



Robert Bauman

4th District Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

The 2010 budget adopted by the Common Council on November 6, 2009 was the most difficult budget I have encountered since I was first elected in April 2004. The city was faced with bad choices on all fronts. Four major factors drove the process.

First, the city was required to make a \$49 million contribution to the city pension fund. This contribution was necessitated by dramatic declines in the stock market during 2008. This was the first time in many years that the city had to make an employer's contribution.

Second, the State of Wisconsin reduced shared revenue allocations to Milwaukee by \$2.6 million and increased tipping fees paid by the city to dump garbage in land fills by \$2 million. These state budget changes represented a \$4.6 million negative impact on the city's budget.

Third, the assessed value of city real estate declined by 4.29%. This represented the first decline in overall assessed value in several decades. This negatively impacted city finances because a decline in assessed value causes the property tax rate to increase even if city spending remains the same.

Fourth, the city lost \$2.1 million in interest income on short term investments because of low interest rates.

In order to produce a balanced budget and keep fees and property tax increases to a minimum, the Common Council had to make drastic cuts in operating expenses. The city's operating budget was cut 5.2% (\$31 million) and 362 full-time-equivalent (FTE) city positions were eliminated. In addition, several of the city's largest unions agreed to wage and benefit concessions, a pay freeze was instituted for all management employees and most employees, including all elected officials, will be required to take four unpaid furlough days in 2010. These furloughs amount to a pay cut for virtually all city employees.

This newsletter includes articles and information on the 2010 budget, the impact of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (federal stimulus bill) on Milwaukee, the new lease extension for Summerfest, and several initiatives we are undertaking to address the foreclosure crisis.

It remains a distinct honor and pleasure to represent your interests as 4th District Alderman.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Bauman, 4th District Alderman



Recycling Relay Race



Alderman Bauman helped launch the city's new "Recycle for Good" campaign during a relay race that required identifying recyclable products. The event, held in Red Arrow Park last summer, included teams of Common Council members and promoted the ease with which Milwaukee residents can make recycling a part of their everyday routine. As part of the 2010 city budget, **recycling collection is switching to once every three weeks for most city households** (instead of once per month).

To learn more go to: www.milwaukee-recycles.com



Stimulus Funds: Fixing Milwaukee Infrastructure

Federal dollars from the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** stimulus package have been used to make much needed infrastructure improvements in Milwaukee, Alderman Bauman said.

Alderman Bauman, chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee and a member of the city's Capital Improvements Committee, has long noted the dire condition of City of Milwaukee streets, bridges, and infrastructure, and he said he's pleased ARRA funds are quickly helping to address some of the city's critical repair needs. "This initial infusion of stimulus funding for road work (channeled through the state Department of Transportation) is addressing work that is several years overdue, and the funding is vital given our major budget challenges," the alderman said.

The ARRA funds are being used to fix roads and bridges, and to purchase everything from traffic and streetlight equipment, to signage and construction equipment. **In fact, the city's first project funded almost entirely (\$1.6 million) by ARRA dollars is in the 4th District – the dual-phase reconstruction of W. State St. between N. 17th St. and N. 27th St. (set for completion in 2010).**

The alderman said a second round of federal stimulus awards headed for the city should be announced soon.

Roads & Infrastructure – More than \$26 million received by the city so far

In the City of Milwaukee, ARRA funding should allow the city's Department of Public Works to complete these other street reconstruction projects:

2009 construction start

- W. Lisbon Ave. (N. Sherman Blvd. to Soo Line RR)
- W. Oklahoma Ave. (S. 72nd St. to S. 60th St.)

2010 construction start

- S. Cesar Chavez Dr. (W. Greenfield Ave. to W. Pierce St.)
- N. Sherman Blvd. Bridge (over W. Silver Spring Dr.)
- N. Sherman Blvd. (W. Silver Spring Dr. to W. Florist Ave.)
- W. Vliet St. Bridge (over Canadian Pacific RR)
- S. 6th St. Bridge (over Kinnickinnic River)
- E./W. Keefe Ave. (N. Port Washington Ave. to N. Humboldt Dr.)
- S. 1st St. (E. Lincoln Ave. to S. Kinnickinnic Ave.)



