

ALDERMAN JIM
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AUTUMN 15

Alderman Seeks Input on Future of Burleigh/Lisbon Corridors

Alderman Bohl took notice this year when the bankruptcy filing of an established, iconic Italian restaurant was soon followed by closures of an art specialty shop and a small neighborhood pharmacy because of long-term owners' retirements.

"These businesses are the mom-and-pop-type shops that bring great value to any neighborhood, and the timing in losing these iconic places in quick succession had a noticeable impact," Alderman Bohl said.

While there are factors that limit how much impact an elected official can have on the marketplace, Alderman Bohl has nonetheless been active in seeking to fill the void. The Alderman became aware of interest from an art and hobby shop and actively courted them for the Artist and Display site, only to have the prospective owner get cold feet and call off the deal.

The Alderman then coordinated assistance for long-time neighborhood stalwart Bunzel's Meat Market, which recently purchased the Artist and Display site and will expand its operations there.

However, other vacancies persist. Some are exacerbated by compounding issues, like the bankruptcy delays in the court system for the Mama's Restaurant site.

To assist with the short- and long-term improvement of the business strip, Alderman Bohl reached out to his colleague to the east, Alderman Michael Murphy, and suggested creating a snapshot planning study for the corridors from 68th to 93rd Street. The goal is to bring together area residents, businesses and real estate brokers, along with city departments, to spearhead a business corridor plan that will assist brokers in attracting businesses the area wants. The study will also look at potential streetscaping possibilities for Burleigh Street.

To assist in this process, residents are encouraged to visit milwaukee.gov/AreaPlans/West.htm, look for the Burleigh/Lisbon corridor link and complete the survey.

In addition to significant behind-the-scenes planning, Alderman Bohl and Alderman Murphy will host a larger **community meeting on Monday, November 16th, 6:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee**

School of Languages, 8400 W. Burleigh St. The meeting will address residents' feedback for the type of businesses they want on Burleigh Street and Lisbon Avenue, as well as their views on streetscaping options that might improve the character of those corridors.

Alderman Bohl said he is hopeful that residents will attend this meeting and help to maximize neighborhood input into business planning for the area. With the knowledge gained from this exercise, Alderman Bohl said he hopes to put together an additional snapshot study of the Silver Spring Drive and Lovers Lane commercial corridor sometime in 2016. ■

TAKE THE SURVEY!

Visit milwaukee.gov/AreaPlans/West.htm and provide your input for the future of the Burleigh/Lisbon corridor.



COMMUNITY MEETING

Please make plans to attend the Burleigh Street / Lisbon Avenue community meeting and offer your input on the future of these business corridors:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH | 6:30PM

[Milwaukee School of Languages, 8400 W. Burleigh Street](#)

TOWN HALL MEETING

Alderman Bohl has scheduled a 5th Aldermanic District Town Hall meeting, during which he will meet with residents and discuss important issues affecting the district and the city as a whole. The meeting details are as follows:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH | 6:30PM

[Engleburg School, 5100 N. 91st Street](#)



Work on Hartung Park Nearing Completion ↻

With the anticipated installation of intergenerational exercise equipment this fall at Hartung Park, the planned conversion of the former quarry into a neighborhood asset will move one step closer to its estimated 2016-2017 completion.

Thanks to fundraising efforts by the Hartung Park Community Association, the exercise equipment was purchased by the neighborhood group with a matching grant from the city. A new running track will encircle the intergenerational exercise area. Its installation is being carried out by crews from the Department of Public Works, and rounds out a year in which significant progress has been made to shape the feel of the park through landscaping. Work on a southeast entrance off Townsend Street, and construction of bioswales, rain gardens and culverts are also being completed in the last phase of the park.

Alderman Bohl said that plans initially called to create a marshland in the park's southeast quadrant, though DNR restrictions forced a modification to those plans and resulted in the adding of rain gardens instead.

"It only takes one walk through this park to understand what a gem this has become for our community," Alderman Bohl said. "I could not be more grateful to the community members who have taken it upon themselves to assist this initiative."

