



13th District Alderman

Terry L. Witkowski

The Garden District

WINTER 2007-08

Dear Neighbors,

As I draft this letter, we approach the end of another good year at City Hall. Leadership has been described as the process of influencing others toward achieving a goal. I have worked with area residents and businesses to achieve the goal of improving the district.

I have been listening to you, the residents and neighbors of District 13, the about to be named Garden District, and this newsletter is the result of our consultations.

In this newsletter, you'll read about the neighborhood associations we have formed. Those among you who have worked so hard to coordinate and grow our neighborhood associations are just such leaders.

You'll read about the progress of our new name, the Garden District, and you'll hear about other city ordinances I've been working on. I've consulted with you in town hall meetings, at neighborhood association gatherings and by phone and e-mail. The policies I'm advocating are a direct result of those meetings and now, I'm asking that you help sell it. We have had a series of new business and safety initiatives blossom throughout Milwaukee and I am asking District 13 to carefully consider what forward steps we may need to take to stay on par with these bright new developments in our city.

As always, I welcome the dialog between us and am proud to serve our district and its needs. Let us continue our consultations, meetings and conversations as I continue to work on your behalf in City Hall into the New Year.

Sincerely,

Terry Witkowski

Alderman, 13th District



Freeway Planning

The final public meeting on the design of the freeway will take place in December. Call the state DOT representative Bob Gutierrez at (262) 548-5903 for more information.

The Garden District

In the winter 2006 newsletter I wrote that I would explore the idea of having the 13th District become the Garden District. It would provide a name and positive identification for our area and capitalize on our strong tradition of well-kept homes, well-kept lawns, landscaping and flowers. A committee was formed and the idea moved forward. The committee has done a planting on 10th St. and Layton Ave., run two perennial exchanges, hosted a presentation by Melinda Myers, is working on the 2007 business landscape and garden awards and is planning more activities for next year.

I have introduced a resolution to officially make this district the city's Garden District. With the support of the forestry department, a written plan is being drafted to serve as a guideline for the future to enhance this area as the Garden District. The plan will involve a vision for working with businesses, business associations, schools, neighborhood associations, residents, public land such as city owned parcels, airport clear zones, freeway right-of-way, WEPCO power line land, the airport and more.

The written plan will be added to the resolution file and will be the difference between this district and the other 14 and it provides the reasoning as to why this district should be named the Garden District. I hope to have the file passed in December or January.

Developments In The District

- Lamer's Bus lines was able to purchase the former city yard adjacent to them at 13th St. and Boden Ave. for expansion rather than splitting the operation or moving from the city.

- Tax Air on Howell Ave. was one of several businesses to respond to a request for proposals on the 23-acre site on E. College Ave. They also are in an expansion mode and want to stay in the city and won the bid. I asked that this former city dumpsite be offered for sale to put it on the tax rolls and open the land for development.

- The Chancery on S. 27th St. is considering a three store complex at the north end of their land, including a coffee shop.

- Developers have proposed five different hotels in the district, two on Howell Ave., one on 6th St. and Layton Ave., one more on 13th St. and one at 2nd St. and Edgerton Ave. These are in addition to the two to be built on 13th St. on the Oak Creek side.

- The city has put out a request for proposals on city owned land at 15th St. and Barnard Ave. for development of a subdivision on the order of Cherokee Point subdivision. Three developers responded and the Department of City Development is evaluating the proposals.

- The first of five city owned lots in the district near 18th St. and Grant St. has been sold. 2223-2225 S. 18th St. has been sold to the Milwaukee Christian Center for construction of a single-family home.

- Consultants are studying what should happen with the 440th Airlift Wing property. Based on material presented during the process and the future needs of the airport at this time, it would appear that aviation uses as opposed to other government or private use should be the alternative selected proposed use and is what I'll support.

Freeway Planning

Since the last newsletter, the state Department of Transportation announced that they will



Congratulations

Ald. Witkowski congratulated Sister Mary Samuel Holowacz on her 40th anniversary with the Child Development Center of St. Joseph, 1600 W. Oklahoma Ave. In February 2007, a special luncheon was held for Sister Holowacz on the day that marked the 100th Anniversary of the Felician Sisters in Milwaukee and a century of caring for Milwaukee's children.

be keeping the Layton on/off ramps and will rebuild them closer to the freeway when the work is done in 2013. Traffic will no longer exit on to S. 20 St. but will exit onto Layton at a new signalized ramp intersection.

