



13th District Alderman

# Terry L. Witkowski

*The Garden District*

SPRING-SUMMER 2007

## Dear Neighbors,

Much is happening that can affect the future of our area as you will see in this newsletter.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is coming closer to arriving at a plan for the freeway rebuilding. Business and neighborhood associations are starting to appear and help shape the future of this area. The city's comprehensive plan for the future of this area is underway and taking input. Beautification efforts and a plan to make this the **Garden District** have been launched. Now is the time to decide what the 13th District should look like in 10 years.

Many questions and opportunities exist and you can have an impact by your input and participation. Six neighborhood associations and two business associations have formed, and one the business associations – **the Airport Gateway Business Association** – is also administering a business improvement district to help enhance the commercial stretches near Mitchell International Airport.

As you read this newsletter, please think about what you would like to see happen here. For instance, what can be done to improve S. 27th St. from Oklahoma to College? What about electric company fields, freeway entrances and exits, airport clear zones and other vacant land? What should the driving approach to Mitchell from the airport spur and city streets look like? How about the freeway entering Milwaukee?

There are efforts underway from committees and groups here to make things happen. **Now is the time to get involved!** Join a neighborhood association or work with me to help put one in place in your area. We can work to make it or keep it a safe and sound area and a great place to live. Or add some flowers to enhance the Garden District look. Clean up, fix up and help others who may have difficulty doing that.

There are also many citywide issues being addressed by the Common Council, as you'll see inside, including police and crime fighting, reducing the dangers of illegal fireworks, a plan to better maintain city boulevards, and much more.

Please have a safe and productive spring and summer.

Sincerely,

Terry Witkowski  
Alderman, 13th District



## Upcoming Meetings And Events

Ald. Witkowski invites you to attend some important meetings in the district to discuss issues facing your neighborhoods.

- **Freeway DOT/Citizen Freeway Planning Meeting**  
May 23, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Best Western Airport  
5105 S. Howell Ave.
- **Garden District Perennial Flower Exchange**  
May 19, 10 a.m. - noon  
Custom Grown Greenhouse parking lot  
920 W. Armour Ave.  
(one block north of Layton off of S. 6th St.)

The new garden district committee has scheduled an event to have gardeners meet gardeners and to give you the chance to do something with the perennials you thin or split and have no room for. If you want to share flowers from an overgrown area bring them to the first Garden District perennial flower exchange.

Bring any plant you wish to have growing and beautifying a place other than your yard. Trade or give away your extra plants. No selling will be allowed. Any plants left over will be used to establish a flower display at a school or other public area in the district. Custom Grown will let us use their parking lot and will also give discount coupons. A fall exchange is tentatively planned for September 15th.

- **Garden District Committee Meeting**  
June 7, 6:30 p.m.  
Water Tower, 6th and Norwich  
Interested in making this the Garden District? Come down and join us and make it happen.
- **Garden District Gardening Classes**  
Check my website at [www.milwaukee.gov/district13](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district13) for the latest information.

## New Developments Help Renew The 13th District

Since two business associations were established in the district, the area has been mentioned in news stories as a hot area for development. Establishing new businesses and renewing the area should bring more employment and help keep it sound. Two areas along College Avenue at the east end of the airport are city owned and have been “discovered” by companies looking to expand. The city will be putting a 45-acre and a 22-acre site out for proposals to try to put them on the tax rolls and create employment.

On S. 27th St., a **CVS drug store** is replacing the former Braeger lot on S. 27th St. and W. Howard Ave.

On S. 13th near College Ave., the owners of the **Holiday Inn Express** (with the indoor water park) and the **Comfort Suites** have announced that they will build two more hotels at that freeway exit for a total of 12 hotels there. Although the new **Fairfield Inn and Suites** and the **Candlewood Suites** will be built across the street in Oak Creek, that should mean employment for some Milwaukeeans. With the announcements of other new hotels downtown and the number of available rooms growing, the announcement of a study to see if the downtown Convention Center should be expanded is very timely.

