



13th District Alderman

Terry L. Witkowski

WINTER 2006

Dear Neighbors,

Is the 13th District falling behind the rest of the city? That is a question I will address in detail in this newsletter, as I bring you news of the City of Milwaukee and our neighborhoods. It is essential that residents, businesses and community organizations work together in order that our area receives the services and attention we are entitled to and deserve.

It is a busy time of the year for you and the Common Council, and I want to wish you a happy holiday season and update you on a number of important issues that we face.

In this newsletter you'll find information on legislative actions I took to improve public safety and our quality of life, my efforts to eliminate layers of government, to save money on city purchases and increase fines on litterbugs to name a few.

As always, please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns. We have a lot to be proud of and should make that known to the entire city.

Sincerely,

Terry Witkowski
Alderman, 13th District



City Taxes Versus Home Costs – Still A Bargain

The City portion of your property tax bill is \$8 per \$1,000 of your home's assessed value. In the 13th District the average assessed value of homes is \$150,000. That means the average taxpayer in this district will pay \$1,200 for a year of city services including police, fire, street lights and maintenance, traffic control, the library, health and building inspection services and more.

Ald. Witkowski says if you compare this to your annual costs for cable TV, cell phones and your electric and gas bills, you'll see that the cost for an orderly and safe city is still a bargain.

Should We Be Known As The Garden District?

I'd like you to think about the idea of calling ourselves the Garden District. How many of your neighbors take great care of their lawns, plant flowers and landscape their properties? We take great care of our homes and property, and homeowners in the 13th District usually finish first in the competition for the Mayor's Landscaping Awards. There is a reason why there are seven landscape and flower businesses in our district and why the Stein Garden & Gifts on S. 27th St. is the company's most popular store and its headquarters.

Other areas of the city have an identity.

What about our area? If you are interested in city planning efforts or would like to explore what we can do to make this the Garden District, I urge you to attend one of my upcoming meetings to explore what can be done. Please mark your calendars for the times and places:

• Visioning Meeting

10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 13, 2007

Water Tower, S. 6th St. and W. Norwich Ave.
*What should our area look like in the future?
This is your opportunity to provide input into the city's Master Plan.*

• Garden District Meeting

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Water Tower, S. 6th St. and W. Norwich Ave.
Discuss how and if we should become the Garden District.

• Town Hall Meeting

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Water Tower, S. 6th St. and W. Norwich Ave.

Is Our Area Falling Behind?

After I took office, I drove around the city to see what was new. I found growth and renewal in the Third Ward, Brewers Hill, Commerce Street, near south side, downtown and near north side. South Kinnickinnic Ave. has new life and is an “in” place to be, and Midtown Center has replaced Capitol Court.

There are new buildings, businesses and residences on N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., W. Villard Ave., W. North Ave. and along other older shopping strips. On the near northwest side, vacant lots now have new homes selling from \$120,000-\$220,000. Empty tracks of land are filled and many single family lots have been filled from N. Holton St. to N. Sherman Blvd., from W. Locust St. to W. Juneau Ave.

This is all good news because it dresses up the city and adds to our population. It also spreads the tax burden over a wider base.

But what about us? Are we falling behind?

Much of the 13th District was built just after WWII, which makes much of the housing and businesses 50-60 years old, although there are some newer homes and some older. The area is well kept with a low crime rate, employment is high and the number of professionals is rising. We are among the highest taxed areas of the city, third highest behind downtown and the east side, but we don't use the services of police, fire and sanitation departments as often as other parts of the city. Because we don't have many of the problems that exist in other areas, how do we get the attention that's needed to **make sure that our aging area does not get left behind?**

ALD. WITKOWSKI'S COMMITTEES

- Public Works Committee
- Public Safety Committee
- Administrative Review Appeals Board
- Library Board
- Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee
- Survive Alive House Foundation Board



I realize that I am 1/15th of the Common Council, and to do battle alone would mean that at best we'd get a 1/15th share of the attention while we continue to pay the third highest price for services. What do other districts that have serious problems do that we don't? They have organized groups to ask for things, highlight needs, wants and problems. While we don't have that many problems, we do have things in the 13th District that can benefit ourselves and the entire city, resources that can grow and make us more of an asset and draw attention to ourselves in the process.

