The Milwaukee Cleaner River Conference

The City of Milwaukee Environmental Engineering Section hosted "The Milwaukee Cleaner River Conference" on November 17, 2005. The event was held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel near the airport. Approximately 160 engineers, consultants, developers, property owners, and City employees attended. The purpose of the conference was to inform and educate individuals who apply for construction permits about some of the City’s requirements.

The main conference theme was the need for better controls and techniques to prevent pollutants from entering our rivers and lake. The agenda for the conference included topics of permitting, stormwater man-

City Officials, Brady Street BID, Architectural Firm and Structural Engineering Company Cut Ribbon for One-of-a-Kind Marsupial Bridge in Milwaukee

The Marsupial Bridge, located underneath the Holton Street Bridge, opened to the public following a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 10th; five years after Julilly Kohler had the idea after kayaking down the Milwaukee River. The bridge is a pedestrian and bicycle path crossing the river and is suspended from the Holton Street bridge. Because it seems to hang like a pouch from the existing structure, the term “marsupial” has been utilized to describe it.

The ribbon-cutting was well attended by Brady Street Business Improvement District members, merchants from the area, Department of Public Works staff, residents, members of the Mayor’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force, principals and staff from La Dallman Architects and Bloom Consulting, LLC. Kohler is a neighborhood resident who has been active in the revitalization of the Brady Street area for a number of years. She lobbied for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and with the assistance of State Representative Jon Richards, the City was granted 80% of the funds needed for the project. Mayor Tom Barrett, who was a congressman at the time the funds were sought, also provided.

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Dave Schlabowske, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for Department (right) and Jack Hirt from the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (left) rode across the Marsupial bridge with a group of bicyclists to show how “bicycle friendly” the bridge is prior to the ribbon cutting.

State Senator Jeff Plale, Julilly Kohler, Brady Street BID, Department of Public Works Commissioner Jeff Mantes, Mayor Tom Barrett, Yan Nenaydykh, Bloom Consulting, LLC, Architect Grace La, La Dallman Architects, City Engineer Jeff Polenske and Alderman Michael D’Amato cut the ribbon for the one-of-a-kind Marsupial Bridge.

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Marsupial Bridge
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assistance. The total cost of the project was $3.2 million. Major support for the project was provided by 3rd District Alderman Michael D’Amato.

The unique design for the bridge was created by La Dallman Architects, with the structural design provided by Bloom Consultants. The Holton Street Bridge was completed in 1926 and there was a question whether the structure would support the Marsupial Bridge. Bloom Consultants provided detailed structural analysis to ensure the safety of the bridge. The sleek, sweeping design by La Dallman now connects two neighborhoods, the Riverwest area (including Kilbourn Park) and Brady Street.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the bridge was held in May 2004 and it was completed in November 2005. The completed bridge is 642 feet long, 10 feet wide, with the bikeway 8 feet. It spans the Milwaukee River for 200 feet. The deck of the Marsupial Bridge is about 32 feet above normal water elevation.

The bridge has received rave reviews for its stylish design which incorporates a deck of long-lasting Brazilian ipe wood and a railing of gleaming mahogany slats topped by stainless steel. Lighting is built into the bridge to provide illumination at night and on the Water Street side there are several low slung concrete benches in small plaza like area. The architectural firm believes the area could host movies in warmer weather.

The city expects to receive an additional $640,000 in funds from the federal government along with tax-incremental financing revenue that will help pay for amenities that were too costly to include in the current budget. Those amenities include a stairway to the Commerce Street Riverwalk, a connection to an old wooden train trestle and additional landscaping.

The Marsupial Bridge is part of the Crossroads Project undertaken by the Brady Street Business Association to assist with the revitalization of the Brady Street area and surrounding neighborhoods. Neighborhood organizations are planning a celebration around the Marsupial Bridge on May 28th that will incorporate the Milwaukee River, Kilbourn Park and Brady Street area merchants.

