

The Garden District

13th District Alderman

Terry L. Witkowski



Dear Neighbors,

Change and challenges are continuous for the city. I am happy to have been able to spend time organizing and branding the district, and am very pleased that many leaders in our district stepped up to continue the Garden District initiative, Business Improvement Districts, the aerotropolis effort, the Green Corridor and neighborhood associations. They contribute greatly to keeping this district on the move.

In my third term, we are seeing the benefit of organization and beautification as businesses are starting to mention this as an area on the upswing and choosing to locate here. It takes all of us working together to keep it happening. I encourage residents to get involved and help by joining a neighborhood association, the Garden Committee or even by planting in their own yard. One house at a time, we are improving this district.

You can also help your neighborhood by going to neighborhood association events, joining the community garden, attending events (which are listed inside on this newsletter's calendar) and patronizing local businesses. I was asked why a hardware store on Chase Ave. closed down and was replaced by a dollar store, and the only response I could give was that we simply should have shopped there.

This term, I have been tapped to chair the Public Safety Committee, serve on the VISIT Milwaukee board and expand my involvement in the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. Much of this work is done quietly, one-on-one, but it still affects the health of the city. This newsletter updates you on some activities, provides you with a list of events and the latest map of the district, along with associations and contacts.

I hope to see you out and around the Garden District!

Sincerely,

Terry Witkowski
Alderman, 13th District



View meetings on the web:
www.milwaukee.gov/Channel25

Follow us on Twitter @MKE_CC and @MKE_TV for City of Milwaukee Common Council and City Clerk news, info and updates.

Mark Your Calendars

Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility
4001 S. 6th St., 3rd Floor

Wilson Park Fourth of July Planning Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility
4001 S. 6th St., 3rd Floor

Garden District Garden Committee

First Tuesday of every month – 6:30 p.m.
4121 S. 6th St., 2nd Floor

See inside for a full calendar of additional Garden District events.

Alderman Witkowski's Committee Assignments

CHAIR

- Public Safety Committee

VICE CHAIR

- Judiciary & Legislation Committee
- Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee

MEMBER

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Administrative Review Appeals Board
- League of Wisconsin Municipalities Board
- VISIT Milwaukee Board



Fourth of July Celebration May End

After many years of dedicated service, the citizen volunteers who have run the Fourth of July parade and other events in Wilson Park have stepped down. In order to have a celebration this year, community volunteers must step forward. I will be holding a meeting on Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Water Tower, 4001 S. 6th St., for anyone interested in helping make the event continue to happen.

Freeway Reconstruction Blooms in Garden District

Having survived eight years of freeway meetings and construction, residents in our district are relieved that the I-94 project in our district has come to an end. I worked cooperatively with the state Department of Transportation, and the end result looks pretty good. The finished product is an upgrade from the old freeway, and we only lost two homes instead of 80. We gained upgraded noise walls chosen by residents, streetscaping, branding for Historic Route U.S. 41, artwork on bridges and two blocks for development at 20th St. and Layton Ave.

I look forward to seeing the plantings I requested at freeway exits. Various perennials should appear from Spring to Fall, and the display should spread and fill in as the years go by. Changes in

the landscaping plans, like dropping some trees and adding other plantings, made it a cost-neutral change. It is the first-of-its-kind planting in the state, but probably not the last. The plantings are meant to convey a positive image of our area as people enter from the freeway.

Neighbors also planted nearly 2,000 daffodils on the east side of 20th St. visible when coming from downtown to westbound I-43. Kurt Flierl, engineer in charge of the construction phase, enthusiastically supported the Garden District concept and wanted to add to it as the project ended. He obtained the bulbs and made the request for volunteers for the planting project. Nearly 30 people helped out.



Serving on City Boards and Commissions

In the wake of increased scrutiny of the city's Fire and Police Commission, major changes have been made to the way that members of all city committees, boards and commissions are appointed to their posts.

Traditionally, commissioners were appointed by the Mayor and had to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Common Council. However, the public had very little input into that process or opportunity to learn more about the candidates for office.

The city has launched a feature on the city's website that allows members of the public to submit applications to be considered for

appointment to city committees, boards and commissions, including the Fire and Police Commission.

Additionally, the Mayor has agreed that any further appointments to the Fire and Police Commission will be subjected to a rigorous series of hearings and information sessions with the public they will be expected to serve. The changes make the entire process more transparent and provide accountability to the public.

