

Alderman

Robert W. Puente

9th District



SUMMER/FALL 2010

Dear 9th District Residents,

During the first quarter of this year, total violent crime in Milwaukee decreased nearly 16% while the total number of property crimes decreased 8% in the same time period. In three years, violent crime has decreased 40% in Milwaukee (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault). The number of stolen cars has decreased by an impressive 58% over that period of time. This information comes directly from the Milwaukee Police Department (see page 6).

I want to emphasize that the decreases can be attributed to many factors, including good police work, solid investigations, and – in my mind most importantly – good citizen and neighborhood involvement. In this newsletter you’ll see me (pages 6 and 8) joining with neighbors/Block Watch members and police officers in neighborhood walks. As I’ve said before, involved residents and Block Watch groups make crime statistics go down by reducing the opportunities for criminals and by having neighbors working together and communicating with each other and with police.

The city continues to respond to the flooding and basement backups caused by the July storms. At the July 27th meeting of the Common Council, my colleagues and I unanimously approved the creation of the Flooding Study Task Force to examine key flooding issues, including basement sewage backups and possible remedies for homeowners including possibly offering incentives for sewer backflow preventer valves, excessive flooding of streets and alleyways, and the overall capacity of the city’s sewer and storm water systems.

In this newsletter you’ll also find updates on district developments, another major honor for Growing Power’s Will Allen, a 9th District Mayor’s Design Award winner, ways you can access city services via computer, information on self-help centers and disposing of hazardous waste, and much more.

Please have a safe and peaceful end-of-summer and fall.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Puente
Alderman – 9th District



Will Allen Makes “Time 100” List

A longtime hero in the 9th District and the City of Milwaukee, urban farmer **Will Allen** is now classified as a “world hero” according to Time magazine.

In April, Allen, the founder and CEO of Growing Power, headquartered at N. 55th St. and W. Silver Spring Dr. in the 9th District, was named to the 2010 list “**Time 100 – The World’s Most Influential People.**” The magazine cited Allen’s passionate advocacy for food security and food justice.



Did You Know?

Will Allen grew up on a farm in Rockville, MD and earned a basketball scholarship to the University of Miami. He was picked 60th in the 1971 NBA draft but ended up playing for Miami’s ABA team. He also later played professionally in Belgium.

Allen, who in 2008 was named a John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation Fellow and a winner of one of the foundation’s prestigious “genius grants,” is a member of the Clinton Global Initiative, an organization of leaders and thinkers founded by Bill and Hillary Clinton to address global challenges, including hunger and malnutrition. Earlier this year, First Lady Michelle Obama invited Allen to the White House to speak to the nation at the launch of her “Let’s Move!” initiative to reverse childhood obesity in America.

A strong proponent of teaching urban agriculture and fostering locally-grown food systems, Allen is convinced that America’s obesity, heart disease and diabetes epidemic is directly related to the lack of good, locally produced nutritious foods in too many cities and communities. He said growing and consuming good food locally can help improve the overall health of citizens and cut the significant energy costs (fuel, refrigeration, etc.) associated with mass production and transportation of foods across the nation and the world.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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Ambulance Service Board

Vice Chair
Public Safety Committee

Member
Public Works Committee

Job Corps Center Update

In June, the U.S. Department of Labor selected MINACT, INC. to operate the \$28 million Job Corps Center at N. 60th and W. Green Tree Rd. Established in 1978 to put education and training in the hands of those who need them the most, MINACT is a leading provider of career training and support services to government agencies and businesses. MINACT currently operates 9 other Job Corps sites throughout the country, including one in St. Paul, MN.

There will be a public open house in October or November to help officially open the new facility.



Central Mall looking west from the Administration Building.



West side view of the Education Building.



Ray's MTB (Indoor Mountain Biking!)

Ray Petro leased the old Menard's at 8365 N. 76th St. and is building an indoor mountain bike park. Mr. Petro operates a very successful facility in Cleveland and decided to expand and build his second park in Milwaukee. It is expected to draw riders from throughout the Midwest and will be open from October to May when outdoor riding is nearly impossible because of the winter weather.

Recently, Trek Bicycle Corp. purchased the business, although Mr. Petro will still be involved focusing on making mountain biking a year round sport in the area. A veteran of Ray's MTB in Cleveland will be the general manager at the Milwaukee location.

Opening ceremonies of the mountain bike park are scheduled for November. For more information on the bike park, go to www.raysmtb.com

Alexian Village 30th Anniversary

Alexian Village, 9301 North 76th St., is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. In 1980, the Catholic religious brothers, Alexian Brothers, assumed ownership of the failing Tudor Oaks North facility and renamed it Alexian Village. Since taking over, Alexian Village has vastly improved the facility, including completion of four major additions, and added many amenities for its residents.