What do we have? We are **the gateway to Milwaukee** from the south, and no other approach to the city has what we have. We have an airport, AMTRAK station, I-94, I-43, I-894, Highways 38, 41 and 241. **We have “the” transportation location for business.** Did you ever notice the number of trucking firms in the district? **We have a large hospitality industry.** We have 16 hotels, four more across the street in Oak Creek and two in the planning stage. **Near the airport alone we have 429 businesses.** South 27th St. is one of the longest, healthiest shopping strips in the region, running four miles from W. College Ave. to W. Oklahoma Ave. This district ranks third highest in the city in employment with approximately 20,665 jobs.

What would happen if those businesses worked together to speak for and benefit the area? What if 20 hotels worked together to promote staying and shopping in the district? What if they worked together to use their combined hotel space to attract conventions? What if area businesses worked together to promote the area and fill vacant land and buildings around the airport? Might this bring more jobs, more business for each other and a wider tax base? If the 13th District were more prominent and people saw it as more important than they do, might that result in more attention to our needs?

Since taking office I've worked on the founding of the 13th District Neighborhood Association, the Airport Gateway Business Association (AGBA), and the Hospitality Industry Committee of the AGBA which includes hotels and area restaurants and the S. 27th St. Business District Association. In addition, two neighborhood groups, the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association and the Tippecanoe Neighborhood Association have formed and are starting to get some traction working on issues. I am also working to spark a neighborhood association in the Pulaski High School area and in the St. Francis Hospital neighborhood. Working to organize groups like these that will work to improve our area is showing results, and it will remain one of my priorities.

The 13th District Neighborhood Association

Founded in January 2005 at Walker's Maple Grove, this association was formed with the mission of assisting elderly and those with special needs who own their own homes in the district and are not able to perform normal home maintenance and small home repairs. Headed by President Vince Bobot, the group has worked with JROTC students from Hamilton High School who work on home projects and neighborhood cleanups.

Representatives of the 13th District Neighborhood Association have testified at city hearings on the 10th and Waterford railroad "quiet zone" and the business improvement district for the Airport Gateway Business Association. They have hosted freeway reconstruction informational meetings. This group welcomes your volunteer service, your contributions of time, talent, equipment, material and cash, and you can also provide information on those who might need help by calling **588-6326**.

Airport Gateway Business Association (AGBA)

AGBA began in the spring of 2005, and its early efforts resulted in the mayor and the commissioners of the Departments of City Development and Public Works moving up the planning process for the district. The Southeast Side Area Plan was to have been the last area to receive this study, but staff have now been assigned to work on development in the 13th District.

Headed by President Gregg Lindner of Lindner Logistics, the group quickly organized more than 90 businesses, networked with airport officials and representatives of St. Francis, Oak Creek and Cudahy to work together to benefit the area. Another result has been that the first "Welcome to Milwaukee, Home of ..." sponsorship signs has appeared on Howell Avenue, and funds from the Milwaukee Brewers will enhance plantings on the boulevard.

AGBA recently completed the steps necessary to become The Airport Gateway Business Improvement District or BID. It will collect assessments from area businesses and use the money to promote and beautify the area. The group's Hospitality Committee held three meetings to unite area hotels. They will also work with restaurants and bars in the district to promote the area as a group.

South 27th Street Business District Association

This association started in June 2006 and is headed by Todd Reardon of Braeger Automotive Group. It is working to update and unify S. 27th St. businesses on both sides of the street in the cities of Milwaukee and Greenfield from W. Oklahoma Ave. to W. College Ave. and may expand further south. Two Greenfield and two other Milwaukee aldermen joined with me in bringing this group together to address issues along S. 27th St. which the Greenfield mayor has also identified as a priority area. The state highway now splitting the two cities offers no beautification efforts.

