

Michael Murphy

10th district alderman



City Hall • (414) 286-3763 • mmurph@milwaukee.gov • www.milwaukee.gov/district10

dear 10th district residents:

Spring brings with it the sense of promise. Given the past year, I'm sure that everyone is eager for a fresh start.

Looking back at 2008, it seems clear that the collapse of the credit markets because of sub-prime lending schemes has had a disastrous impact upon our country and city. Near record unemployment rates have hit all sectors—from automakers, to banks, to restaurants.

Our national political leaders from both sides of the aisle need to work together to stem the rising tide of dysfunction. Let's hope that they continue to work hard for the sake of our children's future.

Here at the local level, I continue to work closely with the Mayor in my capacity as Chairman of the city's Finance and Personnel Committee. In this newsletter, you will find a number of initiatives we have developed to combat the current foreclosure crisis. From sponsoring legislation to freeze elected officials' salaries to requiring lenders for foreclosed properties to maintain their property, I'm committed to finding common-sense solutions that help the average citizen.

Despite all of the bad news lately, you'll also see in this newsletter the many positive stories about our city and future. I'm grateful for the largest decrease in homicides in our city's history and the re-opening of the old 3rd District Police Station. In addition, I'm pleased to report the successes of the Housing Trust Fund and the expanded summer youth jobs initiative.

Although our current economic crisis is severe, it is important to remember that our nation has faced much greater challenges. I'm confident that the values we have gained from our history will guide us to a brighter future. The determination and sacrifice exemplified throughout the history of the United States of America will serve us well in the coming years.

As always, if you have any questions, problems or concerns with city government, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy

Michael J. Murphy
Alderman, 10th District



Earn And Learn Supported Again For 2009

This year, Ald. Murphy and the Common Council supported budget funding for the Earn & Learn Milwaukee Summer Youth Internship Program. The program will employ 170 young people in professional City of Milwaukee positions for 8 weeks. The program pays the students \$7.25 per hour and gives them the opportunity to learn more about the city. Key to the program is the number of career opportunities students may be exposed to and the practice in professionalism it provides.

The program is open to high school juniors or seniors, aged 16-19 with good school attendance and a letter of recommendation. Students must be residents of a Community Development Block Grant area and cannot have been placed in the program in previous years. The program runs from June 22, 2009 to August 14, 2009.

"This program is an excellent example of the City of Milwaukee using its own resources to support not only the educational interests of our youth, but to also foster the growth and development of talent within our own community," Ald. Murphy said.

The program accepts new applications every summer and students are encouraged to apply early. Students or employers should go to www.mkedcd.org/syip to learn more.



Ald. Murphy (pictured here with organizers Pastor Tom Eggebrecht from Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and David Quam) spoke to the Common Ground organization, a group focused on Milwaukee's critical social issues. Common Ground played a key role in getting the Earn & Learn program expanded.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently approved the City of Milwaukee's plan for utilizing its \$9.2 million allocation of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds. Congress has directed that currently vacant and foreclosed properties are primary targets of the funding and homeowners currently at risk of foreclosure are ineligible for the funds.

The City will use its NSP funding to assist homeowners and investors who wish to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes, expand the city's stock of quality affordable housing, establish a land bank, and demolish abandoned and blighted properties. Strategic use of NSP funding is only one component of the city's response to the foreclosure problem and will complement initiatives to prevent future foreclosures and assist homeowners currently at-risk of losing their homes.

Please visit www.mkedcd.org/milwaukeestrong for more information on how homebuyers and investors interested in purchasing a foreclosed property can access these resources.

Milwaukee's Artists of the Year

The Milwaukee Arts Board awarded Artist of the Year honors to two local artists. C. Michael Wright, the producing artistic director for Milwaukee Chamber Theater is a 30-year acting veteran, director and producer. Since moving to Wisconsin in 1988, Mr. Wright has directed 60 productions, 12 of which have been named on "Best of" lists in Milwaukee and Madison.

Mr. Wright has also taught theater privately as well as at UW-Whitewater, Marquette University, Carroll College, First Stage Academy, Alverno College, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and Theater for a New Audience in New York.

