Fall 2013

Michael**Murphy**

10th District Alderman

City Hall • (414) 286-3763 • mmurph@milwaukee.gov • www.milwaukee.gov/district10

Dear 10th District Residents:

We endured a very difficult summer in Milwaukee, with violence and public safety issues too often taking center stage. As chair of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, this fall I will be deliberating on how the city will respond to this very serious crisis as part of the 2014 city budget. Mayor Barrett has indicated that he will propose hiring 100 additional police officers as part of the budget (to be clear, the single largest departmental budget for 2013 was the police department at more than $237 million).

My focus will be to balance our budget priorities to address key issues that are contributing to violence and disorder, while also bolstering public safety resources. We need to make sure we provide resources to continue to fight problems associated with the foreclosure crisis, to foster job creation, and to provide activities for children and youth that are enriching, productive and positive.

Cities throughout the country continue to face tough decisions caused by economic obstacles and a lack of political cooperation. Despite Milwaukee's many budgetary challenges, we have proved resilient because of a strong sense of fiscal responsibility among city leaders and political compromise at the local level. As you will read inside, this has allowed us to hold the budget line on taxes while maintaining essential city services. Indeed, the fiscal prudence enacted by city leaders has earned us national recognition for effective financial management.

However, even in the face of these successes, the city will be confronted with new challenges. Provisions of the recently passed state budget are of particular concern as their impact on the city will be damaging and widespread. Inside this newsletter I detail the declines in revenue the city could encounter in the forthcoming years because of the unilateral decision made by state legislators to repeal the city's residency requirement for public employees and other policy items passed in the state budget.

Nevertheless, as we tend to our own fiscal house this fall, I will continue to address such challenges with enthusiasm and work hard on your behalf to see that Milwaukee continues to be a great city to live, work and visit.

If you ever have a question or concern about your city services or city government in general, please contact me so that we can work together to find solutions.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. I wish you and your family a fun and safe fall.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy

Michael J. Murphy
Alderman, 10th District

Hearing is Oct. 9 on Proposed 2014 City Budget

Residents are invited to attend the joint public hearing on the 2014 city budget proposed by Mayor Barrett. The hearing will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9** in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

Alderman Murphy, chair of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, said the 2014 proposed budget will attempt to address the city's most pressing issues, including public safety. He said the proposed budget includes a plan to hire an additional 100 police officers.

The full Council will meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 1 to adopt a 2014 city budget.

New 2014 Virtual Night Parking Permit System

For the convenience of the city's night parking permit customers, there will be no requirement to display a physical permit for 2014. When residents buy a night parking permit after December 20, 2013, they will complete the same application accurately listing the applicable license plate number. Residents will receive a confirmation number to prove purchase of the permit, but will not receive a physical permit to place on the vehicle's window.

The license plate number will be used by parking enforcement to determine whether it has a purchased, valid permit. All customer service problems arising from misplaced or stolen permits will be eliminated. Failure to purchase a permit will still be subject to a $20 citation.

When a resident purchases a permit online, the cost savings of no permit production, handling, and mailing will be passed on to customers. The convenience fee will be reduced from the current $2.25 to $1.00.

Visit **www.milwaukee.gov/parking** to purchase a night permit online and avoid the hassle of standing in line to pay in-person. Please call **286-8350** with any questions.

Committee Assignments

Chair
- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Employes' Retirement System Annuity and Pension Board
- Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board
- Milwaukee Arts Board

Member
- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Deferred Compensation Plan Board

View meetings on the web at: www.milwaukee.gov/citychannel

Follow Common Council news on Twitter: @MKE_CC & @MKE_TV

State Budget Impacts the City of Milwaukee

The governor recently approved the State of Wisconsin's 2013-15 biennial budget. The budget includes a number of provisions, many of which are non-fiscal policy items that impact the City of Milwaukee:

• One policy item the Governor included in his budget would prohibit local governments from having residency requirements for municipal employees. The City of Milwaukee has required employees to live in the city since 1938. There are more than 7,000 city employees who currently reside in the city, and their presence helps bolster neighborhood property values and stimulate the local economy. Additionally, compensation (salary and benefits) for police and fire employees make up more than 60% of the city budget, indicating that the majority of taxes levied go to support those departments' employees. "As city taxpayers pay employees' salaries and pensions, it's not asking too much to require them in turn to contribute to the health and vibrancy of the city by living within city limits," Alderman Murphy said. City officials contend that the state does not have the legal authority to strip away the residency requirements, and caution city employees that the safest course of action is for them to retain their residence within the city until courts decide the ultimate fate of the residency requirement.

• Additional policy measures include a provision that will change the way the city can assess the property value of billboards. This change will have the effect of lowering the amount of property tax the city collects from assessments on billboards from $76 million currently to $6.6 million, resulting in a shift of the property tax burden to local homeowners and businesses.

In other action taken in the state budget:

• Lawmakers deleted a Community Policing Grant of $222,500 a year that the city proposed using to expand the Shot Spotter system, which is used to combat gun crimes.