### Lots available for new homes

I have asked the **Department of City Development** to begin marketing five city owned lots in our district near S. 18th St. and W. Grant St. The lots will only be sold for single family home development. This renewal can help improve the appearance and the pride of the neighborhood.

## Sound Off On Freeway Noise Walls

Now is the time to talk to DOT engineers about noise walls and their appearance for the freeway reconstruction being planned for 2013. The public input meetings are nearing completion so please do attend the May 23rd meeting listed on the front of this newsletter.

## Annual Employee Injury Costs Over \$14 million

During the last administration, employee safety and risk management positions were eliminated as a cost containment measure and reports to the Common Council stopped. Having been responsible for issuing those reports in the late 1980s, I was surprised that we no longer received them. When I asked for an employee injury report it took nearly a year to get it because the system no longer existed to get the information and the system to monitor it was gone.

I had a resolution passed that calls for an annual report to the **Public Safety Committee** of the Common Council. Since the first report, systems are now in place to monitor what is a \$14 million annual taxpayer liability, and action is being taken by the **Department of Administration** to address the problem.

## Refined DOT Freeway Plans To Be Presented At Meetings

The DOT has refined the plans for freeway reconstruction for our area and will roll out these plans at one of the last public input meetings on the issue. It will be held on **May 23, 2007 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Best Western Airport, 5105 S. Howell Ave.**

This is one of our last chances to influence what happens in our area.

### Freeway update

State plans for the freeway now show that only four homes may need to be taken for the improvements. This is a far cry from the number originally cited by CASH, an anti-freeway group that sent out fliers in the area before the state process started. As I jumped into the battle, I stated that I would fight to make sure that not a home was taken and that we would not lose tax base. Rumors were that 44 to 100 properties would be taken and entire streets worth of housing would be wiped out.

In the process of conducting meetings with the state and residents, I learned that some people wanted their property taken, and that includes the three homes in the Plainfield curve. A fourth home is in the airport spur area. The state is still evaluating the need to take that home, which the owner has indicated he'd prefer that it be bought by the state. The state is also redesigning several interchanges and ramps and we requested that the land freed up be used for development. This would more than replace the lost tax base because one area is about two square blocks.

You are urged to attend the May 23rd meeting to see the WISDOT freeway designs and plans that have evolved through the meeting process. Construction would reach our area in 2013.

### Closing Layton Ave. Freeway Ramps Opposed

I have sponsored a resolution passed by the council and signed by the mayor to oppose the freeway reconstruction option that would close all ramps at I-94 and Layton Avenue. Don't use it, don't care? Well if they close it and you notice that traffic including truck traffic is heavier in your neighborhood, it will be too late. With over 400 businesses around the airport, the traffic has to go somewhere. Where? Maybe S. Howell Ave., W. Howard Ave., S. 6th St., S. 13th St. or S. 27th St. where crash problems already exist. These routes include neighborhoods, local shopping districts and school crossings.

Work for or shop at businesses in the area? Closing the ramps may affect the amount of passing traffic and the ability of that store to stay in business. It affects jobs and the health of our area.

**If you don't want heavier and fast traffic in the area, attend the next DOT meeting on May 23, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Best Western Airport, 5105 S. Howell Ave. to voice your support to keep the Layton Ave. ramp open.**

## Slowing Speeders With Traffic Calming Devices

Residents of the 13th District now have another tool to slow down cars that are speeding in their neighborhoods. The Milwaukee Common Council in December passed a measure that will allow “traffic-calming” devices such as speed humps or mini-roundabouts to be installed in their neighborhoods.

Under the plan, residents can petition for a traffic calming device and if the city agrees it is necessary, they would be given several choices. A speed hump would cost about \$3,000, while a mini-roundabout, or traffic circle, would cost about \$10,000. If affected homeowners agree, 90% of the cost would be split among residents with the city paving fund paying the remaining 10%. Any 13th District residents who are interested can contact Ald. Witkowski’s office.

