

Alderman

# Robert W. Puente

9th District



WINTER 2010-2011

## Dear 9th District Residents,

Last month, my Common Council colleagues and I voted to adopt a 2011 city budget that reduces the city portion of the tax levy. In addition, for the third year in a row, we voted to freeze our salaries and wage increases, and for the second straight year we are taking four unpaid furlough days.

The continued difficult economic times mean the city and the Council will very likely be looking at “more of the same” next year in terms of service reductions, furloughs, and wage freezes. The 2011 budget includes some significant changes in city sanitation processes – including a new 5-year sanitation plan – and I urge you to see the 2011 budget article on page 2 to learn more.

As always, I’ve included a variety of articles in my newsletter to keep you informed about news and developments. For instance, this edition of my newsletter includes news of a big reduction in city worker injuries (see page 3) that have been a major concern to me and to my fellow members of the Public Safety Committee (of which I am vice chair). There are also photos and briefs mentioning some key 9th District business developments (see pages 4-5), and helpful free programs for those needing legal assistance and help reinstating their driver’s license (see page 6).

As always, I’ve also included extensive information about city sanitation programs and Self-Help Centers, snow plowing and snow removal, parking regulations, and other helpful information.

I urge you to go to my web page ([www.milwaukee.gov/district9](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district9)) to see other articles, information, and updates.

Please have a safe, warm and peaceful holiday season, and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Puente  
Alderman – 9th District



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**E-mail:** [rpuent@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rpuent@milwaukee.gov)  
**Web:** [www.milwaukee.gov/district9](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district9)

**Office:** (414) 286-2868  
**Fax:** (414) 286-3456  
**TDD:** (414) 286-2025

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

**Chair**  
Ambulance Service Board

**Vice Chair**  
Public Safety Committee

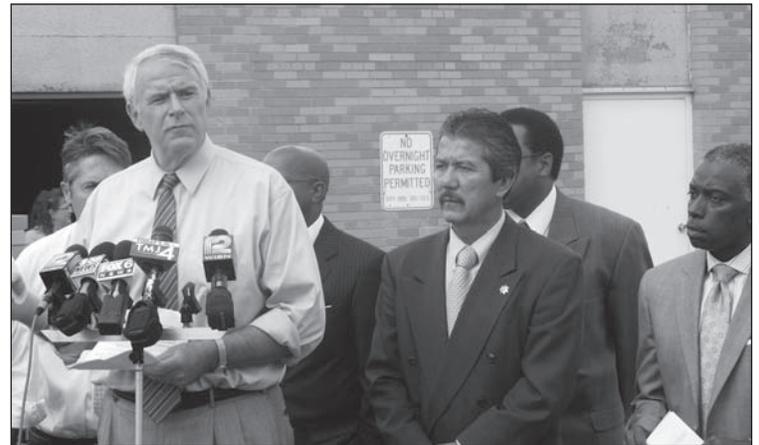
**Member**  
Public Works Committee

## July Floods: The Aftermath

After first receiving a “no” from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for individual disaster assistance for residents and businesses who sustained significant damages and loss from the record July rain storms, city and state officials proactively collected additional information about the breadth of the damage and – after additional inspections by FEMA personnel – ultimately convinced FEMA to approve individual assistance funding. Mayor Barrett, Governor Doyle, and many other city, state, and federal officials deserve credit for going the extra mile and not letting up.

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has approved legislation putting aside \$151 million over an 11-year period to address inflow and infiltration issues (INI) on private property laterals throughout the MMSD district boundaries. Also, \$500,000 was set aside in the mayor’s 2011 executive budget to implement a pilot program (in a specific demonstration area) in coordination with MMSD dealing with INI issues on underground private property laterals within the City of Milwaukee.

INI issues are likely a key contributing factor to the basement backwater problems we’re seeing throughout the City of Milwaukee during heavy rain events.



*On July 27 Alderman Puente joined Mayor Tom Barrett, Common Council President Willie Hines and other Council colleagues for a news conference and to hand out flood clean-up supplies to city residents at the Northwest Health Center, 7630 W. Mill Rd. The 9th District and the city’s northwest side were hit hard by the record storms that dumped 8-9 inches of rain on parts of Milwaukee and the area on July 22. Photos: Milwaukee Health Department*

## Council Approves 2011 Budget that Lowers Property Taxes, Reduces Solid Waste Fee

On November 5 the Milwaukee Common Council approved a 2011 amended city budget that lowers the tax levy by \$51,255 over 2010 and trims the solid waste fee by \$2 per year.