• The budget includes an increase in funding for public schools of $150 per pupil, while at the same time expanding the school voucher system statewide and providing a per pupil payment increase for voucher schools. The budget addresses the school choice "funding flaw" that Milwaukee taxpayers pay by phasing out the local share of the voucher program over a 12 year period. In the 2012-13 school year the local share and aid reduction was $59.3 million.

• Among the goals the City of Milwaukee realized in the budget, policy-makers granted a four percent increase in general transportation aids for local road improvement, a four percent increase in mass transit aid and a retention of $16 million for the Lake Interchange ramp replacement.

Making it New Again! Milwaukee Recycling Program – 2012 Year in Review

We do it every day – tossing old cans, jars, bottles, paper and cardboard into the recycling cart to turn them into something new! These recyclables are turned into a wide variety of products, including paper towel and writing paper, cardboard boxes and newsprint, new soda cans and beverage bottles, carpeting, patio furniture, auto parts, construction materials and more.

During the past several years, recycling has been on the rise in Milwaukee. From 2009 through 2012, recycling pounds per household have increased by 13 percent! This means that more materials are headed back to industries where they support jobs and are made into new products.

In 2012, Milwaukee residents recycled more than 24,000 tons of household materials, saving more than $1.5 million between avoided landfill disposal costs and the revenue earned from the sale of recyclables, net of processing costs. Beyond the recycling cart, residents brought in more than 2.1 million pounds of electronics, more than 90 tons of carpet and carpet padding, and nearly 3,400 gallons of used cooking oil to DPW's Self-Help Centers for recycling.

We can still do more to conserve natural resources, save landfill space, reduce pollution, save money and bolster our economy. So, give your recyclables new life and keep them out of the trash! Learn more at **www.milwaukeerecycles.com**.

Meet Alderman Murphy's Legislative Assistant

Megan O'Connor is a 2011 graduate of Marquette University with a double major in Political Science and Social Welfare and Justice. Prior to joining Alderman Murphy's office, she served as a White House intern in the Office of Presidential Correspondence analyzing incoming letters to determine appropriate policy responses. She also served as a constituent relations intern for Mayor Barrett from 2009-2011. While working at Milwaukee's City Hall, Megan discovered her love for the city and decided that she wanted to make Milwaukee her home.

Megan is available to advocate on behalf of district residents by fulfilling requests for city services and responding to constituent concerns.

Please feel free to contact her or Alderman Murphy at 286-2074.

Free Landlord Training

For future training dates call **286-2954** or to learn more about the program and view a class schedule log on to **www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining**

Elected Representatives of the 10th Aldermanic District by Area

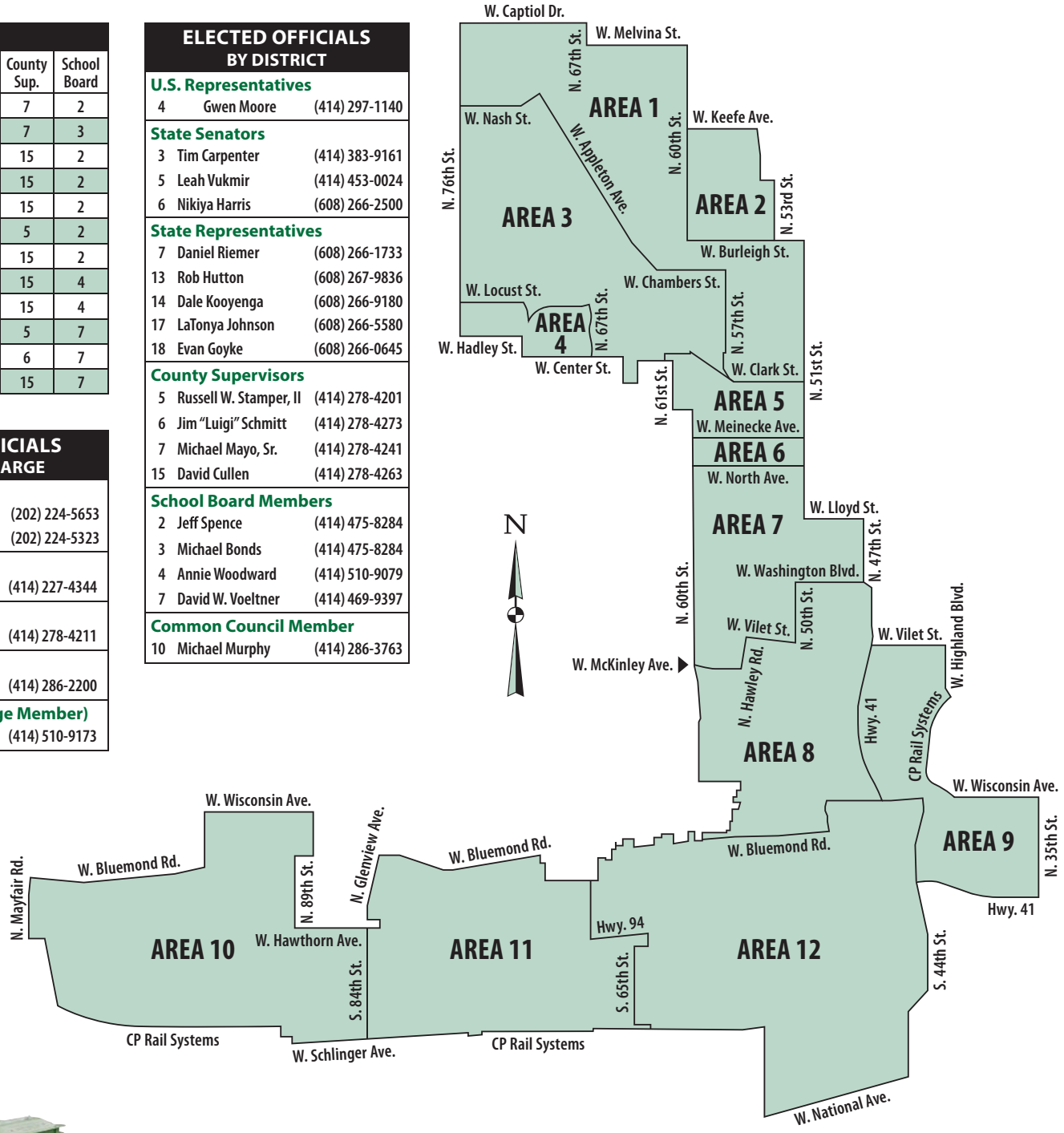
KEY					
AREA NO.	U.S. Rep.	State Sen.	State Rep.	County Sup.	School Board
1	4	6	17	7	2
2	4	6	17	7	3
3	4	6	17	15	2
4	4	5	14	15	2
5	4	6	17	15	2
6	4	6	17	5	2
7	4	6	18	15	2
8	4	6	18	15	4
9	4	6	18	15	4
10	4	5	13	5	7
11	4	5	13	6	7
12	4	3	7	15	7

