Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic

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CHAT WITH THE CHAIR

NOVEMBER 2012

Dear Friends,

Fall is in full swing, and with it are lots of opportunities to get involved in your community. At the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, November is a busy month, as we work to adopt a fiscally and socially responsible 2013 County Budget. I invite you to **watch our meetings online here**.

Marina D.

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LBWN Annual Gathering

In the District

LBWN Tour of Commercial Properties

On October 16, 2012, Layton Boulevard West Neighbors in partnership with the Local Initiatives Support Company, Milwaukee, put on a tour of commercial properties available for purchase in the Layton boulevard west neighborhoods. The beginning of the tour included a market analysis of the area, which is available **here**.

After the introduction and analysis the tour drove around and saw several properties that are available for purchase. There are lots of great opportunities to invest our community! A list of available properties is maintained here: **http://www.silvercitydistrict.org/invest/**

Below, the Wisconsin Bike Fed has relocated their headquarters to our community!

Top Right: Chair woman Dimitrijevic discusses properties with tour attendees

Right Above: Chairwoman Dimitrijevic and LBWN Director Charlotte John-Gomez in front of the new Urban Ecology Center

Right Below: an interior view of one of the properties

Bottom Right: a connector to the Hank Aaron State Trail, right next to many of the available properties

Milwaukee County News Updates

County Board Committee Passes Fair Budget

The Co-Chairs of the Milwaukee County Board Committee of Finance, Personnel and Audit are proud to announce today that the Committee has prepared a budget that invests in public safety, fosters economic development, enhances Milwaukee County Parks and fairly distributes the tough fiscal choices that accompany any budget.

"This Committee of the Milwaukee County Board listened to the citizens of Milwaukee County and opted to increase the County's investment in public safety," said Co-Chair and Supervisor David Cullen. "We're putting our County residents first by preserving and enhancing the role of the Deputy Sheriffs in our Parks and by creating two new positions in the District Attorney's office, one of which focuses on fighting domestic violence."

In a further commitment to public safety, the Committee opted to transfer the response of 911 cellular calls originating in the city of Milwaukee to the Milwaukee Police Department and added $500,000 to the countywide Emergency Medical Services program for total funding of $2 million.

The Committee's budget addresses economic development via a Small Business Opportunity Initiative that includes a $100,000 loan fund for small businesses; the training of small business at the Milwaukee County Research Park; a micro-loan program of loans ranging between $1,000 and $5,000 and other business-building components.

"This Committee needed to respond to the stark lack of economic development in the County Executive's 2013 Recommended Budget," explained Co-Chair and Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. "I'm pleased by this Committee's decisions to make investments that bring value to the people who live, work and play in Milwaukee County."

While the budget presented by the County Executive increased the already significant burden on County employees, the budget from the Committee asks employees to continue to share the sacrifice but not to carry it all.

In fact, the Committee is granting only half of the wage increase that was proposed by the County Executive. The County Executive's budget called for a three percent wage increase; the Committee's budget calls for just 1.5 percent.

"I'd like to thank my colleagues for their careful thought, deliberation and mindfulness of value to the residents of Milwaukee County," said Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic. "It's important to note that the Committee, which represents diverse communities and people throughout Milwaukee County, came together to build this budget."

With regard to Milwaukee County Parks, the budget protects this treasured resource by creating a Parks Amenities Matching Fund that will pay for outstanding deferred maintenance without a burden on the tax levy.