In September 2009, Alderman Bauman and **City Engineer Jeff Polenske** discussed the **dual-phase reconstruction of W. State St.** from N. 17th St. and to N. 27th St. during a news conference on State St. near 17th St. The project is the first roadway reconstruction project in the City of Milwaukee **funded almost entirely by Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds** (more than \$1.6 million) and is expected to be completed in 2010.

City Hall Complex Earns LEED Certification

Milwaukee's City Hall complex has been honored for its energy and resource efficiency. The complex has earned a Silver rating from the U.S. Green Building Council through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

Accepted by Mayor Barrett during a September 2009 ceremony, the LEED certification was in the "Existing Buildings" category, and the City Hall complex earned a Silver rating, having gained 45 of a possible 92 LEED points. There are more than 3,000 LEED certified buildings in the U.S., but none – as far as research has determined – has included a National Historic Landmark such as City Hall.

The complex includes the historic City Hall building, the Zeidler Municipal Building and the 809 Building, which boast 666,446 square feet of space.

Alderman Bauman, chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, said efforts to improve energy efficiency in the City Hall complex have been ongoing for decades, and gained momentum during a major interior renovation in the mid-1990s and again after Mayor Barrett took office.

"We're proud of the LEED certification, and we're even happier that our efforts to save energy have helped control and reduce our usage here at City Hall," Alderman Bauman said.



Brutal 2010 Budget

The 2010 budget adopted by the Common Council on November 6, 2009 has been called by many the most difficult budget in city history, with bad choices looming on all fronts. Alderman Bauman, vice chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee, said a perfect storm of major challenges drove the budget process:

- The city was required to make a **\$49 million** contribution to the city pension fund, a massive payment necessitated by dramatic declines in the stock market during 2008. This was the first time in many years that the city had to make an employer's contribution.
- The State of Wisconsin reduced shared revenue payments to Milwaukee by \$2.6 million and increased tipping fees paid by the city to dump garbage in landfills by \$2 million. These state budget changes represented a **\$4.6 million** negative impact on the city's budget. In fact, the state's shared revenue and expenditure restraint program payments to Milwaukee have been frozen for more than 12 years, and according to the city's budget office, the inflation adjusted decline in the payments since 2003 is equal to a revenue loss of just under **\$60 million!**
- The assessed value of city real estate declined by 4.29% – the first decline in overall assessed value in **several decades**. This negatively impacted city finances because a **decline in assessed value causes the property tax rate to increase** even if city spending remains the same.
- The city lost **\$2.1 million** in interest income on short term investments because of low interest rates.

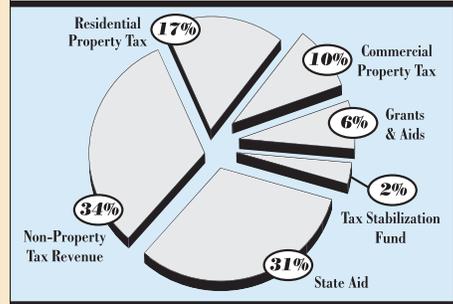
To produce a balanced budget and keep fees and property tax increases to a minimum, the

Common Council had to make drastic cuts in operating expenses. **The city's operating budget was cut 5.2% (\$31 million) and 362 full-time-equivalent (FTE) city positions were eliminated.** In addition, several of the city's largest unions agreed to wage and benefit concessions, a pay freeze was instituted for all management employees and most employees, including all elected officials, will be required to take four unpaid furlough days in 2010. **These furloughs amount to a pay cut for virtually all city employees.**

According to the Comptroller's 2008 Comparative Revenue and Expenditure Report, **Milwaukee's per capita total local revenues are 49% less** than the average of the 10 cities analyzed (including Milwaukee). In other words, because the city must rely on revenue from property taxes only (unlike other cities that can use local sales taxes and income taxes from a broader base), **Milwaukee only receives half the local revenues** of most other cities in the Comptroller's analysis.

