

3rd District Alderman



NIK KOVAC

SPRING 2010

Dear Residents,

From North Downtown to the East Side, from Brady Street to Riverwest, the 3rd District is a great place to live. Our neighborhoods are stable, our commercial streets are lively, and our parks and greenways are the best in the world.

Great neighborhoods deserve responsive representation. We deserve transparent, accountable decision-making; creative, long-term visions for a better city; and efficient, courteous handling of the "little things" like potholes, garbage pickup, and parking regulations – which don't feel so little when they're happening right outside your front door. Every day my office strives to bring your voice to City Hall.

Inside this newsletter are updates on the themes you most often ask me about – the issues most important to our city and neighborhoods: Economic Development, Social Justice, Your Tax Dollars, Public Safety, Environmental Sustainability, and UWM. Please keep asking questions about these vital topics. Thank you for caring so much about Milwaukee and for working so hard to make our neighborhoods better.

Let's continue building Milwaukee's future together,

Nik Kovac
3rd District Alderman

Have a great
summer!

Remember!

Town Hall Meetings
May 13, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Falcon Bowl - 801 E. Clarke St.

May 19, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Riverside High School
- 1615 E. Locust St.

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
COMMON COUNCIL

NIK KOVAC
ALDERMAN - 3RD DISTRICT

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MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

www.milwaukee.gov/district3

Economic Development

Milwaukee is a **hard working** city with great **buildings** and well maintained **public spaces**. At City Hall it is our job to set standards that will lead to developments we can all be proud of. As your alderman, I consistently encourage investments in our community that will create family supporting **jobs**, improve the **livability** of our neighborhoods, and raise the bar for environmental **sustainability**.

Most importantly, I have actively sought out **community input** in all of the zoning and licensing decisions your city government makes. This is, of course, a moral imperative because we live in a democracy. But it is also true that when 3rd District residents are given a chance to meaningfully review a project, that project will only improve.



Here are some examples of projects you have already made better:

- Cambridge Commons UWM dorm - green roof, graywater for lawn, setback from River Greenway
- Downer Ave. Streetscape - real bricks instead of stamped concrete, bigger tree borders, patio seating
- Latitude Apartments at Kenilworth and Farwell - fewer driveways, more parking, deeper window recesses
- Garden Park at Locust and Bremen - first ever City land sale RFP that specified amount of land which must be reserved for a publicly accessible farmers' market
- Cafe Corazón, Centro Cafe, and Alterra in Riverwest - locally owned, successful neighborhood plaza-like gathering places

By working together we can all help build development in our neighborhoods that will stand the test of time.



Here are some upcoming projects we still need your input on:

- Marcus Movie Theater and office building - Water and Knapp, Park East Corridor with probable TIF request
- North End Phase II, along river just downstream of Pleasant St., mixed income housing with WHEDA bonding and probable City loan request
- Restoration of the vacant Gallun Tannery on Water St. just upstream of the marsupial bridge, conversion to WHEDA-financed affordable housing with basement parking, surface parking, landscaped greenspace and Riverwalk.
- Brady Street Hotel at the old Boys and Girls Club between Warren and Arlington
- Mixed use redevelopment at the vacant Prospect Mall site on Prospect and Ivanhoe, demolition of mall, building of ground floor retail and five additional stories of WHEDA-financed affordable housing, below ground on-site parking and across the street surface parking
- Possible sale of City-owned parking lot at Farwell and Thomas, adjacent to the US Bank lot at North and Murray, to Mercy Housing for WHEDA-financed affordable housing. (This project is not being reviewed in the current WHEDA grant cycle, so most likely would not happen this year)
- A mixed use redevelopment of the East Side Library and parking lot at North and Cramer, similar to the Villard Square model under construction on the north side. This would mean a ground floor library with several stories of housing, office, or hotel above, underground parking below
- Street car route: current plans call for a line from The Brewery to the Intermodal Station, through downtown up to Brady Street.
- Downer Ave. hotel or apartment building
- UWM acquiring Columbia Hospital and other changes to the Kenwood Campus

Please contact me at 286-3447 or nkovac@milwaukee.gov if you have comments/questions about these development proposals.

