

Alderman

Robert W. Puente

9th District

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

Dear 9th District Residents,

The true start of summer is nearly here, and in Milwaukee we know that means the start of festival season and a chance to finally spend time outdoors. On the back page of this edition of my newsletter you will find a handy **schedule of 2011 summer festivals and events**.

In this newsletter you will read articles about city services and ways we are attempting to do things differently to be more efficient and effective. For example, on page 2 there's an article about the **Private Alarm System Task Force** that I chaired, and how the panel has recommended ways of improving the licensing process for private alarm businesses as a way of improving how those companies serve customers. On page 3 you will read about the **Me² and ME3 energy efficiency programs** and the **redistricting process**, and on page 6 you will see how the **Milwaukee Water Works** is ahead of the curve in testing for possible contaminants as it provides perhaps the best drinking water found anywhere.

Big changes are getting underway at **Westlawn** (see page 4), and the city has transformed a once deteriorating lot (see page 5) into a greener and more inviting public space. There is also information about projects involving promising young people from the 9th District, as well as several other helpful articles about sanitation services, block party permits, and helpful phone numbers.

I urge you to go to my webpage at www.milwaukee.gov/district9 to see other articles, information, and updates.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and please stay in touch and continue to share your concerns with me.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Puente
Alderman - 9th District



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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair
Ambulance Service Board

Vice Chair
Public Safety Committee

Member
Public Works Committee

Arbor Day at Mill Road



Alderman Puente joined the **Arbor Day** celebration on April 28 at Mill Road Library with students from the **Milwaukee Sign Language School**. About 40 students and their teachers participated on a cold, blustery day.



Alderman Puente also read the mayor's Arbor Day proclamation and then helped to plant a flowering pear tree.



Private Alarm System Task Force Update

Private alarm systems have the potential to protect property from theft or damage and to protect residents of the city from physical harm and the threat of harm.

But for years there have been allegations that some private alarm businesses have engaged in sales practices that include coercive, deceptive or other unfair methods. In addition, many of these businesses are located outside the city and state, sometimes making enforcement of regulations difficult.

The city's **Private Alarm System Task Force** was formed to study sales and servicing of private alarm systems, to evaluate existing regulation, and to make recommendations for changes or improvements of private alarm system sales and servicing.

The task force, which included representatives from the alarm industry, worked diligently on recommendations with regard to current regulation of private alarm sales and services, how they could be improved to protect consumers from coercive or undesirable sales practices, to assure that high quality and effective private alarm systems and services are available to those who need or desire



Alderman Puente (left) chairs a meeting of the **Private Alarm System Task Force** in 2010. The task force has issued its report and recommendations and they were accepted by the Common Council.

them, and to ensure that the contract rights of members of the public are maintained if a private alarm business license should be suspended, not renewed or revoked.

Alderman Puente, who served as chairman of the task force, said the panel's recommendation of a system of

progressive disciplinary measures for violations by private alarm businesses "is the tool we believe will curb problems and protect the public."

"The measures recommended by the task force will greatly reduce the chances of a business license being suspended, revoked, or not being renewed," he said.

State of the City



Alderman Puente stands to acknowledge the audience after being introduced by Mayor Tom Barrett during the **Mayor's "State of the City" address** in February at the campus of the **Milwaukee Job Corps Center**, located in the 9th District at N. 60th St. and W. Green Tree Rd.



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 at www.milwaukee.gov/eservices, 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.



ME3 – Energy Efficiency for Manufacturers

Modeled after the Green Suppliers Network, E3–*Economy, Energy, and Environment*—is a coordinated federal and local technical assistance initiative that helps communities work with their manufacturing base to adapt and thrive in a new business era focused on sustainability.

Joining forces with the local community, Milwaukee E3, or **ME3**, provides manufacturers with customized, hands-on assessments of production processes to reduce energy consumption, minimize their carbon footprint, prevent pollution, increase productivity, and drive innovation.