Dinorah Marquez was also honored as Artist of the Year. Marquez is director of the Latino Arts Strings program, which is housed at the United Community Center on the south side. The program is one of 18 youth arts and humanities programs to receive the Coming Up Taller award that celebrates the creativity of young people and programs that provide them with new learning opportunities.

The Latino Arts Strings began in 2002 with 23 violins and violas and now numbers 120 students in grades 1 through 12 who play violin, viola, cello and bass guitar.

"I'm very excited that Milwaukee takes the time to honor such varied artistic endeavors in this way. The arts and humanities are an essential part of our community and I congratulate C. Michael Wright and Dinorah Marquez on the contribution they provide our city," Ald. Murphy said.



Ald. Murphy (pictured here with his daughter Maggie, Mayor Tom Barrett, Dinorah Marquez and C. Michael Wright) praised the artists for their contribution to Milwaukee.

Challenging Property Tax Assessments

Talk with the assessor. During this informal session you can learn how your assessment was made, what factors were considered, and what type of records are kept regarding your property. After this review, if you still think the assessment is incorrect, you can file an objection with the Assessor's Office. **Your objection must be written and filed on or before the third Monday in May (May 18).** Forms are available in the Assessor's Office. When you receive your tax bill in December, it is too late to file an objection. Paying your taxes under protest does not constitute an assessment objection unless you have first filed an appeal with the Board of Review.

If you received your assessment and believe it to be incorrect you can challenge it. Here is how:

- Go to www.milwaukee.gov/assessor
- Click on "Appeals and Assistance" in the left hand column and follow the instructions posted there.

Restaurant Health Code Display Ordinance



Sichanh and Banh Phongsavat, owners and operators of Mekong Café are among the many restaurants in the district who will be abiding by the new health code display rules.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department regularly inspects food establishments to ensure that they comply with Wisconsin Food Code standards. Each food inspector prepares a report based on what he or she sees at that time of the inspection and the report serves as a "snapshot" of the facility.

The City of Milwaukee has created an online system for viewing the inspection reports of food establishments and residents can go to www.milwaukee.gov/fi to find them.

This year, a new ordinance passed by the Common Council requires business owners to display their food inspection results and provide inspection contact information to consumers. Food inspectors will give

businesses a placard for display at the time of inspection.

Ald. Murphy, who spearheaded the ordinance, said, "I strongly believe that the consumer should have as much information as possible about the restaurants they frequent."

Milwaukee is the only city in southeast Wisconsin with a display ordinance in place.

While a large majority of restaurants are safe, recent food-borne illness outbreaks spark increased caution and awareness. "Residents should have clear knowledge of how their restaurant fared in its inspection; and restaurants should be challenged to keep a healthy and safe environment at all times," Ald. Murphy said.

Enderis Park and Martin Drive: Two of the District's Healthy Neighborhoods

The Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation is working with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to promote the Healthy Neighborhood initiative, a program spearheaded by Ald. Murphy. The approach focuses on a neighborhood's positive attributes and works to engage neighbors and homeowners to invest in their neighborhoods and position them as good places to live. The 10th District has two recognized Healthy Neighborhoods: The Martin Drive neighborhood and Enderis Park.

The Martin Drive neighborhood association has a number of worthy community projects that make use of the funds provided by the Healthy Neighborhoods program. They have also developed a summer farmer's market at the senior center. The farmers who contribute vegetables and goods to the market are local to the neighborhood and the market has brought residents out to socialize on Sundays in summer. This year, the lot at 46th St. and



The Enderis Park Neighborhood Association offered prizes to the Best Darn Exteriors Ever. Pictured is a home before and after the competitive makeover.

Vliet St., formerly maintained by the Department of Transportation, will become a community garden cultivated by neighbors and designed to get the young people of the area involved in urban gardening. Organizer Pat Mueller also hopes that the garden will yield produce for the neighborhood farmer's market.