[You can learn more about the project and stay up-to-date on its progress at hartungpark.com.](#) ■

Milwaukee Running Festival Provides Big-City Exposure ↻

The City of Milwaukee debuted on the national "running scene" this fall with marquee marathon, half marathon, 5k and one-mile runs in the first ever Milwaukee Running Festival.

Scheduled for Halloween weekend, on October 31 and November 1, the running festival showcased many wonderful city landmarks, drew thousands of participants to Milwaukee and generated millions of dollars in local economic activity, all while cementing Milwaukee's bid as a destination for running and outdoor activities. A health and wellness expo was also a part of the big weekend.

Yet as recently as a year ago, the existence of the event was in serious doubt. When it looked like disagreements over planning and representation might sideline the event, Alderman Bohl sat in on meetings with the event organizers, the Milwaukee Police Department and the Department of Public Works to ensure that compromises could be worked out. He said event organizers

were responsive to the city's concerns, and that the event as a whole is better as a result.

"Having a big-name running event take place here is really just another sign of Milwaukee's renaissance as a city," Alderman Bohl said. "We're fortunate to have been able to work with the event organizers and city officials to smooth over the planning issues that cropped up along the way, and I look forward to the positive exposure this event will create for the city."

"Events like the Chicago Marathon and the Boston Marathon are ubiquitous, and make up an important part of those cities' identities," Alderman Bohl said. "I'm pleased that we can now add the 'Milwaukee Marathon' to the rich fabric of our city's identity."

[Visit milwaukeerunningfestival.com to learn more.](#) ■



Alderman Bohl joined his colleagues in September to congratulate the players and coaches of the state of Wisconsin 2015 Division II baseball champion Milwaukee Lutheran High School. MLHS is located on Grantosa Drive on the west end of the 5th Aldermanic District.

New Tax Foreclosure Policies Combat Blight

In order to protect neighborhoods from blight and decay, the City of Milwaukee will now be able to fast-track the tax foreclosure process in cases of homes that are vacant or abandoned.

Previously, the process of seizing an abandoned home that hadn't paid property taxes took up to two-and-a-half years, Alderman Bohl said. In that amount of time, abandoned homes often become a target for vandals or illegal scrapping operations, which further reduce the homes' value and leaves them stripped of necessary equipment, plumbing and wiring. By the time the city finally takes possession of many abandoned homes, weather damage and decay leave the city with no other option but demolition.

But in cases where it has been established that the home is abandoned, new legislation co-sponsored by Alderman Bohl allows the city to carry out the "in rem" foreclosure process in as little as a year.

"When we lose these properties to vandalism or damage, we are losing our tax base and creating vacant lots that may not be redeveloped for a full generation," Alderman Bohl said. "Working together with neighbors, we can get these homes into the city's possession more quickly to preserve them for future buyers."

To learn more, visit milwaukee.gov/treasurer. To report an abandoned home in your neighborhood, call Alderman Bohl's office at 286-3870. ■

New Bioswales Planned for 107th Street

With the help of grant funding from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Green Solutions, the city plans to construct new bioswales in the medians and terrace areas of N. 107th Street between Good Hope and Brown Deer Roads. The stormwater management tools are expected to capture 100,000 gallons of stormwater and reduce street runoff by 80 percent. Construction is expected to take place in 2016. The efforts will capture suspended solids in stormwater runoff and help the city meet its state-mandated requirements. ■

Police Community Service Officers Begin Training

The City of Milwaukee's first class of 10 civilian Police Community Service Officers begins training in November, and Alderman Bohl said it will enable sworn police officers to do their jobs more efficiently and respond more quickly to emergency situations.

"Many of the police calls the city receives do not warrant a full response from a police officer with a badge and a gun," Alderman Bohl said. "These community service officers are not meant to replace members of the existing police force, but rather to free them up and enable them to do their jobs more effectively."

As civilian law enforcement assistants, PCSOs respond to lower-priority, non-emergency calls, like burglary reports, petty theft, vehicle theft, vandalism, non-injury traffic crashes, missing persons, road hazards and crowd control. Over one hundred cities nationwide have implemented similar programs, and it has had the effect of reducing police response times and allowing for more proactive neighborhood police patrols.