Milwaukee Arts Board

MAB Artists of the Year

The Milwaukee Arts Board honored the two winners of the Artist of the Year award on March 29, 2010 with a reception held at the Grand Avenue Club. Pictured from left are MAB member Sandra McSweeney, Ald. Kovac, **photographer John Ruebartsch**, **metalsmith artist Yevgeniya Kaganovich**, Ald. Murphy, and MAB member Josie Osborne. Visit www.milwaukee.gov/district3 to learn about **IN:SITE**, an Arts Board project that promoted local artists and economic development in the Park East.





Fair Housing Anniversary Honors Vel Phillips

Ald. Kovac and colleagues honored Vel Phillips as they marked the **40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Law in Milwaukee**. Phillips, along with a grassroots coalition of civil rights activists, protested peacefully, marching for 200 nights in a row to achieve passage of the law on April 30, 1968.

Milwaukee has always been a **welcoming place** for new people and new ideas. We were once the most foreign city in the nation and today we are the most diverse city in the state. Whether campaigning for an eight hour work day, demanding public ownership of utilities, transit, and parks, or marching across the Father Groppi Unity bridge for open housing, we have never been afraid to fight for **justice, fairness, and good government**.

One of my first official acts as your alderman was to commemorate the 40th anniversary of this city's fair housing law. The entire Common Council joined me in sponsoring a proclamation honoring Vel Phillips, the first African American and the first woman to be elected to the Common Council, and the leader of those marches.

Despite that four-decade-old legislative victory, the **on the ground realities** have not yet reached the ideals of this great city. Our community is still too racially and economically segregated. What was once a campaign for civil rights has now become necessary demands for **social and economic rights**: for better schools, for affordable housing, for widespread employment, and for transportation networks connecting housing to jobs.

Recent city initiatives to change these realities:

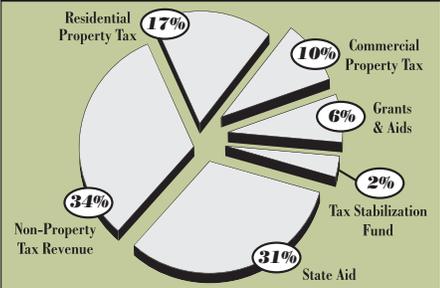
- The Milwaukee Opportunities for Restoring Employment (MORE) Ordinance guarantees that private projects which receive major public subsidies will provide local hiring, job training, and competitive wages. The National League of Cities awarded Milwaukee its **Diversity Award for 2010** because of the MORE Ordinance.
- Expanded funding for the Earn and Learn Program - **summer jobs for teenagers**.
- \$30 million TIF investment in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor, to remediate land and prepare it for new businesses to move into inner city neighborhoods that need jobs. This investment was modeled on our success in the Menomonee Valley, with the goal of **restarting the engine of Milwaukee's manufacturing middle class**. Already we have signed a lease with the Spanish company Talgo to build high speed trains there. Those 150 jobs are a start, but we're hoping for thousands more in the coming decade.
- Technological upgrades, capital improvements, and better children's programming for the Milwaukee Public Library System.

Early on, a City Hall insider told me that the 2009 budget was "the worst budget ever, and the best one you will ever see." So far, that prediction is holding true. In 2009 I co-sponsored budget amendments to restore previous sworn strength levels for the police department, and to restore a 5th firefighter to 8 ladder trucks. I helped make that funding possible by introducing an **innovative funding strategy**: \$5 million of tax levy which funded our citywide tree pruning operations was shifted over to the stormwater fee. This fee was disproportionately absorbed by institutions and businesses with large parking lots, meaning that there was then more taxpayer money left to pay for essential services like public safety.

But then in 2010 the fiscal crisis was so deep that real cuts were necessary across the board, including the police and fire departments. Even in this extraordinarily challenging environment, I was still able to sponsor **budget amendments that gave us all more value for our taxes**.