ELECTED OFFICIALS ELECTED AT LARGE

U.S. Senators	
Tammy Baldwin	(202) 224-5653
Ron Johnson	(202) 224-5323
Governor	
Scott Walker	(414) 227-4344
County Executive	
Chris Abele	(414) 278-4211
Mayor	
Tom Barrett	(414) 286-2200
School Board (At Large Member)	
Terrence Falk	(414) 510-9173

ELECTED OFFICIALS BY DISTRICT

U.S. Representatives		
4	Gwen Moore	(414) 297-1140
State Senators		
3	Tim Carpenter	(414) 383-9161
5	Leah Vukmir	(414) 453-0024
6	Nikiya Harris	(608) 266-2500
State Representatives		
7	Daniel Riemer	(608) 266-1733
13	Rob Hutton	(608) 267-9836
14	Dale Kooyenga	(608) 266-9180
17	LaTonya Johnson	(608) 266-5580
18	Evan Goyke	(608) 266-0645
County Supervisors		
5	Russell W. Stamper, II	(414) 278-4201
6	Jim "Luigi" Schmitt	(414) 278-4273
7	Michael Mayo, Sr.	(414) 278-4241
15	David Cullen	(414) 278-4263
School Board Members		
2	Jeff Spence	(414) 475-8284
3	Michael Bonds	(414) 475-8284
4	Annie Woodward	(414) 510-9079
7	David W. Voeltner	(414) 469-9397
Common Council Member		
10	Michael Murphy	(414) 286-3763



Garbage Cart Collection

There is NO garbage or recycling collection on the following City Holidays:

- **Thanksgiving:** November 28 & 29, 2013
- **Christmas Eve & Day:** December 24 & 25, 2013
- **New Year's Eve & Day:** December 31, 2013 & January 1, 2014
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** January 20, 2014
- **Good Friday:** April 18, 2014
- **Memorial Day:** May 26, 2014
- **Independence Day:** July 4, 2014
- **Labor Day:** September 1, 2014

68th St. and 81st St. School Merger on Track

The merger of the Eighty-first Street School and the Sixty-eighth Street Early Childhood Center continues on track, offering taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings and exciting new curriculum for students.

The Milwaukee Board of School Directors voted over a year ago to close the Sixty-eighth Street Early Childhood Center, but at that time a contingent of community members demanded that programs for younger students be moved into the Eighty-first Street School located at 2964 N. 81st St.

In November 2012 the Board approved the second phase of the merger process, which resulted from a collaborative dialogue that included input from a variety of neighborhood groups, city leaders and school officials. In the second year of the merger (2013-14), the Eighty-first Street School will begin implementing a new focus on pre-engineering, world languages and personalized learning.

For the time being, the Eighty-first Street School serves children in programs from 3-year-old kindergarten through the eighth grade. In the 2014-15 school year, the final phase of the merger process, the Eighty-first Street School will phase out middle school grades.