As a result, ME3:

- Helps foster a smarter and more efficient green workforce.
- Promotes sustainable manufacturing and growth through innovative technology.
- Improves the regional economy by retaining jobs in companies that are better positioned for global competition.
- Reduces environmental impacts while regaining a competitive advantage.

To learn more about ME3 go to: www.milwaukee.gov/ME3



Putting Up A Fence?

Please 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 that may be needed, visit www.milwaukee.gov/build or call the Milwaukee Development Center at 286-8211.

The Redistricting Process – it's Underway

The United States conducts a census of the entire population every 10 years. This information is used for many purposes, including the distribution of federal and state revenues and the drawing of boundaries for election districts at the federal, state and local levels.

Wisconsin law requires that once the census data becomes available, local governments and the state legislature are required to adjust the boundaries of election districts so that they are as equal as possible in population. The U.S. Census Bureau is required to distribute detailed 2010 census data to the 50 states no later than April 1, 2011. This begins the local redistricting process. Counties are first required to develop a tentative supervisory district plan for their county boards. After that, municipalities are required to revise the boundaries of election wards and then their city council districts. Subsequently, school districts and the state legislature are also required to update the boundaries of their election districts.

For the City of Milwaukee the redistricting process will be overseen by the Common Council's Judiciary and Legislation Committee. Final election wards and aldermanic districts will be adopted by the Common Council in July.

Visit www.milwaukee.gov/redistricting for more details about redistricting in the City of Milwaukee.

FREE Landlord Training Program

For more information visit: www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining

To register contact the DNS Program Assistant Jeanne Hagner jhagne@milwaukee.gov or 286-2954.

Sanitation Changes – Please Note

In order to adjust to the four holiday weeks that occur over the summer, Milwaukee's DPW Self Help sites will be closed Mondays instead of Wednesdays. This schedule went into effect on April 4, 2011.

It should also be noted that no garbage or recycling will be collected on the following days in 2011:

- **Independence Day**
Friday & Monday – July 1 & 4
- **Labor Day**
Friday & Monday – Sept. 2 & 5
- **Thanksgiving**
Thursday & Friday – Nov. 24 & 25
- **Christmas Eve & Day**
Friday & Monday – Dec. 23 & 26
- **New Years Eve & Day**
Friday & Monday – Dec. 30 & Jan. 2, 2012

SmartEnergyPays.com (877) 399-1203

Me²
Milwaukee Energy Efficiency
Smart energy pays.

Want to make your home more energy efficient? **Me²!**

Want help with the up front costs? **Me²!**

Want to see instant savings on your energy bill? **Me²!**



Contact an Energy Advocate today to make Smart Energy Pay!

Big Changes Underway at Westlawn



ABOVE: This rendering shows what the newly constructed buildings at Westlawn will look like.

RIGHT: This photo shows the demolition work that began at Westlawn earlier this year.

BOTTOM: This rendering shows community gardens, park shelter, and other planned Westlawn amenities.

The **Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee** is working to revitalize and redevelop the Westlawn neighborhood, which is bounded by W. Silver Spring Dr., Lincoln Creek, N. 60th St., and N. 68th St. The revitalization will take place in several phases over several years.

The work includes demolition of some buildings, renovations of other buildings, and new construction (new buildings).

The City of Milwaukee Housing Authority has an award-winning track record of reinventing and re-energizing aging housing projects to follow Livable Cities (HOPE VI) standards of urban design. Its mission for redevelopment of the