To apply, visit:

milwaukee.gov/appointments or
milwaukee.gov/PresidentsAppointments

Community Garden Space Available

The two rental gardens at S. 6th St. and Howard Ave. are still taking gardeners. Raised 4x16' boxes and 20x20' in-ground plots are available in the community garden on the south side of Howard Ave. by calling **379-2450** or emailing info@milwaukeegdn.com.

The UW Milwaukee County Extension operates the gardens on the north side of Howard Ave., and 20x20' in-ground plots are available by contacting Jan Alba at **256-4651**. Plots go quickly, so be sure to reserve yours soon.

Use NDIC Grants to Clean Up Your Block!

Want to improve the appearance of your block? The **Neighborhood Development Improvement Corp.** can provide neighborhood matching grants of up to \$3,000. Get your neighbors together to fix-up the fronts of homes or install yard plantings.

Each project must involve neighbors working together and some sweat equity. Call Alderman Witkowski to learn more and brainstorm what you can do at **286-8537** or **731-0472**, or contact Sam Leichtling of NDIC at **286-5804**.

Who's Serving on Boards and Commissions?

A number of people from the Garden District now serve on city boards and commissions. The most recent appointment was Carrie Davis to the Ethics Board. Diane Kosarzycki, Chair of the Holt Park Neighborhood Association, serves on the Milwaukee Arts Board.

Alderman Witkowski Joins VISIT Milwaukee

The tourism and hospitality industry in Milwaukee lead the state in job growth, and is a \$1.57 billion industry here. I have been appointed to serve on the **VISIT Milwaukee** board, and no longer serve on the Wisconsin Center District and Library Boards. This is a very appropriate appointment, because my district has the second largest hospitality grouping in the city, behind the downtown area.



I can also now continue the work I began with establishing a Milwaukee Image Task Force. Part of that task force effort focused on establishing an agency to assume responsibility for Milwaukee's image, and VISIT Milwaukee volunteered to be that agency.

What to do in Milwaukee

There is nothing to do in Milwaukee, you say? Then you clearly have not checked out the latest one-stop online events calendar, **Milwaukee365.com**. The VISIT Milwaukee web site is brand new, and lists a variety of activities happening here, including free events. You can view images and videos of events, read reviews and even purchase tickets.



Branding the City with the Milwaukee Mark

One of the recommendations made by the Milwaukee Image Task Force I created was to encourage all businesses and government to use the symbol of the art museum's Calatrava addition, created by Spirit of Milwaukee, on stationery and pamphlets. The idea was to brand the area with this one recognizable image. After all, this one-of-a-kind building portrays Milwaukee as technologically and culturally advanced, and distances the city from rust belt stereotypes or Laverne and Shirley.

The city is leading by example and placing the "Milwaukee Mark" on all printed material, and thanks to a generous donation, it will also start appearing on city vehicles. Milwaukee County will soon consider doing the same, and then VISIT Milwaukee and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce will send a letter to all area companies asking them to follow suit.

Using the Milwaukee Mark on materials used by the Port of Milwaukee, the airport and companies that do business here or overseas establishes a unified identity and image of Milwaukee. I would hope this will change reports that I've seen that continually say "Milwaukee doesn't have a bad image, Milwaukee doesn't have a good image—Milwaukee just doesn't have an image!"

After all, it's pretty hard to attract business development and tourism when you don't exist!

Proud of MKE

VISIT Milwaukee is preparing 12 short videos featuring proud Milwaukeeans sharing their stories and the things they like about Milwaukee. You can view the videos that have been finished already at **DearMKE.com**. After viewing them, if you have a story to tell, contact VISIT Milwaukee at **287-4232**.

Downtown Convention Center Needs Remain Unaddressed

Milwaukee's tourism industry centers around something called the **Wisconsin Center District**. The WCD controls the Delta (convention) Center, the Milwaukee Theatre (formerly the auditorium) and the Cellular One Arena. It also levies a food and beverage tax, room tax and rental car tax and funds VISIT Milwaukee.

The WCD was written into state law in the 1990s, and is independent of the City of Milwaukee and the authority of the Mayor or Common Council. However, the Mayor, Common Council President, County Executive and Governor all appoint members to the WCD Board. I have finished serving a four year term on that board.

So how is it doing? Phase three of the convention center was never built, and we no longer compete with cities our size for conventions, instead competing with cities one tier down. Because our convention center is small and lacks a third convention center hotel, we are losing conventions that we once had as they outgrow our facilities. While the Hilton has 700 rooms and the Hyatt has 500, we would need an additional 700- to 1,000-room hotel to compete in today's market.