Alderman Murphy said a strong grassroots effort in support of the neighborhood school concept has brought forth this "viable option that has very strong support." "The merger saves the district money, and it generates additional revenue by providing parents more options and incentives to choose public schools for their children," Alderman Murphy said.

The merging of the programs is expected to save the district about $250,000 annually in transportation costs. That more than offsets the $60,000 in moving and set-up costs that facilitated the merger.

Smoke Detectors

If you do not have a working smoke detector in your home, call the Smoke Detector Hotline at 286-8980 to see if you are eligible for a free detector.

Meet your New Captains

Captain Jutiki Jackson is the new Commander for the Milwaukee Police Department's 7th District, and his experience includes more than 20 years of service to the Milwaukee Police Department. He began his career in District Two, and after ten years as a police officer he was promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant. As a sergeant, Jackson worked at various locations including District Four, the Vice Control Division and the Tactical Enforcement Unit, where he remained until being promoted to Lieutenant. As a Lieutenant, Jackson was assigned to District Seven, District Five and the Neighborhood Task Force. On June 21, 2013, Jackson was promoted to the rank of captain and assumed command of District Seven.

Captain Jason Smith is the new Commander for the Milwaukee Police Department's 3rd District. His previous assignment was command of the regional fusion center, and he carries this intelligence-led policing influence to the front line, serving the community through prevention and strong partnerships. During his 23 years with the Milwaukee Police Department, he also supervised criminal investigation teams in Homicide, Robbery and Intelligence Sections of the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Schedule a Neighborhood Walkthrough with Alderman Murphy

In an effort to bring police, city officials and residents together to address problems in the community, Alderman Murphy invites residents to schedule a neighborhood walkthrough.

Alderman Murphy, command staff from the Milwaukee Police Department and other vital city staff can come as a group to meet neighbors and tour several blocks. The walkthroughs not only serve as a visible deterrent to crime, but they also offer residents a chance to provide direct feedback to city officials and build on a sense of community. "Safe neighborhoods are thriving neighborhoods. To maintain a safe environment we must demonstrate that community members and civic leaders are actively engaged and committed to the wellbeing of their communities" said Alderman Murphy.

To request a walkthrough of your neighborhood, call Alderman Murphy's office at 286-2074.

New Environmental School to Open in Former 65th St. Building

This past August, the former Sixty-Fifth Street School building at 6600 W. Melvina St. reopened as Milwaukee Environmental Sciences (MES), a new year round education public charter school serving students in grades K4 to 5 and growing to 12th grade.

Students at MES will study and address real environmental issues with local experts while developing strong reading and math skills. A knowledgeable, dedicated and caring team of educators will use the Expeditionary Learning model to support students in becoming self directed learners prepared for success in college, career and citizenship.

MES has been authorized by Milwaukee Public Schools and will utilize nearby Dineen Park as an outdoor learning space. In addition, the administration will build collaborative partnerships with families and community members to support and enrich students' learning.

To learn more about MES, visit **www.theenvironmentalschool.org**, or call **(414) 944-1240**.

Alderman Murphy speaks about the PACE initiative during a news conference in the 735 N. Water St. building this past summer. Joining the alderman were Charles McGinnis (left) of Johnson Controls, Inc. and Mayor Barrett.

PACE Energy Efficiency Initiative for Buildings Moves Forward

Building on the success of the Me² program, the City of Milwaukee is developing new financial resources to help building owners finance energy efficiency improvements on their properties – improvements that save energy dollars, create better buildings, create local jobs and improve the environment.

Alderman Murphy, who sponsored legislation approved earlier this year by the full Common Council authorizing Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for commercial properties, said the PACE financing gives commercial building owners the opportunity to get loans for energy efficiency improvements with fixed rate terms up to 20 years, terms that are not currently available through traditional lending.

"The private sector loans are more secure because they are collected as a voluntary municipal special charge on the participating property owner's tax bill," Alderman Murphy said. "With longer loan terms, minimal upfront costs and other benefits, property owners have the opportunity to save more in energy annually than they spend on the municipal special charge, making investing in energy efficiency improvements the smart choice."

Up to $100 million is being made available through a partnership between the Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Clean Fund.

City Treasurer Spencer Coggs said, "I am quite pleased that the legislation sponsored by Alderman Murphy will make PACE financing available to commercial building owners, while protecting city taxpayers from any adverse ramifications in the highly unlikely event of a loan default."

Alderman Nik Kovac worked closely with Alderman Murphy on the PACE legislation.

Additional information about PACE can be found at **www.smartenergypays.com/businesses**.

Commercial Me² Program to Continue Providing Financing Solutions for Businesses

The Milwaukee Energy Efficiency (Me²) program for commercial properties will continue to offer financing into 2014.

The program – rebuilding Milwaukee from the inside out – helps owners of existing buildings in the City of Milwaukee replace aging lighting, heating and cooling systems and pay for those improvements as they save on their energy bills.