“People want safer streets and this ordinance is a safety measure which will encourage slower driving, enhance pedestrian safety and allow residents to gain control of busy and dangerous streets,” said Ald. Witkowski. Speed humps and traffic circles have been in place in several city districts on a trial basis and have received positive reactions from residents.

### Edgerton To Have Traffic Calming Measures

This summer W. Edgerton Ave. from S. 13th St. to S. 20th St. will be rebuilt, and residents have voted on a plan that included traffic calming measures.

The new roadway will have push outs at S. 14th, S. 16th, S. 18th and S. 19th Streets that will narrow the roadway, slowing traffic and giving pedestrians less roadway to cross. As part of the DPW traffic calming policy, I insisted that residents be offered traffic calming options when a roadway is reconstructed. I have also asked that DPW propose narrowing residential streets when they are reconstructed. The result is less pavement for residents to pay for, less pavement to maintain, plow and salt and less run off to be treated. Narrowing the street also slows traffic by giving it a congested feel. The wider and clearer a street, the faster drivers drive.



Top 3 photos - Speed hump installation on McKinley Blvd. between 27th and 35th Streets.

At Right - Typical curb push or bump out installation on Brady Street.

## Fire Calls And Service In Milwaukee

**Did you know that approximately 80% of calls for service to the Milwaukee Fire Department and large departments around the nation are for Emergency Medical Service (EMS)?** The other 20% include gas leaks, smell of gas, fire calls, etc. In the last five years, the fire department responded to between 129 and 134 fires annually that were second alarm or greater. On a first alarm, the fire department sends 20 plus firefighters and six different pieces of apparatus.

### What should the fire service of tomorrow look like?

This was the question I posed to the five candidates for fire chief from around the nation in early April at a **Fire and Police Commission** hearing before a chief was selected.

The answers included: it will look like today’s department, it will be ever changing and that recruiting had to reflect the EMS needs. On questions about controlling employee injury costs, all the candidates mentioned light duty, a program not currently used by the department. On whether four or five firefighters should be on an engine or ladder truck, four candidates said four was the standard around the nation. Only Chief Wentlandt said five are occasionally needed.

### New fire technology

The three elements that are needed to create a fire are oxygen, a fuel and heat. Fires have traditionally been fought by smothering the fire and taking away the oxygen. Water is used to fight most fires and does lower the temperature as well.

A new technique has been invented in Germany that takes away the heat in a fire. The new device sends a burst of water mist that cools the fire. A very small amount of water is used to provide the mist, eliminating the major water damage caused by fighting most fires.

Another new technology first used and invented by a Florida firefighter is super absorbent polymer coating which is sprayed on a building to prevent fire from spreading. Called barricade gel, it can be spread on a building from one backpack.

The new technology is worth looking at and I will encourage the new chief and budget office to look at it to see if there are local applications.

## Working Together To Better The 13th District

### Holt Park Neighborhood Association

In an effort to keep this a great and safe neighborhood to live in, I have worked with residents to establish neighborhood associations, and three new ones have been started or are in the works. The new Holt Park Neighborhood Association has drawn attendances of 80, 45, and 75 to its first three meetings. This association takes in the area from S. 20th St. to S. 14th St. from W. Oklahoma Ave. to W. Morgan Ave.

### Holler Park Neighborhood Association

The neighbors in the area from S. 6th St. to S. 9th St. from W. Grange Ave. to Holler Park have joined together to unify their neighborhood as the Holler Park Neighborhood Association. This group formed after getting together to contest special approvals for two businesses in the area. The neighborhood now speaks with a united voice and won its first fight to keep a used car dealer from locating in a light manufacturing area. It also plans numerous social events for neighbors to get to know neighbors.

### The Newest Neighborhood Association

The latest group to come together to improve its neighborhood met at the Child Development Center of St. Joseph at S. 16th St. and W. Oklahoma Ave. The yet unnamed group, covers the area north of W. Oklahoma Ave. to the railroad tracks and from S. 15th St. to S. 17th St.