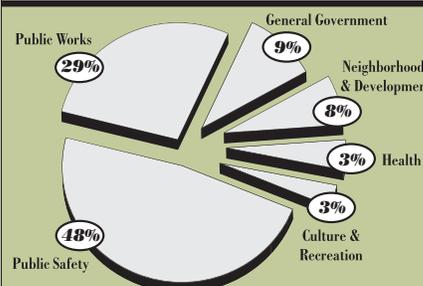
- Reduced Police Furloughs by Reducing the Employee Settlement Account
- Restored Children's Literacy Programs at branch libraries and hours at Central Library's Frank Zeidler Room
- Established City-Wide Scheduled Recycling Pickups during the non-winter months

2010 Budget Sources of City Revenue*



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

City Services Provided by this Revenue*



Public Safety (Police \$281 + Fire \$129)	\$ 410
Public Works	\$ 254
General Government	\$ 79
Neighborhoods & Development	\$ 68
Culture & Recreation	\$ 28
Health	\$ 23
* Total	(\$ IN MILLIONS) \$ 862

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

All indications are that the 2011 and 2012 budgets will be even tighter. Obviously we will need to continue to be creative at the city level, just as many families are at the household level. We also will need to plan for this **long-term reality**. I have partnered with Mayor Barrett, Comptroller Morics, and Finance Chair Murphy to create a **fiscal planning group** to do just that.

Environment

All of us in the 3rd District are profoundly lucky to live so close to so much of **the world's fresh water**. Not only does this resource essentially **sustain our bodies**, but the **parks and pathways** along its source, the Milwaukee River, and its basin, Lake Michigan, help **sustain our souls**. And those recreational opportunities and magnificent public spaces don't hurt **our property values**, either.

So Far

- Scheduled citywide recycling pickups during non-winter months - every 3 weeks if you live west of Oakland Ave., every 2 weeks if you live east
- Urban gardens on City-owned lots - their leases now can't be terminated until the end of the growing season
- Fewer restrictions for plantings on city-owned tree borders
- Legalized and licensed honey bees in your backyard
- A revolving loan fund for solar electricity and hot water improvements to your house

Upcoming

- The Milwaukee River Greenway Overlay Zoning, Stormwater and Tree Protection Ordinances will preserve the habitat integrity, environmental quality, and recreational experience of the world's greatest urban river valley
- Single Stream Recycling, so you won't have to sort paper and plastic and the city trucks can operate routes more efficiently
- Reconvene the "Green Team" and hire a new Sustainability Director
- A revolving loan fund for any and all energy efficient improvements made to your home, including insulation, windows, and furnaces
- A master plan for new bike lanes/paths and safe streets throughout Milwaukee

Recycle Relay

Ald. Kovac and colleagues helped launch the city's new "Recycle for Good" campaign during a relay race with recyclable products. The event, held in Red Arrow Park last summer, included teams of Common Council members and demonstrated the ease with which Milwaukee residents can make recycling a part of their everyday routine.

As part of the 2010 city budget, Ald. Kovac sponsored an amendment that increased recycling collection to once every three weeks for most city households in non-winter months (it's still every two weeks east of Oakland Ave.).



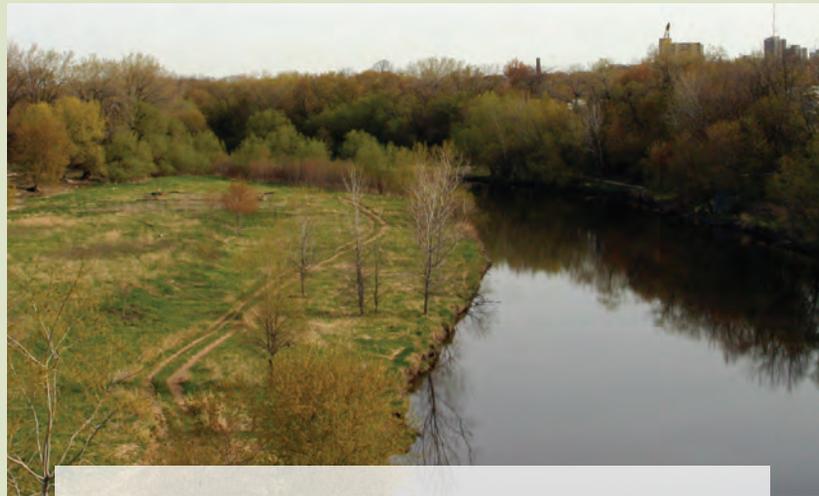
To get specific route details for your block, go to: www.milwaukeecycles.com or www.mpw.net/services/garbage_day



Community Gardens

Enjoy the camaraderie of working with neighbors, grow healthy, fresh food, and make your block even safer and more beautiful by bringing life to a community garden!