Enderis Park has found creative ways to participate in the Healthy Neighborhoods initiative. Last year's "Best Darn Exterior Ever" competition offered prizes



to homeowners who made improvements to either the landscaping or exterior of their homes. Prizes went to the most significant before and after changes in both categories and more than 50 neighbors participated. A new project, the "Enderis Stimulus Package," continues the landscape and exterior campaign by targeting the north end of the neighborhood with matching funds. This year, neighborhood organizer Bruce Cameron is coordinating a project where the group is using \$2,000 in city funds to encourage neighbors

that live on an alley to maintain the alley spaces in exchange for the installation of a free solar-powered motion detector light on their garage. The project is expected to encourage a greater sense of community and make the alley spaces more functional for residents.

Each Healthy Neighborhood designs its own program to promote itself, engaging residents around positive actions such as involving neighbors, promoting the neighborhood as a good place to live, improving neighborhood appearance and encouraging homeowners to buy in the neighborhood.

Besides the designated Healthy Neighborhoods, funding for small block improvement projects is available to other select neighborhoods in the city that are not located in the Community Development Block Grant area. Contact David Weber of NIDC at **286-5626** if your neighborhood is interested in participating.

Water Industry Internship Program

Ald. Murphy introduced an item in the Water Works' 2009 proposed budget that created an internship program for college undergraduate and graduate level students. The program is in the early stages of development but is envisioned as a partnership among government, academia and the private sector designed to give future water professionals valuable, hands-on experience in the three major sectors of the water industry.

"We are on track to potentially leverage the City of Milwaukee's investment in this training program 10 to 1," Ald. Murphy said. "Milwaukee is and should be distinguished as a hub in the freshwater industry. As our environmental future continues to rest on research and development surrounding water, educating young professionals in this field right here where it's happening is essential."

The proposed internships could have students moving, over the course of a year, from positions at the Milwaukee Water Works, Badger Meter, Inc. and the Great Lakes WATER Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"One of Milwaukee's greatest strengths is the intellectual capacity of our universities and this program showcases that strength," Ald. Murphy said. "Combining that with the practical experience these internships can offer, Milwaukee's water industry can be supported by its own, home-grown talent."

West Side Plan

The Department of City Development and I need you! As part of its city-wide planning mission, DCD is seeking input on improvements for the West Side. One way to participate is by answering survey questions about your neighborhood. The survey is a fun interactive way of finding out what people think about the urban environment. Taking the survey is a way to give city planners your thoughts about what works and what doesn't. Results from the survey will form the basis for development policies and strategies in the West Side Plan. The Community Survey is online at the DCD website: www.mkedcd.org/planning/Plans/west. The Community Survey asks questions about the neighborhood and the larger plan area.

Additionally, planners will be meeting with residents to offer another opportunity for input throughout the spring. Meetings in our district are as follows:

Tuesday, May 12 • 6-7:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Hospital, M-101 Kleiger Auditorium - 5000 W. Chambers St.

Wednesday, May 13 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Pius XI High School Library (enter from parking lot) - 135 N. 76th St.

Thursday, May 21 • 6-7:30 p.m.

Humane Society, Learning Center 1 - 4500 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Old Police Station Sees New Life

The Milwaukee Police Department's new Neighborhood Task Force moved into the former District Three Police Station at 4715 W. Vliet St. and began officially operating out of that facility on February 9 of this year.

Ald. Murphy said, "The task force operating out of our west side facility will help bolster a police presence in this community. Vliet St. is seeing a revitalization and with more commerce and development, bringing the Milwaukee Police Department back into this neighborhood is a valuable move."

Ald. Murphy, who supported a \$200,000 amendment in the 2008 city budget to help bring policing back to the vacant former District Three Station, said that the increased presence of police officers in the area will benefit public safety in the Martin Drive, Washington Park and Washington Heights neighborhoods.

The police department funded many of the building's renovations with asset forfeiture dollars. These dollars come into the department as a result of tangible property or cash seized from drug trafficking investigations. The building's renovations included more than \$400,000 of asset forfeiture funds. "Chief

Flynn's creative use of these dollars essentially means that drug dealers are funding a larger police presence in this neighborhood. That's fitting," Ald. Murphy said.