Since this topic is not part of the city's normal business and the tourism industry provides thousands of jobs, including many in the 13th Aldermanic District, I have arranged for VISIT Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Center District to appear annually before the city's economic development committee. There is a disconnect between the city and these important tourism engines that cannot continue, and I believe the different layers of government must work together to solve these problems.



Get Connected. Get Answers.
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

Simply call
**211 to get
help with life.**

Cell phone:
Dial 414-773-0211

Pay phone:
Dial 1-866-211-3380

Milwaukee Ranks Well on Property Taxes and Fees

Compared to similarly-sized cities, Milwaukee ranks low in both expenditures and total costs to residents, according to reports prepared every year by the city's independently-elected Comptroller. So what is the knock against the city? Critics cite high property taxes.

What is seldom mentioned is that other cities have a variety of income sources, including local sales taxes, local cigarette and alcohol taxes and turning a profit on services, machinery taxes, personal property taxes, property taxes and fees.

In Wisconsin, the state creates or charters cities to exist, but also regulates them. And while cities are allowed to charge property taxes and fees for service, they can not charge more than the service costs to deliver. But a state cap on property tax levies has forced cities to rely more on fees to pay for services.

It has been estimated that more than 20 percent of the land in Milwaukee is government-owned or belongs to a non-profit, and therefore nontaxable, but still receives city services at the expense of property taxpayers. The city has moved toward collecting fees from non-profits and other government property, as well as property taxpayers, in order to reduce the amount that property taxpayers pay.

So at the bottom line, studies show Milwaukee compares favorably with similarly-sized cities for the amount of service residents receive and the overall cost, once all taxes and fees are accounted for.

City Services Not Quite What They Used To Be

When Mayor Henry Maier left office in 1988, the city had more than 11,000 employees. John Norquist took office that year and began to reorganize, reorder and downsize city government.

When I came into office in 2003, Mayor Norquist's final year, we continued to cut budgets and staff. The next year, Mayor Tom Barrett continued the trend and froze taxes. The state later imposed property tax levy limits on all cities, which continue today.

Shared Revenue – You've heard about it, but what is it?

Years ago, when the state imposed an income and sales tax, lawmakers said they would share the revenue with the communities from which they were collecting it. The purpose of shared revenue was to equalize local government's fiscal capacity by redistributing state tax revenues, yet limiting local fees and property taxes. Shared revenue also pays for the use of city services by non-city residents.

But shared revenue has not increased, and has actually been cut three times since 2003, leaving the City of Milwaukee an estimated \$86 million short each year. Recycling aid has also been cut, while the state fee for dumping in landfills has gone up without any increased costs for the state. Transportation aids to the cities have also declined.

While passing along these cuts to municipal government, state lawmakers appear to be cutting your taxes and saving you money on the state level. But at the local level, what they're really doing is raising your taxes and causing service cuts.

Cities must balance their budgets each year. But that's not so for the state, which can engage in deficit spending and has increased the number of state employees amidst the City of Milwaukee's cuts.

In 2013, the city now has fewer than 6,700 employees. In some cases the city has done more with less through the use of better techniques and new technology. In other cases, we are doing less with less, discontinuing services or charging for them, and with state limits still in place, these trends will continue. Employees are our best resource, but also our largest cost.

It also warrants noting that the police and fire departments make up 65 percent of the city's costs.

Residency Laws Crucial to Milwaukee's Vitality

I have always supported and continue to support the City of Milwaukee's residency requirement for municipal employees, and I have lobbied legislators to retain our local right to require an employee earning money from the city to live in the city.

There is a lot to be said about the level of concern an employee has for his or her city if he or she actually lives in that community. With recent events in the Milwaukee Police Department as an example, allowing officers to reside elsewhere could increase the perception of the police as an occupying force from outside.

Quite frankly, we are also not having any problems attracting candidates for city jobs with the residency requirement in place.

The median family income in the City of Milwaukee is \$32,216. Police and fire departments make up 65 percent of the city budget, and police and firefighters' pay is more than twice the median family income. When their benefits are added to the equation, their compensation is valued at more than \$90,000 a year. Compare that one person's income to the median family income and you can see why city employees should be spending their income in the city.

If a city employee was to sell his or her home and move to the suburbs, the neighborhood would be left wondering whether the new owner would have the same level of income and maintain the home the same way. Those city-paid wages would no longer be spent in neighborhood stores and businesses. And just like the last Madison bill, this produces a windfall for suburbs while hurting the city.

