and Carferry Drive, and all three cities at Layton Avenue. The City of Oak Creek, General Mitchell International Airport, the Port of Milwaukee, and major employers in the south shore all stand to benefit from enhancing this corridor.

We are following the proper channels by doing the appropriate planning, seeking input from SEWRPC, and communicating with impacted communities. Those pushing to replace the Hoan Bridge ignored this public process.

## Hoan Bridge

To my great dismay, we have not yet received a response to the request made by the

Coalition to Save the Hoan to obtain the actual cost to re-deck the Hoan Bridge, discontinue planning for alternatives, and provide funding for re-decking in the next biennial budget. This was presented to the Governor's office with petition signatures of 8,079 Wisconsinites and a letter from over 30 elected officials, including state representatives, mayors, alderpersons, supervisors, and economic development leaders. At the Regional Transit Authority press conference in South Milwaukee on January 19, 2010, I had the opportunity to ask the Governor if he would respond to our concerns, to which he replied the decision will be made by the next administration.

## **Strategic Planning for Milwaukee County**

The [Public Policy Forum](#) released the formal study: "[Should It Stay or Should It Go?: Exploring the potential for structural reform in Milwaukee County government.](#)"

There has been much press coverage regarding the report, some of it under the guise of "blowing up county government." As usual, I intend to thoroughly study the report before I make any knee-jerk comments. One thing is clear to me through comments made by constituents: property taxes are maxed out. If there are opportunities for savings by consolidating services, we should look at these alternatives.

There is great need during times of economic recession, and county government often acts as the safety net for these services. How do we run the courts, hospital treatment for the mentally ill, especially in crisis services, take care of the frail and elderly, pay for jails and the House of Correction, and still try to run the buses and enjoy our parks, zoos and other cultural institutions? It might take Solomon to find the correct balance for all of these demands on our tax dollar, but if we all put our time and talent toward finding solutions, we might be able to find the most equitable way to provide for these needs that serve the common good or restructure how these needs are met.

As the chair of the Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee, I have scheduled review of the recommendations in this report. Our committee will start by hearing from the report's author, Rob Henken. One real issue identified by both this report and previously by the work of our committee is the issue of dealing with the county's structural deficit. What do we do when our taxes are maxed out, and yet we have great demands for service as well as the continuing obligations of our employees including retirees with regard to pension and health insurance costs that rise annually beyond the rate of inflation? Stay tuned.

## **Regional Transit and Stabilizing Bus Funding**

Corporate leaders highlighted the urgent need for regional transit and dedicated funding for Milwaukee County's buses at a January media conference in South Milwaukee. Bucyrus International President and CEO Tim Sullivan hosted the event. The Governor proposed the Regional Jobs and Investment Act, which would allow counties to create regional transit authorities in each county. Proponents, including leaders from the City of Racine, SC Johnson, Johnson Controls, and the Greater Milwaukee Committee, recognized transit as critical to our economy's health.

President of AT&T Wisconsin, Scott VanderSanden, explained, "For the vitality of southeastern Wisconsin, getting this bill through the legislature is critical."

Roundy's Chair/CEO Robert Mariano stated, "We have 10,000 employees in the area and shoppers alike who need transit... This is an economic development issue. Transit builds the economy."

President/CEO of Northwestern Mutual Life, Ed Zore – representing a business with

Please email me with  
your ideas for  
celebrating Grant  
Park's Centennial!

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about 700 employees who use mass transit – emphasized the importance of funding and regional planning to “coordinate the system or pretty soon we’ll be left without one.”

We need a solution to bus funding in Milwaukee County. Otherwise we could see drastic cuts to service, including no freeway flyer service, fewer night and weekend options, and sparse service south of Oklahoma Avenue,” according to a report by the Public Policy Forum. Over 100,000 jobs in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties could lose access to bus service in the next set of cuts, a UW-Milwaukee Report report has found.

## **Grant Park Centennial**

On Sunday, July 18, 2010, our community will celebrate Grant Park’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Proposed activities include a 5K walk/run, a sandcastle competition, and live music. Thanks to community organizations, the Parks Department, the City of South Milwaukee, and Mayor Tom Zepecki for their support of the centennial.

I look forward to the rededication of Seven Bridges, the repaving of Grant’s tennis courts, and improvements to the Grant Clubhouse this year! Preserving these assets is our gift to future generations.