Above, the railings of the bridge feature varnished mahogany slats, topped with stainless steel. This photo shows the relationship of the Marsupial Bridge to Commerce Street. The view pictured below demonstrates how the Marsupial Bridge fits into the structural design of the Holton Street Bridge.

Cleaner River Conference
Continued from front page

agreement and erosion control. In addition, presentations on innovative methods of stormwater management were made by private developers and property owners.

If you are interested in learning more about the conference, contact Nader Jaber at 286-0514. The presentations are also available online at www.milwaukee.gov/MCRC.

Mayor Tom Barrett provided the welcoming remarks.

The Environmental Engineering Section received great feedback from the participants. Thanks to everyone from the Environmental Engineering Section for putting together an excellent conference. The conference will be presented again next year.

The Environmental Engineering Section received great feedback from the participants. Thanks to everyone from the Environmental Engineering Section for putting together an excellent conference. The conference will be presented again next year.
A portrait of former Mayor Frank P. Zeidler, painted by renown portrait artist, Thomas Pelham Curtis, was unveiled on Tuesday, November 1st on the first floor of the building which had been named in his honor in 1995. Purchase of the portrait was made possible through a fund-raising campaign sponsored jointly by the Wisconsin Labor Society and the Public Enterprise Committee.

The committee wanted to purchase the portrait and have it hung for the citizens of Milwaukee to view. The committee’s reason was “there is no man who has felt the heart throbs of Milwaukee better than Frank Zeidler; he knows our history, its neighborhoods, our people better than any person. His lifelong quest for justice and peace has been an inspiration to thousands of Milwaukeeans”.

The 93 year-old Zeidler served with distinction as the mayor of Milwaukee from 1948 to 1960, as a Socialist. During his administration, the city doubled in size; a sports arena was created; 3,200 low-income housing units were built; an educational television station came into being; a major addition to the main library was made and several new branch libraries were created, including Atkinson Library; UWM was greatly expanded and a large number of blighted areas were cleared.

Mayor Tom Barrett made the opening remarks. He was followed by Alderman Robert Bauman who shared some of his Mayor Zeidler stories. The Public Works Committee, chaired by Alderman Robert Bauman approved the resolution to accept the portrait. Philip Blank, chairman of the Wisconsin Labor History Society, who led the effort to raise funds and Kenneth Germanson, president of the Society, also made remarks regarding the former mayor’s many contributions to the community.

Dennis Murawski, a Sanitation Inspector for the south area was awarded a Citizen Award of Merit from Mayor Tom Barrett and a Certificate of Merit from Police Chief Nannette Hegerty at an awards ceremony held on November 2, 2015 at the Fire and Police Academy. Murawski assisted the Milwaukee Police on January 12th of this year when he saw an officer on foot in pursuit of a subject. According to the police report read at the ceremony, he was parked in the 2600 block of West National Avenue, got out and stepped in the path of the suspect. The suspect, with his path blocked turned toward the officer in a fighting stance. The officer summoned assistance and attempted to apprehend the suspect, who then began to physically resist him. Murawski, again, disregarded his own safety and assisted the officer by grabbing the combative suspect and helped to stabilize him until other officers arrived.

Murawski says that the reason he decided to assist the officer is because he could see that the suspect was going to escape or possibly hurt the officer. “We all have to do our part to help the police department keep the streets safe. They can’t do it themselves. I was glad to help in any way I could”, he stated.

Dennis Murawski’s background includes a stint in the in the U.S. Army, three years as a sergeant stationed in the Panama Canal Zone. He was also trained in the art of self defense by a good friend who was one of several body guards for the President of South Korea. His training gave him the confidence to help the officer.

When asked if he would do it again, he answered “yes, without a doubt. When you are in a situation like that, you don’t think – you just react to what you see. My sister is married to a police officer and so is my cousin. I have great respect for the men and women who protect and serve. It’s a very tough job”.