### S. 3rd St. and Uncas Playfield Updated

Work has been completed to update what had been the playfield with the second oldest equipment in the city, S. 3rd and W. Uncas St. The playfield was not ADA compliant, had equipment from 1972, and did not have a surface beneath the equipment to protect children. Neighbors complained to me and that started things in motion.

### Southeast Side Plan

One of the accomplishments of the **Airport Gateway Business Association** was to have the city advance the city master plan for this district from last to the present. Two meetings have been held to get public input as to what this district should look like in the future. Call my office at 286-8537 if you wish to be notified of meetings or to represent your area on the plan committee.

## Changes In Boulevard Plantings

Around 70 people attended my town hall meeting on the new plan for Milwaukee's boulevards called Sustainable Boulevards. The survey filled out by those in attendance indicated overwhelming support for the proposal. It removes scattered flowerbeds and concentrates the flowers in signature beds. Trees, grass and shrubs replace flowers. The plan saves money in the long run and yet preserves our colorful boulevards. Visit my website at [www.milwaukee.gov/district13](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district13) to see a three minute video presentation.

## Thinking About Putting Up A Fence?

If you are, check the city rules on fences before you put it up. People have had to take down fences after spending money on them because they were too high, in the wrong place or facing the wrong way. For more information on rules governing fences and other permits that may be needed, check the **Milwaukee Development Center** at [www.mkedcd.org](http://www.mkedcd.org) or call 286-8211.

## Signs Prohibited

All signs in the public right of way require authorization by city ordinance. Realty signs, for sale signs, rummage signs as well as political signs are prohibited. The public right of way extends from the sidewalk on one side of the street to the sidewalk on the other side. Feel free to remove signs placed in the right of way when you see them.

## Cutting Down A Tree?

Two years ago the city eliminated picking up brush if the pile is more than four cubic yards. Besides saving money, the rationale was that when people pay someone to cut down a tree the same firms would remove it in all places but the city where they'd leave it for citizens to pick up the cost. If you remove a tree, plan to haul it yourself to a self-help center, too. Remember, only four cubic yards of brush will be picked up by the city.

## Gateway Signage

The first gateway welcome sign in the city (left) now stands at Howell and Grange. The Milwaukee being "Home of the Brewers" part comes along with a generous donation to be used to improve the appearance of the boulevard on Howell Ave. Ald. Witkowski spoke at a news conference (below) announcing the unveiling of the citywide gateway sign program.





Courtesy of the Friends of the East Toy Electric Railroad

This picture was taken from about S. 5th and Waterford and shows the **North Shore Line** passing under the **Rapid Transit** with the **Town of Lake** City Hall and water tower being constructed in the background.

## Places Older Than Me In The Area

**The Evergreen Hotel**, 3774 S. 27 St., was built in 1843 as a home for Jacob Nunnemacher and is now a five-room hotel with a bar containing an original working natural fireplace and an original wooden telephone booth in the lobby. It has backlit pictures behind the bar of its time as the Evergreen Camp showing it as a resort with cabins from about the 1930's. The land was obtained as a U.S. Land Grant located south of Old Line road (the city limits, now Oklahoma Avenue) on Old Kilbourn Road.

From 1852 to 1863 the house adjoined a distillery that made whiskey and high wine (188 proof). The owner sold a gallon of whiskey for \$1.25 and when the federal government passed a \$2 a gallon tax to pay for the war effort, he did not think people would pay \$3.25 so he did not collect it. The distillery was closed by revenuers. The owner then operated a cattle farm with 4 barns on the site, a slaughterhouse and a butcher shop. It later became a resort. The Evergreen Hotel and bar is worth a stop.