Alderman Bohl originally proposed an inaugural class of 21 PCSOs in the 2015 budget, but his proposal was whittled down to 10 in the budgeting process. He hopes to work with colleagues and find opportunities to expand the program once it has proved its value. ■

Vacant Lots Get New Life

A program that sells vacant city-owned lots to adjacent, neighboring homeowners for \$1 will be expanded citywide, Alderman Bohl said, after meeting with success in a north side pilot initiative.

The pilot program launched last year to address the litter that accumulates on vacant properties, and the expense the city faces in maintaining them. Many of these empty lots are left over from foreclosed properties where the city was forced to demolish deteriorating homes, and Alderman Bohl said that the lots are better off in the possession of neighbors who can maintain them at no cost to the city.

Since 2014, 96 homeowners in the 15th Aldermanic District pilot area have purchased empty lots for \$1, saving the city tens of thousands of dollars in upkeep costs. City leaders are so pleased with the results of the pilot that they plan to offer the same deal to owner-occupants citywide.

"The dollar lot initiative in the 15th District was a tremendous success for the city and property owners in the district," Alderman Bohl said. "I'm pleased to have been able to work with the Mayor and my Common Council colleagues to make this program available to every part of the city."

You can learn more at milwaukee.gov/VacantLots. ■

It's Best to Ignore Panhandlers

Panhandlers have recently become more of a presence along Silver Spring Drive and elsewhere in the city, but Milwaukee Police reported that the money-seekers aren't who they claim to be and asked residents to stop giving them money.

While the panhandlers hold signs claiming to be veterans down on their luck, MPD staff who have spoken with them determined that isn't, in fact, the case. Nor did the panhandlers express any interest in assistance services or meal programs.

It's the opinion of the City Attorney that the panhandlers have a constitutional right to conduct their activity, so long as they are not harassing people in their attempts to solicit a handout. Accordingly, police cannot cite them or arrest them. Anyone who is bothered by their presence can call the police non-emergency line at **933-4444** and an officer can come by to shoo them off. But the best solution to get them to move along on their own, police say, is to stop giving them money. ■

Ald. Bohl Seeks Reexamination of Roadwork Priorities

For too long, Alderman Bohl believes that the City of Milwaukee has given residential side streets short shrift as a repaving priority, but he hopes a new idea he's proposing will help address the problem. The state provides the city no funding to carry out local road reconstruction, meaning the work must be funded through local property taxes and the wheel tax.

"These little neighborhood streets are the first roads most Milwaukeeans see in the morning, and the last that they see when they get home from work," Alderman Bohl said. "Many of them are beyond the ability to patch and need to be reconstructed."

Most recently, Alderman Bohl was one of only two members of the Common Council who voted against a plan to redirect millions of dollars from local roads reconstruction to the "High Impact Paving Program." The initiative targets high-traffic roads and uses a short-term resurfacing process to extend road life by seven to ten years.

"During the tenure of Mayor Norquist, the city fell drastically behind on residential street repaving," Alderman Bohl said. "We have made progress under Mayor Barrett, but we need to find ways to continue to build upon it."

Road Project to Begin for 92nd Street Reconstruction

The process of addressing residents' complaints about the poor condition of N. 92nd Street from Capitol Drive to Hampton Avenue, which runs along the border between Milwaukee and Wauwatosa, is set to begin next year after a number of "bumps in the road."

Alderman Bohl said that funding for the reconstruction project has been reinstated by the State of Wisconsin, and the City of Wauwatosa has agreed to coordinate with and contribute to the project. Engineering for the project will take place in 2016, with a full reconstruction of the street scheduled for 2017.

With half of the street belonging to Wauwatosa and half to Milwaukee, Alderman Bohl said that coordinating the much-needed repairs turned out to be a difficult prospect due to the City of Wauwatosa's unwillingness to prioritize reconstruction of the road's western half.

"Getting the state, the City of Wauwatosa and the City of Milwaukee to all pull together on this project turned out to be a real feat," Alderman Bohl said. "I'm just relieved that this road will finally be getting the attention that it needs, and that residents' concerns will be addressed."