"I believe the greater visibility and police presence will have a positive effect on this area and the surrounding neighborhoods, and I would eventually like to see the Fire and Police Commission move to the old 3rd District station so that the community feels it is more accessible and better connected to residents," Ald. Murphy said.

The Neighborhood Task Force is a new initiative brought to life by Chief Flynn. Incorporating the goals of the one-time summer Neighborhood Safety Initiative, officers have been drawn from various special divisions within the city to create a specialized policing unit over 200 officers strong. The unit's goal is to provide increased presence in targeted "hot spots" in the city. Though "The Rock" police station on Vliet will house the officers, who will be coming and going frequently as they work two daily shifts from the facility, it is not open to the public. Residents are encouraged to take policing matters to the 3rd District headquarters on Lisbon Ave.



Ald. Murphy joined Police Chief Flynn, Mayor Barrett and Martin Drive Neighborhood Association representative Pat Mueller at the rededication ceremony for the Old Third District Police Station.

Housing Trust Fund In Its Second Year



The McAuley Apartments, run by St. Catherine's, were built using Housing Trust Fund dollars to provide additional affordable housing within the City of Milwaukee.

This year, the St. Catherine residence, a supportive housing facility for women, was a beneficiary of Housing Trust Fund support. The mission of the residence is to ensure safe, affordable and supportive housing to women with limited income. The program seeks to support women who have diverse talents and needs and provides opportunities for them to aspire to maximize their personal growth and employment opportunities.

The residence offers dining centers, fitness centers and staff support to help create an enriching living environment for women on the road to personal development.

"St. Catherine's has been a stable and important force for change in our community and the Housing Trust Fund's sponsorship of their apartment project is a great example of what this fund can nurture in our city," Ald. Murphy said.

Ald. Murphy, chair of the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board, approved a near million-dollar grant for nine projects that will create 133 units of affordable housing for low-income, disabled and homeless Milwaukee residents.

Murphy says he is proud of the Common Council's efforts to improve the lives of underprivileged citizens, which will also result in a boost to the economy in the city of Milwaukee.

"The Common Council approves many kinds of good development projects, but it again stepped up and approved Housing Trust Fund dollars that will help residents who have critical housing needs, and at the same time will bring jobs and badly-needed economic development in a very difficult climate," Ald. Murphy said.

The nine projects include rehab and turnkey renovations, construction of rental units for low-income families, rental housing for low-income, a new residential substance abuse treatment facility for men and energy improvements.

Ald. Murphy says he is certain this grant is moving Milwaukee in the right direction in not only providing much needed housing resources but also in providing needed jobs.

Economic Development

Ald. Murphy is proud of the many businesses that have opened, redesigned, or remodeled themselves in District 10.

Mekong Café

The Mekong Café is a Vietnamese, Laotian and Thai restaurant that opened in March 2008 at 5930 W. North Ave. Situated on the border between Milwaukee and Wauwatosa, the restaurant is popular among members of the district. The Café owners chose District 10 for their business specifically to add to the west side of Milwaukee's dining diversity. Among the restaurant's specialties are the Meatball Combination Delight and the house-made green curry sauce.

Cold Spoons Gelato

Sandy Murphy and Brett Swinder opened their new gelato shop, located at 5924 W. Vliet St., in September 2008. The shop serves 24 flavors of gelato, an Italian ice cream product made with whole milk, so it has less fat than custard. The shop also serves sorbetto, a dairy free version of the summer treat.

The owners were pleased to locate the shop in the Vliet St. area because the revitalization of the neighborhood and the nature of the loyal residents drew them in. "We've seen other businesses start here and begin to put down some real roots and we decided to be a part of that," Sandy Murphy said.

Murphy and Swinder also run the Highlands Cafe just around the corner in Wauwatosa. Ald. Murphy said, "I am especially excited about this new addition to the Vliet St. area. They add a great product and solid, local experience to the district."

Cold Spoons Gelato closes at 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 8:00 p.m. on Sundays. (Sandy, by the way, is not related to the alderman.)