For more information visit: www.milwaukeeurbangardens.org or mkeurbanag.org or growingpower.org



What You Can Do To Help

You can save money, water and energy while helping protect Lake Michigan and our rivers. It starts with each drop of water. Reducing the amount of water we use cuts down on energy consumption and, in the case of leaky plumbing, wasted energy. Using less water when heavy rain is on the way can reduce the risk of basement backups and sewer overflows. We can all do a better job of managing the water that falls on our homes, yards, driveways and parking lots. When rain washes across the land, it picks up pollution along the way and gives it a ride to the nearest waterway in most cases.

Polluted runoff is the biggest remaining threat to water quality in the United States. There are many things you can do to reduce polluted runoff, such as:

- Use the Household Hazardous Waste Program
- Participate in the Medicine Collection Program
- Plant a rain garden
- Install a rain barrel
- Pick up pet waste
- Keep your car tuned up

Find out more at: www.mmsd.com



Safe Streets and Homes



A safe block is the cornerstone of thriving neighborhoods and a city that works. Block watches and neighborhood meetings are fundamental to crime prevention. Through my personal experiences at block clubs and behind the scenes at police meetings, I can testify that neighbors who organize around safety and communicate well are crucial in preventing crime.

My office can help link neighbors to a variety of city enforcement agencies – Police, Neighborhood Services, City Attorney – but those links are strongest when they are most direct. **Get to know your neighbors, and get to know the city employees who can help keep your neighborhood safe. A safe block is an alert and organized block.**

To improve safety and security in our community, the scope of solutions must also extend beyond issues of crime. We cannot ask the police to do everything. A safe city has plentiful jobs, good schools, and a rehabilitative system of criminal justice.

Here are some updates on actions being taken to make our community safer:

- Redistricting police borders to follow natural boundaries - in our case, the river
- Proactive, data-driven police deployments that prioritize beat patrols over response times to non-emergency calls
- Growth of neighborhood activism like the Central Riverwest Block Watch Organization and the 3DNA Public Safety Committee
- Deferred Prosecutions and Neighborhood Callouts are using national best practices to solve non-violent crime with community justice instead of prison
- The Justice 2000 Drivers License Recovery Program works to ensure that unpaid parking tickets do not lead to cycles of felonies and unemployment
- A new bicycle master plan and the traffic calming program are bringing bike lanes and speed bumps to a street near you

To get contact info and meeting schedules for your neighborhood association, along with a map of 3rd District neighborhoods, please visit www.milwaukee.gov/3NAmap.

"Our measure of success will not be the number of arrests. Our measure of success will not be the number of traffic citations issued. Our measure of success will not be our response time to non-emergency calls. Our measures of success will be the reduction of crime, fear and disorder in Milwaukee."

– Chief Flynn at his Swearing In Speech

Police District Contacts

District 1 (East of the Milwaukee River)

Direct Number 935-7213 • Non - Emergency Number 933-4444
Community Liaison Officer Peter Graber 935-7701 or 935-7212

District 5 (West of the Milwaukee River)

Direct Number 935-7252 • Non- Emergency Number 933-4444
CLO Raymond Robakowski 935-7258 (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
CLO Minisha Howard 935-7252 (noon to 8 p.m.)

Riverwest Bicycle Patrol Officers (Patrol hours 4 p.m. - 12 p.m.)
P.O. Steven Roufus and P.O. Philip Poulos 559-2651

Service Hotlines

DPW Hotline 286-CITY (2489)

Department of Public Works

Call to request services for garbage and recycling collection, potholes and street light outages, snow removal and sewer problems. Or submit a request online at:

www.milwaukee.gov/mpw/requests/services.htm

DNS Hotline 286-2268

Department of Neighborhood Services

Call to make a complaint about a building or house related problem. Or visit DNS online at: www.milwaukee.gov/dns

Parking

Parking in Milwaukee can be confusing and frustrating.

