



Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County FORWARD Together



THE OFFICAL E-NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

May 2013



Dear Friends,

The governance of Milwaukee County has been well publicized since the beginning of this year, so I will not bore you by rehashing this subject matter in its entirety. I will however once again make my position very clear:

I work for 54,000-plus people of the 9th District whether you voted for me or not. A strong majority of residents have asked for reforms which I support and they will be getting them given recent developments on the State level. It was only after the State-proposed reform that the County Board finally decided to act. I had hoped that the Board reforms were genuine but based on recent Board actions I have no confidence that they would come to fruition.

My constituents also made it clear to me that they wanted infrastructure improvements to their roads, parks and pools. This is where my focus has been in my first year in office because over the previous five or six years these needs have been neglected.

This effort has paid off. Roads like 13th Street in Oak Creek and North Cape in Franklin have a reconstruction plan. The kiddie pool in Hales Corners will be open this summer and Bender Park in Oak Creek will finally have reliable accessibility for boaters and fishermen.

These projects can not be accomplished without building relationships. I have tried my best to bring a bipartisan approach to my position and avoid the divisiveness you see in Washington and Madison. To do this I have given some of my colleagues the benefit of the doubt even when I didn't agree with them politically. Unfortunately there have been times when this "nice guy" approach has blown up in my face. I have learned from my mistakes and while I will continue to be cordial with my colleagues, I will not be fooled again.

All My Best,

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Board of Supervisors,
2nd Vice-Chair

Economic & Community
Development

Health & Human
Needs

Intergovernmental
Relations

Milwaukee County
Commission on Aging

East Wisconsin Counties
Railroad Consortium

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD REFORM

The legislation to reform the Milwaukee County Board is steadily progressing through the Wisconsin State Legislature. The much needed changes to the way the County Board operates are part of Assembly Bill 85 that has been approved on April 17th and Senate Bill 95 which was approved on May 14th.

The reform bill contains provisions that cut the Milwaukee County Board Supervisors' pay in half to about \$24,000 a year, reduce the board's budget by two-thirds and restrict the board's authority over contracts, labor negotiations and land sales.



In light of the reform-driven action at the State level, a majority of Milwaukee County Board Supervisors proposed and adopted their own set of governance reforms. With the fate of the reforms at the State level uncertain at the time, Supervisor Taylor initially supported the reforms proposed by his colleagues. Although not as drastic, this set of reforms also included reduction in County Board pay, staff, and authority – changes which only a year ago would have been unimaginable.

However, in light of the developments involving the Chairwoman and members of the County's Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee - authorizing illegal negotiations with decertified labor unions - Supervisor Taylor felt that he could no longer trust his colleagues' claims to implement the changes they approved. It has become very clear that the only true reform of Milwaukee County government can and will take place in Madison.

Furthermore, given the recent revelation concerning clear violations of Act 10, Supervisor Taylor joined four of his colleagues in calling for Chairwoman Dimitrijevic's resignation. Although in a minority, this group of five Supervisors will continue to push that the Board elect a new Chairperson.

"With leadership comes responsibility and ultimately 'the buck stops' at that position; therefore I urge the Chairwoman to reconsider her actions, do what is right and step down," said Supervisor Taylor in a recent statement to the press.

[Please click here](#) to watch Supervisor Taylor's interview on WTMJ4 Wisconsin Tonight.



2013 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS

Boerner Botanical Gardens hosted a very successful Arbor Day Celebration event on Friday, April 26th. The celebration welcomed 3rd Grade students from Longfellow Elementary School who took part in tree-focused activities and helped plant three new trees.

Supervisor Taylor, County Executive Abele, and Interim Parks Director Jim Keegan welcomed guests with Garden Director Shirley Dommer Walczak and interacted with the kids, sharing memories of their great experiences through the years at Boerner.



Supervisor Taylor with County Executive Abele talking to students about the Boerner Botanical Center.

The Village of Hales Corners also celebrated Arbor Day, which included a [ceremonial planting of a Black Cherry tree](#) on the east bank of Cobb Park along Janesville Road.