The Bruce Company

The Bruce Company of Wisconsin, a Middleton-based full-service landscaping firm, moved into District 10 with its new office/training facility at 520 S. 92nd St. The company is planning an expansion to enhance its services throughout the metro Milwaukee area and selected the 5.85 acre site for the construction of a "green" building designed by Quorum Architects, Milwaukee. The building, which was constructed by Ogden & Company, has exterior finishes that use local recycled materials and a rain garden to control storm runoff.



The Bruce Company broke ground on its new facility last fall. Ald. Murphy is pictured here with Lee Bruce, Bliss Nicholson and Jeff Joutras, representatives of the collaboration between the Bruce Company, Quorum Architects and Ogden & Company who are spearheading the "green" building project.

"We are pleased to have such a strong partnership with Ogden, Quorum and The Bruce Company," Ald. Murphy said. The building was completed in December.

Tazza Pizzeria

Owner and operator of Tazza Pizzeria, Matt Bohlmann, has successfully incorporated his business design into the long cultivated charm of Vliet St. Selling calzones, create-your-own pizzas and red table wine, Bohlmann has transformed the former coffee shop into an eatery that caters to post-game crowds coming from Wick Field and families looking for a great meal with the kids.

Bohlmann, a long-time resident of the Washington Heights neighborhood, was charged with keeping the iconic cup and saucer on the exterior of the restaurant and for him it was no problem: now, clients are encouraged to eat "Pizza at the Cup."

Tazza Pizzeria is but one of the many new businesses and eateries that are enlivening the Vliet St. area in our district. "Patronizing our local businesses and the cooperation between business owners and residents to keep the neighborhoods in the 10th District thriving are keys to our area's success," Ald. Murphy said.



St. Joseph's Hospital Celebrates 130 Years

Wheaton Franciscan Health Care – St. Joseph's Hospital – is an integral part of District 10. Known for years as "The Baby Hospital," St. Joe's has been in the Milwaukee community since 1879 and offers extensive and recognized programs in heart and cancer care, emergency care, physical, occupational and speech therapies and more. They also support a Level III neonatal intensive care unit to offer the smallest patients the greatest level of care.

"Often we forget that we have such notable, high quality agencies in our backyard. This is a testament to how smoothly St. Joseph's runs and what a good neighbor the facility is to District 10," Ald. Murphy said.

St. Joseph's, a major employer for Milwaukee, was recently recognized in an annual 100 Top U.S. Hospitals National Benchmarks Study and is one of only 23 hospitals in the nation demonstrating highest rates of performance improvement.

I-94 Zoo Interchange Developments

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is currently undertaking an environmental and engineering analysis of the Zoo Interchange. The Zoo Interchange is one of Wisconsin's oldest interstate interchanges and is currently the busiest interchange in the state. Although WisDOT has performed regular maintenance on the interchange, it is nearing the end of its useful life.

The Zoo Interchange Team is conducting environmental and engineering work now through the end of 2009. This study phase includes developing alternatives to improve the corridor, evaluating impacts of those alternatives, preparing a document that addresses environmental concerns, and selecting a preferred alternative.

Nearly 500 people attended the May 2008 public information meetings and provided valuable input and ideas on the alternatives. Officials and the public also further evaluated the seven initial alternatives for traffic operations and impacts to local and environmental features.

The traffic analysis concluded that spot improvements alone would not adequately address congestion and safety issues in the Zoo Interchange corridor. The spot improvement alternatives also did not address the outdated design issues including left hand exit and entrance ramps. The "modernization alternatives" feature a multi-level system interchange with right side exits and entrances. This design reduces weaving maneuvers and provides safer operations.

Approximately 380 people attended the two October information meetings to review the alternatives and ask the project team questions about the alternatives, potential impacts and project schedule. The refined modernization alternatives include options both with and without capacity expansion (lanes). The engineering phase continues through the year and planners will draft final project plans in 2010.

Residents with questions or concerns about the interchange should contact the state department of transportation and its representatives. Ultimately, any decision about the shape of the Zoo Interchange is up to our state legislators and representatives.