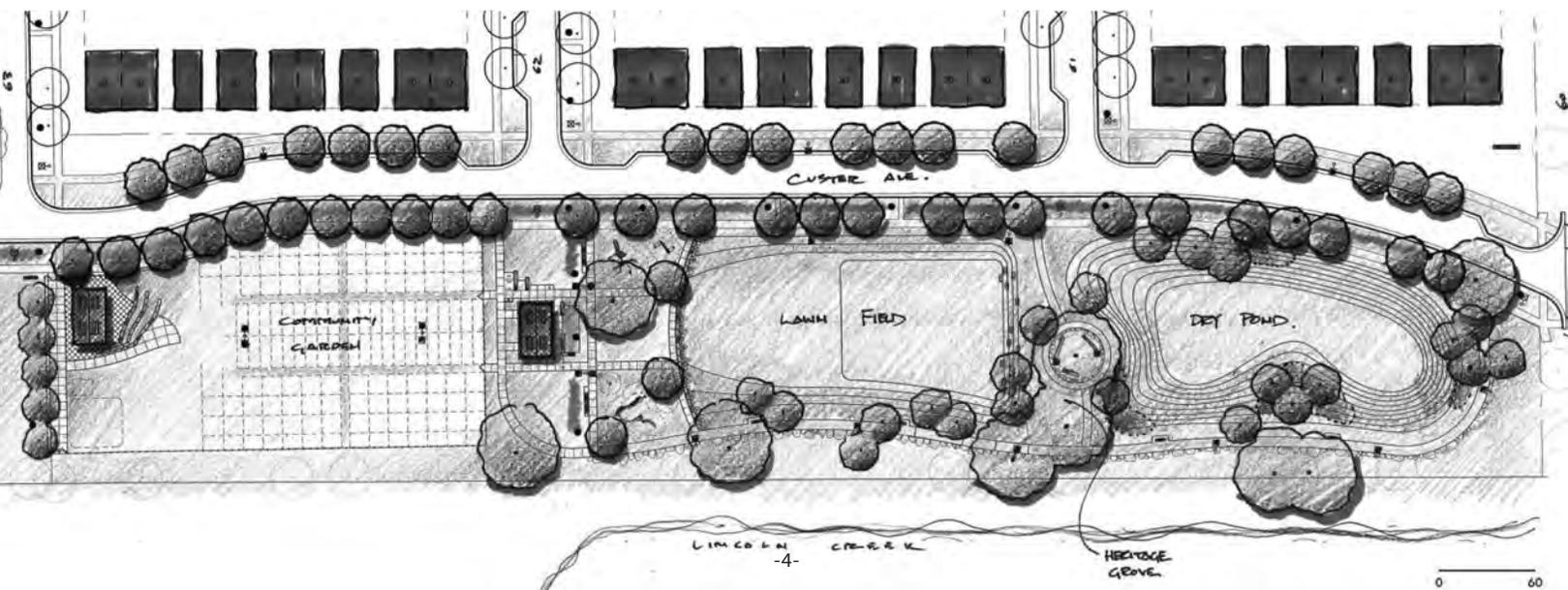
Westlawn 1950s style housing project is similarly ambitious. The project plan was developed after a number of meetings to gather input from Westlawn residents, neighbors, businesses, and other interested parties.

As a member of the board of the Housing Authority, Alderman Puente was involved with this project from the beginning. The revitalization project will have a mix of housing types and will reintegrate Westlawn with its surrounding community by reconnecting the normal street grid. The physical design, while still accommodating its predominantly low-income community, will be updated to support a broader range of housing types and incomes.



The residential units will include a mix of one bedroom multifamily units not more than three stories in height, as well as family units of two, three, four and five bedrooms in a combination of town-house, side-by-side and bungalow types.

The redevelopment plan for the Westlawn neighborhood is intended to not only revitalize the neighborhood, but to serve as a catalytic project that will help spur further redevelopment in the larger Silver Spring area community.



Tip Hotline Means \$\$ for Reporting Illegal Dumping

The Common Council has approved a tip hotline whereby callers can be eligible to receive reward money after anonymously providing information on incidents of illegal dumping of debris and/or hazardous materials.

Illegal dumping includes dumping of items and/or materials on streets, sidewalks, parking lots, vacant lots, alleys, or at vacant properties.

The 2011 city budget appropriated \$25,000 in funding for the tip hotline, and on March 1 the Common Council voted to get the hotline up and operating.