The Governor has said that people should be free to live where they want, and with residency they are. They are now free to work where they want, but if they want to work for the premiere city in the state and reap the rewards, they must also live here. Please ask your Governor, State Senator and State Representative not to hurt Milwaukee any more.

Neighborhood & Business Associations In The 13th Aldermanic District By Area

Garden District Neighborhood Association (District-Wide)
 Connie Wilson - 379-2450

1 Holt Park Neighborhood Association
 Diane Kosarzycki - 645-1967

2 Wilson Park North Neighborhood Association
 Scott Spiker - 243-0446

3 Town of Lake Neighborhood Association
 Julia O'Connor - 430-4711

4 Holler Park Neighborhood Association
 Chris Kuester - 769-1815

5 Copernicus Park Neighborhood Association
 Chad & Cheri Meyer - copernicusparkna@gmail.com

6 College Heights Neighborhood Association
 Vicki Zirbel - cubarella1997@yahoo.com

7 Southgate Neighborhood Association
 Marilyn Kontowski - 643-1572

8 Uncas Park Neighborhood Association
 Connie Wilson - 762-6959

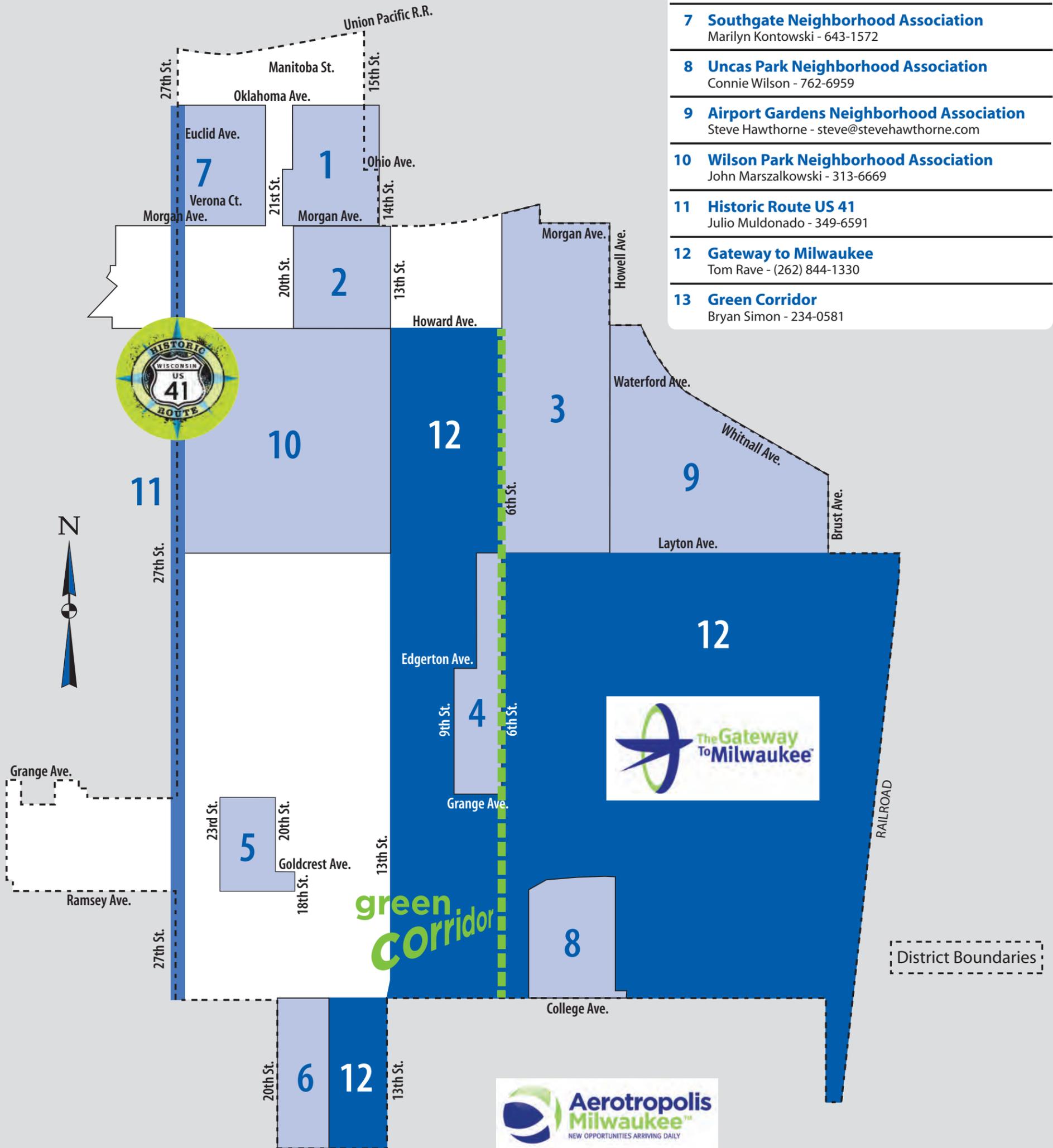
9 Airport Gardens Neighborhood Association
 Steve Hawthorne - steve@stevethawthorne.com