Under current plans, the S. 27th St. ramps are also redesigned but the movement across three lanes from Northbound I-94 to exits on S. 27th will not be there. Motorists coming from the south will have to exit at Layton to get to S. 27th St. Motorists wanting to leave S. 27th and travel south on I-94 will need to get on at Layton.

Watch your mail for freeway meeting notices from the state. Stay involved until a final plan is adopted. The final public meeting on the design of the freeway will take place in December. Call the state DOT representative Bob Gutierrez at (262) 548-5903 for more information.

Safety Legislation Requested

I have sponsored resolutions passed by the Council placing the city on record as asking the state to pass two pieces of traffic safety legislation on hit and run and red light running. Drivers in one in four crashes leave the scene. Often, they leave because they know the penalty is not as bad for leaving as for drunk driving. A bill has been introduced in Madison to make penalties for hit and run more severe than drunk driving penalties.

State Representative Josh Zepnick has assisted and introduced legislation to deal with red light running. In the city, 13% of the crashes involve disregard of traffic signals according to Safety Commission reports. Milwaukee and Madison will now work together to seek passage of this bill that would allow cities to use red light running cameras.

S. 27th St. Crashes

Four years ago I started working with police from Milwaukee, Greenfield, Oak Creek and Franklin to reduce traffic crashes on S. 27th St. At that time, 10 intersections on S. 27th had 15 or more crashes and totaled 242 crashes with 186 injuries. In 2006, only five intersections still appear on the list and the number of crashes represented on the 15 or more list has dropped to 112 with 41 injuries. The credit for this reduction should go to the four police departments for continuing to enforce traffic laws and having a presence on this street.

The problem intersections on S. 27th are still: Oklahoma Ave. (22 crashes), Morgan Ave. (16), Howard Ave. (17), Layton Ave. (26) and College Ave. (13). The engineering solutions from the AAA study are still to be implemented.

Other Sites With 15 Or More Crashes

This year five intersections not on 27th are on the list, but not the same five as last year. College and Howell tops the list with 29 crashes followed by College Ave. and 13th with 19 and Layton Ave. and 13th with 18.

New to the list are Howell Ave. and the airport spur with 17 and Lincoln Ave. and 16th with 17. Producing an annual list allows engineers and police to better target their efforts to reduce crashes.

In the past four years we have gone from having 27% of the intersections on the 15 or more list to 19%. In our area, you are still more likely to be hurt in a traffic crash than in a crime.

Anti-Graffiti

- When one person left graffiti at over 200 places around the county, mainly in Milwaukee on city property, I suggested that the city also sue him in civil court to recover costs and that the city encourage others to do so. Recently Assistant City Attorney Vince Bobot told the Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee that the city will pursue damages in civil court on a case-by-case-basis, in addition to seeking restitution in criminal court.
- Graffiti has gone down in the area where neighborhood associations have formed in this district.
- Police doubled the number of graffiti arrests in the first five months of the year (26 to 52) including two groups arrested for graffiti in our district.
- The Department of Neighborhood Services provides all chemicals and paint for graffiti abatement for volunteers adopting a given area. Any takers? Call 286-8715.

Police Call Boxes

When I called in a report of graffiti on call boxes I wondered if the call boxes themselves are still in use. They were set up in a day and age before police radios, cell phones and before there was a phone in every home. I asked for a report to be submitted to the Public Works Committee. The information showed that they are still used by crossing guards and that the base of many of them also serves as an electrical junction box and the police department said they are not needed for their purposes. Since a removal program would cost \$5,000 each because of the electric connections, it was decided that DPW should not replace them when they are knocked down in accidents if not needed by crossing guards and consider removing them on a case-by-case basis when hit by graffiti. Those without the electric connections will be removed, saving maintenance costs.

District Residents Appointed To City-Wide Positions

In an effort to raise the influence our area has in city affairs, I have talked to the mayor about appointing residents of our district to boards and commissions. Recently Marty Calderon was appointed to the Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee and Diane Kosarzycki to



District Resident To Head Fire And Police Commission

Mike Tobin, an assistant city attorney and resident of this district, has become the executive director of the Fire and Police Commission. He faces many challenges and has indicated the need for adopting changes to the commission recommended by a study of the commission completed a year ago.

the Milwaukee Arts Board. Dimitri Dimitropoulos, owner of the Culvers at 6th St. and Layton Ave. and Airport/Gateway Business Association treasurer was appointed to VISIT Milwaukee.