The Milwaukee Police Department commended Dennis Murawski for his “keen observation and quick decision to assist the police without regard for his personal safety”. The Department of Public Works also commends him for his selfless act to help make our community a better place.
On Thursday, November 17th, Mayor Tom Barrett and County Executive Scott Walker hosted the lighting of the City/County Holiday Tree Lighting in Red Arrow Park, located on Water Street between State Street and Kilbourn Avenue. The 30-foot Colorado Blue Spruce was donated by the Loving Shepherd Lutheran Church and its school. The tree was planted 21 years ago by Pastor David Seager and his two sons.

When Pastor Seager and his 7 and 9-year old sons planted the two 4-feet Colorado Blue Spruces in the front of the Loving Shepherd Lutheran Church in 1984 they never thought they would grow as fast as they did. On November 9th, one of the trees was harvested for the City/County Holiday Tree. Mayor Tom Barrett and his 7-year old daughter Kate, Alderman Ashanti Hamilton with 7 year old Camara and 9 year old Camani were on hand to witness the harvesting of the tree along with several school children from the Loving Shepherd Lutheran elementary school. Pastor Seager said that the tree “will serve as a gift from the church and school to the public and serve as a tool to teach the children civic responsibility”. Pastor David Seager and several members of the Loving Shepherd Lutheran Church and school children attended the Holiday Tree Lighting.

This year’s event began with a pre-concert at 4:45 p.m. featuring the melodious sounds of the Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts concert choir. The choir has received top honors in state contests with combined high school and middle school choirs. Adding to the “old fashioned” merriment, characters from The Rep’s A Christmas Carol, Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig (actors Michael Cone and Jenny Wanasek) were on hand to introduce the sponsors of the event and Mayor Tom Barrett. Dancers from another Milwaukee tradition, the Milwaukee Ballet’s The Nutcracker added to the festivities by dressing in beautiful costumes from the production. Fresh hot popcorn was available and Starbucks Coffee’s Cheer Patrol dispensed hot chocolate and treats for the crowd.

This year’s Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony was presented by Greening Milwaukee and supported by East Town Association, Starbucks Coffee Company, Milwaukee Downtown BID #21, Madison Medical Affiliates, Johnson Controls, Karl’s Event Rental, Home Depot Foundation, Milwaukee Public Schools, the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee County. People filled the park and the event received excellent coverage by the media.

**Portrait Unveiled**

Thomas Pelham Curtis spoke of his desire to paint the former mayor and how he contacted the mayor to get his permission. The artist’s list of portraits of famous people includes former presidents Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan and Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist. He is also past president of the American Portraitist Society.

Another portion of the program included a performance by folk singer Larry Penn, who performed a song written by former Mayor Frank P. Zeidler in 1935, “Spirit of Gene Debs”. More than a hundred people attended the unveiling ceremony and the reception that followed. Mayor Zeidler was pleased to note that Jeff Mantes, Department of Public Works Commissioner, Martin Collins, Department of Neighborhood Services Commissioner and Bevan Baker, Health Department Commissioner were in the audience and their respective offices are located in the Zeidler Building.

A cake featuring Mayor Zeidler’s portrait made by Deb Socha and Bakery Department students at Milwaukee Area Technical College was cut and distributed during the reception. The Planning Committee which purchased and arranged to have the City accept the portrait was composed of Alderman Robert Bauman, Philip and Bea Blank, Charlotte Bleistein, Dawn Drellos, Grant D. Waldo and Ken Germanson.
Mayor Tom Barrett, Alderman Willie L. Hines Jr., and Alderman Michael Murphy attended a demonstration at the Walldren residence, 2195 North 53rd Street of how the Disconnect and Redirect program operates on September 6th. This stormwater management tool was being offered to property owners in pre-selected neighborhoods in the aldermen’s districts as a pilot program to gauge the impact that such a program might have on sewage overflows.

Disconnect and Redirect was directed at private property owners in order to reduce sewage overflows and basement backups, and to encourage the use of rainwater for other purposes, such as gardening and lawn care. Roof downspouts are a major source of the excess water. The Disconnect and Redirect project involved private property owners voluntarily disconnecting roof downspouts themselves, or having the work performed — free-of-charge — by DPW contractors.