The 2011 tax levy approved by the Common Council is \$246.703 million, or down \$51,255 from 2010's \$246.754 million levy, and more than \$49,000 less than the Mayor's proposed 2011 budget levy.

The new tax levy means the owner of an average city home valued last year at \$127,764 – and now valued this year at \$123,071 – will see a \$6.67 decrease in the city portion of the tax bill.

As part of the budget, the Council approved a voluntary \$17.35 million payment to the pension reserve fund, meant to lessen the impact of large required pension contributions in coming years. Also, Council members voted to freeze their own wages (and all management and other elected officials' wages) through April 2012.

A small increase in the storm water charge (88 cents) will allow the city to speed up its forestry maintenance, which includes pruning the city's vast stock of trees, valued by the Department of Public Works at more than \$100 million.

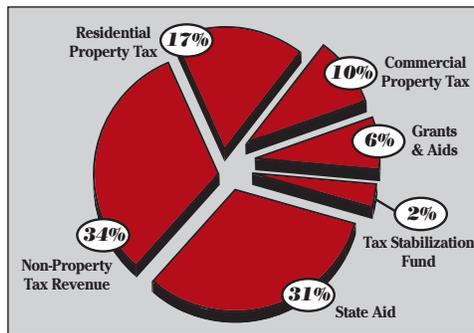
In addition, the 2011 budget also marks the launch of long-term plans for important city services:

- In response to the **recent flooding and sewage overflows**, the city is preparing a pilot program which will allow public funding of private lateral connections to underground pipes, which could save the city money in the long run, while also **preventing basement back-ups**.
- The city now has a **5-year sanitation plan** which will gradually transition all customers onto a "Pay as You Throw" garbage fee, with unlimited recycling and compost pickup. This will save the city money and reduce our landfill waste which has become subject to heavy state fees in recent years.
- In order to **prevent libraries from closing**, the city is looking at creating a new generation of mixed-use libraries, which will have more hours of service and better technology access.



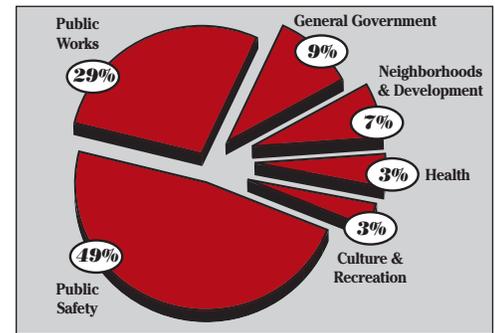
On October 25 Alderman Puente hosted a large town hall meeting in the auditorium at Destiny Plaza at N. 76th and W. Good Hope Rd. Joining the alderman to field questions and discuss various city issues, from left, were Jeff Mantes, commissioner of the Department of Public Works, Art Dahlberg, commissioner of the Department of Neighborhood Services, city budget director Mark Nicolini, 4th District Police Capt. Jerome O'Leary, and Milwaukee Police Department Chief of Staff Joel Plant.

### 2011 Budget Sources of City Revenue



Non-Property Tax Revenue	(\$ IN MILLIONS)	\$ 291
State Aid		\$ 271
Property Taxes: Residential		\$ 149
Property Taxes: Commercial		\$ 86
Grant & Aid Projects		\$ 52
Tax Stabilization Fund (TSF)		\$ 15
<b>*Total</b>		<b>\$ 864</b>

### City Services Provided by this Revenue



Public Safety	(\$ IN MILLIONS)	\$ 424
Public Works		\$ 248
General Government		\$ 78
Neighborhoods & Development		\$ 61
Culture & Recreation		\$ 29
Health		\$ 24
<b>*Total</b>		<b>\$ 864</b>

\*Excludes G.O. debt service paid by the City for MPS purposes.

## New Garbage Cart Policies

Waste Reduction works! More and more people find they no longer need two or more garbage carts because they're doing an effective job of recycling and generating less garbage. If you have an extra cart, please call (414) 286-CITY (2489) or fill out an online service request, and the city will collect it. One of the changes brought about by this year's budget, however, includes a **\$20 annual fee** for every extra garbage cart you'd like added to your residence. The Sanitation Division repairs broken carts. Call (414) 286-CITY (2489) or fill out an online service request to have your cart picked up for repair or replacement.