Me² helps businesses reinvest dollars into their building that they otherwise would have wasted on high energy bills from outdated equipment. Commercial Me² has approved more than $16 million of energy saving projects on over 130 properties.

Please go to **www.SmartEnergyPays.com/businesses** to learn additional details.

Me²
Milwaukee Energy Efficiency
Smart energy pays.

IMPACT 2-1-1™
Get Connected. Get Answers.
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

Cell phone, dial 414-773-0211.
Pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380.

East-West Freeway Project Hearings Coming

No dates have been released, but additional public hearings on the planned reconstruction of I-94 between the Marquette University campus area and N. 70th St. are expected to be scheduled for early 2014 – perhaps in January, according to Alderman Murphy.

The massive project – originally estimated to cost $1.2 billion – is scheduled to get underway in 2019.

Alderman Murphy said he will share dates, times and locations of the public hearings with residents when that information is finalized.

Please go to **www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/seregion/94stadiumint/index.htm** for additional information about the project.

How to Report Potholes

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 a service request online by visiting **www.milwaukee.gov/mpw**

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.

Alderman Murphy addresses the news media about the surveillance camera grant program during a June 2013 news conference at the Milwaukee Police Department's District Three facility, 2333 N. 49th St. Alderman Murphy was joined at the news conference by Mayor Barrett, Public Safety Committee Chair Alderman Terry Witkowski, Alderman Bob Donovan, and a representative of the Milwaukee Police Department.

Commercial Corridors Could Get Surveillance Cameras Under City Program

Under a proposed city matching grant program, commercial corridors in Milwaukee could apply to be outfitted with mounted, police-monitored surveillance cameras.

The initiative sponsored by Alderman Murphy, Alderman Bob Donovan, Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. and supported by Mayor Barrett, will use a $200,000 matching grant that will help provide monitored surveillance cameras in commercial corridors where Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other like groups exist to support and help fund improvements.

Alderman Murphy, chair of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, said BIDs and business associations will be provided an opportunity to match the grant funds for the installation of cameras, which have become standard public safety tools in shopping and commercial areas across the U.S.

"Surveillance cameras utilized in commercial corridors have proven effective in helping to deter crime and also helping to solve crimes," Alderman Murphy said.

The sources of the funding for the $200,000 matching grant will be Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds ($100,000), and funds generated from the Milwaukee Police Department's asset forfeiture program (confiscated cash and property from criminal cases) in the amount of $100,000.

The program is expected to begin at the start of the new year.

Foreclosure Help for Homeowners

The City of Milwaukee is committed to helping our neighborhoods remain healthy for generations to come. As curbing foreclosures is key to this goal, we are coordinating with various organizations, government agencies and private lenders to reach out to homeowners facing foreclosure through prevention, intervention and stabilization efforts. For access to more resources, visit **www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org**.

If you or someone you know is facing foreclosure, the most important thing to do is to contact a certified foreclosure counselor. The city, in partnership with the Milwaukee Mediation Program, can help. For more information, contact (414) 939-8800 or visit **www.mediatemilwaukee.com**.

The following organizations also offer foreclosure solutions:

Select Milwaukee

- (414) 562-5070
- info@selectmilwaukee.org
- www.selectmilwaukee.org

Neighborhood Stabilization Project

- nspinfo@milwaukee.gov
- www.milwaukee.gov/NeighborhoodStabilizationProgram.htm

Additionally, if problems exist with boarded up properties in your neighborhood, you should report them to the Department of Neighborhood Services. Call **(414) 286-2268** with the property address or visit **www.milwaukee.gov/dns** for more information.

Congratulations!

Alderman Murphy was joined by Mayor Barrett and 2013 Milwaukee Veteran of the Year Mike Malloy during a ceremony earlier this year to dedicate the Milwaukee VA Soldiers Home National Historic Landmark plaque for the Civil War era Old Main building. Joining Alderman Murphy at the ceremony were (from left): State Senator Tim Carpenter; John R. Madden, Superintendent - National Park Service, US Department of the Interior; Mayor Tom Barrett; Vietnam veteran and 2013 Milwaukee Veteran of the Year Mike Malloy; and State Senator Chris Larson.

Alderman Murphy joined Mayor Barrett in honoring Mr. Malloy for being named 2013 Milwaukee Veteran of the Year. Mr. Malloy, a retired city employee, is a decorated Vietnam veteran who volunteers his time in the community for several good causes. His military honors include the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), an Air Medal, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, a Bronze Star, a Meritorious Service Medal, a Legion of Merit Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Vietnam Honor Medal. Mr. Malloy's wife, Ellen, is also pictured.

Alderman Murphy met recently with Chris Dobs and Dan Block, owners of Urban Sense at N. 54th and W. Vliet Streets. The shop – which opened in a beautifully renovated space during spring 2013 – sells flowers, pottery, candles and much more.

