



Patricia Jursik *Update*

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E-NEWS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance and Audit

Judiciary, Safety and
General Services

Transportation,
Public Works,
and Transit

Budget Summary

The County Board finished the 2009 budget with a 3.1% budget increase, (about \$12 per year on a \$150,000 house in Milwaukee). As a member of the Finance and Audit Committee, I worked through every element of this tough budget with other members before the full Board took action. The final budget brought forward a number of significant changes to the way Milwaukee County does business. Foremost among these changes is new leadership for the House of Correction (HOC). The HOC was formerly a separate organizational unit. Under the new plan, the Sheriff will operate the HOC. The Board will continue to have final approval of the HOC budget, but not day-to-day operations.

The second major change in the 2009 budget is the privatization of food services at the Mental Health Complex. Approximately 70 county jobs were privatized. The Board also voted to contract with 211 and UW-Milwaukee to operate the Department of Health and Human Services Call Center, which is discussed in more detail below.

For our district, all of our bus routes were preserved, Sheridan and Grobschmidt Pools will remain open, and golf fees increases were reduced to \$1 at Grant and \$.50 at Warnimont for each nine holes, and the Board favored modest fees at McKinley Marina over the proposed 16% increase. College Avenue is slated for reconstruction starting in 2009 with the intersection of College and Pennsylvania/Nicholson. In 2010, College Avenue will be widened to a 4-lane boulevard from Pennsylvania to Howell.

Call Center Quandary

The Call Center at the Department of Health and Human Services has the mission of administering medical, food, and childcare assistance to residents. However, the Call Center has been unable to handle the need, resulting in unnecessarily long telephone waits and dropped calls.

After studying the situation, I have come to agree with Hunger Task Force, Disability Rights Wisconsin, the Make it Work Milwaukee! Coalition, and the County Executive. Milwaukee County must modernize the Call Center and the programs it administers. We can do this through technology that would allow electronic filing and access to information from trained telephone operators. UW-Milwaukee and the Impact 211 agency will facilitate this change and bring expertise to the operation of the Call Center.

Enjoy your Holiday Season!
Patricia Jursik

Community Calendar

Monday, December 8 – Band-O-Rama, 7-8:30pm

Performance by middle and high school students at Cudahy High School, 4950 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy. 294-2700

Wednesday, December 10 – Cudahy High School Orchestra/Jazz Concert, 7-9pm

At Cudahy High School Auditorium, 4950 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy. 294-2700

Friends of Grant Park – no meeting in December

Saturday, December 13 – Christmas at the Depot, 9am-3pm

Pictures with Santa. Bakery, soup, and poinsettias for purchase. Sponsored by Cudahy Historical Society. At the Depot, 4647 S Kinnickinnic Av., Cudahy

Saturday, December 20 – Holiday Festival Concert, 7pm

By South Milwaukee High School. At 901 15th Av, South Milwaukee.

Monday, December 22 – Yuletide Festival Concert, 7pm

By South Milwaukee High School. At 901 15th Av., South Milwaukee.

Wednesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve Countdown at Red Arrow

Includes fireworks and a countdown with County Executive Walker. At Red Arrow Park, 920 N. Water St., Milwaukee.

Thursday, January 1 – Cool Kite Festival, 11am-4pm

Ice sculptures, kites, and horse and buggy rides. Complimentary hot chocolate while it lasts. Kite-flying lessons available with purchase of a kite. At Veterans Park, 1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee

Ongoing

ICE SKATING

At Sheridan Park Lagoon, 4800 S. Lake Dr.

beginning when conditions permit, M-F 3-8 pm, Sat & Sun 12:30-8pm

Call 257-PARK (7275) for current conditions.

At Red Arrow Park, 920 N. Water St., Milwaukee

(accessible via Route 15, www.ridemcts.com)

Free rink, \$6 skate rental (includes tax) or bring your own.

M–Th: 11am–9pm, Fri & Sat: 11am–11pm, Sun: 11am–8pm

Dec 21–23: 11am–10pm, Dec 24: 11am–3pm, Dec 25: *closed*

Dec 26-27: 11am–11pm Dec 28-30: 11am–10pm New Year's Eve: 11am–1am