10 Wilson Park Neighborhood Association
 John Marszalkowski - 313-6669

11 Historic Route US 41
 Julio Muldonado - 349-6591

12 Gateway to Milwaukee
 Tom Rave - (262) 844-1330

13 Green Corridor
 Bryan Simon - 234-0581



Terry L. Witkowski - 13th District Alderman
 (414) 286-8537 | www.milwaukee.gov/district13 | twitko@milwaukee.gov

The Garden District

Garden District Calendar 2013

There's a lot going on in the Garden District! You can hang this calendar on your refrigerator to help remember local events and meetings.

May 15, Wednesday

Town Hall Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility,
4001 S. 6th St., 3rd Floor

May 16, Thursday

**Wilson Park Fourth of July
Planning Meeting – 6:30 p.m.**
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility,
4001 S. 6th St., 3rd Floor

May 18, Saturday

**Garden District Neighborhood Committee
Spring Perennial and Seed Exchange –
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Farmer's Market, S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

May 29, Wednesday

District 6 Crime Analysis Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Hospital, 2900 W. Oklahoma Ave.

June 1, Saturday

**Historic Highway 41 Annual Car Show –
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
S. 27th St. from Oklahoma Ave. to College Ave.

June 4, Tuesday

Garden Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Simon Landscape, 4121 S. 6th St.
Topic: CSA farmer

June 13-16, Thursday-Sunday

St. Roman Festival –
1710 W. Bolivar Ave.

June 15, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

June 22, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

June 26, Wednesday

District 6 Crime Analysis Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
South Shore Park Pavilion, 2868 S. Shore Dr.

June 29, Saturday

**Keeping Greater Milwaukee Beautiful
Clean Out Your Closets Event –
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility,
4001 S. 6th St.

June 29, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

July 2, Tuesday

Garden Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Simon Landscape, 4121 S. 6th St.
Topic: Helpful vs. harmful bugs and
insect identification

July 6, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

July 13, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

July 14, Sunday

**Neighborhood Committee Garden
Tour of 2012 Winners – 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Map will be posted on: milwaukeegdna.com

July 18-21, Thursday-Sunday

St. Veronica Music Festival
4001 S. Whitnall Ave.

July 20, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

July 27, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

August 1, Thursday

**Deadline for Neighborhood
Committee Garden Nominations –**
Nomination forms and other information
available on: milwaukeegdna.com

August 6, Tuesday

Garden Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Simon Landscape, 4121 S. 6th St.
Topic: Community garden walk and
free seed collection

August 10, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

August 17, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

August 24, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

August 28, Wednesday

District 6 Crime Analysis Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility,
4001 S. 6th St.

August 31, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

September 3, Tuesday

Garden Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Simon Landscape, 4121 S. 6th St.
Topic: Composting

September 7, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

September 14, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

September 21, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

September 21, Saturday

**Garden District Neighborhood Committee
Fall Perennial and Seed Exchange –
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Farmer's Market, S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

September 21-22, Saturday-Sunday

Garden District Fall Fest
S. 6th St. & Howard Ave.

September 25, Saturday

District 6 Crime Analysis Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Hospital, 2900 W. Oklahoma Ave.

September 28, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

October 1, Tuesday

Garden Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Simon Landscape, 4121 S. 6th St.
Topic: Winterizing your garden

October 5, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

October 12, Saturday

**Weekly Farmer's Market –
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
S. 6th St. & Norwich Ave.

October 30, Wednesday

District 6 Crime Analysis Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
St. Matthias Parish, 9306 W. Beloit Rd.

November 5, Tuesday

Garden Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Simon Landscape, 4121 S. 6th St.
Topic: Canning

November 16, Saturday

**Greater Milwaukee Beautiful Clean Out
Your Closets Event –
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility,
4001 S. 6th St.