In May 2013, Alderman Murphy served as emcee of the 2013 Be Kind to Animals Week awards celebration at the Wisconsin Humane Society, 4500 W. Wisconsin Ave. To celebrate Be Kind to Animals Week, the Humane Society holds Poster, Poetry, Photography and Digital Art contests for students throughout the community. At the event, Alderman Murphy was photographed with Sarah and Cory Malchow and MacGyver.

Recent Developments

Partnerships and Entrepreneurs Driving Development in the District

Economic development in the 10th Aldermanic District combines the energy of entrepreneurs, partnerships with city government and the inherent value of our neighborhood business districts.

It's entrepreneurs at 51st St. and **W. Blue Mound Rd.** who have created **Central Greens**, an ambitious aquaponics operation that grows produce and fish. Central Greens offers its products through several retail outlets and restaurants. In its modern, energy-efficient business, Central Greens is harvesting lettuce and herbs daily, and its fish tanks produce tasty tilapia.

On **Vliet Street**, Milwaukee city government has partnered with two property owners over the past year to improve their business facades. At both 5402 and 5425 W. Vliet St. the city has provided about 40 percent of the project costs of the exterior building improvements. These partnerships make the Vliet St. business area even more attractive and vibrant.

Good news for **North Avenue** – the Hartter's Bakery buildings located at 5507-5513 W. North Ave. have finally been purchased. Alderman Murphy is working closely with the owners to assist in the redevelopment of the buildings.

On **Burleigh Street** a strong Business Improvement District has brought businesses together, financing efforts to advance their common interests and promoting commercial activity. The energy we see on Burleigh St. may lead to additional cooperative efforts along **Center Street**. An effort is underway to encourage renewed activity at the Center Street Business Improvement District. Already along Center St. we have seen coordinated clean-up activity and outreach efforts to build additional neighborhood vitality.

Neighborhood commercial districts are great urban amenities. They add a positive, human element to retail transactions, and they have great potential to create an affirmative spirit in the surrounding residential areas. In the 10th Aldermanic District, there is reason to be optimistic about these economic assets.

Concrete Being Removed from River Bed

Crews are in the process of removing 1,100 feet of concrete from the bed of the Menomonee River upstream of the Wisconsin Ave. bridge. The project is expected to help fish more easily swim upstream to Wauwatosa and beyond, Alderman Murphy said.

"The current concrete chute that is in place is too shallow, too steep, and has a current that is too swift for almost all native fish species to fight through," he said. "The project will allow salmon from Lake Michigan to navigate far upstream, and spawning fish will have access to an additional 20 miles of tributary streams and more than 1,000 acres of wetlands."

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has granted the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District a permit to remove concrete in that stretch of river, with total cost of the project estimated at $4.9 million.

The MMSD has indicated that removing the concrete will not increase flood risks downstream in the Valley Park neighborhood. The project will restore the stretch of the Menomonee to a more natural, meandering stream channel, and the MMSD will build a ramp for launching canoes and kayaks on the west bank of the river immediately upstream of Wisconsin Ave.

Also, a new sewer overflow pumping station, capable of pushing up to 220 million gallons a day of sewage and storm water into the Menomonee River, is ready for use on the river's north bank near W. State and N. 59th streets.

The $17 million project will relieve regional sewers during unusually heavy rainstorms and help reduce the risk of sewage backups into basements in Milwaukee and neighborhoods as far north as the Ozaukee County line as well as Wauwatosa and north shore communities.

Fall Leaf Collection

Residents can rake leaves into the curb lanes from October 1 – November 15, 2013. Sanitation crews will begin collecting leaves on October 14 (earlier if conditions warrant).

Family Gives Back to City with Memorial Bench Donation

A Milwaukee family has generously donated a memorial park bench at Marcus Deback Playground.

The donation comes from the Heinzelmann family, whose grandparents, Joseph and Sophie, first immigrated to Milwaukee from Germany in 1929. The family has since raised three generations across from the playground (formerly known as Wright Street Playground).

Of course, the playground that Heinzelmann family members grew up enjoying is now known as the Marcus Deback Playground, 2461 N. 55th St.

"This gift from the Heinzelmann family is incredibly heartwarming, and it will definitely be a great addition and improvement to the park area," Alderman Michael J. Murphy said.

In an approved file authored by Alderman Murphy, the Common Council formally authorized the Department of Public Works to accept the family's donation.

During September 2013 Alderman Murphy joined Alderman Bob Bauman, Merrill Park NA President Bob Greene, and several other park neighbors, supporters and stakeholders to help dedicate new playground equipment at Merrill Park. Legislation sponsored by Alderman Murphy – and generous donations from U.S. Bank and Marquette University High School – helped make the playground improvements possible.

Let the Children Play!

Earlier this year – in large part because of Alderman Murphy's efforts – the City of Milwaukee was officially recognized as a "**Playful City USA**" community for championing efforts to give children ample outdoor play opportunities.