## Junk Collector Or Burglar?

**How do you know if the slow moving truck driving through your street looking in your yard is a licensed junk collector or someone casing the neighborhood?**

I have sponsored an ordinance change that would require junk collectors to place signage on their vehicles similar in size to those found on taxi cabs. The city does license junk collectors now and gives them a three-inch window sticker. This change would allow you to actually see a name, permit number and phone number to make it easier to identify who is a junk collector.

## Businesses You Don't See Because Of Ald. Witkowski

Sometimes my efforts are channeled into not having something happen. Sometimes neighbors are involved and sometimes not. What did not happen since I was elected:

- A pawnshop did not open on S. 27th St.
- A counseling center for felons did not open at S. 19th St. and W. Windlake Ave.
- A onetime strip club on W. College Ave. did not reopen.
- A bar did not go in at S. 17th St. and W. Lincoln Ave. (there are 61 others within one mile).
- A hip hop/country western bar did not open at S. 9th St. and W. Layton Ave.
- A troubled bar did not reopen at S. Howell Ave and W. Plainfield Ave.
- A payday loan did not come in at W. Euclid St. and S. 27th St.
- A business did not expand into a residential neighborhood at S. 27th and W. Goldcrest.
- A used car lot did not open at S. 16th St. and W. Oklahoma Ave.
- A gas station/convenience store did not open at S. 16th St. and W. Morgan Ave.
- A used car lot did not open at S. 9th St. and W. Grange Ave.

## Making Businesses Better Neighbors

Licenses to operate and special use permits are sometimes the leverage needed to have a business improve their operations. Suspension of a license or the possible non-renewal of a special use permit can have an effect of changing behavior and improving the quality of life in the neighborhood. My efforts with neighbors, the **Department of Neighborhood Services** and police have resulted in temporary suspensions that improved neighborhoods in the long run. While it takes community involvement and documentation, there have been changes in operations and elimination of complaints involving an auto dealer, a bar, a recycling company and two convenience stores selling to minors.

## Milwaukee Youth Continue To Make A Positive Impact



Ald. Witkowski was honored to take part in the first inaugural ceremony at City Hall for the City of Milwaukee Youth Council. **The Youth Council's first 13th District representative was high school student Matthew R. Preston.** Matthew expressed a strong interest in addressing such concerns as a lack of job and recreational opportunities for older teenagers, drug problems, unhealthy lifestyles and increasing opportunities for young people to voice their concerns. Ald. Witkowski, one of the co-sponsors of the Common Council legislation that created the 15-member council, said the body is on hiatus while the governing rules of the Youth Council are being revised to ensure greater participation and effectiveness. He said he'll soon be identifying possible 13th District Youth Council representative candidates.

Go to [www.milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil](http://www.milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil) to read more about the City of Milwaukee Youth Council.

## Need To Contact The City? Couldn't Be Easier

In addition to contacting his office, Ald. Witkowski wants you to know there are many ways to get information, request services, register complaints or comment on issues important to you. Among them: **One Call, That's All** (see below).



**286-CITY (2489)**  
then press:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>3 Police/ Fire Non-Emergencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Police</li> <li>2 Fire</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>6 Department of City Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Housing Authority, Public Housing, Rent Assistance</li> <li>2 Development Center, Permits, Occupancy Applications, Zoning, Historic Preservation, Property Research</li> <li>3 Business Assistance Programs</li> <li>4 City-owned Real Estate, City Planning, Low Interest Home Renovation Loans</li> </ul> | <p><b>8 Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Library Hours</li> <li>2 Renew Library Items</li> <li>3 Other Services</li> </ul>                                                                      |
| <p><b>4 Mayor/ Common Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Mayor</li> <li>2 Common Council/ City Clerk's Office</li> <li>3 Licensing Division</li> </ul>                                                                                                        | <p><b>7 Health Department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immunizations, Medical Assistance, WIC, Communicable Disease Control</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>9 Department of Neighborhood Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 File complaint for Building Code Violations, Litter, Graffiti, Nuisance Vehicles</li> <li>2 Inspection Services</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>5 Department of Public Works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Parking Operations</li> <li>2 Milwaukee Water Works</li> <li>3 Street Maintenance, Street Lighting, Traffic Control, Sewers, Forestry and Sanitation including Solid Waste/Recycling</li> </ul> | <p><b>0 Customer Service Representative</b></p> <p>For all other City departments and services</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES**

## Or There Are High-Tech Options

If you have a computer and Internet access, keeping informed about what's happening in the 13th District, the city and the county and finding government information and services online is just a few clicks away on the **Milwaukee Portal Page**.