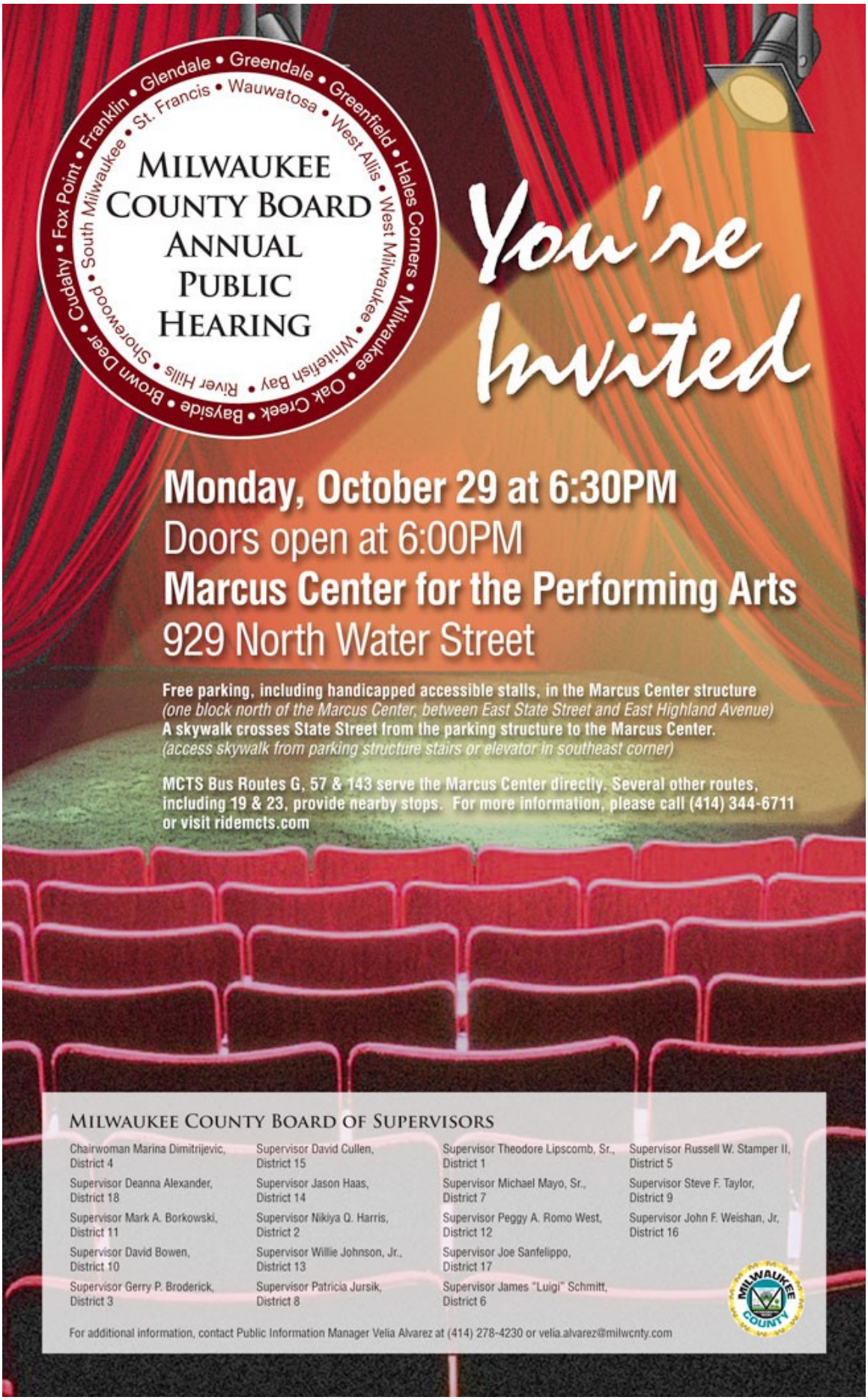
The Fund stands to raise approximately $800,000 for the Parks, based on revenue projections of two new beer gardens, anticipated Milwaukee County land sales estimates and leveraged donations.

The budget approved by the Committee carries a tax levy increase of 1.2 percent, which is less than inflation.

The majority of the levy of the Board's budget comes mostly from public safety investments.

The County Board of Supervisors, under the leadership of Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, is set to adopt the 2013 Budget on Monday, November 5 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

Milwaukee County News Updates



Milwaukee County News Updates

2012 Small Business Dev. Expo

November 29, 2012

7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Peck Conference Center (change inside the Zoo)

10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

$40 for SBE/DBE business owners$50 for general public

- Includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch
- Network with entrepreneurs and Milwaukee County procurement officers
- Learn how to do business with Milwaukee County
- Connect with resources for business growth
- Includes Zoo admission

Keynote Speaker: Lee Swindall Vice President of Business & Industry Development

Sponsors include:

US Bank • Antigua • Emerging Construction Business Incubator • Fast Park & Relax • Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District • Prudential Financial Services • PNC Bank • Kasana Gourmet • Milwaukee County Departments • Noise Management Program • Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation • Milwaukee County Zoo

Register via phone by calling our general line 278-4613, or remit checks payable to: Milwaukee County - CBDP

Mke Co. Considers Business Loan Prgm.