If you see or know of illegal dumping, call WeTip at 1-800-78-CRIME. If the information provided leads to a conviction, you may be eligible for a **reward up to \$1,000**.

If you witness illegal dumping, please provide a detailed description of the vehicle(s) - license plate information, make/model/color, etc - and of the individuals involved. If possible, also provide a description of the items and/or material that was dumped.

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.**

Real-Time Crime

A useful application Alderman Puente encourages residents to try 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 last 30-90 minutes.

Residents can also find crime information through the city’s COMPASS system at www.milwaukee.gov/compass where many mapping systems can help you identify statistics for your area.

New Play Lot at 66th and Port



A play lot that was in disrepair and unattractive just a few years ago has been transformed into a location where children want to be, according to Alderman Puente.

The play lot at N. 66th St. and W. Port Ave. had been deteriorating for many years, and its ball field was seldom, if ever, used. Also, grass was growing up through cracks in the paved surfaces. “The tot lot was the only part of the play lot that was being used – meaning a large portion of the location was underutilized,” said Alderman Puente.

After several meetings with neighbors and listening to their concerns and suggestions, the consensus was that the tot lot should remain, and that the remainder of the lot be transformed with a walking track/path and park-like area and with space for two half-court basketball courts. A central sitting area with benches, trees and rain gardens are provided in the center of the walking track.

The **Department of Public Works’ Recreational Facilities Division** developed a plan, and another meeting with neighbors was held on that plan. The neighbors endorsed the plan, work began in September 2010, and was completed within a few months.

Alderman Puente said he will be closely monitoring the basketball play at the lot. “I’ve assured the neighbors that the hoops will come down quickly if we have any problems or disruptions,” he said.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors – Now Required by Law

A state law that went into effect on February 1, 2011, requires all single and two-family homes to have CO or carbon monoxide detectors.

The life-saving detectors work like smoke alarms, alerting occupants to dangerously high levels of carbon monoxide. Newly constructed homes will require detectors that are directly wired to the home's electrical service; owners of existing homes may use battery-powered, stand-alone detectors.

The new law also includes a similar requirement for multifamily dwellings as well as any public building that is used for sleeping or lodging purposes.

Carbon monoxide is a gas that can be emitted from poorly functioning or poorly vented furnaces or other gas-powered home appliances.

In Milwaukee, all too often outdoor appliances (heaters, grills, etc. that burn fossil fuels) are used indoors by people to heat their homes when their utilities have been shut off, creating the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

But carbon monoxide leaks can also be found emitting from worn or damaged furnace ventilation pipes. Other sources of elevated CO in homes include clogged chimneys and gas kitchen stoves that are used as a source of heat, he said.

State health officials recommend that the detectors be **installed on every level of a home** and near sleeping areas. Detectors should be placed as high as possible because carbon monoxide tends to rise when it escapes.

The Milwaukee Fire Department responded to 164 confirmed incidents of elevated levels of carbon monoxide in 2010, according to department data. In 2009, the latest year for which such statistics are available, hospital emergency rooms in Wisconsin treated 480 patients for CO poisoning according to the state health department.

According to data from by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission released in September 2009, between 2004 and 2006, carbon monoxide poisoning deaths in the United States resulting from heating systems and gas water heaters averaged 54 a year.

Carbon monoxide alarms, some of which come with smoke detectors, are relatively inexpensive.

Milwaukee Water: Meets & Exceeds Highest Quality Standards

Milwaukee's drinking water quality meets or exceeds all EPA and Wisconsin health standards.

Since 1993, the **Milwaukee Water Works** has invested \$362 million in its infrastructure, from treatment plants to distribution systems, to ensure a reliable supply of high quality drinking water. The utility treats Lake Michigan water with ozone as the primary disinfectant to destroy microorganisms that cause disease, reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts, and remove taste and odor. Coagulation, sedimentation, biologically active filtration, and a final chloramine disinfection ensure high quality water from your faucets.