City of Milwaukee garbage and recycling collectors and their safety committee ask for your help during snowy winter months. Make sure your garbage and recycling carts aren't frozen or buried in snow and that there's a clear path through the snow to the carts. Crews will not empty carts that are snow-covered or frozen.

## Milwaukee Justice Center Launches Legal Self-Help Website



The Milwaukee Justice Center (MJC), a project that helps low-income self-represented litigants with court forms, now has a user-friendly website, [www.milwaukeejusticecenter.com](http://www.milwaukeejusticecenter.com). Since 2009, the MJC has offered free self-help civil legal services to those unable to afford an attorney. With the launch of the website, many of those services are now available online, expanding access to information and forms needed to navigate the civil legal process.

Currently, [www.milwaukeejusticecenter.com](http://www.milwaukeejusticecenter.com) offers self-represented litigants information about divorce, child support, custody, small claims, foreclosure, landlord-tenant issues, chapter 128, and name change. Those who visit the site will also find information about the services, hours, location, and links to community and legal resources.

The site also contains general information about the MJC, copies of annual reports, testimonials, and volunteer opportunities.

The MJC is a public-private partnership between the Milwaukee Bar Association, Milwaukee County, and Marquette University Law School. The underlying philosophy of the project is that self-represented litigants have a fundamental right to access the justice system even if they cannot afford an attorney or do not qualify for legal aid. The MJC is a volunteer based project that addresses the unmet legal needs of Milwaukee County's low-income self-represented litigants by providing services such as self-help desks, brief legal advice clinics, and other legal resources.

## Great News: City Worker Injuries Plummet

Thanks to a new city program, the number of workdays lost to injury in the police department, fire department, and Department of Public Works plummeted by 37% in 2008 and 2009, and decreased again during the first six months of 2010.

Alderman Puente, vice chair of the Public Safety Committee, said reported injuries are also decreasing, as is the city money paid out in worker's compensation. "Our worker's compensation payout declined in 2009 for the first time in years, so this is very good news," he said.

Police, fire and public works accounted for 95% of workplace injury claims in the city last year, making those departments the focus of the city's efforts to reduce workplace injuries and worker's compensation claims. The claims have grown year after year, rising from \$7 million in 2002 to almost \$14 million in 2008. In 2009, the total fell to about \$11.5 million.

In 2008, the Department of Employee Relations initiated a new process of tracking injury claims that greatly expanded the city's ability to analyze the data. In 2009, DER required city departments to (1) evaluate the data, (2) draw up comprehensive safety plans spelling out safety precautions and training standards for each employee and (3) set goals for reducing injuries.

Alderman Puente said the plans are unique in the city, and they will be updated and reviewed by the Public Safety Committee every two years. Department supervisors have also received training in investigating workplace accidents, and the city is requiring greater documentation of injuries.

Under the new program, the drop in the number of injury claims has also been significant: citywide, these claims fell about 13% between 2008 and 2009. In the first half of this year, claims declined by another 13% (compared to the first half of 2009), the alderman said.

In DPW, lifting injuries as well as those caused by "slips, trips and falls on snow and ice" have been reduced dramatically, according to a city report submitted to the Common Council.



## Trinity Village Expanding in the 9th District



In 1994, the Village at Manor Park, a not-for-profit Christian-based company (that also has a facility with the same name elsewhere in the metropolitan area), acquired Friendship Village, 7300 W. Dean Road, and renamed it Trinity Village. Trinity Village recently announced plans for a major expansion and renovation project. The groundbreaking was in October. The \$6.5 million project will expand their services and help fill the need for housing and healthcare for area seniors. They currently offer independent living, assisted living, rehabilitation services, skilled nursing, and hospice care. And with the expansion, they will also be able to offer onsite ventilator care for those in need. Once the ventilator care wing is complete, the combined number of ventilator beds at Trinity Village and its sister facility Village at Manor Park will comprise over one-third of all the ventilator beds in the state of Wisconsin.

## People Have a Voice Against Crime

Gangs, drugs and violence endanger our community. And in order to reduce crime, the police need help from everyone in the community.

“Too often people are reluctant to get involved in the safety and security of their neighborhoods for fear of reprisals,” said Ald. Puente. “But there is an answer, the WeTip Hotline, and no one will ever know who you are.” Call WeTip at **1-800-78-CRIME**. You may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.

The hotline is answered by bilingual operators 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are taken for all crimes. All calls are anonymous, not just confidential.