Neighborhood Associations

Members of the **Tippecanoe Neighborhood Association** have been active in keeping an escort service out of their neighborhood and were successful in keeping a troubled tavern closed. The association's area is bounded by Waterford Avenue on the north, Austin Street on the east, Bolivar Avenue on the south and 5th Street on the west. For more information on activities or how to join contact Ron and Mary Beth Eveland at **mbeveland@wi.rr.com**

The **Forest Hill Neighborhood Association** started this past summer following my Town Hall meeting at Lincoln Avenue School. Its members are working on neighborhood safety and security in the area from S. 16th to S. 20th Streets, and from W. Lincoln Ave. to W. Windlake Ave. If you're interested in becoming a member or in volunteering to help out contact Mike Johnson at **687-5242**.

Wilson Park Fourth of July Needs Your Help!

The fine tradition of Independence Day activities at Wilson Park cannot be carried on without citizen volunteers, and the Wilson Park Fourth of July Association is in need of volunteers.

If you would like to offer your time and talents to this very worthwhile and proud tradition, please call association president Joanne Jalowiec at 481-4136.

Thank you!

Actions Ald. Witkowski Has Taken To Improve Our City

Waterford RR quiet zone – After numerous complaints of noise, I worked to have the busiest railroad crossing in the city at S. 10th St. and W. Waterford Ave. improved and legislation passed to make this a quiet zone. Because of my efforts, trains now sound their horns only when some potential danger is noticed.

Plainfield Curve – The Common Council passed my resolution which asked the state to install chevron markings in the Plainfield Curve to reduce truck crashes. The chevrons had been successful in reducing accidents in the Mitchell Interchange. The state instead installed lane hash marks that officials say are more effective than the chevron markings.

Engine braking – Because of complaints from throughout the district, I successfully authored an ordinance passed by the Common Council that bans truck engine compression braking in Milwaukee. Signs will be placed along the freeway system and at city entrance points.

Government Consolidation – I introduced a resolution for a referendum on the fall ballot to ask voters about consolidation of city/county government services. The referendum would have asked residents if the city should study the financial feasibility of

Keep Advised Of Freeway Work

Freeway construction from W. Howard Ave. south to the city limits will be affecting the 13th District for some time, and Ald. Witkowski asks for the continued participation of residents in the planning process. Several meetings have already been held and more will be scheduled to allow citizens to make their recommendations on noise walls, traffic lanes, safety improvements, the closing or relocation of freeway ramps and closing W. Edgerton Ave. Each Department of Transportation (DOT) public meeting makes available the latest stage(s) of the plans and asks for your comments. Please continue your involvement.

assuming the duties of Milwaukee County to eliminate one layer of government. The issue was held in committee by the chairman and died there. I may try to revive the issue for the April 2008 election.

Community Service Officers – After I led a task force to study the experience of other cities throughout the country in the use of Community Service Officers (CSO), the Common Council approved a pilot program of 15 CSOs in the Milwaukee Police Department in 2007. CSOs are civilian officers who take reports, direct traffic, handle traffic accidents and perform other services that don't require a highly trained and armed police officer with arrest powers. Using CSOs should improve service on lower priority calls and free sworn police officers for higher priority emergencies.