Milwaukee County will consider creating a $100,000 loan fund for small businesses in next year's budget as part of a broader program from Board chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic.

The program would provide loans from $1,000 to $5,000 for small companies to purchase equipment or get other technical assistance, Dimitrijevic said. Those companies must create at least one job for someone who is unemployed, including young adults or transitional workers.

Dimitrijevic said small businesses are playing an increasingly important role in job creation and more people in Milwaukee are founding start-up companies after losing a job.

"It's creating an environment in which small businesses can succeed," she said of her proposed budget amendment.

The proposal would shift $100,000 from the county's Safe Alternatives for Youth Program to the new loan fund. A County Board budget committee is to review the proposal on Thursday.

Dimitrijevic also wants to spur more small business growth through a business incubator building in the Milwaukee County Research Park in Wauwatosa. She said the county should explore using more space in the building for small professional services and management companies. The county needs more of those firms to help meet its goals of contracting with small companies, she said.

The Business Journal by Sean Ryan, Reporter

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012, 12:21pm CDT

http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2012/10/25/milwaukee-county-to-consider-small.html

Chairwoman's Corner

Public Transit Press Conference

Congresswoman Gwen Moore in cooperation with local transportation organizations and various elected officials hosted a transportation press conference to discuss mass transit fiscal needs at all levels of government.

The press conference highlighted initiatives that increase access and reinforce the infrastructure of mass transit in Milwaukee County and across the country. Issues discussed included dedicated funding from the Federal Transportation Fund, reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportations Program, discretionary Federal capital funding, restoring of State Transit Operating Assistance and reexamining the WisDOT Transit Funding Distribution System.

"Whether they are riding to school, to work, or anything in between, my constituents rely on public transportation," said Representative Moore. "I am proud that Milwaukee is able to provide mass transit, but the County cannot act alone. In order to improve life for Milwaukee-area residents, we must continue to support our infrastructure through increased funding."

"As Chairwoman, I've put Transit at the top of my agenda, because of its vital role in linking people to jobs, education and other economic drivers," said Milwaukee County Board Chair Marina Dimitrijevic."Personally, I've logged hundreds of miles on Milwaukee County Transit System buses for my 'Chat with the Chair' sessions, where transportation is one of the most discussed topics."

"Mass transit is a solid investment in the strength of our economy and vitality of our neighborhoods," said State Senator Chris Larson. "Mass transit is a crucial tool to creating opportunity and success in our community and across Wisconsin."

"Our communities urgently need the jobs and economic development that smart transit investments bring," said Alan Simonis, President of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998. "Public transportation is a lifeline for so many. Transportation in our community strengthens our economy and creates much-needed jobs for families, linking us to the region and attracting new development, employers and tourism."

Today's press conference is part of a nationwide effort to spotlight the need for increased support of mass transit.

"We are proud to be a part of this bi-partisan effort to support mass transit," said Gary Goyke of the Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association. "Elected officials ranging from a New Jersey Republican to a California Democrat have endorsed our efforts to improve and increase access to mass transit. Efforts like these will cross this great nation showing firm support for our public transportation systems."

Chairwoman's Corner

A Letter By Ellen Bravo

A shortsighted leader looks at a benefit and asks, how much will it save to ax this?

A farsighted leader looks at the benefit and asks, what will it cost if we cut this - in turnover and replacement costs, in quality of customer service, in family well-being within our community and in reputation for this branch of government?

The farsighted leader might also ask, what will the consequences be for ensuring opportunity for all?

Because let's be clear. When Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele decided that his 2013 budget would remove health benefits for part-time nurses and nursing assistants, the vast majority of those affected are women.