## Drop Off Materials at Self-Help Centers

Bulky waste materials can be taken to the Self-Help Centers at **6660 N. Industrial Rd.** (most convenient for 9th District residents) or **3879 W. Lincoln Ave.**

### Winter Hours:

The winter hours for the Self-Help Centers (through early April 2011) are from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays (**closed on Wednesdays and Sundays**). Also, the centers will be closed during the Christmas (Dec. 24-27) and New Year's (Dec. 31 – Jan. 3) holidays.

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.

### Recycled

- Used motor oil and oil filters
- Used antifreeze
- Automotive batteries
- Asphalt roofing shingles\*
- Electronics (residential only)
- Appliances
- Scrap metal
- Tires (up to 5 passenger tires)
- Corrugated cardboard
- Recyclables (cans, jars and bottles of metal, glass, and #1 & #2 plastics; newspaper, magazines, paperback & phonebooks, paperboard, junk mail)
- Used athletic shoes
- Concrete\*

### Composted

- Brush
- Grass clippings
- Leaves and garden debris

### Landfilled

- Garbage
- Old furniture
- Construction or remodeling debris\*

\* a fee and certain restrictions apply

For more information, please go to [www.milwaukee.gov/selfhelpcenters](http://www.milwaukee.gov/selfhelpcenters)



## Hydrite Chemical Company

Hydrite Chemical Company, started in Milwaukee in 1929, has acquired the vacant Unilever-Best Foods building at **8600 N. 87th St.** and will be expanding their operations. Hydrite is one of the largest providers of chemicals and related services for various industries in the United States. Originally started to provide chemicals for the tanning industry, they currently have 2 locations in Milwaukee, both in the 9th District, at **7300 and 7303 W. Bradley Rd.** Hydrite is locally owned and remains in the ownership of the family of one of its founders.



*This aerial photo shows the former Unilever-Best Foods building at 8600 N. 87th St. that Hydrite Chemical Company has recently acquired.*

## Miracle League



*This artist's rendering shows the proposed Miracle League baseball field to be built at the John C. Cudahy YMCA. The field is custom-designed with safety and accessibility in mind for children with physical and mental disabilities.*

Last year a group was formed in Milwaukee to help establish the Miracle League of Milwaukee. This will be Milwaukee's first universally-accessible baseball league for children with physical and mental disabilities. Miracle League baseball is played on a special rubberized field that is custom-designed for safety and accessibility. The field will be built on the grounds at the **John C. Cudahy YMCA, 9050 N. Swan Rd.**

This summer the Milwaukee Brewers chose the Miracle League of Milwaukee as their community project as part of the Pepsi Refresh Project. A number of other Major League Baseball teams were also involved with the Refresh Project and each had their own community project for fans to vote for in hopes of getting a \$200,000 grant. Although, the Brewer's community project did not receive the most votes for the grant, Pepsi did make a donation to the Miracle League project and other fundraising continues.

Miracle League was started in the Atlanta area in 1999, to provide a safe baseball field/complex for children with physical of mental disabilities. The complexes are built to include a custom-designed field with a cushioned rubberized surface to help prevent injuries, wheelchair accessible dugouts, and a completely flat surface to eliminate any barriers to wheelchair-bound or visually impaired players.

For more information about the Milwaukee Miracle League, visit [www.miracleleaguemilwaukee.org](http://www.miracleleaguemilwaukee.org)

## Reporting Potholes

As winter sets in, the evidence of its wear on our roads becomes clearer. If you have a pothole on your street, report it to the Department of Public Works for repair.

To report a pothole or other street maintenance problems:

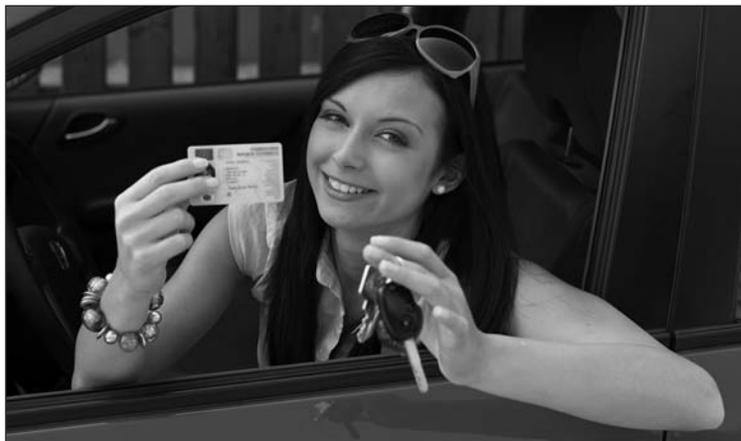
- Call Infrastructure Services Division – Field Operations at (414) 286-CITY (2489)
- Submit an online service request through [www.city.milwaukee.gov/mpw](http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/mpw)



While we use preventive maintenance to avoid severe pothole problems, potholes usually develop in older pavements as water in cracks in the pavement expands and contracts as it freezes and thaws. Heavy traffic also causes fatigue in pavement weakened by age and frost action.

