

# Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County FORWARD Together



March 2016

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR



## MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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### COUNTY ASSIGNMENTS:

Board of Supervisors,  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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,

I hope you enjoyed your earlier than normal Easter this year with your friends and loved ones. Although the calendar says that spring has arrived, I sometimes question its accuracy!

The County Board was busy this month considering a number of crucial issues before the end of the current term. I am proud to report that the Milwaukee County redistricting resolution that I sponsored was approved by the Board on March 17<sup>th</sup>. I believe that this reform is a win for County residents interested in open and transparent government because it removes politics and self-interest from the redistricting process. I will provide additional details about this important reform on page 3.

This is the final newsletter of my four-year term. I hope that you have found it to be informative and enjoyable. Even though the Board will become part-time after the April election and I will spend a great deal of my time in the private sector, my intention is still to produce these newsletters to the best of my abilities.



Supervisor Taylor speaks during the March 17<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting.

I have said this in the past and I will say it 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,

## HALES CORNERS POOL UPDATES

Summer is just around the corner and so is family fun at Hales Corners Pool. Renovations to the Hales Corners Pool and its bathhouse roof are scheduled to be completed just in time for the 2016 summer pool season. Roof replacement is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Construction of the pool liner is also underway and is scheduled to be completed by May 27<sup>th</sup>.

During the 2015 Milwaukee County budget deliberations, Supervisor Taylor sponsored a \$525,000 levy-neutral amendment that funded the construction. These renovations ensure that Hales Corners Pool will remain a destination for future generations of families.



## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The County Board met for its regularly scheduled meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The most pertinent legislation considered included:

- Supervisor Taylor voted in favor of a resolution authorizing the transfer of the O'Donnell Park parking structure from the County to the Milwaukee Art Museum. He supports this agreement because the County's future cost of replacing the parking structure would have placed additional stress on taxpayers. It was also unlikely that a private company would have agreed to purchase the structure after the County's agreement with Northwestern Mutual failed to pass the Board last year. The transfer agreement was approved, 13-4.
- Supervisor Taylor voted against a resolution authorizing a contribution agreement between the County and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. This agreement calls for the County to spend \$7.25 million on operating contributions and nearly \$10 million on the Marcus Center's capital needs over a 10-year period. However, it is anticipated that the County will transfer ownership of the Marcus Center to the Wisconsin Center District within several years. This means that County taxpayers will pay millions of dollars to improve a facility that they no longer own. The contribution agreement was approved, 16-1.
- Supervisor Taylor voted in favor of a resolution that allocates \$500,000 to install protective netting in the Mitchell Park Domes. This resolution also creates a task force that will recommend a comprehensive, long-term plan for the Domes. The resolution was approved, 16-1.
- Supervisor Taylor voted against a resolution authorizing the County Board to file a lawsuit against County Executive Chris Abele that would define the legal rights and authority of the Board. Supervisor Taylor believes that this resolution is a waste of taxpayer dollars. The resolution was approved, 14-3.

The next meeting of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will be the Board's Organizational Meeting, held on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. 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](#).

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY REDISTRICTING REFORM

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, a resolution and County ordinance change sponsored by Supervisor Taylor that alters the way that Milwaukee County draws its supervisory districts was approved by the County Board, 15-2. For decades, drawing updated County district maps was a responsibility of local politicians, who often had their own self-interests in mind. This is also an issue at both the state and federal levels of government. However, under Supervisor Taylor's reforms, the County's redistricting responsibilities will be transferred from the hands of politicians to an Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC). This committee will be composed of six retired judges, appointed by the County Board Chairman and confirmed by the County Board. A panel of community stakeholders from local universities and public interest and policy groups will provide input about the appointees prior to their confirmation.

The first Independent Redistricting Committee will meet following the 2020 federal census to draw district maps, which will then be in effect for the 2022 County Board elections. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) will provide technical assistance and map drafting services to the Independent Redistricting Committee. The IRC is required to hold at least four public meetings to solicit comments regarding its newly drawn maps, which will enhance the role of the public and community stakeholders in the redistricting process. Upon request, the IRC will also provide redistricting services to each of Milwaukee County's 19 individual municipalities for their respective aldermanic and village board districts.