## **Community Calendar**

### **Wednesday, February 3 – Fourth Street Forum, “Crisis Time at Milwaukee County”**

Free and open to the public at Noon for a live taping at Historic Turner Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> & Highland, Milwaukee. Hosted by Denise Callaway with guests Steve Baas, Elizabeth Coggs, Rob Henken, and Patricia Jursik. Catch the broadcast on Friday, February 5, at 10pm and Sunday, February 7, at 9am on Milwaukee Public Television 10.1 HD. Watch online at [www.mptv.org](http://www.mptv.org). Additional information at [www.4thStreetForum.org](http://www.4thStreetForum.org)

### **Thursday, February 4 – County Board Meeting, 9:30am**

At Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 200

### **Thursday, February 4 – Empty Bowls Dinner, 5:30pm**

Enjoy soup, bread, and dessert. Take home a handmade bowl to remind you of world hunger and your actions to act against it. Adults \$10, children under ten \$1. All ticket receipts go to local food pantries. At South Milwaukee High School Commons, 801 15<sup>th</sup> Av., South Milwaukee. Contact Mary Kokan at 766-5221 or [kokan.mary@sdsu.k12.wi.us](mailto:kokan.mary@sdsu.k12.wi.us)

### **Saturday, February 6 – Chinese New Year Celebration at the Domes, 9am-6pm**

Enjoy music, dance, arts, crafts, calligraphy, a traditional marketplace, information on Chinese tales and traditions, holistic healing and Feng Shui, a lantern show, and an evening light show. Children will especially enjoy the dragon parade, a basic Chinese language lesson, and the chance to make dumplings and souvenirs in customary red envelopes. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. Regular admission applies. 649-9830 <http://milwaukeechinese.org>

### **Saturday, February 6 – Family FREE Day at the Zoo, 9:30am-4:30pm**

All visitors receive free admission. The parking fee remains in effect. At Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 West Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee. [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org) 256-5466

### **Saturday, February 6 – Kids Ice Fishing Clinic, 9am-3pm (Hourly, last workshop starts at 2**

pm) Learn about ice fishing basics at this free event for youth 15 years of age and under. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. The indoor instructional component will go on no matter what the weather, while the ice-fishing component is dependent on the weather and ice conditions. Milwaukee County Parks, Milwaukee County House of Correction Fish Hatchery, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Council of Sport Fishing Organizations sponsor this clinic and provide all needed equipment. Join the fun at the following locations:

**Humboldt Park**, 3000 S. Howell Av.  
**Scout Lake**, 5902 W. Loomis Rd. - wheelchair accessible  
**Wilson Park**, 1601 W. Howard Av.

For groups of 20+ or for more information, please call 263-8614 in advance.  
[www.county.milwaukee.gov/IceFishing10254.htm#fishingclinic](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/IceFishing10254.htm#fishingclinic) (Check for updates)

**Tuesday, February 9 – Friends of Mill Pond meeting, 6:30pm**  
At Marquette Manor (2409 10<sup>th</sup> Av, South Milwaukee). 571-1191

**Thursday, February 11 – Grant Park “Park Watch” meeting, 6pm**  
At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. 764-7262  
\* \* PLEASE NOTE that Park Watch will now schedule future meetings to precede the Friends of Grant Park meetings. \* \*

**Thursday, February 11 – Friends of Grant Park meeting, 7pm**  
At Grant Park Clubhouse, 100 Hawthorne Av, South Milwaukee. 764-0612

**Friday, February 12 – Snowball Gala Fundraiser, 6-10pm**  
To benefit South Milwaukee/Oak Creek Interfaith. Tickets \$25. Table sponsorships \$250 to be matched by an anonymous donor. At Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Av, Oak Creek. Contact Jennifer Rundell at 762-1998 or [jrundell@interfaithmilw.org](mailto:jrundell@interfaithmilw.org)

**Saturday, February 13 – South Milwaukee Historical Society Annual Dinner, Social Hour 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm**  
Jessica Michna portrays Mary Todd Lincoln. Admission \$22. At Pat’s Oak Manor, 1804 15<sup>th</sup> Av, South Milwaukee. Reservations appreciated by February 1 – please contact Addie Becker at 764-2118.