Last year, the road project had been knocked off the state's funding schedule because of a change in the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's funding formula. Alderman Bohl coordinated joint efforts to appeal by the Departments of Public Works in Milwaukee and Wauwatosa, and state funding has since been restored. ■

In Alderman Bohl's view, the trade-off of shifting funds from local to connector roads will adversely affect the backlog of roads waiting to be reconstructed in the city. "I believe we can ill afford to allow too many of these roads to slip into disrepair through this short-term shift in priorities," he said.

But as the Mayor and Common Council work to draft the 2016 budget, Alderman Bohl believes he has a solution to begin restoring a balance to repaving priorities. He has asked, and the administration agreed, to explore "high impact" paving on local roads. Alderman Bohl will also use the budget to attempt to redirect other capital funds to augment "high impact" paving. Accordingly, he's also volunteered the 5th Aldermanic District as a location for a pilot paving program using this strategy.

"If this method is popular as a means of repaving our major thoroughfares, perhaps it can be used to provide relief to residential neighborhood streets throughout the city as well," Alderman Bohl said. ■



Shovel Your Sidewalks, It's The Law

Please remember that residential and commercial property owners and occupants are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow or ice within 24 hours of the end of a storm. This includes the corner crosswalk area for property owners with corner lots, and those whose properties abut a mid-block crosswalk.

If violations are reported, a 24-hour notice is issued. If the sidewalks still are not cleared, a sanitation crew will clear a path and put the charge on the property tax bill. This year, the fines for failing to remove snow and ice from sidewalks have increased in order to provide uniformity with other city regulations and ensure that sidewalks remain passable in winter.

Property owners found to be in violation of this ordinance will be fined \$50 (up from \$25). Those who fail to clear their sidewalk within 24 hours of receiving a violation notice will

be assessed additional special charges of \$75 for the second violation and \$100 for the third and subsequent violations in a given winter season. These special charges are in addition to the cost of snow and ice removal billed to the property owner if the city is forced to do the work.

Residents should call **(414) 286-CITY** to report unshoveled sidewalks in their neighborhood.

If you have neighbors who, due to age or physical abilities, cannot shovel their sidewalks, please reach out to offer them assistance. For elderly or disabled residents who cannot find help with their sidewalks, the Department of Public Works makes city crews available to clear the public sidewalk. A cost is assessed for each instance when this service is utilized. Anyone who's interested in this service should contact Alderman Bohl's office at **286-3870**.

Common Sense Tips to Prevent Rodent Infestations

Road reconstruction and sewer projects can sometimes cause rats to migrate from mostly underground nesting areas to city neighborhoods. But with a few common sense practices, residents can work with the city to help prevent infestations.

Rats are attracted to food sources like fallen refuse from garbage carts, fruit from trees, vegetables from gardens, uncovered compost, dog litter, dog food and bird seed from under bird feeders. Residents are asked to use common sense in limiting unwanted food sources for rats, including compliance with a city ordinance requiring regular clean-up of bird seed under feeders.

Spaces underneath garages and sheds provide attractive shelters for rats. Residents should **call the Department of Neighborhood Services at 286-2268** if they notice a rat problem, or if they believe a neighbor's property is an attractive nuisance for rats. Good reporting of the problem is essential to allow city workers to inspect the situation, place baits if necessary and issue orders to address any nuisance issues.

"Rat infestations can quickly get out of hand when people are careless," Alderman Bohl said, "but residents working together with DNS can help contain the problem."

Fall Leaf Collection Started October 1st

City of Milwaukee residents can rake leaves into the street for pickup by Department of Public Works sanitation crews. City crews will wrap up leaf collection around November 25.

Residents are asked to rake their leaves into the street at the curb for collection. Sanitation crews will still pick up remaining leaf piles as long as weather permits through November 25. If you haven't raked your leaves into the road by the time crews complete collections in your area, you must bag them and take them to a Self-Help Center for disposal.

For more information, call 286-CITY.



DISTRICT 5

ALDERMAN JIM BOHL



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In spring, Alderman Bohl hosted a recognition ceremony for Principal Dan Quesnell and the 2015 Division II state champion girls basketball team from Divine Savior Holy Angels High School. DSHA is located on N. 100th Street in the 5th Aldermanic District.

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