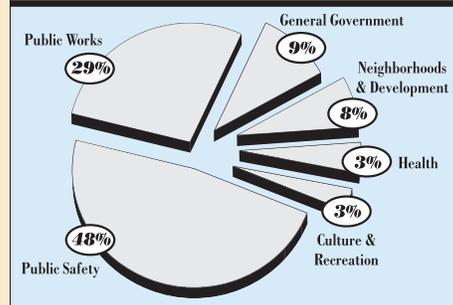
Alderman Bauman said the city, along with most businesses and families, is facing challenging economic times. Nevertheless, he noted the citizens of Milwaukee continue to expect basic city services such as police and fire protection, sanitation services and the operation and maintenance of city infrastructure. "Needless to say, maintaining city services and infrastructure in difficult economic times is a major challenge that will remain for at least the next two years," he said.

2010 Budget Sources of City Revenue*



Non-Property Tax Revenue (\$ IN MILLIONS)	\$ 291
State Aid	\$ 271
Property Taxes: Residential	\$ 149
Property Taxes: Commercial	\$ 85
Grant & Aid Projects	\$ 53
Tax Stabilization Fund (TSF)	\$ 13
* Total	\$ 862

City Services Provided by the Revenue*



Public Safety (\$ IN MILLIONS)	\$ 410
Public Works	\$ 254
General Government	\$ 79
Neighborhoods & Development	\$ 68
Culture & Recreation	\$ 28
Health	\$ 23
* Total	\$ 862

*Excludes G.O. debt service paid by the City for MPS purposes.

City Hall Restoration Featured in Display



Milwaukee City Hall Restoration artifacts and informational boards will be on display at the Milwaukee County Historical Society, 910 N. Old World Third St., until July 31, 2010.

The roughly three-year (exterior), award winning City Hall restoration project was completed in late 2008. Restoring the 115-year-old National Historic Landmark and architectural gem was a huge project that included replacing bricks and mortar, terra cotta, copper, roofing, and structural elements. Also, all of the building's 1,900 windows were removed and retrofitted with energy efficient glass.

As chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, Alderman Bauman closely monitored the restoration project, which was completed on time and on budget.

District Developments

Fund Will Help Preserve Housing Stock

The Common Council has approved establishing a permanent, dedicated funding source to pay for restoring and preserving vacant residential properties in the city's housing inventory primarily because of foreclosure for non-payment of property taxes.

Alderman Bauman, who was the principal sponsor of the legislation (file #090459) creating the Housing Infrastructure Preservation Fund, said the fund will make it easier for the Department of City Development (DCD) to ensure the restoration (and eventually the sale) of neighborhood residential properties of four or fewer units that have been classified as suitable for immediate restoration.

"The city currently has far too many properties in its inventory that are in need of some restoration and rehab work to get them ready for sale, but there's no money available to do that work," said Alderman Bauman.

"The Housing Infrastructure Preservation Fund now can provide that critical, dedicated funding to help turn these properties around, thereby preserving the city's tax base, avoiding demolitions and increasing the city's residential housing stock," he said.

Although the fund will be administered by DCD, the amount allocated to the fund will be part of the annual city budget adopted by the Common Council. The 2010 budget appropriated \$600,000 for the fund. The Department of City Development is in the process of identifying eligible projects.

NOTE: The preservation fund IS NOT for private foreclosures or for public participation – it will be used by the city (DCD) for residential properties in the city's housing inventory.