Residents were sent letters, received door hangers and were invited to community cafes to get additional information about the program.

At right, photos #1 through #5: Kanesone Simaphone, technician and Jonathan Steinbach, Civil Engineer in the Environmental Engineering Section demonstrate how to “disconnect and redirect” properly.

Left to right: City Engineer Jeff Polenske, Mayor Tom Barrett at the press conference. The mayor encouraged those eligible to participate in the program.

Alderman Willie Hines speaks of the benefits of the “disconnect and redirect” program. A portion of his district was included in the project.

Alderman Michael Murphy has been a long time proponent of the “disconnect and redirect” program.
Ray Russell Retires: 37 Years in Department of Public Works

Ray Russell found out about job opportunities with the Department of Public Works through his high school, John Marshall. In the late 1960s, the City of Milwaukee would hold exams for entry level positions in Milwaukee public high schools. Russell took an exam for draftsman. Following graduation in 1968 he took a job at Treasure Island, one of the popular retail stores at that time. Later that summer he was called in for an interview and was eventually hired, starting date was July 22, 1968. Russell said he took the job because it provided much better benefits and because he really liked drafting. He took extra courses in drafting in high school.

He had several promotions and a couple of transfers during his 37 year career. “Every time I moved, I would go to a better place,” he said. He started out in the Bureau of Engineers, Maps and Plats Section, got promoted to Draftsman II in 1971. He was promoted to Engineering Draftsman II in 1972 and was transferred to Traffic Engineering and Electrical Services, while in T.E. & E.S. Russell took a transfer in 1977 to Parking and Playgrounds, where he remained for two years before he was promoted to Engineering Technician IV in 1979.

In 1991 he was moved into Traffic Operations, which consisted of Construction, Pavement Markings, Special Events and Traffic Control. In this area he became a certified “traffic control supervisor”, a title that requires certification and course work in creating safe traffic and work zones. During this time he was promoted to Engineering Technician V. Russell was involved in several high profile street projects including turning part of State Street into a two-way and part of Wells Street into a two-way.

Ray Russell became involved in some of the city’s biggest and most visible festivals and events in the City of Milwaukee. Some of them included the Great Circus Parade, Summerfest, Bastille Days, South Shore Water Frolics, RiverSplash, the Veterans’ Day Parade, and Al’s Run. His promotion to Engineering Technician VI coincided with one of the largest events in the City, the 2003 Harley-Davidson Motor Company 100th Anniversary and Parade of Heroes, events he spent an entire year in preparation.

Russell was presented with a resolution at a Common Council meeting in September by Alderman Joe Davis. Part of the resolution stated:

WHEREAS, Raymond H. Russell has contributed to the vibrancy and the safety of the City of Milwaukee above and beyond the call of duty for more than 37 years, and his co-workers and special events coordinators around the city wish him well in his retirement, and now he will have more time to spend with his family, especially his two grandsons (and one on the way) and to volunteer his time in the community; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Raymond H. Russell on his retirement from the Department of Public Works, commends him for his many valuable contributions to the city and wishes for him a happy retirement.

The Department of Public Works also wishes Ray Russell a happy retirement!

Partial Completion of Canal Street Project Signals Renewal of the Menomonee Valley

Mayor Tom Barrett, Department of Public Works Commissioner Jeff Mantes, Executive Director of the Menomonee Valley Partners Laura Bray, City Engineer Jeff Polenske, Southeast Region Manager Dewayne Johnson, Department of Transportation and Melissa Cook, Department of Natural Resources and Brian Swenson, Milwaukee Transportation Partners (MTP) celebrated the completion of the portion of the Canal Street Project from 6th to 25th Streets in October 2005. The Canal Street Project represents an unprecedented example of intergovernmental and private business cooperation between the City of Milwaukee, the State of Wisconsin, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Menomonee Valley Partners, C. P. Rail, as well as numerous other partners. These groups all came together to accomplish multiple objectives in conjunction with the public works project.