This is not a new story. Workers in certain fields bargained a long time ago for dependable benefits in place of higher wages. Nurses in private hospitals or Veterans Administration hospitals earn from $5 to $10 an hour more than county nurses, who have also experienced a wage freeze. The nurses and assistants in the county system brought their skills to the less glamorous halls of the county mental health center or corrections facilities because they need those benefits for their families.

Why don't the nurses just boost their hours in order to qualify for benefits? Many have primary care responsibilities for young children or elderly relatives or both. Others already work a significant number of hours somewhere else and added this job because they need additional income - and they need benefits.

Consider Heidi Young's situation. After serving as a deputy sheriff of Milwaukee County, Heidi went to school to become a professional nurse, and has worked in that role for the county for six years. She and her husband have three small children, ages, 2, 4 and 8. Like many couples, they tag team - he works days, Heidi works at night. Because her husband is self-employed, she carries the insurance for their family.

Heidi wanted a schedule that allowed her to be part of her children's Parent Teacher Organization, help with Cub Scouts, see her son's football games. She was offered jobs in the private sector paying $5 an hour more, but she chose the county because of the benefits.

Although she's very proud of the job she does and is very well trained, Heidi says she would leave if this budget proposal goes into effect.

Citizen Action Economic Justice Director Jennifer Epps-Addison, Supervisor Nikiya Harris, Federation of Nurses and Health Care Professionals President Candice Owley, Supervisors Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Russell Stamper II, and Chairwoman Dimitrijevic

"We don't have the greatest of things," she said, "but we're happy. I've made a lot of sacrifices; I cut coupons. I'm not being greedy."

"The county will lose a lot of really qualified employees if this goes through," Heidi said. "I enjoy my job. I love working here, but it wouldn't make sense for me to stay here without health insurance."

If forced to forgo health insurance, in fact, most or all of the part-time nurses will likely leave. Hiring replacements and getting them up to speed will be a huge cost for the county - and will harm the quality of patient care.

These women, many of whom have worked for the county for more than 10 years, play a critical role in the health system. According to the union representing the nurses, the county executive made these devastating changes without consulting them.

Fortunately, our county government has checks and balances. The 18 members of the County Board have power to make changes to all of these items.

Milwaukee County residents should call on their board members to be farsighted and cost-effective managers. They should restore insurance benefits for part-time nurses and stop turning over health services to private contractors.

Ellen Bravo is a longtime advocate for working women. She currently directs a network of state coalitions working on policies that value families.

Posted on the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel op ed website on October 19, 2012 http://bit.ly/VdHAXt

Chairwoman's Corner

New Funding for Parks

County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic and Supervisor Gerry Broderick, District 3, are pleased to introduce a budget amendment that calls for the creation of the "Parks Amenities Matching Fund," which would pay for outstanding Parks deferred maintenance without burden on taxpayers.

The Parks Amenities Matching Fund would be seeded in part by revenues from two new beergardens to be modeled after the Estabrook Park Beer Garden, which generated approximately $65,000 in revenue during just three months of summer 2012.

"Milwaukee County Parks are winning in the 2013 budget," said Chairwoman Dimitrjevic. "Coupled with the six percent levy increase for Parks as recommended by the County Executive in his budget, this new Fund makes the Parks a priority, just as the people of Milwaukee County have asked."

The Parks Amenities Matching Fund is a public-private partnership, allowing donations from Parks friends groups and other interested parties to be matched by private donations.

"This expansion of the successful beer garden concept as championed by former Parks director Sue Black offers powerful potential in these days of scarce public resources," noted Supervisor Broderick. "The Matching Fund provides a strong incentive for Parks supporters to recommit to their fundraising efforts and goals."

The Parks Amenities Matching Fund stands to raise approximately $800,000 for the Parks, based on beer garden revenue projections, anticipated Milwaukee County land sales estimates and leveraged donations.

Chairwoman Interviewed

Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman, Marina Dimitrijevic had several interviews about the budget, several amendments, and about the budget process in general.