Alderman Murphy authored legislation approved by the Common Council last year to require all new elementary schools to provide a minimum amount of safe, open play space to help keep children healthy and active. The Council legislation sponsored by Alderman Murphy applies only to new public, private and parochial elementary schools, and states that at least 75 square feet of outdoor play space must be provided for each child using the space at the time. In the event where that is not possible, supervised safe trips to off-site recreation areas are required.

A soft playing area, such as sand or mulch, is also required, and concrete and asphalt surfaces under climbing equipment and slides will now be prohibited.

In the 2013 city budget, the Common Council adopted Alderman Murphy's amendment creating a **Playground Improvement Challenge Fund** – a $100,000 matching grant program to help fund improvements at city playgrounds. The fund is making resources available this year and **U.S. Bank** has generously pledged $10,000, along with $10,000 from Marquette University High School, to help fund the program's first project – improvements at the Merrill Park playground near N. 35th and W. Michigan Streets.

Alderman Murphy said only one in five children in the U.S. live within walking distance of a park and Playful City USA communities like Milwaukee are creating innovative programs and initiatives, and have earned recognition because of efforts to "allow kids to be kids and to best prepare them for their future."

"Academic research has shown a direct correlation between healthy minds and strong bodies," Alderman Murphy said. "Now is the time to ensure that our children have access to a healthy and active lifestyle."

The city's Playful City USA designation was bestowed by the national non-profit organization KaBOOM!

Recent Developments

None Better than City's Pension System, National Report Shows

The City of Milwaukee Employe's Retirement System (CMERS) is rated at the top of city pension systems in the U.S., according to a report released by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The study, which analyzed 61 cities and 50 states, found that Milwaukee has met its pension obligations in a sustainable and affordable way that benefits both taxpayers and employees. Alderman Murphy, longtime member of the city's ERS Annuity and Pension Board and chair of the Pension Study Task Force, said this honor is owed to the "disciplined and professional management of the fund."

Despite this recognition, City of Milwaukee leaders are focused on maintaining the fund's sustainability over the long run. To do so, big changes were recommended by the Pension Study Task Force and unanimously passed by the city's Common Council this May.

Alderman Murphy, chair of the task force, explained that "it's important and necessary to make such decisions when the fund is healthy and sustainable rather than at a crisis point." Changes to the benefits plan are expected to save up to $90 million over the next 20 years.

New Enhancements for Hank Aaron State Trail

In an effort supported by Hank Aaron himself, an abandoned Menomonee Valley rail yard located between S. 27th and S. 37th Streets was repurposed from the ground up, creating a $26.2 million Hank Aaron State Trail expansion. The project – completed since Alderman Murphy's last newsletter – includes new natural marshes, and the newly finished Urban Ecology Center, 3700 W. Pierce St., which offers countless educational opportunities for local children and other residents.

In addition to the park, a new trail gateway from the Hank Aaron State Trail to the Oak Leaf Trail has progressed, allowing access from the heart of the city. This trail expansion is part of the 'Rails to Trails' program sponsored by the Coca-Cola Community Foundation Metropolitan Grants Program. The link between the trails will be fully open when the Zoo Interchange project is finished.

Public Service Commission Rules in Favor of ATC

On March 1, the Public Service Commission ruled in favor of the American Transmission Company (ATC) proposal to use overhead power lines in part of a $34 million project on land that goes through the City of Milwaukee and Wauwatosa.

This decision comes as a disappointment to Alderman Murphy and neighbors, who advocated for the high voltage power lines to be buried underground. "This is a missed chance for the PSC to demonstrate a commitment to the interests of the public it is supposed to serve," Alderman Murphy said.

Nearby schools and residents will be affected by the project near N. 95th St. and W. Blue Mound Rd. The area is already subject to high levels of noise, air and aesthetic pollution from the nearby Zoo Interchange.

Southeast view.

Northeast view.

Wisconsin Lutheran College Student Housing Development Moving Forward

The Wisconsin Lutheran College expects to move forward on a multi-million dollar student housing project (that will stay on the tax rolls) after the community showed support at a recent neighborhood meeting held by Alderman Murphy. The proposed six-story, 54 unit building located on 89th St. and W. Wisconsin Ave. would replace four existing residential apartment buildings. The project was passed by the Common Council on July 23, 2013.

A New BMO Harris Bradley Center?

At Alderman Murphy's request, Milwaukee's Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) – a nonpartisan research arm of the Common Council City Clerk's Office – recently released a report that raised serious questions about the validity of claims that building a new sports arena in Milwaukee would generate a significant economic benefit for the area. The study, which analyzed the economic impact of professional sports venues in Wisconsin and around the country, provides a background to what is expected to become a contentious debate over the future of the BMO Harris Bradley Center in downtown Milwaukee.

"As the city considers the business community's likely request for public financing of a new downtown arena, I believe that an open and honest assessment of the fiscal implications is needed, and needed now," Alderman Murphy said. "Before we go too far down the road of how to pay for such an arena, it warrants analyzing other, similar cases to determine the realistic economic impact the city could expect as a return on its significant investment."