Brynwood Country Club Developments

The Wisconsin Club has taken over operation of the Brynwood Country Club, 6200 W. Good Hope Rd. Brynwood and the Wisconsin Club, located downtown on W. Wisconsin Ave., agreed to merge last fall after years of declining membership at Brynwood. After a number of improvements were made to the Brynwood facilities and with the combining of memberships, there is now a waiting list for golf club members. In addition, both the Wisconsin Club and Brynwood have had a general increase in membership since the merger.

The Wisconsin Club dates back to 1891; Brynwood to 1926.

ETE REMAN Gets Some Ink!

In January 2010, *Transmission Digest: The Automotive Powertrain Industry Journal*, did a feature cover story on ETE REMAN, located in the 9th District (8155 N. 76th St.). ETE REMAN is a remanufacturer of transmissions and transfer cases for cars and trucks.

Originally known as ETE-Engine and Transmission Exchange, they have a number of locations in the city including a manufacturing facility at 8155 N. 76th St. The founder, Sam Loshak, started in the salvage business and opened his first engine and transmission facility in 1985. The company has expanded from installing used transmissions to taking transmissions and making them virtually new by remachining parts and replacing components. They remanufacture over 4,000 different transmissions for over 16,000 vehicle applications and have several regional warehouses throughout the USA. They also develop fixtures and tools for use in their remanufacturing process.

Water Main Work Frequently Asked Questions

The City of Milwaukee regularly replaces underground water main relays, especially in cases where there are frequent water main breaks. There are often questions from affected residents and businesses after crews start digging up a street.

How long does a water main relay project take to complete?

According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), water main relay projects are typically scheduled to take 40 working days* to complete.

Does it matter if the affected roadway is constructed of concrete or asphalt?

Yes. On asphalt roadways, once the work is completed and the trenches are refilled, the first layer of new asphalt covering the surface of the work area must be allowed to settle for two to four weeks before a final second layer can be applied.

** This is a general schedule that can be impacted by several factors, including the size and depth of the water main, the location (a project on a busy street such as Brown Deer Rd. may take longer than a project on a quieter neighborhood street), and there could also be delays for pressure testing and safe sampling (testing the water after the old main is connected to the new main).*

2010 Mayor's Design Award



The Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association building, located at 8701 N. Lauer St. in the 9th Aldermanic District, received a 2010 Mayor's Design Award in the "Design That Grabs You" category, which recognizes projects that have great curb appeal, street engagement, inviting exteriors, welcoming entries and gathering spaces for the public.

Milwaukee Receives Well City USA Designation

Earlier this year Milwaukee was honored as a healthy place to live and work, receiving the “Well City USA” designation from the Wellness Council of America.

Alderman Puente said the designation is positive, recognizing Milwaukee’s strides to promote healthy lifestyles in the workplace, as well as in the greater Milwaukee community. “Milwaukee has shown that it can achieve some fairly difficult-to-reach goals when community partnerships are formed and people work together, as was the case with Well City,” he said. “It’s a vibrant and positive image for our city that we can be proud of.”

Well City USA, a nationally recognized program of the Wellness Council of

America (WELCOA) is a community-wide initiative that encourages employers to develop worksite wellness programs that meet the standards of excellence as defined by WELCOA’s Well Workplace Model.

As **one of only three communities in the nation** selected to initiate a Well City project in 2007, Milwaukee was awarded the official Well City USA designation in March 2010 by WELCOA for becoming a national leader in wellness, and creating a more vibrant and productive workforce by promoting healthy lifestyles.

The designation effort, led by **Well City Milwaukee**, consisted of a series of benchmarks over a three-year period, which included participation by local

businesses and organizations which implemented wellness programs. As part of the designation process, a total of 20 employers -- including the City of Milwaukee -- representing at least 20% of Milwaukee’s employed population needed to achieve accreditation as “Well Workplaces” to earn the designation. In total, 34 employers in Milwaukee met all of the criteria to become accredited.

Well City Milwaukee is a collaboration led by three key partners including the City of Milwaukee, the Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC) and the Metropolitan Association of Commerce (MMAC). Please visit www.wellcitymilwaukee.org for more information.

Ald. Puente Welcomes New Fire Chief



Alderman Puente, vice chair of the Public Safety Committee, met with new Milwaukee Fire Chief Mark Rohlfsing at City Hall shortly after the new chief was sworn in earlier this year. Rohlfsing, a 27-year veteran of the fire service, was formerly the fire chief of Rapid City, South Dakota.