Previously, ours was the largest hospitality industry area outside of downtown not represented on the VISIT Milwaukee board. The board recruits conventions and visitors and suggests where visitors should stay.

There Are Still Positions Available

If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, give me a call and we will get information to you on the group. It generally requires a letter and resume submitted to the mayor to start the process and of course, an existing or pending vacancy. Those existing as of this writing include the most visible and largest time commitment, the Fire and Police Commission. Woody Welch is leaving the five-person board. There are also vacancies on the Administrative Review Appeals Board, Charter School Review Committee, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Board, Milwaukee Safety Commission, 4th of July Commission and Standards and Appeals Board.

Junk Collector Signage Ordinance Passed

In the last newsletter I reported that I had introduced an ordinance that would require licensed junk collectors to have signs in three inch letters on their truck that would give their name, permit number and phone number to better identify licensed junk collectors from suspicious vehicles driving slowly looking in yards. That ordinance passed and became effective July 1. Since that time more people have come in for licenses. If you see a slow moving vehicle looking at houses and yards without such signage, call it in to the police non-emergency phone number at 933-4444 as a suspicious vehicle.

The District Today And In The Future

THE CITY

The future health of this district and the future health of the city are tied together. If part of the body is not well, the whole body is not healthy and will not be as successful. While events miles away may not affect us directly, they may affect the health and image of the city as a whole. Crime gets the headlines and threatens the city image and the health of the city. Looking past the headlines, there is a need for jobs to keep people out of crime and poverty. Would jobs ensure that all people do not commit crimes? No, but chances are lessened if people have an income and are busy earning a living. Employment stabilizes a family, giving hope and a reason to succeed at school.

As a member of the Common Council I have not only supported measures to curb crime but also developments to improve the city and provide the jobs that come with new developments throughout the city. The renewal in the Menomonee Valley and the 30th St. corridor allows for some hope of employment. The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program has helped. I have recommended and received council support for an extension of the KRM (Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee) commuter line through the 30th St. corridor if the line is ever built. Supporters say it would provide transportation to jobs in the three counties and development occurs around the line and the stations. If this is true, there is greater need for employment than in the 30th St. corridor and a greater need for transportation in that area since many do not have drivers licenses. Why no license? Lost it for failure to pay fines. Why? No income and now no license to get to a job. I'll talk more about job development in the story on the proposed 2008 budget.



Visit me on the web at:
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E-mail me at:
twitko@milwaukee.gov

OUR DISTRICT

What about the future of our area and its affect on the health of the city? Since we are the third highest taxed area in the city behind downtown and the east side, what happens to the city if we slip? What if this area ages and is not improved? What if crime and the perception of crime moves into this district and home values decrease? This would affect not only our area, but would affect the health of the city as a whole.

Over the past three years I have spent my energy to keep this area the solid district it has always been and worked to put the district on a solid course for the future. In past newsletters I have said that many older areas of the city are being renewed and taking on new life. There are new buildings, landscaping and new images for older areas.

In some areas like the Third Ward and the Fifth Ward immediately south of downtown, the rebirth has been dramatic. Bay View has a new image. East Capitol Drive has a new image, new buildings and retail.

So much has changed across the city, like the successful Midtown Center development replacing Capitol Court, that it would take pages to tell you about it all. The question I have posed has been "Are we falling behind?"

Recognizing that there is a potential problem is the first step in addressing it and changing direction for the future. Past administrations focused on problem areas and looked at this area as healthy in no need of attention since there were no problems here like crime, poor housing or wide spread poverty. Its land was almost all used and developers were not looking at it to demolish and rebuild as in other parts of the city.

I have met with Mayor Barrett as well as the commissioners of City Development on the importance of this area. This has resulted in recognition of the area and support for efforts to improve it.

Organizing For A Louder Voice And To Bring About Change

In the past three years I have helped organize two business associations and eight neighborhood associations with more on the way. I have helped set up and guide steering committees and regularly attend membership meetings. The association map in this newsletter shows their location and if compared to the Neighborhood Safety Initiative crime density map (at right) shows why some locations were the first to be addressed. All have used their new common voice to help address issues in their area.

Most business areas in the city were improved when businesses joined together for common advancement. The Airport/Gateway Business Association (AGBA) has taken the next step of forming a BID or Business Improvement District, taxing itself to promote the area, to improve the area's appearance and to maintain its safety. This is what places like East Capitol did. AGBA is in the process of contracting for these services now. The four mile long S. 27th St. Business Association is off to a slower start but has Greenfield, Milwaukee and the state highway to work with when it comes to improvements. What if S. 27th St. had the landscaping of a S. 76th St.? Would it draw more shoppers and businesses?

