



Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County FORWARD Together



THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

January 2015



**MILWAUKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Taylor

**COUNTY
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Board of Supervisors

2nd Vice-Chairman

Economic & Community
Development

Parks, Energy & Environment

Transportation, Public Works
and Transit

Milwaukee County
Commission on Aging

Dear Friends,

I hope your year is off to a great start and thankfully the weather has been much more tolerable compared to last year. The County Board ended 2014 with some positive results, but unfortunately it also had its share of difficulties.

On the positive side, the County Board voted to sell the Downtown Transit Center which allows a 44 - story development to move forward. On the other hand, the County Board failed to sell the O'Donnell Parking Garage to Northwestern Mutual. This decision has had a negative impact on Milwaukee County. Instead of having \$5 million to invest in our park system, County Taxpayers have been shouldered with almost \$7 million in deferred maintenance costs.



There is great potential for development downtown and this year the Board will have more opportunities to help create jobs, enhance economic development and increase our tax base. The key will be whether or not some of my colleagues will stand in their way or step aside and allow progress to occur. I am hoping that these future opportunities will be embraced instead of being rejected.

If you have any thoughts or concerns about matters facing the County in your municipality please feel free to contact my office. I continue to be honored to serve you and with your help we can continue to Move Milwaukee County Forward

All My Best,

THE COUTURE LAKEFRONT DEVELOPMENT

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors had the opportunity during the December Board meeting to move forward with a development agreement which would allow Barrett Visionary Development to purchase the Downtown Transit Center site located at 909 East Michigan Street.

The Couture Development is highlighted by a proposed 44-story multi-use tower with 302 apartments, restaurant & retail space, a public plaza and a parking garage.

The County Board voted 12 - 4 in favor of the development agreement. Supervisor Taylor believes the Couture is a step in the right direction because it transforms an under-utilized county property, generates much needed tax revenue and can act as a catalyst for further lakefront development.



The Couture Milwaukee
Design by Rinka Chung Architecture Inc

O'DONNELL PARKING STRUCTURE



Supervisor Taylor debates sale of O'Donnell Parking Structure



O'Donnell Parking Structure

As you may have noticed O'Donnell Parking Structure has received its fair share of news coverage in recent months.

Last month The Milwaukee County Board took up the proposal during its monthly board meeting and voted 9-8 against an agreement to sell the county owned property to Northwestern Mutual.

Supervisor Taylor voted in favor of the sale and believes the County Board has missed an excellent opportunity to sell an under-utilized and deteriorating property.

The failed agreement would have allowed Milwaukee County to avoid paying \$6.5 million in deferred maintenance costs, responsibly pay down \$7.7 million in general obligation debt and net approximately \$5 million to invest in the Park System.

WHITNALL PARK ROTARY CIRCLE



Shovels in the ground

Jack W., Jim H., County Landscape Architect Jim Ciha, Jim T., Parks Director John Dargle, County Supervisor Steve F. Taylor, Shirley Walczak & Ellen Hayward

The official groundbreaking ceremony for the new walkway took place on December 17, 2014 and construction is planned to continue through the spring of 2015.

The development plans call for several improvements to Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park including an “ADA accessible pathway that will lead from Boerner’s Herb Garden to the Bog Walk, making the gardens more accessible for all population groups.”

The new pathway will not only make the garden collections more accessible, it will also display some practical Green Initiatives. The meandering pathway and plaza will utilize permeable brick pavers in its construction to creatively manage excess storm water.

Support the project and help complete the vision. Purchase an Engraved Boerner Botanical Paver as a memorial or make a generous tax deductible donation.

[Click Here](#) for more information on how you can help support the Whitnall Park Rotary Walk.



WEHR NATURE CENTER 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Wehr Nature Center celebrated 40 years of connecting people with nature in 2014.

The story of Wehr Nature Center began in the early 1970's when Charles Whitnall and John Doyne, Milwaukee County's first County Executive, brought their vision of environmental preservation and natural education to fruition with the formation of a public-private partnership with the Todd Wehr Foundation

Nestled in a 220-acre Whitnall Park natural area, Wehr Nature Center has grown since its inception into an award-winning nature center that is widely considered the heart of the Milwaukee County Parks System and it is nationally recognized for its outstanding nature programs, teacher training, astronomy and family-oriented activities.