Avoid parking tickets by familiarizing yourself with parking regulations at www.milwaukee.gov/parking or call:

- Direct number 286-8350 • Overnight Parking 286-8300
- Violations Bureau (dispute a citation) 344-0840
- Email me at nkovac@milwaukee.gov if you would like to change the parking rules and signs on your block

Support Your Local Library!

Visit your library and utilize services including free computer access and its vast collection of books, CDs, DVDs and reference materials.

East Library • 1910 E. North Ave. • 286-3058

September-June Hours: Monday - Wednesday 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday CLOSED, Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July-August Hours: Monday 1 - 8 p.m., Tuesday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday CLOSED, Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Milwaukee's Great Street

3rd District Alderman

NIK KOVAC

www.milwaukee.gov/district3 | nkovac@milwaukee.gov



Photo Dave La Haye

Newberry Blvd. Recognized by American Planning Assoc.

East Newberry Blvd., the 12-block boulevard that connects Riverside Park with Lake Park, has been named **one of the nation's 10 "Great Streets" by the American Planning Association (APA)**. The designation singled out Newberry Blvd. as an iconic example of the boulevard planning concepts espoused by landscape architect **Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.**, who designed Lake, Washington and Riverside Parks in Milwaukee (and Central Park in New York City). Newberry was Milwaukee's second boulevard, designated in 1897. **The boulevard was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.**

"It is a true pleasure to walk, bike, or drive along Newberry Blvd., a tree lined string of grassy islands gracefully connecting two of the world's most scenic freshwater bluffs - Lake Park and Riverside Park (part of the Milwaukee River Greenway)," said Ald. Kovac. "I walked along the boulevard every day to and from Riverside High School and played football in the median when I was younger. The residents of Milwaukee's East Side, and everyone who lives along the Fresh Coast of America are lucky to have this tree-lined right of way connecting a source and basin for 20% of this planet's fresh water."

Learn more and listen to a WUWM radio interview with Ald. Kovac at: www.milwaukee.gov/district3

Town Hall Meetings

May 13, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Falcon Bowl - 801 E. Clarke St.

May 19, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Riverside High School - 1615 E. Locust St.

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

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UWM



Photo Dave La Haye

In the last decade, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has expanded its enrollment and recruited more out-of-city students. Overall, this is great news for the city. It helps us attract young, educated citizens who hopefully will find jobs, buy homes, and raise families in Milwaukee.

This change, however, has decreased owner-occupancy in some of the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the Kenwood campus. My office is currently teaming with neighborhood groups, the university administration, students, landlords, the police and other city agencies to reverse this trend and **preserve owner-occupancy and the family friendly nature of the East Side.**

Here are some of the programs we're working on:

- Police beat patrols on weekend evenings near campus, city overtime funded by UWM
- COAST and SAFE programs where students get paid by UWM to take the lead on safety, noise, and litter
- Walk to Work program to encourage UWM staff/faculty to live nearby
- Mandatory inspections of all rental units north of Newberry, to encourage landlords to provide safe, quality housing
- Once the Cambridge Commons dorm opens this fall, there will be nearly enough dorm beds for the entire freshman class
- The 3rd District Neighborhood Association (3DNA) has a Public Safety Committee to help coordinate all of these efforts with landlords and the city and a High Risk Drinking Committee to encourage students to learn early about the pleasures of moderation



FREE Landlord Training

Learn effective, professional property management practices and keep out illegal and destructive activity. The classes are generally either (1) five hour session in one day or (2) two and a half hour sessions for two nights. Attendees get a FREE 100 page comprehensive manual and handouts on a variety of legal and business issues related to managing a property.

For schedule information and details contact Jeanne Hagner at 286-2954 or visit: www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining

UWM is now pursuing further expansion plans of its graduate research programs in three fields: Water, Public Health, and Engineering. This has a great potential to launch UWM into the top-tier of universities, to **bring research dollars, product innovation, and family-supporting jobs into this city**, and to spread the campus density out toward downtown and the near south side in a way that will improve the livability and stability of our East Side neighborhoods.

To learn more about these expansion proposals and possible changes to the Kenwood campus, visit: www.uwm.edu/master_plan