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State Elected Officials

State Senator Sullivan:
(608) 266-2512, (866) 817-6061 or Sen.Sullivan@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Cullen:
(608) 267-9836, (888) 534-0013 or Rep.Cullen@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Vukmir:
(608) 266-9180 or Rep.Vukmir@legis.wisconsin.gov

To learn more, visit www.seffreeways.org for information and links to all freeway projects in southeast Wisconsin.

Juneau High School Reopening

Milwaukee Public Schools continue to re-evaluate the success of their programs like the small high school program. One shift is the relocating of two school programs to the currently vacant Juneau High School building. This year, Marshall Montessori International Baccalaureate High School and Community High School will be moving their

programs into the Juneau facility as MPS realigns its strategies and facilities. For more information on future changes in Juneau High School and how it will be put to use, contact either Milwaukee Public Schools at (414) 475-8393 or Milwaukee School Board President Peter Blewett at (414) 475-8284.

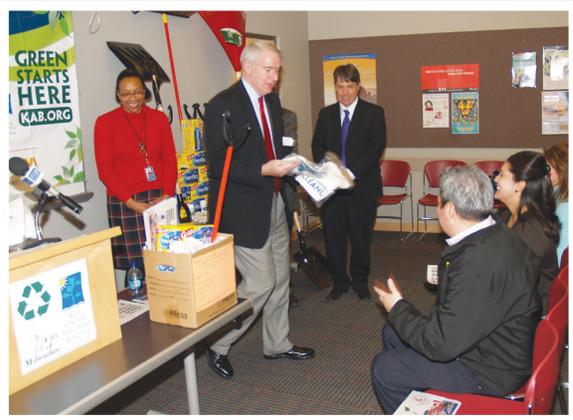
Spring into Action

This year's "Spring into Action" program launched on March 16 at the Washington Park Library as Mayor Barrett, Ald. Murphy and others kicked off the community effort to keep our city clean. Spring thaw reveals trash and debris formerly hidden by snow. The "Spring into Action" project is designed to encourage residents to share in the effort.

The Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) also has a variety of code enforcement procedures for residents and neighbors who allow litter problems to escalate. A "three strikes ordinance" penalizes properties with continuing nuisance litter violations and institutes a fee structure for the violations.

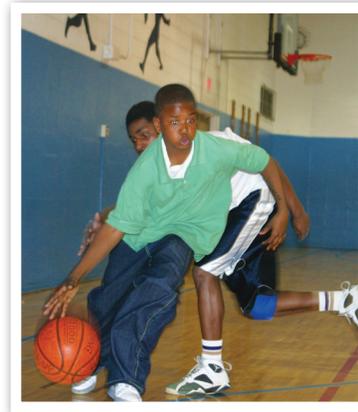
"Milwaukee is a city of neighborhoods and tight-knit communities. We take pride in keeping our neighborhood clean, but we need the public's help. The "Spring into Action" event was a great way to support residents who are doing their part and inform residents of what services the city can provide," Ald. Murphy said.

For more information on the Department of Public Works' offerings regarding neighborhood cleanups or sanitation services, call **286-CITY(2489)**.



Ald. Murphy joined Mayor Barrett at the launch of this year's spring clean up event, Spring into Action. The event was held at the Washington Park Library.

Safe & Sound at St. Catherine's



St. Catherine's Parish received a generous \$10,000 grant from Safe & Sound last summer that allowed hundreds of youngsters to continue to play basketball and take part in educational activities here on the city's west side. The Catholic parish started offering organized basketball in its gym in the fall of 2007. A door-to-door campaign to draw neighbors to the church revealed that many people were concerned about the neighborhood, especially about the lack of gym space and organized activities for what is a high concentration of youths in the area.

There are no Boys & Girls Clubs or YMCAs in the immediate neighborhood and St. Catherine's was an ideal location for Safe & Sound. The mission of the program is to reduce crime and violence in Milwaukee.

The Betty Brinn Foundation is a sponsor of the program. "I'm grateful to Safe & Sound for the grant. Through their work with the Betty Brinn Foundation and St. Catherine's, we are keeping kids active and out of trouble," Ald. Murphy said.