Bulk and Brush Pickup Changes

City crews now only pick up two (2) cubic yards of extra material placed out for pickup on your designated collection day. This is about the size of a standard sofa. Call **286-CITY (2489)** to request pickup of larger piles for a fee. Go to milwaukee.gov/mpw for more information.

Thinking About Putting Up A Fence?

If you are, check the city rules on fences before you put it up. People have had to take down fences after spending money on them because they were too high, in the wrong place or facing the wrong way. For more information on rules governing fences and other permits needed that may be needed, check the Milwaukee Development Center at www.mke.dcd.org or call **286-8211**.

Real-Time Crime Data

A useful application residents can use via the Internet is www.milwaukee.gov/policecalls, the real-time dispatched calls for service system.

The "calls for service" list works like a printed police scanner and includes calls received during the previous 30 to 90 minutes.

Residents can also find information on crime in the area online through the city's **COMPASS** system, available online at www.milwaukee.gov/compass where many mapping systems can help you identify statistics for your area.

Arbor Day Tree Planting



Alderman Puente joined students, teachers, and staff at Thoreau School, 7878 N. 60th St., this spring during an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony. The tree, topsoil, and shovels were provided courtesy of city forestry employees from the Department of Public Works.

Beware Illegal Dumping

Unfortunately, once again Alderman Puente has been advised that when the Self-Help Center on N. Industrial Rd. is closed, some people have been illegally dumping their material at the front gate.

BE FOREWARNED: Milwaukee police are giving special attention and surveillance to deal with the problem.



Call Before You Dig

Before you dig, call Diggers Hotline at **811** or **(800) 242-8511**. Diggers Hotline helps you find the location of buried utility lines that may interfere with your excavation project. You can also go to www.diggershotline.com for more information or to submit a request online.

IT'S FREE - Calling Diggers Hotline three working days before you begin your project to have buried lines beneath your jobsite located is free. But if you damage a buried facility without a call to Diggers Hotline, you will be financially responsible for the damage, as well as a fine of up to \$2,000.

IT'S EASY - Protect yourself from putting a shovel through a buried electric line or from damaging a gas pipeline by calling Diggers Hotline first.

IT'S THE LAW - Wisconsin Statute 182.0175 requires all excavators - including homeowners and construction contractors - to contact Diggers Hotline at least three working days before starting the work.

Ronald McDonald Scholarship



Alderman Puente congratulated 9th District student **Joshaun Parker-Williams** of CEO Leadership Academy on receiving a Ronald McDonald House scholarship. Joshaun and other scholarship recipients were honored during a special ceremony earlier this year in the Common Council Chamber at City Hall.

Crime Numbers Down in 1st Quarter

Total violent crime decreased nearly 16% in the first quarter of 2010 while the total of property crimes decreased 8% in the same time period, according to statistics released earlier this year by Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn.

The violent crime decrease was led by decreases of 10.5% in homicide, 33% in rape, 20% in robbery and 11% in aggravated assault. Property crime decreases of 7% were achieved for theft and 23.5% for stolen cars. Burglary bucked the trend, with an increase of 4.3% compared to the same period last year. The overall crime decrease was 9%.

Alderman Puente said good police work – coupled with other factors such as strong Block Watch participation in city neighborhoods – has produced some very positive results. “The decrease in crime is encouraging, but we need to continue to be vigilant,” he said. “We are still in very difficult economic times and that can make for a little desperation and criminals taking advantage of crimes of opportunity.”

According to the MPD, total first quarter crime has declined 24% since the first quarter of 2007. The most dramatic decreases are in overall violent crime and in car theft. In three years, violent crime has decreased 40% in Milwaukee (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault). Stolen cars have decreased by an impressive 58% over that period of time.

Neighborhood Walkthrough Near N. 60th St. and W. Port Ave.



During a recent neighborhood walk in the vicinity of N. 60th St. and W. Port Ave., Alderman Puente was joined by Milwaukee Police Department 4th District Community Liaison Officers Julie Strache and Latunya Meredith, as well as neighborhood residents, members of Christ the King Church, 7798 N. 60th St., and inspectors from various city departments.

Meet Sparky...



Meet Sparky, the Fireworks Task Force safety mascot. He'll keep you posted on fireworks events throughout Milwaukee.

Remember, it is illegal to sell, use or possess fireworks in the City of Milwaukee and violators face fines up to \$1,000. Fireworks are illegal and dangerous. Celebrate the safe way and leave it to the professionals!