November 27, Wednesday

District 6 Crime Analysis Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Hospital, 2900 W. Oklahoma Ave.

December 3, Tuesday

Garden Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Simon Landscape, 4121 S. 6th St.
Topic: Tree decorating; flower pot making

Fate of Wyndham Hotel Uncertain

I remember meeting presidential candidate Walter Mondale at the Milwaukee Grand Hotel, years ago. In addition, that hotel was at times called the Wyndham, the Red Carpet Hotel, the Four Points Sheraton and maybe more names. I attended events and conventions there, made presentations and hosted Pulaski Day Banquets there.

But the most recent owners allowed the hotel to deteriorate and fade into disrepair, and it now faces the wrecking ball.

The new owners have not yet made final plans, and my colleagues and I are still working with them to make this premiere location for the Gateway to Milwaukee something we can be proud of. I have not been pleased with some plans presented, but because of zoning laws, some things are permitted that we cannot retroactively change by law.

Like any other development, the space will not be filled until there are tenants, and will not be built all at once. While I am happy to have California money being invested in Milwaukee, dealings with these new owners are off to a rocky start.

The good news is that with the Wyndham closed, other hotels have fewer vacancies. The new owner of the Wyndham property has declared that maintaining the hotel and convention center would not be profitable and is not their specialty. However, I am approaching two other area hotel owners about helping fill the convention center void.

Freeway Land Opening Up

Three parcels of land have become available around the I-94 and Layton Ave. ramps and have either have been sold by the state or soon will be. I have had the piece at the southeast corner of Layton Ave. and 20th St. zoned to permit an office building, hoping to attract a regional headquarters that wants visibility, needs to be near a freeway ramp and desires quick access to the airport.

Attracting such a development would add people to shop in our stores, eat in our restaurants, stay in our hotels and otherwise benefit the 13th Aldermanic District. It would be a far cry more beneficial than the strip malls some people have suggested to me for that same location.

The excess land behind the Islamic Center has been sold to the Center. It will be used as a parking lot, and this should help with parking problems in the neighborhood. And the piece of land west and south of 13th St. and Layton Ave. is zoned residential, but may be too small for development of roads to be cost effective.

Rusty Noise Wall to be Replaced

The rusty noise wall with holes large enough for a child to walk through on the east side of the Howard Ave. onramp will be replaced this season. This wall sits along the former detour route from the airport, and screamed "RUST BELT" as a welcome to Milwaukee.

I thank the Town of Lake Neighborhood Association, the Garden District Neighborhood Association, Gateway to Milwaukee and the South Side Business Club for joining me in urging the state to replace this poor reflection on Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin.



Work has been completed on the St. Francis Hospital office building addition at S. 18th St. and W. Ohio Ave.

"He's in Madison Today"

My role as vice chair of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee imparts upon me more responsibility than simply standing in for the chairman. I also serve as the city's board member on the **League of Wisconsin Municipalities**.

The LWM works to benefit all cities and villages, and pursues legislative goals to help cities as well. They have established a lobbying corps, on which I serve, to help inform state legislators of problems that cities face and what the legislature can do to help. From the smallest village to the big City of Milwaukee, we deal with similar problems because the state makes the laws that govern us.

Cities and villages have steadily been losing state shared revenue and other financial aid, but towns have been gaining funding. Seventy percent of the state's population lives in cities and villages, and most companies, jobs and economic investment are located there as well. Yet both Republican and Democratic governors have cut aid to municipalities.

To attempt to counter this, the LWM started the lobbying corps this year, and I have served on selection committees to hire lobbying and communications firms to run statewide education efforts.

I have also personally visited legislators as a representative of the league and the city. I have testified on the city's behalf at hearings, and I attend events involving state lawmakers. Recently, I have also met with five U.S. Congressional offices from our state, our two U.S. Senators and the Bureau of Indian Affairs on city matters.

Downtown Redevelopment Opportunities Abound

You may have read about new designs for Milwaukee's lakefront, four new towers and a realignment of roadways near I-794—plans which are expected to come together and be in place within the next few years. I have also been planting the seeds for a re-design of the downtown area west of the river.

After all, how often does the opportunity come along to change large parts of downtown? Replacing the Bradley Center could give us the chance to do something significant, especially if we think bigger than just replacing a sports facility with a sports facility.

The model for Milwaukee's future development could be LA Live in Los Angeles, six blocks of private development and the privately-owned Staples Center sports facility next to the publicly-owned LA Convention Center. Since they were built, another \$3 billion in private development has happened around them.