As a proponent of Wehr Nature Center and its programming, Supervisor Taylor had the opportunity to speak with staff, volunteers and community members during its 40th celebration. Taylor presented Wehr Nature Center with a much deserved citation for its many years of outstanding work in conservation and natural education.



RED ARROW PARK



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Early this month a Milwaukee County Supervisor announced he would introduce a resolution to rename Red Arrow Park Dontre Hamilton Square.

Supervisor Taylor spoke with several constituents over the past few weeks concerning the park's potential renaming.

While the County Supervisor has since withdrawn his initial resolution, as a member of the Parks, Energy & Environment Committee, Supervisor Taylor would have voted against the measure for the simple fact that Red Arrow Park was named in honor of the men and woman who served in the 32nd Red Arrow Division.

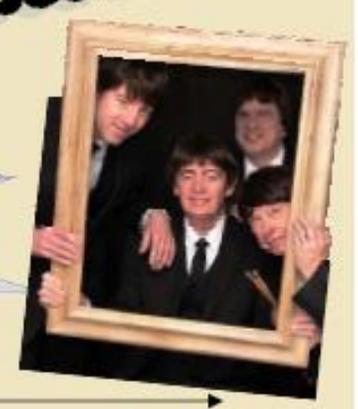
Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens presents...

Valentine's Day Hop

with Beatles tribute band



LIVERPOOL '64



Saturday, February 14, 2015 | 8:00pm – 11:00pm

Come together to enjoy **great** drinks, **delicious** food, **foot-tapping fun Beatles music** and MORE!

Tickets: **\$40** per couple / **\$25** individual | FREE PARKING

Cash bar with food & drinks provided by **Zilli Hospitality Group**. Proceeds from this event will be used to help sustain the Gardens and support our nature-driven education programs!

BEATLES memorabilia/photos from original 1964 negatives taken at the only Beatles concert played in Wisconsin will be available for purchase! A portion of these proceeds will be donated to the *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)*.

Fazio's will be selling their **deliciously famous chocolates!** You have a chance to win some of their sweet temptations just by attending!

Space is limited! Call Jeanna at **414-525-5654** or Jennifer at **414-525-5656** for tickets/info today!



This event is presented by the *Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens*, supporting the Gardens through programming, education and fundraising since 1984.

9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, WI 53130 | www.boernerbotanicalgardens.org

WEHR NATURE CENTER

GROUNDHOG DAY CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday
January, 31 2015
6:00PM-8:30PM

\$20 per person
\$5 Extra Beer or Wine Token

Come join the Friends of Wehr for the 3rd Annual Groundhog Day Chili Cook-off.

Guests will have the opportunity to taste a variety of different chili flavors and vote for their favorite. The event will also feature a silent action to support Wehr's Accessibility Renovations.

Walk-Ins are welcome and reservations guarantee a seat.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

BOERNER CORNER

EXPLORING WINTER BIRDS BOERNER ARBORETUM WALK

Saturday
February, 28 2015
10:00AM-12:00PM

\$20 Families members
\$25 Families non-members
\$10 Individuals members
\$12 Individuals non-members

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about winter birds, their habitat and create a winter scene using water colors and Wisconsin bird cut outs.

It is recommended that you pre-register for this event. For more details or if you have questions on how to pre-register call (414-525-5653).



The Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens host a variety of classes and events year-round at Boerner Botanical Gardens.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

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.



Milwaukee County
ZOO
FREE Days for 2014:
1/4, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 11/1 & 12/6
Special Holidays:
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day
& New Year's Day

Visit www.milwaukeezoo.org



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

Whitnall Park Rotary Club

WINE TASTING

An evening of Wine Tasting with Whitnall Park Rotary!

Friday, January 30, 2015
6:00PM-9:00PM

Location: The Polish Center of Wisconsin
6941 South 68th Street

\$30.00 per person (pre-registration)
\$35.00 per person (at the door)

More information at Whitnallparkrotary.org