Since the business associations have started both the airport area and S. 27th St. have been written up in papers as hot places for development. Both associations see the value of working with neighborhood associations in keeping the surrounding neighborhoods healthy. Both see the value of our area as the Garden District. Both have drawn the attention of government wanting to cooperate with them in improving the area. Both may draw more development and more jobs to the area and the city.

The neighborhood associations have helped neighbors get to know one another and speak as one on neighborhood concerns. Several have had an effect on reducing crime and graffiti problems and have addressed other neighborhood concerns.

Neighborhood Association Happenings

Wilson Park North

Located just north of Wilson Park, the aptly named Wilson Park (North) Neighborhood Association is the newest community organization to form within the 13th District. Its aim is not only to preserve the quality of life that the neighborhood already enjoys, but to also enhance it by building a stronger sense of community among its residents.

Meeting the first Wednesday of each month at Walker's Maple Grove (3555 S.13th St.), the WPNA regularly solicits speakers on topics of interest to its members. Past speakers include Capt. Negron and P.O. Arteage of the Milwaukee Police Department, who provided information on criminal activity in the area and steps to combat it; Dave Schlabowske of the Department of Public Works, who dealt with traffic concerns; and Dave Fowler of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, who addressed floodplain management issues. As a result of these meetings, steps have been taken to organize block watches in the neighborhood, to research the need for stop or yield signs at certain intersections, and to build a huge levee at the northern border of Wilson Park to prevent future flooding. (Just kidding on that last one!)

Future activities may include holiday events and Packer parties to keep the spirits high as the weather turns colder.

Learn more about the WPNA online at www.wilsonparkneighbors.com.

Oklahoma Gardens Neighborhood Association

“Working together to build a safe and friendly community”

The Oklahoma Gardens Neighborhood Association (OGNA) formed in May 2007. The OGNA covers the homes and businesses from 17th St. east to 13th St. and from Oklahoma Ave. north through the 2800 block. This organization is founded on civic pride with a desire to strengthen the neighborhood spirit through education and action.

The group hosted the mayor of Milwaukee, who shared with us this three-cornered plan for the city; Milwaukee's new fire chief, who serves as a valuable safety reference for our community; our local police captain, who spoke on crime and crime prevention; a traffic engineer, who spoke about ways to improve traffic safety; and the alderman for the 14th District. A community liaison officer from the Milwaukee Police Department mentors the OGNA thus exemplifying the Police Department's commitment to our neighborhood. A determined steering committee works to plan exciting events and present these educational neighborhood meetings. The group's first family-oriented event was held in July and included a picnic with games and prizes. Teen leaders from the YMCA Southtown Center organized the games. The group is planning a bake sale and other social events for later this fall. The OGNA meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center of St. Joseph, 1600 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Holler Park Neighborhood Association, LLC

The Holler Park Neighborhood Association was started in April 2007 and focuses on crime prevention through social interaction. The group features of a steering committee led by volunteer residents who have planned many exciting events.

The residents of the Holler Park area are partnering with local business to improve the appearance of the neighborhood and increase volunteer participation with the Easter Seals Society located within Holler Park. One of the group's main goals is to continue to improve the lodge building within the park; after suffering many years of Milwaukee County budget crunches it has come into disrepair. The group has partnered with Eagle Scout Nick Skerven on the renovation and upgrade to ADA compliance of the kitchen facility within the lodge building. This project was a showcase of resident, business and government cooperation leading to the upgrade of a facility used by Easter Seals participants throughout the summer.

The Holler Park Neighborhood Association and other associations can truly make a difference in the lives of residents. One resident said, “I rode the school bus through the neighborhood when I was a child and always dreamed of living there; thank you for making this the neighborhood I always dreamed it could be.”

Holt Park Neighborhood Association

Holt Park Neighborhood Association is very serious about the safety and upkeep of its area. From Oklahoma to Morgan, 20th Street to 14th, these neighbors are working together to rid the area of crime and graffiti. They are dealing positively with nuisance properties, neighborhood issues and are finding time to get together for social activities as well.



Diane Kosarzycki
- President of Holt Park Neighborhood Association

This fall, the association will be “smokin” – in the kitchen, that is! The neighbors are collecting their best recipes for the savory HPNA Cookbook and getting their tastiest chili recipes out for the Chili Cook-Off!

