



Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County *FORWARD* Together



THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

February 2016



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

P: (414) 278-4267

F: (414) 223-1380

steve.taylor@milwaukeecountywi.gov

www.county.milwaukee.gov/
Taylor

COUNTY ASSIGNMENTS:

Board of Supervisors,
2nd Vice-Chairman

Economic & Community
Development -- Chairman

Parks, Energy & Environment

Transportation, Public Works
and Transit

Milwaukee County
Commission on Aging

Milwaukee Child Welfare
Partnership Council

Dear Friends,

We are a little over a month away from spring and, although we have less snow and it hasn't been as cold as recent winters, I am very much looking forward to warmer weather.

Currently, there are a number of controversial issues surrounding Milwaukee County government. The political "silly season" is fully underway, but I refuse to use this newsletter as a political tool. In this issue, you will find two articles where my positions and opinions are very clear. Please feel free to contact my office if you would like to discuss these issues further.



Supervisor Taylor speaks at the February 4th County Board meeting.

As I have said in the past and will say again: it is an honor to serve you, and, together, with your help, I am certain that we can *Move Milwaukee County Forward*.

All My Best,

SOUTH SUBURBAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Continuing with his annual tradition, Supervisor Taylor attended the South Suburban Chamber of Commerce's annual awards dinner on February 3rd. Oak Creek's Black Bear Bottling, Inc. was the proud winner of the 2015 Business of the Year.

Black Bear Bottling moved its headquarters to Oak Creek in 2001 and has since experienced rapid growth in production and annual output. Their factory has the ability to produce over 20,000 cases of bottles per day for recognized beverage brands, such as Point Brewing, Lakefront Brewing, PepsiCo and Sunny Delight.

Black Bear has also played an important role in the local community since their move to Oak Creek. They are proud supporters of Kiwanis, National Night Out, Oak Creek Little League and a number of local events. Black Bear also generously awards its Claire Baie Black Bear scholarship to a deserving high school student each year. Congratulations to Black Bear Bottling, a proud and growing member of the 9th District and Oak Creek business community.



Supervisor Taylor presents Black Bear Bottling with an honorary citation at the South Suburban Chamber of Commerce annual awards dinner. From left to right: Oak Creek Ald. Chris Guzikowski, Supervisor Taylor, Oak Creek Mayor Stephen Scaffidi, Pete Caruso, Jr., Vince Caruso and Jim Akers

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The County Board met for its regularly scheduled meeting on February 4th. The most pertinent legislation considered included:

- Supervisor Taylor voted for a resolution that opposes the sale of any County parkland. The resolution also asks County Executive Chris Abele to seek the rezoning of 43 popular County parks that are currently not zoned as parkland and can therefore be sold unilaterally by the Executive without County Board approval. The resolution passed unanimously.
- Supervisor Taylor voted for a resolution that declares a state of emergency at the Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake youth detention facilities. The resolution also allocates \$500,000 from a contingency fund to seek alternative housing options for Milwaukee County youths incarcerated at the two facilities. This resolution also passed unanimously.
- Supervisor Taylor voted in favor of a resolution that approves the development of the final phase of the Avenir mixed-use development in downtown Milwaukee's Park East corridor. This resolution will allow the developers to begin work on several high-end apartment buildings within the next two months. This resolution passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will be held on Thursday, March 17th in Courthouse Room 200. To view the votes on all actions taken by the County Board and its committees, please visit the [Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center](#).

INSTABILITY AT THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING

Earlier this month, Supervisor Taylor criticized the culture of instability at the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, following the resignations of the Community Programs Coordinator and the Outreach Program Coordinator. These simultaneous resignations follow the County Board resolution sponsored by Supervisor Taylor that called for interim department director Jonette Arms to be named permanent director. Arms has been interim director since the retirement of former director Stephanie Sue Stein in June 2015, despite a unanimous vote of Commission on Aging members vowing their support for Arms' promotion to permanent director.

Supervisor Taylor supports Jonette Arms' promotion to permanent director status. He has concerns that County Executive Chris Abele's administration will combine the Department on Aging with the larger County Department of Health and Human Services, introducing more bureaucracy and artificial barriers to a department that seniors rely upon. Recently, Arms filed a racial discrimination complaint against the County Executive's office with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Equal Rights Division. Supervisor Taylor is calling upon the County Executive's administration to hire Arms permanently so she can fill vacant positions and repair the confidence of Milwaukee County seniors in the department that so many depend upon.

Kaiser, Lisa. "Exclusive: Another African American Worker Accuses Abele of Racial Discrimination." Shepard Express. 23 Feb. 2016. Web.