We regularly check for surface problems on streets with older pavement to keep ahead of any problems. We welcome calls from citizens to report situations in their neighborhood or on their traffic routes. If you notice a pothole in a street or alley, please report it right away.

## Need A Valid Driver's License?



The **Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability** (CDLRE) is offering free advice to 9th District residents who have either a suspended or revoked driver's license. Case managers and attorneys from the center can go over your driving record and devise a specific plan to reinstate your license (including providing court forms when needed).

Recent changes in Wisconsin's driver's license law have made it easier for drivers to get their licenses back through advice sessions such as the ones offered by the CDLRE.

The **Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability** is a broad public-private partnership that includes Wisconsin Community Services, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the City of Milwaukee Municipal Court. The Center works to increase the number of licensed low-income drivers in Milwaukee County, improving their ability to secure family-supporting jobs.

The Center reported the following direct service outcomes in 2009:

- **Provided 1,484 persons with case management** (59% of all clients).
- The remaining 41% of the 2,520 total clients were designated as **"Advice" clients**.
- **Fifty-six percent of all case-managed clients** (582 of 1,040 case closures) **recovered their driver's licenses** in an average of five months.
- **Sixty-five percent of the clients** that received case management **also required legal services**.
- The clients who were case-managed completed 1,154 of the 1,348 assigned community service hours, for a **community service completion rate of 86%**.

Center headquarters are located on the premises of the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) in downtown Milwaukee, within two blocks of the two major court systems involved (State Circuit Court and City of Milwaukee Municipal Court) and a major branch office of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division.

Go to [www.license-recovery.org](http://www.license-recovery.org) for more information, call (414) 297-7707, or email – [cdlreintake@wiscons.org](mailto:cdlreintake@wiscons.org).

## Electronics: Recycling Info and Landfill Ban

Residents of the 9th District and the city may recycle all of the following electronics at no charge at the City's Self-Help Centers (see page 4 for locations and hours):

- TVs
- Computers (includes desktop, laptop, netbooks and tablets)
- Desktop printers (includes those that scan, fax and/or copy)
- Computer accessories (includes scanners, hard drives, speakers, flash drives and modems)
- DVD players, VCRs and DVRs
- Computer monitors
- Mice and keyboards
- Fax machines
- Cell phones

The above items are now banned from landfills under Wisconsin's electronics recycling law which passed in 2009. **City crews will NOT pick up, and no one may deposit in the trash any of the banned items.**

Electronics are the fastest growing segment of the municipal solid waste stream and may contain hazardous materials including lead, chromium, and mercury. Keeping electronics out of landfills reduces negative impacts to both environmental and human health by avoiding the potential pollution of ground, air and water resources. Electronics also contain valuable materials that can be recovered for use in the manufacture of new products. Recovery of these materials helps to conserve natural resources and reduces pollution associated with the extraction and processing of raw materials. For more information, including a **list of collection sites by county**, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/ecycle> (the Department of Natural Resources website).

Please go to [www.milwaukee.gov/mpw](http://www.milwaukee.gov/mpw) for more information.



## Smoke Detector = Life Saver



If you truly care about your safety and the safety of your loved ones, you'll make sure your home has working smoke detectors.

How important is a working smoke detector? The National Fire Protection Association reports that 65% of reported home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke detectors. The NFPA also reported that an estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms.

Alderman Puente said having a smoke detector is an absolute necessity – and NOT a luxury. “A video game system is a luxury – a smoke detector is a lifesaver,” he said. “You can live without a video game system, but you and your loved ones might not survive to see tomorrow if you don’t have a working smoke detector in your home.”