LA Live has one partial block containing a 7,500-seat theatre, a center courtyard and a street that can be closed to allow pedestrians

to cross to the Staples center. It has the four-story ESPN Center. There's a large block with a four-story building that contains clubs and restaurants around the first two floors, the Lucky Strike Bowling Alley, a 2,500-seat theatre, offices and a four-story Grammy museum with a rooftop patio.

Another block contains a Ritz Carlton Hotel and apartments, along with a Marriott hotel. Both feature connected meeting space. The last two blocks in front of the convention center contain parking structures, and one of them features a 14-screen theater.

In Milwaukee, the convention center, arena and Milwaukee Theatre are just across State St. from the existing sports building. We still need to implement Phase Three of the convention center and build a third convention hotel in order to compete with cities our size. Could this be part of a re-make?

Do we still need the arena, where the Bucks and Marquette University played before the Bradley center was donated?

Since the Journal and the Sentinel have combined into one thin paper, the downtown

pressrooms have been abandoned and the paper is now printed in West Milwaukee, could that block be redeveloped with Journal Communications occupying part of the new development?

The current site of the Bradley Center was once hemmed in by a chocolate factory, numerous buildings and 4th St., the route to the now-gone freeway. All four of those blocks could be put to use as part of an entertainment complex now. The block that formerly contained two UW-Extension buildings (now a county-owned parking lot at 6th St. and State St.) could also be considered, as could the empty block at 4th St. and Wisconsin Ave.

Since beginning to speak to prominent Milwaukeeans last summer, I have heard a number of opinions from many different sources on the topic. Time will tell if community leaders can move beyond their current preconceived notions and seize this opportunity for redevelopment.

Boston Store Opens New Outlet

The Boston Store has opened a new clearance store at 5655 S. 27th Street. They will sell end-of-the-season products at a discount. Owners said the neighborhood and traffic volumes attracted them to the spot. The renewal of Historic Route U.S. 41 didn't hurt either.

New Bridge Project

The state will soon begin rehabbing and replacing bridges along I-94 between Howard Ave. and the high rise bridge. The work is expected to take two years. You can get more information by emailing allen.gilbertson@dot.wi.gov.

Farmers Market Returns for Summer

The Garden District Neighborhood Association will open the Farmers Market at S. 6th St. and Norwich Ave. on Saturday, June 15th, and it will be open weekly, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., through October 12th. This summer, you may see further improvements to that block and the one south of it through the combined efforts of the Garden District, Gateway to Milwaukee, the Green Corridor and the Energy Exchange.

The best thing you can do to help is be a customer and recruit people to be vendors.

Perennial and Seed Exchange

The Spring Perennial and Seed Exchange will be held on Saturday, May 18 at the Farmers Market at S. 6th St. and Norwich Ave. from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Rather than throwing away perennials when thinning and separating them, bring them here to give away to others. It's a great way to improve the Garden District in someone else's yard, and you also might find something you want for your yard.

If you collect seeds from plants in your yard, the Spring Perennial and Seed Exchange is a great place to trade or give them away. Nothing at the event is sold! Even if you're just starting out and don't have anything to offer, you're invited to come down anyway. The Garden District's gardeners are willing to give away plants to make the district beautiful, and most aren't shy about offering free advice, either.

Also, mark your calendar for the fall exchange on September 21.





Garden District Neighborhood Association President Connie Wilson and Co-Chair Samer Abulughod accept the Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful Award with Alderman Witkowski.

Alderman Witkowski Begins Public Safety Chairmanship

Last April, I was assigned the chairmanship of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee. The committee oversees the Fire and Police Commission, police and fire departments, health department, local homeland security efforts, public passenger licensing and other safety and health issues.

Some of the city's most pressing problems, like teen pregnancy, infant mortality and crime—issues that affect the health and image of the city—are handled by these departments. I have taken a leadership role on these topics, not by holding press conferences to put the departments on the defensive, but by holding them accountable and working to effectively address these problems.

I am currently looking at successful programs from around the nation that have addressed issues like drugs and gangs through education, intervention and publicity. Other cities have had success with programs that go beyond conventional policing and making arrests, and I think it's worth seeing how such ideas could translate to Milwaukee.

Similarly, I wonder whether health issues can be addressed through education and community standards. I am exploring the creation of a task force on civic life to review what other cities are doing and what we could do differently to effectively address our health and safety problems.