N. 51st Street Re-opening Ceremony



In late 2009, Alderman Bauman took part in a re-opening ceremony for N. 51st St. near W. Keefe Ave. to help highlight the positive impact of the new **MORE ordinance** and other initiatives. Alderman Bauman said the street project was completed using vehicle registration fee funds, stimulus funds and by following the guidelines of the MORE ordinance, a measure approved by the Common Council last year that created wage standards for commercial developments that receive at least \$1 million in financial assistance from the City of Milwaukee. **The ordinance made changes regarding the requirements for participation by city residents in public works projects and development projects**, including projects getting tax incremental financing or TIF monies.

"With the ordinance in effect, businesses are compelled to create jobs and apprenticeship opportunities that employ residents, and it also gives consideration to local business enterprises," he said. **"It's a win-win-win situation for the city** and we expect to see many more positive projects like this one." Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Alderman Willie C. Wade, and Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs also took part in the re-opening ceremony.



211 Social Services Hotline

For help with a wide variety of non-emergency family, financial, health and social service issues.
Call the 211 social services hotline, available 24 hours a day.

Marquette Foreclosure Mediation Program

The City of Milwaukee – in partnership with the state attorney general’s office and Marquette University Law School – has implemented the Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program (MFMP), which will provide mediation between lenders and residential borrowers facing foreclosure. Interested parties may call (414) 288-4040.

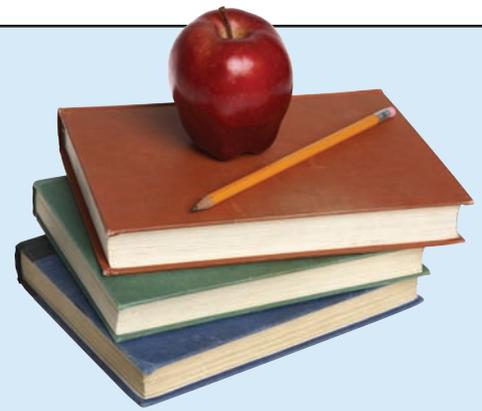
Alderman Bauman, who chairs the Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes, said the Common Council approved \$100,000 in funding in early 2009 for the program, on top of \$310,000 from the proceeds of a successful lawsuit against Countrywide Financial Corp.

The MFMP will be a voluntary, court-based independent mediation option for lenders and borrowers – located at the Milwaukee County Courthouse – and meant to alleviate the current backlog of foreclosure cases in the county

court system by offering the option of mediation to residential homeowners who reside in owner-occupied properties.

Borrowers will be screened to ensure there is some possibility of a successful outcome of the mediation process. According to the law school, in most cases, successful mediation will serve as a venue to work out new loan terms, a short sale, or other solution that is mutually agreeable, and execute a final agreement between the parties.

Alderman Bauman said he’s hopeful the program will work as intended for the benefit of Milwaukee. “If it works, the program will enable us to preserve housing assets and retain home ownership where feasible, to return steady mortgage payments to lenders, and to somewhat relieve the impact on our court system,” he said.



Use Your Local Library!

Central Library

814 W. Wisconsin Ave.
(414) 286-3000 • www.mpl.org
Mon.-Tue. • 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wed.-Sat. • 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday • 1-5 p.m. (Oct. thru April)

Humanities and Art & Music Rooms:

Mon.-Tues. • 12 - 8 p.m.
Wed.-Sat. • 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday • 1-5 p.m. (Oct. thru April)

New Summerfest Lease Deal Approved



Prior to a signing ceremony in the Mayor’s Office, Alderman Bauman joined Mayor Tom Barrett, Alderman Michael J. Murphy and Summerfest and Milwaukee World Festival officials in announcing details of a new 10-year lease extension for Summerfest that ensures annual payments for public safety services and paves the way for a large-scale renovation of the south end of the Henry Maier Festival Grounds.

The Common Council has approved a new 10-year lease extension for Summerfest that ensures annual payments for public safety services and paves the way for a large-scale renovation of the south end of the Henry Maier Festival Grounds, said Alderman Bauman, who participated in negotiating the new deal.