Supervisor Taylor believes that this redistricting reform resolution and ordinance change is a win for Milwaukee County residents interested in transparent and open government. The reform is a collaborative effort, involving a variety of experts and interested parties from around Milwaukee County. The reform follows the redistricting efforts of a number of large, urban counties from across the United States and Supervisor Taylor hopes it encourages other local governments to reconsider their redistricting processes.

### ST. MARTINS ROAD UPDATE

Funding for the construction of the 1.74 mile stretch of West St. Martins Road in Franklin was approved in the 2016 County budget and is scheduled to begin later this spring. Phase One begins in May 2016 and will include the stretch of roadway from the intersection of Ryan Road to Southbrook Church, as well as the construction of a sidewalk. This phase is scheduled to conclude by August 26<sup>th</sup>, as to not interfere with St. Martins Fair on Labor Day. Phase Two will reconstruct the northern portion of the roadway between Southbrook Church and the intersection of South North Cape Road. The project is scheduled to be completed by November 18<sup>th</sup>. Following reconstruction, Milwaukee County will transfer jurisdiction of the road, as well as future maintenance responsibilities, to the City of Franklin. Supervisor Taylor appreciates the patience and understanding of the residents of St. Martins Road.

### MITCHELL PARK DOMES UPDATE

The County Board held a public meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> to solicit public input about the future of the Mitchell Park Domes. The overwhelming majority of attendees spoke in favor of repairing the Domes for future generations to enjoy. As a result, the Board voted to allocate \$500,000 to install protective netting on the Domes, which will allow the three domes to open later this year.

The County Board established a clear timeline for the Parks Department to open the three Domes: May 1 for the Show Dome, August 1 for the Tropical Dome and September 1 for the Arid Dome. However, if engineering experts identify safety concerns, any Dome in question will not be opened until potential public safety issues were resolved. A task force will then recommend a long-term, comprehensive plan for the Domes no later than September 2016 and then the County Board will subsequently take action on a permanent solution.

## WEHR NATURE CENTER

### Woodcock & Woodfrogs Walk

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Wehr Nature Center is one of the few spots in Milwaukee County to view the iconic “sky dance” of the American woodcock. After a short presentation about these unique shorebirds of the woods, head out on a sunset stroll to witness one of nature’s most spectacular scenes. While you wait for the woodcocks to kick off their night, listen for wood frogs and other ephemeral pond favorites. Then, it’s off to the prairie where woodcocks are establishing territories. They make squeaky “peent” calls and then explode up in flight before acrobatically tumbling back to the ground. Registration is required by Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. [Click here](#) for more information.

\$10 for non-County residents  
\$7 for County residents  
\$5 for Friends of Wehr  
Parking is \$3; free for Friends of Wehr

## BOERNER CORNER

### New & Exciting Plants for 2016

Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Join us for this two-part session on garden plant trends for 2016! Boerner horticulturists Jessica and Nick will introduce you to the latest plants you’ll want for the upcoming gardening season. Session One with Jessica will introduce you to 2016’s newest hot annuals and vegetables. Session Two with Nick will introduce 2016’s newest hot perennials and wood shrubs, vines and trees. [Click here](#) for pricing and to register today!

### Whimsical Wind Chimes

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Create a beautiful wind chime for your garden using vintage china, silverware, beads, glassware and more! Various wind chime styles will be demonstrated – then, let your creativity fly and create your own whimsical piece of garden art! A FBBG membership and a tote bag will be raffled at the end of the class. This event is \$20 for the general public, \$15 for FBBG members. [Click here](#) to register today.

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

### Cold-Hardy Cacti & Succulents for the Wisconsin Garden

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Have you ever been interested in growing cacti or succulents in your garden but you’re just too intimidated? Join members of the Southeast Wisconsin Cactus and Succulents Club as they teach you how to plant, handle and maintain a cold-hardy cacti and succulents garden that can withstand the harsh Wisconsin climate. A FBBG membership and a tote bag will be raffled at the end of the class. This event is \$20 for the general public, \$15 for FBBG members. [Click here](#) to register today.

### 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 milwaikedomes.org for additional details.