According to the Milwaukee Fire Department, the NFPA and nearly all other safety experts, it is indisputable that smoke alarms save lives. Here are some key things to remember about smoke alarms/detectors:

- First, make sure a smoke detector is installed on **every level** of your home, including the basement.
- Make sure smoke detectors are placed outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.
- If you have a smoke detector with batteries, please check those monthly and replace the batteries annually. All smoke detectors operated by batteries should be replaced every eight to 10 years.
- Remember to **never disable your smoke alarm**—even temporarily. For example, if it sounds while you’re cooking, instead of taking the batteries out, clear the air by waving a towel near the smoke alarm, or if you have a hush button on your alarm press that.
- In general, smoke alarms should be placed in the center of a ceiling, or 6 to 12 inches below the ceiling if placed on the wall.
- Do not install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- In addition to having working smoke alarms in the home, have a fire escape plan as well. The two combined will increase you and your family’s protection in case of a fire.
- Lastly, the Milwaukee Fire Department will come and install a smoke detector in your home if you are a Milwaukee resident and eligible to receive one. Call the Milwaukee Fire Department **Smoke Detector Hotline at (414) 286-8980.**

## DPW Services – the Number to Call

If you have a request relating to garbage collection, special pickups, potholes, malfunctioning streetlights, traffic lights, or plugged sewer basins, call **(414) 286-2489 (CITY)**.

This one-stop number for citizens who need service or information from the Department of Public Works (or other city agencies) regularly takes all types of DPW-related calls, from reporting properties needing tree, brush removal, grass or weeds to be cut, to towing or water works problems. The **(414) 286-2489 (CITY)** number takes calls 24 hours a day.

## City Now Collects One (1) Cubic Yard of Material

City crews now will pick up just one (1) cubic yard of extra material placed outside of your garbage cart on collection day. This is a change – approved by the Common Council as part of the 2011 budget – from the two cubic yards allowed in recent years.

One cubic yard is about the size of half of a standard sofa.

Please go to [www.milwaukee.gov/mpw](http://www.milwaukee.gov/mpw) for more information.

## Construction Related Material Charge

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

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



Simply call 211 to  
get help with life.

To call using a cell phone, dial 414-773-0211  
or on a pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380.



Alderman  
**Robert W. Puente**  
9th District

WINTER 2010-2011

*Have A Safe & Enjoyable Winter!*

## Neighborhood Walk



*Alderman Puente was joined by 4th Police District Captain Jerome O'Leary, 4th District Community Liaison Officers Julie Strache and Latunya Meredith, Deputy Inspector Ramon Galaviz, and an inspector from the Department of Neighborhood Services during a neighborhood walk in September near N. Sherman Blvd. and W. Custer Ave.*

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

PRSRTD STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MILWAUKEE WI  
PERMIT NO 4678

## Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule & Christmas Tree Disposal Information



Want to know when the next garbage pick-up day will occur? Call (414) 286-CITY (2489) and talk to your sanitation district's staff, and they'll estimate your next garbage and recycling pickup dates based on their current schedule status and weather forecasts.

Remember to place holiday wrapping paper, boxes, etc. in your recycling cart or in a bag next to the recycling cart.

Residents in the City of Milwaukee have two options for Christmas tree disposal:

- For collection by the Sanitation crew, **place your tree where the garbage is collected.** Residents whose garbage is picked up in the alley should place their Christmas tree in the alley near the garbage cart. Residents without an alley, whose garbage cart is in their backyard, should place their tree at the curb.
- Or remove all decorations and take your tree to a Self-Help Center where it will be recycled.

Christmas trees are not considered yard waste under the state recycling law and may be disposed of in landfills. Therefore, trees collected with your garbage are landfilled.

## Snow Plowing & Snow Removal



When a major storm occurs, it can take from 18 to 24 hours to plow all streets, depending on the severity of the storm. Sometimes plows must make four to six passes down a street to clear it curb to curb. The city tries to do this at one time so residents can shovel out driveways and sidewalks. It is best to wait, if possible, until your street has been plowed before shoveling out your driveway approach. It is also helpful if you pile the snow to the right side of your driveway as you face the street. This will minimize the amount of snow pushed back into the driveway approach by a plow.

**Residents have 24 hours after the snow stops falling to clear snow from sidewalks.** Violations reported to DPW will be inspected and incur an initial inspection fee of \$25. If the snow is not cleared after 24 hours, the city will clear it and put the costs along with a \$45 - \$90 administrative fee on the property tax bill.

**Sidewalk clearing for older citizens and disabled persons:** Residents who own single family homes who are physically unable to clear the sidewalk in front of their home may apply to Sanitation for assistance with clearing the walk after a snowstorm exceeding four inches. Call (414) 286-2489 (CITY) for more information.