Alderman Bauman, a member of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, said the extension added 10 years to the former lease deal and gives Summerfest the long-term assurance it sought before moving ahead with a large-scale renovation totaling up to \$20 million on 20 acres at the south end of the lakefront festival grounds. As part of the extension agreement, the city will collect a six-figure fee from Summerfest

for the police and fire services provided for the 11-day festival. The 4th Aldermanic District includes the Maier Festival Grounds.

Milwaukee World Festivals, Inc. will add that fee to the annual rent it pays the city — roughly \$1.2 million in 2009 and increasing 3% annually.

The lease extension sets up a transition for Summerfest to host more events, Alderman Bauman said. “We look forward to the eventual large-scale upgrade and renovation at the south end, which will allow Summerfest to host events and attractions throughout the year,” he said.

Helpful Tips

Apply for 2010 Summer Youth Internships

Alderman Bauman has been a strong supporter of the city's Earn & Learn youth employment initiative, and he said applications are now being accepted for the program's city government summer youth internships.

To qualify for a paid city government summer youth internship, applicants must be 16 to 19 years old, and must live within the community development block grant boundary. Individuals who have previously held a city government internship are NOT eligible to apply for another internship.

Applicants selected for city government internships will work for 20 hours per week for eight weeks, beginning June 21, 2010. Please use the online application system at www.mkedcd.org/SYIP. The application deadline is March 5, 2010.

Applications will also be taken beginning in late March or early April for job slots administered by the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board. Youth can sign up on the Earn & Learn website, www.mkedcd.org/EarnLearn to be notified when the application process is underway.

United Negro College Fund



Alderman Bauman joined (from left) Aldermen Nik Kovac, Ashanti Hamilton, Willie C. Wade and Michael J. Murphy at the kickoff for the **United Negro College Fund's Walk for Education event at City Hall**. The event celebrated its **25th year in 2009** and the walk helps support the UNCF. "The United Negro College Fund is critically important in Milwaukee because we have one of the highest percentages of families at or below the poverty line, but we cannot let that keep students from dreaming of going to college," Alderman Bauman said. "The UNCF can help make those dreams come true."

Granite Paver Sale a Success



Thanks in large part to legislation sponsored by Alderman Bauman, the City of Milwaukee held a successful sale of surplus granite paving bricks (pavers) last July.

The first-ever sale of "Milwaukee Pavers" – great for patios, walks and landscaping projects – attracted more than 30 buyers to the Department of Public Works' field headquarters facility at 3850 N. 35th St. Nearly 8,000 bricks – each weighing 15-35 pounds and priced at \$1 – were sold to city residents only.

Alderman Bauman, chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, drafted legislation directing DPW to salvage pavers when streets are reconstructed.

"I am glad so many residents seemed to agree that these pavers have an aesthetic and environmental value and that the sale was a success," he said.

Household Hazardous Waste

Safely dispose of pesticides, paint, solvents and other potentially harmful chemicals by taking items to the appropriate collection site. And, it's free to City of Milwaukee residents. Please do not put hazardous waste in the garbage or recycling container. Take the items to one of three facilities designed to properly collect and dispose of hazardous waste.

Milwaukee

City of Milwaukee Self Help Station

3879 W. Lincoln Ave.

Hours: Friday and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Menomonee Falls

Veolia Environmental Services

W124 N9451 Boundary Road (124th St.)

Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Franklin

Veolia Environmental Services

10518 S. 124th St.

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More information at: www.milwaukee.gov/hazardouswaste

City Continues to Fight Foreclosures

As chair of the Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes, Alderman Bauman has been very active in trying to find real solutions to help stem the tide of foreclosures, which can have substantial negative long-term effects on city neighborhoods.

If you or someone you know is facing foreclosure, the most important thing to do is to **contact a certified foreclosure counselor as soon as possible**. The earlier in the process this is done, the more options are available to them. Go to www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org or call **(414) 286-5610** to contact a certified foreclosure counselor. All of the counselors on the website provide this service **free of charge** and people should be wary of anyone who charges a fee, as foreclosure rescue scams are on the rise.