The Milwaukee Water Works has expanded water quality monitoring and screening activities to include organisms and contaminants not yet regulated but considered as an "emerging concern." The water works tests source and treated water for more than 500 contaminants while the EPA requires tests for only 90. The monitoring is conducted as a precaution to ensure safe water, to collect baseline data for study, to help increase the understanding of how contaminants may affect public health, and to meet future regulations. The expense of testing for unregulated compounds provides customers with added assurance and confidence in Milwaukee water quality and service.

Use Water Wisely – Control Water Costs

The Milwaukee Water Works strives to control costs by eliminating leaks in the treatment and distribution systems. Leaks inside homes and businesses are the responsibility of the property owner, and can waste large amounts of water.

A toilet that "keeps running" or a dripping faucet can waste hundreds of gallons and dollars in a short time. Sewer charges are based on the amount of water that passes through your water meter, whether you used the water or it leaked and was wasted. A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons a day down the sewer. At that rate, it would cost you \$102.72 each quarter (water charge \$40.32 + MMSD charge \$34.56 + Milwaukee city sewer charge \$27.84 = \$102.72), or \$410.88 a year.

Check for leaks throughout your home at least once every season of the year and control your water costs by fixing leaks. Check your Municipal Services Bill each quarter for water use and compare it to past bills. Find your water use history at www.milwaukee.gov/water. Large fluctuations in use can indicate leaks.

Expect increased water use during warm weather months if you water your lawn and garden, fill a pool, or frequently wash your car. Water use is measured in units called Ccf, which stands for 100 cubic feet.

One Ccf of water equals 748 gallons of water. The typical person in Milwaukee uses 10 Ccf of water per quarter. Multiply 10 by the number of people in your household to give you the number of Ccf for water used in one quarter (for example, 4 people x 10 = 40 Ccf). If you are using considerably much more than 10 Ccf per person per quarter, you may have water leaks.



Alderman Puente is shown the features of the ROV by Keith Herd, one of the team members who designed it. Keith, an honor student at Riverside University High School, will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the fall, pursuing a career in either graphic design or engineering.

Student Engineered Vehicle Takes Part in Competition

Alderman Puente attended a City Hall demonstration in April of a **student-designed remotely controlled underwater robot** that was part of an international competition which simulated challenges specific to underwater remote controlled vehicles/robots during the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Isaiah Thurman, a 9th District resident, was a member of the student team (Dream Chasers of Milwaukee County) representing Milwaukee in the competition.

The competition was developed by the **Milwaukee Water Council, UWM Great Lakes WATER Institute, UWM School of Continuing Educations, and Discovery World.** The purpose was to raise student awareness of freshwater career opportunities and to connect students and teachers with working professionals in the water sector. It also provided a means of developing technical, communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills and to mentor regional teams on the **United Nations Compact** issues. These issues include aquaculture, phosphorus, storm water, waste treatment, contaminants, integrated solutions and new technologies.

Construction Related Material Charge

There is 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 max). No contractor vehicles allowed.

One Call For City Info – 286-CITY

This 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. Residents should still call 911 for emergencies. Of course you can always call my office at 286-2868.

Important Phone Numbers

Common Council (main number)	286-2221
Mayor Tom Barrett	286-2200
Fire/Police/Ambulance	911
Fire - non-emergency	286-8999
Police - non-emergency	933-4444
Dist 4 non-emergency	935-7242
Health Department	286-3616
Domestic Violence/assault	286-2997
Parking Hotline	286-8350
Public Works	286-2489
<i>(special pickups, street lights, potholes, garbage/trash pickups, water, sewers)</i>	
Graffiti hotline	286-8715
Nuisance issues	286-2268
<i>(debris, litter, abandoned/illegally parked vehicles, code violations, landlord/tenant problems)</i>	
City of Milwaukee website	www.city.milwaukee.gov

Block Party Permits

Block Party permits are issued to residents in the City of Milwaukee who would like to barricade the residential street they live on for a neighborhood event – main thoroughfares are not closed for block parties. Planning a block party is a big job and requires the support of all those who reside on the block that will be closed.