Go to [www.milwaukee.gov](http://www.milwaukee.gov), simply type a keyword or phrase in the site section and click GO. The new search engine will take you to the proper department in either the city or the county.

Another city initiative called **E-Service** provides an online request form that allows citizens to request a service without knowing which city department provides that service. E-Service cuts at least two days off the process.

And the city can also communicate with you with **E-Notify**. This easy-to-use, internet tool allows the city to send such information as city news, police crime bulletins by neighborhood, meeting and bid notices and many other topics to subscribers' email accounts based on selections made by the individual citizen. E-Notify is available on the City Home Page.

Of course you can always use the telephone to contact Ald. Witkowski or write to him with your concerns. You can also call the **Department of Public Works Call Center** at 286-8282 or the **Department of Neighborhood Services** at 286-2268.

## Smoking Ban Should Be Statewide

**Over a year ago the City of Milwaukee considered a smoking ban in all**

**workplaces but it still lies in committee.** If you look at a map of the 13th District, you will see it is a peninsula surrounded by St. Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, Franklin and Greenfield. A smoking ban in Milwaukee only would mean that our hospitality industry would be at a disadvantage, since most people would be less than a two-minute drive to a neighboring city.

**The state is considering a statewide workplace-smoking ban.** I offered a resolution to put the city on record as supporting the statewide ban that would level the playing field for all businesses. The full Common Council went on record in April as supporting that statewide ban. A statewide rule will provide uniformity and ensure that no community's businesses are left at a competitive disadvantage.

## 110 Officers Freed For Crime Fighting!

“With police work becoming more and more professionalized and police training becoming more extensive, each experienced policeman represents a large community investment. Are the special skills of our highly trained policemen used most advantageously when they guard school crossings? Are the admittedly high costs when police guard school crossings preventing the community from attaining the high measure of police protection for which our officers are trained?”

This quote is from a magazine story in 1951 when Milwaukee switched from police officers to female school crossing guards on our streets. At the time, people asked whether drivers would stop for these women and would they show up for work in sub-zero weather. The change to free up 110 officers from this duty worked then and works today.

Twenty years later there was resistance to hiring five meter maids to write parking tickets that would free up officers for other duty. People mistaking them for police officers will put them in danger was the argument against it at the time. Today over 60 parking checkers free up officers to fight crime without the cited problem occurring.

This past year, after hearing from a task force I chaired to look at the role Community Service Officers played in police departments around the nation, the Common Council and mayor approved a program of 15 community service officers to begin this year in Milwaukee. They have been used around the nation since the 1970s and they direct traffic, respond to traffic crashes (there are 13,000 annually in Milwaukee), respond to after the fact offenses, fill out reports and gather evidence. They are not armed and do not have the power of arrest. They are paid less than a sworn officer, and free up officers for response to calls where the power of arrest and a highly trained officer are needed.

For citizens, the use of Community Service Officers should result in better service at lower cost. Opponents used the same arguments against hiring meter maids. This police chief did not see but a limited use for them (mainly inside or working with another officer).



**Ald. Witkowski** (seated at right) listened as **Police Chief Nannette Hegerty** addressed the **Common Council's Public Safety Committee** in January regarding her strategy to help reduce crime and violence in the City of Milwaukee. Seated to Ald. Witkowski's right are committee chair **Ald. Donovan** and committee members **Ald. Puente** and **Ald. Zielinski**.

At a recent committee meeting, the chief made remarks that lead me to believe we will not see movement in hiring for this position until she is no longer chief.