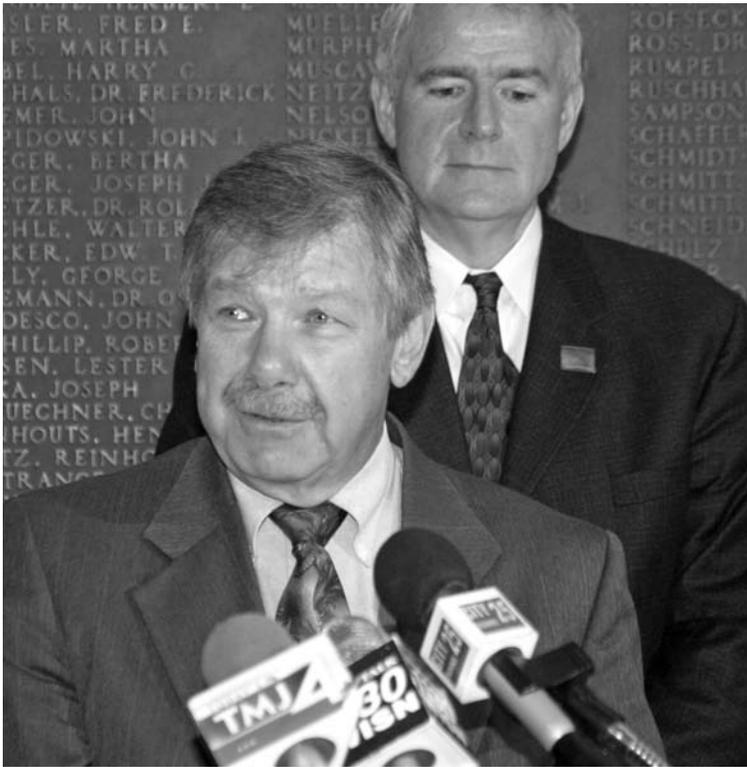
DPW purchase audit – After receiving complaints, I asked the City Comptroller to audit Department of Public Works purchasing procedures. The audit resulted in standardizing DPW procedures and establishing a more transparent purchasing system.

Mitchell International Airport – After successfully opposing the attempted state takeover of Mitchell International Airport from Milwaukee County, the state established a study committee on the issue. I have been appointed to that committee and will have input as to whether the state should introduce any airport authority legislation in the next legislative session.

27th Street Crashes – Three years ago I started working with police from the cities of Milwaukee, Greenfield, Franklin and Oak Creek to reduce accidents on S. 27th St. At that time 10 intersections had 15 or more crashes. That has dropped to six intersections. A multi-city engineering study group has made its recommendations, and the city and state will be making changes at the 10 intersections as funds become available.

Littering Fines – I felt that the city looked especially littered and trashy last spring, and the council approved my proposal to double the fines for littering. The \$25 dollar fine for littering had not changed since 1962. The discussion that occurred during the process to change the law sparked new education efforts among the people of the city about the importance of keeping our city clean.

Christmas Tree – It took a year but Ald. Jim Bohl and I finally succeeded in changing the name of our holiday "city/county" tree to what it is, a Christmas tree. Milwaukee County called it that but 10 years ago the city began to call it a holiday tree. To me it was disrespectful to pass it off as something it was not, and I welcome the return of the Christmas tree to Milwaukee.



Ald. Witkowski and Mayor Tom Barrett at a news conference announcing an aggressive program to collect the millions of dollars owed by those who haven't paid parking fees and other fines.

Ald. Seeks Collection Of Millions Owed To City

More than \$90 million is owed to the City of Milwaukee in outstanding debts, and Ald. Witkowski has taken steps to collect those unpaid parking citation and property tax delinquencies and outstanding municipal fines. The alderman introduced a resolution passed by the Common Council which created an Outstanding Debt Task Force to study what can be done to collect those debts. "Before I inquired into the situation, there had been no review of the money owed," said Ald. Witkowski.

"When I was Safety Director 11 years ago there was \$8 million in outstanding parking fines," said Ald. Witkowski. "I was amazed to learn outstanding parking fines went up dramatically and that forced me to take action." The alderman said those who don't pay their parking fees or other fines are cheating other taxpayers.

The task force which the alderman chaired reviewed city procedures for collecting past due money and the city is now seeking changes in state law and reviewing department efforts necessary to implement the recommendations of the task force.

How My Office Works

Ald. Witkowski would like you to meet Catherine Cooper, his legislative assistant.

You may already have talked to her if you've called the alderman's office. "Catherine acts as my liaison," said Ald. Witkowski. "When she advocates for your interests with city departments, she does so with the full power and force of my office."

Catherine is prepared to answer your questions, forward your complaints to the proper department and follow up on your request. If both the alderman and legislative assistant are not available because they are assisting other constituents, leave a voicemail message and it will be returned.