UPDATES ON ARENA SUBURBAN DEBT COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Wisconsin State Legislature has recently re-introduced a debt collection mechanism that would divert delinquent property tax payments to offset Milwaukee County's \$4 million per year contributions to the downtown arena. Since the City of Milwaukee has its own program for collecting delinquent property tax payments, residents of the other 18 Milwaukee County municipalities would be responsible for these contributions. This component was removed from the overall arena financing bill that was passed by Legislature in July. However, this plan was re-introduced this month. On February 18th, the State Assembly approved Assembly Bill 885, which would automatically subject suburban homeowners who are behind on their property tax payments by just 90 days to a 15 percent surcharge, and more aggressive collection tactics of the state, including wage garnishments, tax intercepts and liens. As of this writing, the Senate's version of the bill has not been scheduled for a vote.

Supervisor Taylor opposes this plan and is especially critical of County Executive Abele's condemnation of suburban homeowners in order to spare City of Milwaukee taxpayers. This bill was introduced without the input of the county's Comptroller, Treasurer and Clerk of Courts, the three elected officials charged with overseeing the county's debt. All three provided testimony in opposition to the bill at a recent Assembly committee hearing. As of June 2015, approximately 1,450 suburban properties would be affected by the plan, including over 300 in the three Ninth District communities. Supervisor Taylor questions why suburban taxpayers, some of whom may have temporarily fallen on hard times, should shoulder the entire burden of Milwaukee County's arena contribution.



Architectural renderings of the new downtown arena, along with ancillary development. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year. *Courtesy: Populous and Milwaukee Bucks.*

WEHR NATURE CENTER

Maple Sugar Days for Families

Saturday & Sunday, March 19th-20th
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the spring thaw and our Wisconsin heritage at Maple Sugar Days March. The program includes a short walk to the sugarbush, a visit to an old-time sugarin' camp, a boil-down demonstration and hands-on activities for children. A pancake with real maple syrup will top off your day. The guided hikes begin at 1:00 p.m. and will continue every 15 minutes until 4:00 p.m. Maple sugar treats and tapping equipment will be available for purchase.

\$6 per person, payable at the door
Children ages 2 & under are free
\$3 regular parking fee; parking FREE for Friends of Wehr members.



Please click [here](#) for the entire Milwaukee County Parks Event Calendar

Milwaukee County Free Days!

Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County residents ONLY with valid photo ID on the following days:



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

FREE the first Thursday of each month!

Free for all visitors. Visit mam.org for additional details.



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

"Thank You Thursdays" from 9 am-8 pm!

Free general admission to MPM on the first Thursday of each month. Visit mpm.edu for additional details.



2016 Free Days:
Feb. 6, Mar. 5, Oct. 8, Nov. 5,
Dec. 3

Special Holiday Free Days:
Thanksgiving, Christmas Day &
New Year's Day

Visit milwaukeezoo.org for additional details.



FREE on Mondays from 9 am-Noon!

Excludes major holidays. Visit milwaukeehomes.org for additional details.

BOERNER CORNER

Vermicomposting: How to Use the Versatile Red Worm

Thursday, March 10th
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Did you know that red worms have five pairs of hearts? Learn all about to make and maintain a home for this unique species of worms as they add important nutrients to the soil – a perfect natural fertilizer! The cost to register is \$10 per person for FBBG members and \$15 for the general public. Pre-registration is preferred. Call (414) 525-5653 to register or [click here](#).

Family Workshop: Make Your Own Fairy or Gnome Gardens

Saturday, March 12th
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Get over the winter blues by adding a little greenspace to your home! In this fun, hands-on workshop, you'll explore the whimsical side of gardening by using wide, shallow containers to create a fairy or gnome garden for your home. Use miniature plants and other tiny elements to give your garden a personal touch! All materials are provided, but participants are encouraged to bring any special items to personalize their gardens. The cost to register is \$20 for FBBG members and \$25 for the general public – the admission fee will cover up to five people. Pre-registration is required. Call (414) 525-5653 to register or [click here](#).

LIVING WITH URBAN COYOTES

Tuesday, March 15th
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Wehr Nature Center – 9701 W. College Ave.

Why are urban coyotes important? How can we prevent conflicts? What is effective management? Learn the answers to these questions and plenty of additional information about this emerging issue in Milwaukee County from Parks staff and researchers from the University of Wisconsin's Urban Candid Project. The research team will discuss coyote ecology, human-coyote conflict and behavior modification. No registration is required.