The program relied heavily on the help of volunteers. Program volunteers, working in two hour increments, filled over 200 time slots during the nine weeks of the summer program.

Hank Aaron State Trail To Be Extended

As the I-94 Zoo Interchange reconstruction process continues, Ald. Murphy and Senator Jim Sullivan are working to extend the Hank Aaron trail as part of the project. Ald. Murphy said, "It just makes sense to plan ahead to provide for alternate means of transport and options for recreation."

Ald. Murphy, who has worked closely with the state Department of Natural Resources and citizens for years to nurture the trail's development, said five miles of the abandoned railroad corridor have been added in recent years to extend the

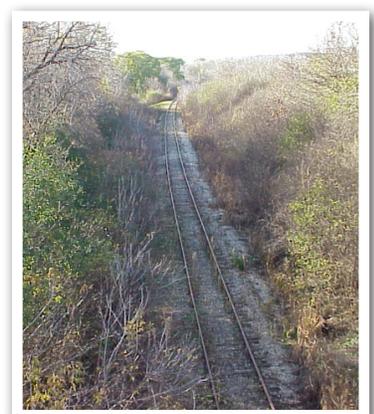
trail to the west. In addition to the eastern portion of the trail—which links Miller Park to the lakefront—the trail now runs west from Miller Park through the Historical National Soldiers' Home and State Fair Park to Underwood Creek Parkway.

"The Hank Aaron State Trail is not only a great recreational resource and public amenity, but as more people use bicycles as a primary mode of transportation it will also become a vital link for many commuters going to and from downtown and the Menomonee Valley," Sen. Sullivan said.

"We envision the trail will eventually end within two miles of Waukesha County's New Berlin Trail that connects to the Glacial Drumlin State Trail," Ald. Murphy said.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Hank Aaron State Trail 5K run/walk event. The race is Saturday, August 8th and those interested in joining the event can register for the original fee of \$15.

More information can be found at www.hankaaronstatetrail.org – the Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail website.



The Hank Aaron State Trail corridor connects all the way to State Fair Park.

Michael Murphy

10th district alderman

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Ald. Murphy joined Sherman Park residents as they celebrate the removal of a nuisance property at 51st and Burleigh St. The group worked with the Department of Neighborhood Services and the City Attorney's office to have a defunct gas station, which became a central location for loitering, noise and other problems, torn down.

Alderman Murphy

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Collaborations With UWM's Chancellor Carlos Santiago



Ald. Murphy worked with UWM's Chancellor Carlos Santiago on fresh water issues and education. The many collaborations with UWM include the new Fresh Water Institute and a series of water-related educational opportunities for college students. Read more inside on the new water industry internship program.

Maintaining Abandoned Properties

This winter, Ald. Murphy proposed and helped pass an ordinance that requires mortgage companies and banks to maintain the foreclosed properties they obtain. Often, when a property has been foreclosed, residents leave the property abandoned and regular maintenance is ignored.

In addition to becoming a target for crime, abandoned properties reduce property values in the area, become infested with vermin, have a higher risk of fire and pose other threats to the health, welfare and safety of the public.

This ordinance requires parties with a mortgage lien interest in the residential property to inspect the property once foreclosure has begun. If it is determined that the property is abandoned, the ordinance requires registration of the property with the commissioner of the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS).

The City of Milwaukee then regulates the regular maintenance of the property and imposes a fine structure on the mortgage or banking companies that neglect their responsibilities to the property and the neighborhood.

"The City of Milwaukee is working very hard to weather the foreclosure crisis by providing a variety of resources to residents. One service we can also provide is to make banks responsible for the properties they hold and help keep property values in our neighborhoods intact," Ald. Murphy says.

Other resources are available to residents facing foreclosure, including a number of approved agencies to help with credit counseling and mortgage information help. Go to www.mkedcd.org/milwaukeestrong for more information.



Simply call 211 to get help with life.

To call using a cell phone, dial 414-773-0211 or on a pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380.