In addition to her primary responsibility of neighborhood relations, Catherine assists Ald. Witkowski as he prepares for Common Council and committee meetings, responds to constituent correspondence, conducts legislative research, and coordinates office management, neighborhood meetings and scheduling. In her very active spare time she lists furniture refinishing, upholstery, quilting and sewing as among her hobbies. Catherine says she manages it all by being well organized, a skill that she finds quite useful at City Hall.



The 13th District is well represented in city government by the roles these residents play. (Clockwise from top left).

- Jeffrey Mantes, Commissioner, Dept of Public Works
- Cheryl Oliva, City Purchasing Director
- Venu Gupta, Buildings & Fleet Supt., DPW
- Mary Ellen Voelz, Purchasing Administrator
- Stanley Gwiazdowski, Member, Street Renaming Committee
- Patricia Torres-Garrett, Member, City Plan Commission

One Call - That's All...286-CITY

That one number can connect you with 21 departments, 8,800 employees and 100s of city services, ranging from building permits to parking permission to library hours to garbage pickups.

Ald. Witkowski says the city continues to seek ways to improve communications with residents, and this one-stop number for city services makes it even easier to find the right department and person to handle your complaint or request. Residents will still call 911 for emergencies but can use the new number for any other calls.

Of course you can always contact Ald. Witkowski at **286-8537** or write to him with your concerns. The **Department of Public Works Call Center** at **286-8282** and the **Department of Neighborhood Services** complaint line at **286-2268** also are still active city telephone numbers.

Or Do Business On Milwaukee.gov's Portal Page

Looking for a high-tech way to keep informed about what's happening in the 13th District, the city and the county? If you have a computer and



Internet access, finding government information and services online is very easy. Go to **www.milwaukee.gov**, simply type a keyword or phrase in the site section and click GO. The new search engine will take you to the proper department in either the city or the county.

Another city initiative called **E-Service** provides an online request form that allows citizens to request a service without knowing which city department provides that service. E-Service cuts at least two-days off the process.

And the city can also communicate with you with **E-Notify**. This easy-to-use, Internet tool allows the city to send such information as city news, police crime bulletins by neighborhood, meeting and bid notices and many other topics to subscribers' email accounts based on selections made by the individual citizen. E-Notify is available on the City Home Page.

Do Not Park On The Grass

You may have seen a "Don't **walk** on the Grass" sign in the neighborhood, but Ald. Witkowski would like to remind you that while you might not see a "Don't **park** on the Grass" sign, it is against the law.

The alderman has received a number of complaints about people parking on or putting cars with "For Sale" signs on the grassy areas of their properties. City ordinances say all parking spaces need a paved surface, not crushed stone, sand, gravel, cinders or grass. "It's another quality of life issue that's important to our community," said Ald. Witkowski. Call the **Department of Neighborhood Services** at **286-2268** with any questions or complaints.

Addresses On Garages?

When police or firefighters respond to an emergency seconds count. Accurate addresses can save precious seconds. Ald. Witkowski wants to remind you that houses are required to be identified by address numbers facing both the street and the alley. This is done to make it easier for emergency personnel or city workers to find a property.

What's Your Sign?

Did you know that signs in the public right-of-way are in violation of city and state laws? Signs between the sidewalk and the curb or on the median, except for traffic signs, are illegal. "If the sign is gone, chances are a police officer, city or county crew removed it," said Ald. Witkowski, "because it was in the **public right-of-way.**"