As you may have read in the [last edition of "Privileged to Serve,"](#) Hales Corners once again received the "Tree City USA" designation from the Arbor Day Foundation. Supervisor Taylor presented Village Officials with a Certificate of Recognition from the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.



Supervisor Taylor presenting the Certificate of Recognition to Hales Corners Village President Robert Ruesch and Delene Hanson, Chairwoman of the Hales Corners Environmental Committee.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The following are highlights of the most pertinent legislation the Milwaukee County Board Considered in the April/May cycle (for all other legislation [please click here](#)):

- **16-2** (No: Alexander and Taylor) to establish an off-airport parking operator privilege fee at General Mitchell International Airport and enter into agreements with off-airport parking operators to establish fees for use of the Airport. Supervisor Taylor voted against the measure because introducing this fee is simply bad policy that stifles rather than stimulates economic development.
- **15-3** (No: Alexander, Taylor, Weishan) on a resolution to reform and define the roles and responsibilities of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors as the policy-making body and the administrative duties of the County Executive, as determined locally. Supervisor Taylor voted against this resolution as he felt that its provisions are not in the best interest of County residents.
- **14-4** (No: Alexander, Borkowski, Staskunas, Taylor) on a resolution opposing State Assembly Bill 85 and Senate Bill 95. Supervisor Taylor voted against this resolution as he is convinced that only true reform of Milwaukee County government can occur with the State Legislature in Madison.
- **16-2** (No: Taylor, Staskunas) on a resolution to transfer the control of the Milwaukee County House of Correction from the Sheriff to an appointed Superintendent. Supervisor Taylor voted against the resolution as he believes that the House of Correction has become more secure under the Sheriff's watch and safer for Franklin residents and neighboring communities.

HUNGER TASK FORCE FARM IN FRANKLIN GETS A BOOST FROM HARLEY-DAVIDSON

On May 1st the Harley-Davidson Foundation announced partnership with the Hunger Task Force to help this organization continue with its mission of feeding the hungry throughout Milwaukee County and Southeastern Wisconsin by investing in its farm. The partnership announcement was accompanied by a \$2.5 million donation over three years.

The farm was established in 1946 as a work farm to rehabilitate inmates serving time at the adjacent correctional facility. Inmates farmed daily, raised livestock, and maintained orchards and vegetable gardens. The farm was closed for a decade after a fire in 1980 but by the early 1990s the farm was revived and Hunger Task Force took control in 1994.

Currently, the farm distributes over 350,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables free of charge to local soup kitchens, homeless shelters and food pantries annually. In addition to that, the farm's fish hatchery currently holds 40,000 trout, bluegill, perch, and bass used to re-stock fish in ponds and lagoons throughout the county.

The farm also has a robust educational component, including free youth education classes as well as a job training program.

The Harley-Davidson Foundation will host a contest to name the farm, petitioning for suggestions on its [Facebook page](#) and other social media platforms.



Photo by Darren Hauck
Courtesy of Hunger Task Force

The fish hatchery facility at the Hunger Taskforce farm.

Still looking for more to do?!
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 every month
Free for all visitors. Visit www.mam.org
for additional information.



FREE on Mondays
Visit www.mpm.edu/visit/free-days/
for additional information.



FREE Days for 2013:
1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 11/2 & 12/7
Special Holidays:
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day
& New Year's Day
Visit www.milwaukeezoo.org



FREE on Mondays
from 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Excludes major holidays.
Visit www.milwaikedomes.org
for additional information.

BOERNER CORNER

Garden Walk with Melinda Myers

Join gardening expert, TV/radio host, author and columnist Melinda Myers for a garden walk! See what's blooming in the gardens and start a list of colorful spring beauties you'll want to add to your garden.

Bring a new walk participant and receive a free Annual Membership to the [Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens](#)! (Class size is limited. Walks held rain or shine)

Proceeds go to support Children's Plant Science & Environmental Education at Boerner Botanical Gardens

Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30PM
To register please call
414-525-5659
or email: mjeske@fbg.org