On the other side of the foreclosure “pipeline,” the city’s Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP) continue to accept applications from individuals who are purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed homes. Three programs are being offered: Homebuyer Assistance, Rental Rehabilitation and Buy-in-Your-Neighborhood.

To get more details on these programs, please contact **286-5610** or go to: www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org

In mid-January the city learned it will receive \$25 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, in addition to the \$9.1 million the city received in 2009. This infusion of federal stimulus funds will enable the city to substantially expand its programs aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of the foreclosure crisis.

Wisconsin Fresh Start Youthbuild Program



Alderman Bauman joined Mayor Barrett, Mac Weddle of Northcott Neighborhood House and others during an event last year announcing a **Wisconsin Fresh Start Youthbuild project** near N. 26th and W. Cherry Streets. Wisconsin Fresh Start is a highly successful **Department of Commerce initiative** helping at-risk youth turn their lives around using the construction of a housing unit as the method of hands-on instruction in job and life skills.

Winter Parking Rules in Place Until March 1

Although winter weather in Milwaukee sometimes lasts into April, the city’s winter parking regulations are in effect until March 1.

The most important thing motorists can do to avoid problems is to carefully read the parking signs on their block. It is the responsibility of anyone parking a vehicle to read and understand posted city parking regulations. If you need parking information, please call the city’s parking enforcement desk at 286-8350, or go to the pertinent city web page at www.milwaukee.gov/parkingregulations for details.

The single biggest problem during major snowstorms is parked and abandoned cars. The plows try to get as close to the curb as they can but those “snowbirds” get in the way and prevent them from completing the job. Alderman Bauman asks that you move your vehicles so plows can clear the streets curb to curb.

DPW Services Hotline Call 286-CITY (2489)

If you have a request relating to garbage collection, special pickups, potholes, malfunctioning streetlights, traffic lights, or plugged sewer basins, call 286-CITY (2489).

This one-stop number for citizens who need service or information from the Department of Public Works has more than 101 uses from reporting properties needing tree, brush removal, grass or weeds to be cut, to towing or water works problems. Call Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Plans also call for implementing a network database program that can record and track information and service requests. This will enable the city to better serve residents and assist in planning more efficient and effective public works programs and services.





Check out the city's website at:
www.milwaukee.gov

For Ald. Bauman's webpage and more info. on the 4th District go to:
www.milwaukee.gov/district4



Shovel Your Sidewalk. It's The Law



Remember that residential and commercial property owners and occupants are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow or ice within 24 hours after a storm. 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. **Note: the city does not plow alleys.**

If you have older or disabled neighbors who need help with snow shoveling – please help them out when you can. And make our city safer by shoveling out the fire hydrants near your home. Alderman Bauman says “adopting” a fire hydrant will ensure maximum visibility for firefighters in the event of an emergency.

City Hall, Room 205
 200 E. Wells Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53202

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Milwaukee's Riverwalk



Alderman Bauman joined Mayor Barrett and Common Council President Willie Hines during a special ceremony marking the **20th anniversary of the Milwaukee Riverwalk in June 2009 at the Mason Street landing.** Alderman Bauman said the Riverwalk has **helped spur economic development** by bringing a renewed focus on the river as a destination for residents, employees, and visitors alike, and by linking many of the city's major entertainment and recreational sites, creative public art, numerous retail stores, and fine dining establishments.



Milwaukee's Future:
 IT'S IN OUR HANDS
April 1, 2010 is Census Day!
 STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

- **It's quick and easy.** *The census form asks 10 simple questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. That's it.*
- **It's confidential.** *Census forms are confidential for 72 years and can't be shared with anyone - NOT the INS, IRS, FBI, landlords or creditors.*
- **It's important.** *Census data directly affects our representation and voice in government.*
- **It helps fund community services.** *The data will determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funds will be distributed to local governments each year – funding for education, public safety, housing, roads, public transportation and other community services.*



For more information visit:
www.milwaukee.gov/2010census