**Sunday, February 21 – Winter Blast in Bay View, 1-4pm**  
Music, children’s activities, food drive for local food pantries, silent auction to benefit Bay View Neighborhood Association, and a Chili Cook Off (\$1/bowl). Performances by the Garlic Mustard Pickers and Danny Crivello. Please contact Robb Florek at [bimltd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bimltd@sbcglobal.net) or 414-418-9198 to participate in the Cook Off or set up a kiosk. Presented by Bay View Neighborhood Association, South Shore Park Watch, and Milwaukee County Parks. At South Shore Park Pavilion, 2900 S. Shore Dr. [www.bayviewneighborhood.org](http://www.bayviewneighborhood.org)

**Wednesday, February 24 – Cudahy Neighborhood Watch meeting, 6pm**  
At Cudahy Family Library, 3500 Library Dr., Cudahy. 414-324-5531

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**Ongoing:**

**ICE SKATING**

**At Sheridan Park Lagoon**, 4800 S. Lake Dr, Cudahy  
Bring your own skates. Open weather permitting.  
Call 257-PARK (7275) for current conditions.

M–F: 3–8 pm  
Sat & Sun: Noon–8pm

**At Red Arrow Park**, 920 N. Water St, Milwaukee  
(accessible via Route 15, [www.ridemcts.com](http://www.ridemcts.com))

M–Th: 11am–8pm  
Fri & Sat: 11am–11pm  
Sun: 11am–6pm

FREE rink, \$6 skate rental (includes tax) or bring your own. Enjoy the adjacent warming house with restrooms and hot beverages! Closed for blizzard, wind chill or cold weather advisories from the National Weather Service.

**THE DOMES**

**Music Under Glass, every Tuesday and Thursday until March 18, 6:30-8:30pm**  
Enjoy the new lighting of the domes with light shows at the break and following the concert. Regular admission applies. At The Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. 649-9830. Check out the schedule of music at:  
[www.county.milwaukee.gov/FloralShowampEventSc10360/MusicUnderGlass.htm](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/FloralShowampEventSc10360/MusicUnderGlass.htm)

**“Westward Ho” Train Show at the Domes**

Through March 14

Experience this model railroad with G-Trains that wind through over 500 miles of track through western scenes including the Mesa Verde, the Golden Gate Bridge, and a cattle drive. At the Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee. 649-9830.

[www.county.milwaukee.gov/MitchellParkConserva10116.htm](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/MitchellParkConserva10116.htm)

Domes hours: MWF 9am-5pm, TTh 9am-9pm, Weekends 9am-4pm

Domes admission: adults \$6.50, ages 6-17 \$5, children under 6 are free.

## **MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM**

### **“The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible” at the Museum**

Call 223-4676 or visit [www.mpm.edu/dead-sea-scrolls/visit/](http://www.mpm.edu/dead-sea-scrolls/visit/) to purchase assigned time-entry tickets. County residents can purchase discounted \$10 tickets on Mondays for use the same day. Photo ID with a Milwaukee County residence must be shown by each adult in order to receive discounted rates. At Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St, Milwaukee.

### **General Museum Information**

Open M-W 9am-5pm, Th, F, Sun 9am-5:30pm & Sat 8am-5:30pm (with 3pm closure Feb. 20)

Adults \$12, Seniors / College Students with ID / Teens (13-17) \$10, Ages 3-12 \$8

FREE to children under 3 and Museum members with card

FREE to County residents on MONDAYS with photo ID proving Milwaukee County residence.

## **TAX ASSISTANCE**

### **AARP Tax Assistance at Cudahy Family Library**

February 3 to April 15

Wednesdays 10am-7pm & Thursdays 10am-2pm

In the Winter Garden Room, Cudahy Family Library, 3500 Library Dr., Cudahy. 769-2244

### **Tax Assistance at MATC Oak Creek**

February 3 to April 14 (closed April 3, 7, and 10)

Wednesdays 4-7pm & Saturdays 9am-Noon

Assistance for people who earn less than \$56,000 in annual family income. The first 25 clients will be assisted at each session. Enter at the back of the cafeteria, Room A100. At MATC, 6665 S. Howell Av, Oak Creek. Please bring the items posted here:

[www.milwaukee.tec.wi.us/matc\\_news/2010\\_VITA.html](http://www.milwaukee.tec.wi.us/matc_news/2010_VITA.html)