Mayor Tom Barrett said, “The Canal Street project provides critical infrastructure to serve existing industries and facilitate redevelopment of the

Continued on page seven
Kudos to…

Deputy Commissioner Henry J. Balconi, who coordinated the Milwaukee Water Works response to the April 1993 cryptosporidium crisis, has retired after nearly 4 decades with Milwaukee DPW. Balconi retired in May 1994 after 38 years of service to the City of Milwaukee.

A native of Hancock, Michigan, Balconi held nine posts during his 38-year tenure the Department, including Superintendent of two of the right DPW Divisions. He directed initial improvements to the Water Works following the outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in 1993. Balconi coordinated a consultant’s study for long term water treatment plant improvements that are now being implemented and was chairman of the first Inter-Agency Clean Water Advisory Council established by the Common Council.

Throughout the years, Balconi made his mark on the City of Milwaukee and oversaw many other important public works projects. Among his other accomplishments are directing restoration of the historic Pabst Theater, construction of MECCA Convention Hall, restoration of MECCA’s Arena and Auditorium and construction of MacArthur Square. He chaired bid specifications committees for two multi-million dollar contracts for Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling, the largest-ever city service contracts, which resulted in significant savings. Balconi spearheaded the 1990 DPW reorganization and four subsequent reorganizations in DPW divisions.

Balconi joined DPW in June 1956 as a Civil Engineer I in the construction section of the Bureau of Engineers, then took a leave of absence from 1957-1958 to serve as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Paris, France. Until 1964 he held the positions in Engineers of Civil Engineer II and III. He was Special Layout and Special Studies Engineer in Administration (1964-1970) and Engineer in Charge (1970-1975). Balconi served as Superintendent of both Bridges & Buildings (1975-1982) and the Water Works (1982-1987). He was appointed Deputy Commissioner in 1987.

Thanks to Roz Rouse, Water Marketing Specialist, who wrote the article for the 1994 DPW Annual Report.

Henry J. Balconi, Former Deputy Commissioner of DPW Passes

Henry J. Balconi

KUDOS: A word meaning glory, praise or credit.

Canal Street Project

Continued from page six

Central Menomonee Valley to increase family supporting jobs adjacent to the City’s most densely populated, economically distressed, and minority neighborhoods”.

Some of the recent developments in the Valley include the Harley-Davidson Motor Company Museum and offices at 6th and Canal Street and the expansion of the Potawatomi Bingo Casino. Menomonee Valley Partners has recently acquired the 13 acre parcel formerly owned by Emmark Foods. It has 900 feet of frontage on Canal Street. They are actively marketing the site to businesses.

The primary objectives include providing an effective traffic mitigation route during the reconstruction of the Marquette Interchange and facilitating redevelopment of the Menomonee Valley. Project elements included segments of the DNR managed Hank Aaron State Trail (HAST); relocation of an existing railroad spur within Canal Street; the reconstruction of the street from 6th to 25th Street; and a new modern roundabout, and a bio-retention facility and storm water lift station at the intersection of 25th and Canal Street.

The press event was attended by more than 100 people including representatives from Potawatomi Bingo Casino, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Works, MTP and sub consultants, members of the Menomonee Valley Partners, and WE Energies among others.

The Canal Street Project will eventually stretch to Miller Park. The extension project is ongoing and will be open to traffic by April 1, 2006. Extensive traffic control equipment to facilitate traffic flow during Miller Park events will be implemented in a separate contract this Spring/early Summer.