The block party applicant must reside on the block and is responsible for the event – including setup and take-down of the barricades as described in the permit – cleanup of the public right-of-way following the event, and maintaining a clear lane for emergency vehicles.

Applications should be submitted 30 days prior to the event because they must be reviewed and approved by the District Alderman, the Department of Public Works, and the Milwaukee Police Department. When choosing the date and time of your event, it is important to be mindful and considerate of those who reside in the surrounding area as well as on your block.

Residents may apply for one non-fee block party permit annually. A fee for subsequent block parties in the same year will be imposed for the delivery of barricades, which typically is \$31.00.

Block Party Applications may be downloaded from DPW's website at www.milwaukee.gov/mpw/BlockParties.htm or call the Special Event Permit Office at (414) 286-3329.



Alderman
Robert W. Puente
9th District

SPRING/SUMMER 2011



Alderman Puente is pictured with **MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton** and **Active Apple** (MPS' nutrition and fitness mascot) at the **Milwaukee Sign Language School** earlier this spring for a celebration of School Breakfast Week. The event was held in cooperation with the **USDA** and the **Hunger Task Force**.

Have A Safe & Enjoyable Summer!

Meet Sparky, the Fireworks Task Force safety mascot!



Visit www.milwaukee.gov/sparky to:

- Learn more about fireworks safety.
- Download & print your own coloring page!
- **Like SparkyMKE on Facebook** and he'll keep you posted on fireworks events and more throughout Milwaukee!



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

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2011 Festivals & Events

Jun. 1 - Oct. 26 Wednesdays • **Westtown Farmer's Market** • Zeidler Union Square

Jun. 2 - Sept. 22 Thursdays • **Jazz in the Park** • Cathedral Square Park

Jun. 4 - Oct. 29 Saturdays • **East Town Market** • Cathedral Square Park

Jun. 7 - Sept. 27 Tuesdays • **East Town Market** • Cathedral Square Park

Jun. 7 - Aug 30 Tuesdays • **Chill on the Hill** • Humboldt Park, Bay View

Jun. 8 - Aug. 31 Wednesdays • **River Rhythms** • Pere Marquette Park

Jun. 17 - 19 • **St. Bernadette Parish Festival** • 8200 W. Denver Ave.

Jun. 17 - 19 • **Lakefront Festival of Arts** • Milwaukee Art Museum Grounds

Jun. 17 - 19 • **Polish Fest** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Jun. 19 • **40th Anniversary Juneteenth Day Celebration** • N. MLK Jr. Dr.

Jun. 29 - Jul. 10 • **Summerfest** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Jul. 10 • **Summerfest Rock 'n Sole Run** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Jul. 14 - 17 • **Bastille Days** • East Town (Jefferson St./Cathedral Square)

Jul. 21 - 24 • **Festa Italiana** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Jul. 28 - 31 • **German Fest** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Aug. 4 - 14 • **Wisconsin State Fair** • Wisconsin State Fair Park

Aug. 6-7 • **Milwaukee Air & Water Show** • Bradford Beach, Milwaukee

Aug. 18 - 21 • **Irish Fest** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Aug. 26 - 28 • **Mexican Fiesta** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Sept. 5 • **Labor Fest** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Sept. 9 - 11 • **25th Indian Summer Festival** • Henry W. Maier Festival Park

Jobs for America's Graduates



Alderman Puente joined **Deeya Cantley**, a resident of the 9th District and a senior at Washington High School, prior to a recent meeting of the Common Council in the Council chamber at City Hall. Ms. Cantley was one of approximately a dozen young people who came to City Hall as part of the **Milwaukee Urban League's JAG - Wisconsin (Jobs for America's Graduates)** program. The JAG is a national organization that works to reduce dropout rates and prepare young adults for career-building employment and/or college. To learn more about the JAG - Wisconsin, please call Ms. Joan Ward at (414) 875-5933.