One interview was conducted by John Mecure with 620 WTMJ. Click the link below to listen to the interview.

http://www.620wtmj.com/podcasts/news/newstogo/176039041.html

Additionally, the Chairwoman was also interviewed on Lake Effect, on 89.7 WUWM..

That interview can be accessed at http://www.wuwm.com/programs/lake_effect/index.php

Chairwoman's Corner

New Appointees Appointed

Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman Dimitrijevic is pleased to announce her appointment of community activist and volunteer Patty Pritchard Thompson to the Milwaukee County Parks Commission, and her appointment of Dante Houston to Cultural Artistic and Musical Programming Advisory Council (CAMPAC).

"Patty is the perfect choice to fill this available post, based on her extensive involvement in community events, notably those held in -- and benefitting -- Milwaukee County Parks," said Chairwoman Dimitrijevic..

"Dante Houston brings an interesting private business focus to CAMPAC, which offers a new facet to the predominantly non-profit members who guide this council"

The Milwaukee County Parks Advisory Commission provides policy and funding guidance to the County Board on issues such as budget, preservation and maintenance needs of the County Parks.

CAMPAC has three major program areas: Community cultural events, which target minority and under-served communiities, matching grants, which have the highest priority of sustaining the County's arts organizations, and administrative services.

Top: State Rep. Richards, and Chairwoman Dimitrijevic presented awards to the Stemper Family at the 100 year recognition of their business in our community

Upper: Chairwoman Dimitrijevic, Alderman Dudzik and Supervisor Borkowski at the St. Sava 100 year anniversary celebration

Lower: Father Marco Todorovic and Chairwoman Dimitrijevic at the St. Sava 100 year anniversary celebration

Bottom: Supervisor Romo West and her family recognized at the UMOS Hispanic Awards Banquet as the Hispanic Family of the Year

Save the Date

2013 Floral Shows Announced

The Milwaukee County Domes is proud to announce the 2013 Floral Show lineup:

Circus comes to Town (Trains)
January 19 – March 10

Blue Bayou (Spring)
March 23-May 27

Milwaukee Yards (Summer)
June 8—September 8

Fall into the Fifties (Fall Mum)
September 21— November 10

Nutcracker Suite (Holiday)
November 23 — January 5, 2014

For more information, check the Domes website here.

"Are You an Entrepreneur? Workshop"

Layton Boulevard West Neighbors will be partnering with Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation to host the "Are you an Entrepreneur Workshop" for people interested in starting their own businesses.

Organizers are planning to have the event conducted in English and Spanish and encourage people signing up to indicate their language preference when signing up.

Date: November 28th, 2012

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Sacred Heart Center, Room 615

Address: 1545 S Layton Boulevard, Milwaukee WI 53215

Please RSVP with Natanael Martinez by November 26th

414-383-9038 x2511

natanael@lbwn.org

New MAM Exhibit Open

October 12, 2012–January 13, 2013

The Milwaukee Art Museum is delighted to be one of four museums in the United States to present Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Gainsborough: The Treasures of Kenwood House, London, an exhibition of forty-eight masterpieces on tour from the Iveagh Bequest collection. www.mam.org

Museum hours:
Tuesday–Sunday, 10 AM–5 PM
Thursday until 8 PM, closed Mondays

Target Free Thursday at MAM

Admission to the Milwaukee Art Museum is free for everyone on the first Thursday of each month, thanks to Target. See mam.org/visit to plan your visit.

LBWN Annual Gathering

Over the past several years the LBWN Annual Neighborhood Gathering has become a tradition that has attracted more and more residents and friends of the Layton Boulevard West neighborhoods.

Last year over 250 people showed up to enjoy food, music, and celebrate all that had happened in the past year. This included the unveiling of the neighborhood Quality of Life Plan, announcing the winners of the Most Improved Porch Contest, and updates on other activities in the neighborhood.

This year we will be announcing the winners of the Most Improved Home Contest, sharing news on the progress of the Quality of Life Plan, and looking towards what is planned for 2013.

Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event. For more information or to get involved with the event please contact Will Sebern at will@lbwn.org or 414-385-5300.

Thursday, November 15, 2012

5:30pm

St. Joseph Center, 1501 South Layton Blvd