Thanks to Roz Rouse, Water Marketing Specialist, who wrote the article for the 1994 DPW Annual Report.
### Administrative Services

**New Hires**
- Michelle L. Bendlin, Parking Checker
- Martin R. Bolling, Parking Checker
- Michael A. Bush, Parking Checker
- Naimah R. El-Amin, Parking Checker
- Amy L. Goldapp, Parking Checker
- Floyd S. Jack, Parking Checker
- Mark C. Lewis, Parking Checker
- Joanne M. Mauser, Parking Checker
- Robert L. O’Neil, Parking Checker
- Johnathan B. Simmons, Parking Checker
- Michael P. Stolowski, Parking Checker

**Regular Appointments**
- Aniese Clay, Parking Checker
- Christopher J. Price, Parking Checker

**Promotions**
- Kelly L. Carter, Communications Assistant III
- Candace M. Hoyt, Accounting Assistant I

### Infrastructure Services

**New Hires**
- Scott D. Bieganski, Engineering Drafting Technician I, Transportation
- Richard T. Lacy, Carpenter Supervisor, Streets & Bridges
- Fintress A. Harris, Ironworker, Streets & Bridges
- David Schlabowske, Engineering Drafting Technician IV

**Promotions**
- Joseph C. Blakeman, Traffic Control Engineer II, Transportation
- James L. Brown, Engineering Technician VI, Transportation
- Steven P. Cianciola, Water Construction Coordinator, Construction
- Dongjin Choi, Engineering Drafting Technician II, Underground
- Thomas Hughes, Electrical Services Manager, Electrical Services
- Lisa P. Krolasik, Engineering Drafting Technician II, Underground
- Robert C. Miller, Engineering Drafting Technician II, Underground
- Lamont Perry, Sewer Crew Leader II, Underground
- Alak Roy, Civil Engineer IV, Streets & Bridges
- Dawn Schmidt, Civil Engineer III, Transportation
- Elizabeth A. Wenzel, Civil Engineer II, Streets & Bridges
- Albert Wienke, Engineering Drafting technician II, Underground
- Carol A. Wronski, Engineering Technician II, Underground

**Retirements**
- James Amberger, Civil Engineer IV, Streets & Bridges
- Donald L. Basterash, Utility Worker, Electrical Service
- Steven L. Gipp, Laborer, Electrical Services

**Operations Division**

**Promotions**
- Michael R. Daniels, Sanitation District Manager, Sanitation
- John Pelkowski, Sanitation District Manager, Sanitation
- Donald D. Stone Jr., Sanitation District Manager, Sanitation

**Retirements**
- Robert L. Hudnall, Sanitation District Manager, Sanitation
- Lacy Sims, Auto Maintenance Mechanic, Fleet Services
- Terry L. Wobick, Sanitation Supervisor, Sanitation

### Milwaukee Water Works

**New Hires**
- James J. Bolstad, Water Chemist I
- Gregg S. Harris, Water Treatment Plant Operator
- Anthony A. Jackson, Water Treatment Plant Operator
- Jason Otto, Water Chemist I

**Promotions**
- Stevie A. Bond, Water Distribution Repair Worker
- Lorena Cornejo Rodriguez, Customer Service Representative III
- Christopher Cornelius, Water Distribution Worker II
- Wendy Daleccio, Customer Service Representative III
- Bernice Flemming, Water Claims Specialist
- George J. Gettler, Water Meter Technician I
- Sara A. Racine, Senior Water Treatment Plant Operator
- Anthony Rocha, Water Meter Technician II
- James A. Ruplinger, Water Meter Technician I
- Richard E. Zinuticz, Water Chemist II

**Retirements**
- Dennis Beber, Water Distribution Repair Worker I
- Dale M. Hudaj, Water Meter Technician II
- Richard A. Krueger, Electrical Mechanic

**Transfers**
- Korea Dalton, City Laborer (from Infrastructure Streets & Bridges)
- Ronald L. Johnson, Electrical Mechanic, (from Infrastructure Streets & Bridges)

**In the Works is published quarterly by the City of Milwaukee, Department of Public Works**

Send ideas and articles to: Cecilia Gilbert, Permits & Communications Manager
Zeidler Municipal Building
841 N. Broadway, Rm. 501
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 286-3261 • cegilbe@mpw.net