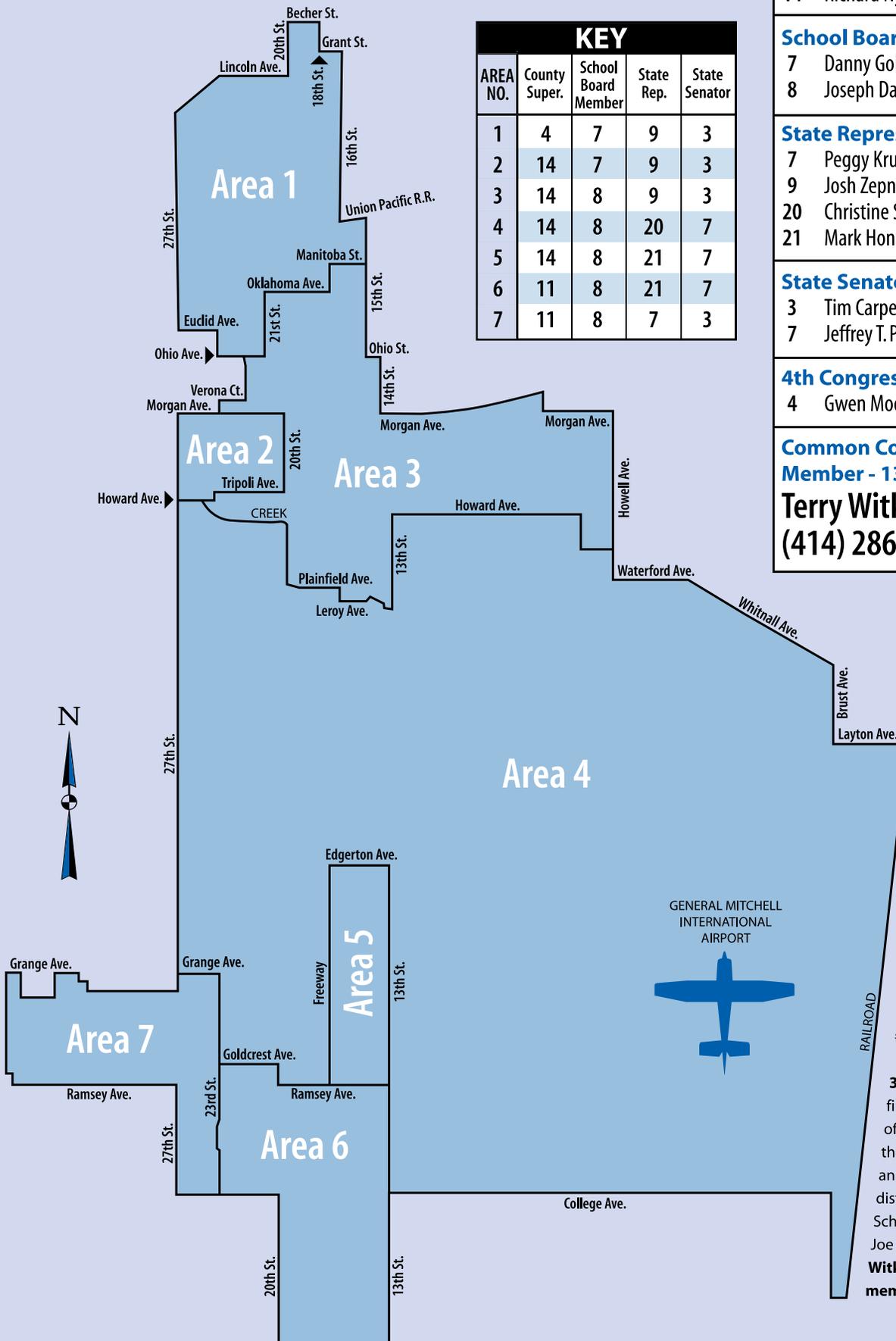
All signs in the **public right-of-way** require authorization by the city, although temporary political or rummage sale signs are not permitted at all. The public right-of-way usually extends from the sidewalk on one side of the street to the sidewalk on the other side. City workers and police can and will remove unauthorized signs.

Rummage Sales Restricted

Planning a rummage sale? Now that you know the sign requirements, here's some information on how many times a year you can sell those unwanted items. Zoning codes adopted by the Common Council for the entire city limit residents to only two rummage sales in a calendar year.

The law limits each sale to only three days and requires that only household items may be sold from a one-unit dwelling. Residents who violate the zoning requirements could be fined.