The Common Council has also authorized a study of police staffing to be completed this summer. Milwaukee has the seventh largest number of police officers per capita in the nation but is 22nd in size. What are other cities doing that we are not? Shouldn't we then have less crime? Are we using officers efficiently? If other cities went to school crossing guards, meter maids and community service officers before we did, what else are they doing that we are not? What new strategies are needed or techniques will help us? I believe this study will help set a course that we can afford.

### Police Chief Needs Crime Plan

It seems strange to me that council members and the mayor would be asked for a plan to fight crime. It is even stranger that the city would get to a point that an alderman proposes a crime plan, including use of the National Guard.

The need for a crime plan seems to come, not from crime alone, but the fact that the chief of police has not left the public with the confidence that she has one. While the department is fighting crime, there have not been announcements along the way of crime fighting efforts. When the string of robberies occurred on the south side, there were no

announcements from the chief to assure the public that it was being worked on. There were special efforts but none were announced.

Announcing efforts prevents crime and lets the public know that something is being done about it. Is the thought that if the crooks know that the police are doing something, they'll stop and we won't catch them? Does that mean if we don't announce a plan they can rob, terrorize and murder until they are caught?

I don't think that is why we hire a chief of police. Preventing crime should be the goal. Previous chiefs announced quality of life policing, cracking down on even the smallest violations, stepped up traffic enforcement and efforts to reduce crime. By not saying anything except that we're having a crime spree makes it seem like the police are doing nothing or just the usual to combat crime problems. Being silent just fuels the image that nothing is being done and that crime is out of control.

State law in Wisconsin gives only the chief the power to run the police department and insulates the chief from political influence. The mayor and Common Council can not direct the chief to carry out enforcement efforts or plans. The power and responsibility to assign police and fight crime is the chief's alone.



13th District Alderman

# Terry L. Witkowski

*The Garden District*

SPRING-SUMMER 2007

## Flashing Traffic Signal Now at S. 6th & W. Bolivar

After repeated attempts to have traffic engineers eliminate the long delays for westbound motorists on S. 6th St., I have requested that the traffic signal be removed. The long wait caused anyone using the intersection and wanting to turn south to avoid that sign and travel south on S. 5th St., or turn right on red, to make a u-turn mid-block and head south. The signal will remain on flash as the city studies the current and future need for the signal.

City Hall, Room 205  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Summer Garbage & Recycling Collection

Summer curbside collection of garbage carts for households without alleys started Monday, April 16, 2007. From Monday, April 16 to Friday, December 7, 2007, residents must roll their garbage cart to the curb. Sanitation crews will not collect the carts from their storage areas. Please note your day of garbage collection will change beginning the week of May 28, 2007. Collection of recyclables does not change.

### City Holidays

There is no garbage or recycling collections on these holidays:

\***Memorial Day** - Monday, May 28, 2007

\***Independence Day** - Wednesday, July 4, 2007

\***Labor Day** - Monday, September 3, 2007

**Thanksgiving** - Thursday & Friday, November 22 & 23, 2007

**Christmas** - Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25, 2007

**New Years** - Monday, December 31, 2007 & Tuesday, January 1, 2008

***\*After these holidays, the day of garbage collection will move one day later in the week. There will be no change in the collection of recyclables after the holiday. City offices and Sanitation Self-Help Centers are also closed on these dates.***

### Fireworks Task Force

The spread of illegal fireworks in the city was further emphasized by a house fire caused by fireworks last summer.

I am the vice chair of a task force reviewing the problem. It should be noted that all fireworks are illegal in Milwaukee County unless part of a permitted display. The task force is reviewing the legality under state law of the permits sold at fireworks stores in other counties. Besides the fire danger and danger of injury, the illegal fireworks disturb the peace and cause unneeded worry and aggravation to residents. Please don't buy or use fireworks.



For Ald. Witkowski's web page and more information about the 13th District go to:

[www.milwaukee.gov/district13](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district13)