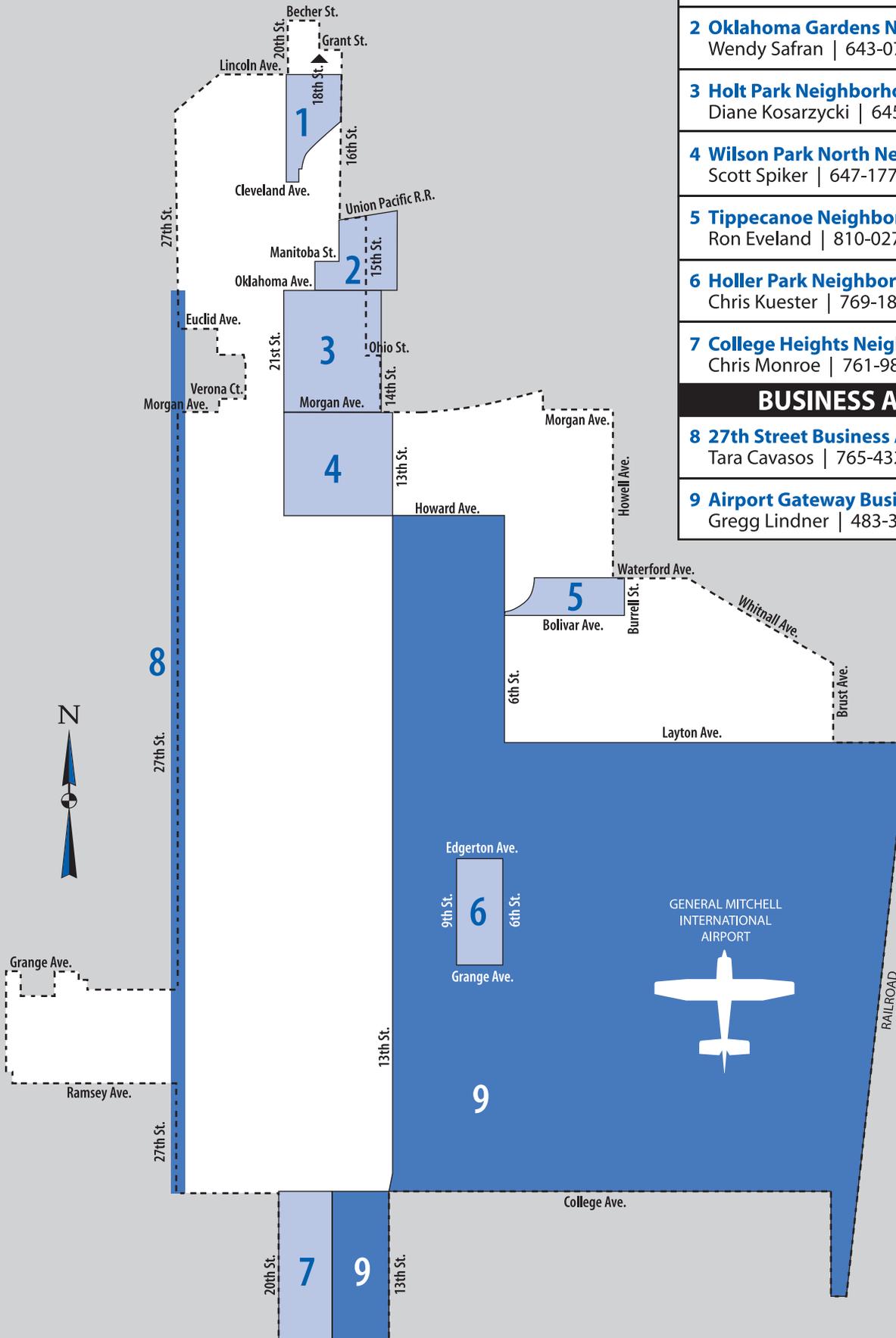
November 8th the members of this group headed to ComedySportz for an evening of laughter shared among neighbors and friends.

Diane Kosarzycki, president of Holt Park Neighborhood Association, believes that in order to build a strong community, the members need to work together, unite and have fun.

“Together, we can accomplish so much. By enjoying what we do, respecting our differences, and sharing the work, this neighborhood will shine,” she said.

If you are interested in learning more about this group contact Diane Kosarzycki at 645-1967 or join the online group at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/HoltParkNA.