Clean Out Your Closet Days

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful and the Garden District have arranged for two "clean out your closet days" on June 29 and November 16, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Water Tower, 4001 S. 6th St. This is a chance to get rid of clothes, belts, purses, sheets, bedspreads, blankets, curtains, drapes, towels, boots, shoes, throw rugs, quilts and sofa covers.

The clothing is sold second hand, recycled into wiping cloths or reprocessed into fibers.

Clothing and household textiles make up nearly five percent of the waste stream, and dropping off your material recycles and helps fund Garden District projects.

S. 6th St. Evolves Into Green Corridor

Three years ago, if you had asked me which street to drive down to get a feel for the Garden District, it would not have been S. 6th St. But that is no longer the case.

From Howard Ave. to College Ave., S. 6th St. was named the "Green Corridor." Since that time two years ago, crews have installed bio-swales from Howard Ave. to Grange Ave. and from Howell Ave. to 18th St. on Grange Ave. They also planted 50 trees from Layton Ave. to Edgerton Ave., 250 more just north of College Ave., and dozens in the community garden in the 3900 block. The work was accomplished through the leadership of Bryan Simon, chairman of the Green Corridor.

Grant funding, the Town of Lake Neighborhood Association, the Garden District Neighborhood Association, Gateway to Milwaukee and other donations all contributed to the restoration of the old Town Of Lake/North Shore fence line from Howard Ave. to Norwich Ave. They also contributed to the installation of a brick walkway, hundreds of plantings, a recycled rainwater stream, a rainwater harvesting system and a permeable Spancrete pavement driveway—the first in the nation.

Growing Power has located five hoop houses for raising both vegetables and fish. TAPCO donated the solar-powered, push button-activated flashing pedestrian and school crossing signs now located at Norwich Ave., Bolivar Ave. and Armour Ave.

And the evolution of the Green Corridor is far from over. Watch for a solar flower to appear to provide power for the community garden, rainwater stream and farmers market this year. The center area between the gardens and the market is set to be improved this season, with the potential for an orchard to appear nearby. And keep an eye on this area, as signs begin to appear to explain the green features as they are developed.

I hope you find the time to take a walk or a bike ride on S. 6th St. this summer to see all the progress that has been made.

The Garden District

13th District Alderman **Terry L. Witkowski**



Set Your Name in Stone

On S. 6th St. and Howard Ave., the center of the block between the community garden and the farmers market is targeted to be completed as a small stage and seating area this season. The project is being funded by grants and donations, and the area will be paved with donated brick.

If you would like to help support this effort and memorialize a person, event or occasion, you can buy a brick with up to three lines of 14 characters of text and have it placed at this location. The bricks are available for \$100 from the GDNA, 4121 S. 6th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221. It will make a lasting gift, and help improve the Garden District.



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Making Headway on Health Problems

Teen pregnancy and infant mortality were large problems in the City of Milwaukee when I became Alderman. Both problems are related to the overall economic health of the city.

For teenagers, the chances of success in life are limited if they do not finish high school. Failing to graduate may doom them and the child to poverty, a lack of job skills and poor earning power. It may start or continue a cycle of poverty, and for the child, studies show they may also start off slower in learning in their critical learning years.

For you as a taxpayer, it means a decline in the quality of your city.

Although these issues were being addressed, I questioned how effectively it was being done. I raised this question regularly at Public Safety Committee hearings, and also spoke and voted

against the reappointment of the Health Commissioner because of a lack of results.

Now, recent reports released by the Mayor show that teen pregnancy rates have dropped for the past five years. Infant mortality rates have also improved. Milwaukee still sits above the state average in both of these categories, but at least we are headed in the right direction.

Both problems are also being addressed by universities, the health care industry, coordination of community agencies' efforts and the health department. The city is not addressing them alone.

While this is not a high-profile topic, it is critical to Milwaukee's economic health and success. If any part of the body is unhealthy, than the whole body is sick, and the same is true for the city.

Basic problems like this need to be addressed effectively, not just with window dressing programs.



One of the first electric car chargers in the city is now available to customers at the Clarion Hotel.

Green Line Buses Run Through Garden District

The Green Line county bus service now serves our area, running from the airport to downtown, through the east side and on to Bayshore Town Center. It runs every 10 minutes during rush hour, and every 15 minutes in off-peak times.

At \$2.25 a ride and \$1.25 for seniors, the Green Line is an inexpensive way to get to the airport or downtown. It stops about every two blocks, and the only drawback I found was that the trip is so fast, I couldn't really get through much of the newspaper!