The LRB report concluded that, while there may be other reasons for a municipality to invest in a sports venue, it is arguable whether sports franchises are economic engines themselves. Overall, in the past 15 years, publicly-financed sports venues have not paid off economically for the city, county or state governments that financed them, the report noted. Rather than creating new spending, fan spending is largely done by local metro residents, not tourists. Moreover, expenditures are generally only a substitution or redirection of entertainment funds that would otherwise be spent at local restaurants and other activities.

For a copy of the report, please visit Alderman Murphy's website at **www.milwaukee.gov/district10**.

Five Steps to Secure Your Mobile Devices

Alderman Murphy and the Milwaukee Police Department want to help Milwaukee residents in protecting their mobile devices and the information they may store on those devices. The five easy steps you can take:

A. Set up a password lock

- This is the easiest security feature that prevents people from accessing any personal, confidential information that may be stored on your device.

B. Enable remote data wiping

- This is a valuable feature in which the service provider allows you to remotely erase data from your device in case of emergency.

C. Update and upgrade

- Although downloading new operating systems can be time-consuming, many of these upgrades have better security updates for your device's protection.

D. Be vigilant

- When using your phone in public, be sure to stay aware of your surroundings. It's easy for a thief to see when you're distracted and take advantage of a dropped guard.

E. Enable or install a device locating application

- Most mobile devices have the ability to use satellites and networks to help locate a lost device – this feature cannot be activated after the device has already been stolen or lost or without correct username and password.

Nothing can completely guarantee that your phone will never be lost or stolen, but taking these steps can help minimize the risk.

A new restaurant – The Soup Market – will be opening later this fall at 5330 W. Vliet St. in Washington Heights.

Tip Hotline Offers Cash for Reporting Illegal Dumping, Vandalism and Other Crimes

The Common Council approved a tip hotline whereby callers may be eligible to receive reward money after anonymously providing information on incidents of illegal dumping of debris and/or hazardous materials or vandalism to vacant buildings in the City. Illegal dumping includes dumping of items, brush and/or materials on streets, sidewalks, parking lots, alleys or vacant properties.

Alderman Murphy encourages residents to report this illegal activity. "Vandalism to vacant buildings should be a top concern for all city residents and stakeholders, because there is a direct relationship between vandalism to vacant buildings and increased calls for police and fire services."

If you see or know of these crimes, call WeTip at 1-800-78-CRIME.

If you witness illegal dumping, please provide a detailed description of the vehicle(s) (license plate info, make/model, etc.) and the individual(s) involved. If possible, also provide a description of the items and/or materials that were dumped.

Bilingual operators answer the hotline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are taken for all crimes. All calls are anonymous, not just confidential.

Michael**Murphy**

10th District Alderman

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Milwaukee Arts Board – Grant Awards

Photo: MAB member Tina Klose

Alderman Murphy (MAB Chair) joined Alderman Kovac and Mayor Barrett in congratulating the 32 arts organizations who were awarded over $150,000 in grant funding for community art projects by the Milwaukee Arts Board. The grant awards ceremony was held on June 11, 2013 at the United Community Center. Tim and Sue Frautschi and Joseph Pabst, recipients of MAB's second annual Friends of the Arts Awards, were also honored at the reception.

Stay connected with the Milwaukee Arts Board at: **www.milwaukee.gov/MAB**
Like us on Facebook: **www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeArtsBoard**
Follow us on Twitter: **@MKEArtsBoard**

2013 Events

Saturdays thru 10/30 • **East Town Market** • Cathedral Square Park

9/26-10/10 • **Milwaukee Film Festival** • Various venues in Milwaukee

10/6 • **Milwaukee's Lakefront Marathon** • Grafton to Milw. Lakefront

10/18-19 • **Gallery Night and Day** • Downtown Milwaukee

10/26 • **Washington Heights Halloween Bash** • Intersection of High-Mount & Vine

11/9 • **Veterans Day Parade** • Downtown Milwaukee

11/21-1/5 • **Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival** • Downtown Milwaukee

11/23 • **Milwaukee Holiday Parade** • Downtown Milwaukee

12/6-7 • **Christmas in the Ward** • Historic Third Ward

Did You Know?

Milwaukee is an exciting place to live with lots of great things to do. Here is but a small sampling of ways to get involved, save money and enjoy yourself in Milwaukee.

Organize a neighborhood cleanup: 272-5462 or www.kgmb.org

Save money with a weekly bus pass: www.ridemcts.com

Visit the art museum for free on the first Thursday of the month: www.mam.org

Be a Super Reader

It's back to school time and your Milwaukee Public Library offers great resources to help children and parents including homework help with our Teacher in the Library program and access to online tools like Brainfuse. Pick up grade relevant reading suggestions for children and teens and the Fall Calendar of Events to learn more about all the great family programs offered at the library.

Like us on Facebook and visit us at www.mpl.org.