Elected Representatives of the 13th Aldermanic District by Area



| KEY | | | | |
|----------|---------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| AREA NO. | County Super. | School Board Member | State Rep. | State Senator |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| 2 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| 3 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 14 | 8 | 20 | 7 |
| 5 | 14 | 8 | 21 | 7 |
| 6 | 11 | 8 | 21 | 7 |
| 7 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 3 |

ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Supervisors

| | | |
|----|------------------------|----------------|
| 4 | Marina Dimitrijevic | (414) 278-4232 |
| 11 | Mark Borkowski | (414) 278-4253 |
| 14 | Richard Nyklewicz, Jr. | (414) 278-4252 |

School Board Members

| | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| 7 | Danny Goldberg | (414) 475-8284 |
| 8 | Joseph Dannecker | (414) 486-9358 |

State Representatives

| | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------|
| 7 | Peggy Krusick | (608) 266-1733 |
| 9 | Josh Zepnick | (608) 266-1707 |
| 20 | Christine Sinicki | (608) 266-8588 |
| 21 | Mark Honadel | (608) 266-0610 |

State Senators

| | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| 3 | Tim Carpenter | (608) 266-8535 |
| 7 | Jeffrey T. Plale | (608) 266-7505 |

4th Congressional District

| | | |
|---|------------|----------------|
| 4 | Gwen Moore | (414) 297-1140 |
|---|------------|----------------|

Common Council Member - 13th District
Terry Witkowski
 (414) 286-2221



How To Use The Map Of Elected Representatives

1. Determine which area you live in (e.g., Area 3).
2. In the "KEY" box, find the district numbers that correspond to your area number (e.g., for Area 3, the district numbers are County Supervisor #14, School Board member #8, State Representative #9 and State Senator #3).
3. In the "ELECTED OFFICIALS BOX" find the names and phone numbers of the elected officials representing the districts identified. Using Area 3 as an example, the County Supervisor for district #14 is Richard Nyklewicz, Jr., the School Board member for district #8 is Joe Dannecker, and so on. **(Note: Terry Witkowski is the Common Council member for all 7 areas.)**

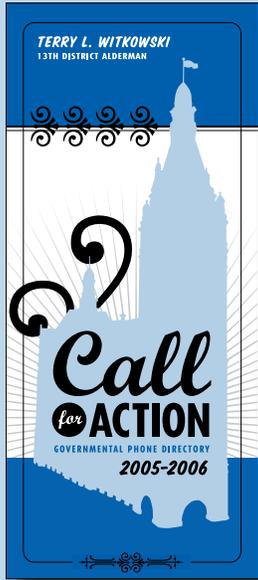


13th District Alderman

Terry L. Witkowski

WINTER 2006

For Ald. Witkowski's web page and more information about the 13th District go to:
www.milwaukee.gov/district13



Call For Action Booklet

I'm including a copy of the popular Call For Action booklet with this newsletter. The directory and telephone and Internet communications discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, are among the many ways you can contact the proper person with your concerns or questions. Remember you can also share your concerns with me. I welcome your input about dealing with city services or improving our neighborhoods. You can email me at twitko@milwaukee.gov or contact me at 286-8537.

City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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HOLIDAY HELPERS

Shovel Your Sidewalk. It's The Law

Remember that residential and commercial property owners and occupants are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow or ice within 24 hours after a storm. If violations are reported, a 24-hour notice is issued. If the sidewalks still are not cleared, a sanitation crew will clear a path and put the charge on the property tax bill.

Note: *the city does not plow alleys.*

If you have elderly or disabled neighbors who need help with snow shoveling – please help them out when you can.

And make our city safer by shoveling out the fire hydrants near your home. Ald. Witkowski says “adopting” a fire hydrant will ensure maximum visibility for firefighters in the event of an emergency.

No Garbage/Recycling Pickup on Holidays

- **Christmas, Dec. 22-25, 2006**
- **New Year's, Dec. 29, 2006 and Jan. 1, 2007**
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan. 15, 2007**
- **Good Friday, April 6, 2007**

After each holiday, your collection day will change. City offices and Sanitation Self-Help Centers are also closed on these dates.

Winter Parking Restrictions Started Dec. 1

Motorists should look for signs describing the parking restrictions along streets 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. No parking on one or both sides of a street during a particular winter month, such as December or January.
- **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.

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 section of the city web site, www.milwaukee.gov under parking services.