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



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Garden District Neighborhood Association
(District-Wide) Vince Bobot | 588-6326

1 Forest Hill Neighborhood Association
Mike Johnson | 687-5242

2 Oklahoma Gardens Neighborhood Association
Wendy Safran | 643-0766

3 Holt Park Neighborhood Association
Diane Kosarzycki | 645-1967

4 Wilson Park North Neighborhood Association
Scott Spiker | 647-1774

5 Tippecanoe Neighborhood Association
Ron Eveland | 810-0274

6 Holler Park Neighborhood Association
Chris Kuester | 769-1815

7 College Heights Neighborhood Association
Chris Monroe | 761-9887

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

8 27th Street Business Association
Tara Cavazos | 765-4321

9 Airport Gateway Business Association
Gregg Lindner | 483-3080



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

The Garden District

WINTER 2007-08

The Budget

Ald. Witkowski (right) joined his fellow aldermen when they co-hosted a news conference with Mayor Tom Barrett in October to protest Governor Doyle's proposed state budget. The budget did not include the expected shared revenue amount Milwaukee lawmakers counted on to continue to keep property taxes low and community projects funded. The mayor complimented the Common Council for bringing its members out for the cause and Ald. Witkowski said, "As an alderman, I serve my community, and it's important that our voice be heard at the state level."



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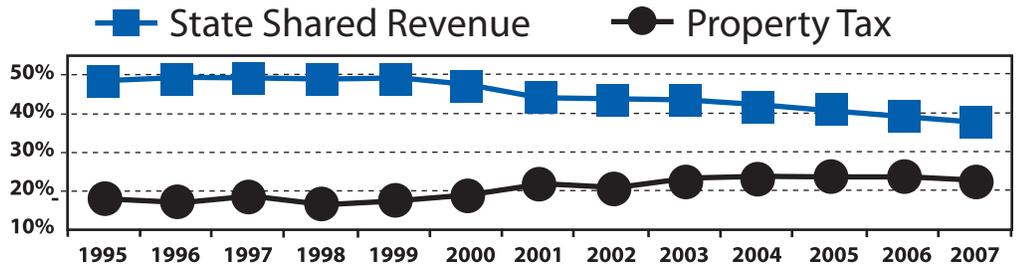
The Mayor's Budget

On September 25th, the mayor delivered his proposed budget to us. We had about six weeks to study it, make changes and adopt it.

I was happy to hear about increased funding for new roads and road maintenance, an issue I helped raise in July at the Public Works Committee. Another issue, having a position to recruit companies to locate here was not included. The Milwaukee 7 is supposed to do it for the region but has not yet started. Milwaukee has two people who seek main street commercial businesses to keep neighborhoods healthy but they both have many other duties and spend about 10-15% of their time on that activity. I have spoken to the mayor and he committed to a change in job description for a vacant position to establish a recruiter to take the lead in this area. We need new businesses with family-sustaining jobs.

The budget takes the newly authorized community service officers, adds three more and assigns them as jailers, one of the many possible duties they could perform, but not their primary intended use as passed by the Council. I agree with the use of jailers and freeing up officers but this move limits what the new position could do as part of its other duties. There are 45 officers and eight sergeants assigned as jailers. I have offered an

State Shared Revenue Is Declining



For 2007, State Shared Revenue to Milwaukee is \$9.8 million less than the 2003 level. In inflation adjusted terms, since 1996 Shared Revenue has declined \$68.4 million.

amendment for 45 jailers and a reduction of overtime to offset the 45 positions. This will put 45 fully trained officers on the street.

Correctional officers and jailers need less training and are more cost friendly to the taxpayer. If the difference in pay and benefits over five years of service for 15 new police officers and 15 new community service officers is \$1,650,000 according to the legislative research bureau report, than the saving for jailers at the same pay would be \$4,950,000 over five years.

The mayor's budget is a good balance in providing services at a reasonable level and cost. It will be difficult for the council to shave more off.

Tax Bill

The mayor's budget produces a tax rate of \$8.01. For the average home in this district, which is a home valued at \$150,000, the city share of the tax bill would be \$1,201.50. This amount may change depending on state aids when the state eventually adopts a budget.

Considering the services received including roads, streetlights, traffic controls, library, fire, police, forestry and more, we stack up favorably when considering other bills like cell phone and cable when you add up their annual cost. Remember that as an efficiency, the city collects taxes for Milwaukee County, Milwaukee Public Schools, MATC, the sewerage district and a state parks fee, but has no control over the expenditures of those amounts.