The City of Milwaukee's Fireworks Task Force was created by Common Council File Number 060529, which was adopted on September 26, 2006. This resolution directed the 12-member Task Force to study issues related to the prevalence of fireworks in the City of Milwaukee, and to submit its findings and recommendations to the Common Council.

Visit www.milwaukee.gov/sparky to learn more about fireworks safety, see upcoming events and link to Sparky's Facebook page.

Self-Help Centers

City of Milwaukee residents have two convenient locations where they can recycle or safely dispose of a wide variety of items. When you arrive at a self-help center, you will be asked to provide proof of City of Milwaukee residency or property ownership. Contractors are not allowed to use the centers. You will then be directed to unload your vehicle. The centers are located at:

6660 N. Industrial Rd.
3879 W. Lincoln Ave.

Summer Hours

April 12, 2010 - November 27, 2010
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
Saturday, Sunday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Wednesdays and city
holidays/furlough days.

Construction Related Material Charge

There is now a charge for all city residents/property owners bringing construction related material into the self help stations. This includes roofing material, brick, stones, concrete, lumber, drywall, paneling and other construction material.

The fee was initiated because of recent **substantial increases in the state tipping fees** the city must pay to place garbage in landfills. This makes it even more important for Milwaukeeans to recycle to reduce the amount we send to landfills!

The charge is **\$15** for up to 8 cubic yards, and **\$30** for 8-16 cubic yards with a 16 cubic yard maximum. No contractor vehicles allowed.

Private Alarm Systems Task Force



*Alderman Puente chaired the City of Milwaukee Private Alarm Systems Task Force (shown here during a recent meeting at City Hall), which met monthly since February 2010 and issued a final report and recommendations approved by the Common Council at its July 27 meeting. To view the report, please go to www.city.milwaukee.gov and click on "Council Files" on the right hand side of the main page. Once in Legistar, enter **091421** in the search window and hit search. To see the wide range of supporting task force documents, repeat the process but instead enter **091420** in the search window.*

Pet Waste – Leash Laws

You shouldn't have to watch where you step in our neighborhoods but unfortunately there are people who neglect to pick up after their pets. Not only is it unsightly, pet waste left on the lawn or next to the sidewalk washes into storm drains which carries it directly into our rivers and Lake Michigan.

Please, on behalf of your neighbors, double-bag pet waste in plastic bags. Seal the bags and then put them in the green garbage cart. If you have any questions, call the Call Center at **286-CITY**.

There is a serious problem of dogs being unleashed throughout the city, and Ald. Puente would also like to remind residents that city law prohibits an owner from permitting an animal to be at large.





Alderman
Robert W. Puente
9th District

SUMMER/FALL 2010

Have A Safe & Enjoyable Fall!

License Plate Sticker Theft – Don't Be An Easy Target

Did you know that state law and city ordinance requires you to properly display valid vehicle registration while parked in the public right-of-way even if you are registered with the State of Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles? You must have a license plate and an annual registration sticker or your vehicle may be cited and towed. Make sure that your license plate is attached to the rear bumper of your vehicle and the annual registration sticker is placed in the lower right hand corner of your rear license plate.

Reduce your chances of being a victim of crime by following this advice: **Install a license plate frame with a clear plexiglass cover over the rear license plate to protect the license plate as well as the registration sticker.** Although it may not prevent every theft, it will make it more difficult for the criminal. If you are the victim of theft of your license plate or registration sticker, immediately report it to any State of Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicle Service Center or call **266-1000**.

City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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Bring the Block Watch Program to Your Neighborhood

The Block Watch program provides residents with specific information on how to reduce or eliminate opportunities for crime. And it works. But block watch groups can also do so much more.

The support of local businesses is vital to the block watches and the support of block watches is vital to local business. They can accomplish many things by working together that they may not be able to do if working alone. This cooperation is essential to making a neighborhood a cohesive community.

Block Watches have been a priority of Alderman Puente during his service on the Common Council, and he would like to see continued expansion of the program in the 9th district. "If you join forces with your neighbors and form a Block Watch group, you will become proactive in improving the quality of life in the 9th District," said Alderman Puente.

To become involved in a Block Watch you can contact a community liaison officer for the 4th Police District at **935-7248**. If you'd like Alderman Puente to attend a Block Watch meeting, call **286-2868**.

Neighborhood Walkthrough at the Woodlands



Captain Jerome O'Leary of the Milwaukee Police Department (4th District) joined Alderman Puente, residents, and city inspectors during a recent neighborhood walk through the Woodlands, in the 9000 block of N. Swan Rd.