

13th District **NEWS**

Milwaukee County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.

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WINTER 2008 EDITION

Committees

- Chairman, Judiciary, Safety and General Services
- Economic and Community Development
- Finance and Audit
- Health and Human Needs

Appointments

- Milwaukee County Research Park Board
- Bureau of Child Welfare Partnership Council
- Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- Milwaukee County Community Justice Council Steering Committee
- Milwaukee County Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Steering Committee
- Marquette Interchange Project DBE Goal Setting Committee
- Milwaukee County Care Management Organization (CMO) Governing Board
- State of Wisconsin Minority Business Development Board
- State of Wisconsin Council on Small Business, Veteran-Owned Business and Minority Business Opportunities
- Milwaukee Area Workforce Development Board
- Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees

Memberships

- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
- NAACP
- Milwaukee Urban League Guild
- National Forum for Black Public Administrators
- National Association of Social Workers
- Wisconsin Association of Equal Opportunity
- Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council Advisory Committee
- Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund Coalition
- Government Finance Officers Association

Volunteer Activities

- Youth Enterprise Academy of the Center for Economic Education/UWM
- Wisconsin Council on Economic Education Board
- Milwaukee County Council of the Boy Scouts of America Board
- Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin Board
- Milwaukee Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Dear Neighbors,

It is a privilege and honor to serve as your representative on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. My top priority is to provide you with resources and connections to Milwaukee County services that will help improve our community and quality of life.

Milwaukee County faces many of the same challenges and choices you and your families face. The County Executive's 2008 Recommended Budget included cuts to many important programs and services. As of this writing, my colleagues and I are wrapping up the amendments to the 2008 County Budget.

In my role on the Finance and Audit Committee, I was happy to sponsor a number of key Budget Amendments, including restoring funding for Child Support Enforcement operations, preserving the Alcohol and other Drug Abuse program, increasing capacity for mental illness patients at the Behavioral Health Division and restoring full funding for the UW-Extension Service.

In conjunction with Board Chairman Lee Holloway, I co-sponsored an amendment to restore funding for eight Milwaukee County Transit System route segments and avoid a fare increase for paratransit riders. I was also proud to co-sponsor restored funding for the 211 phone line and the Interim Disability Assistance Program.

These programs are core County services that must be preserved to help residents of the 13th District and all of Milwaukee County. At the time of this writing, the County is poised to increase property taxes by 3.73%. Under this scenario, the owners of a \$150,000 home in the City of Milwaukee would see their County property tax bills rise by only \$6.16.

I hope that, as you enjoy the holiday season, you remember how fortunate we are to live in Milwaukee County.

Wishing you and your family health and happiness,

Willie Johnson, Jr.
Milwaukee County Supervisor
13th District



Supervisor Johnson with the All Saints Church Children's Choir at Gordon Park in August.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

In cooperation with Wisconsin Emergency Management, Milwaukee County sponsors the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to help train people to be better prepared for emergency situations in their communities. The Milwaukee County Emergency Management Director is Carl W. Stenbol. Loleta "Lisa" Sherman is the Emergency Management Coordinator/SARA Planner.

Following a major disaster, first responders will not be able to immediately reach all of the community members requiring their services. When responders are not available, CERTs can assist by reducing immediate dangers, establishing command posts and treatment areas in the immediate area, and maintaining communications with responders.

The CERT course is taught in the community by trained first responders who have completed a CERT Train-the-Trainer course. Training is generally taught in a series of seven three-hour sessions with a minimum of 30 participants. CERTs are trained to prepare for hazards, extinguish small fires, identify hazardous materials and situations, and understand the psychological impact of disasters.

CERTs have proven themselves to be an active and vital part of their communities' preparedness and response capability. CERTs have been used to distribute and install smoke alarms and batteries for the elderly and disabled, assist with evacuations and traffic control, promote community awareness of potential hazards, staff special events and parades, and act as victims in training exercises.

For more information, contact the Emergency Management Coordinator/SARA Planner in the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office at 414-278-4709.

Pension Resolution

In September, Supervisor Johnson co-sponsored a resolution addressing certain pensions that were processed in an inappropriate manner by past members of the Milwaukee County Pension Board.

You may have recently read articles in the local media of problems with the way certain pension buy-backs and buy-ins and were inappropriately approved for a number of Milwaukee County retirees. The resolution calls for a review and investigation into all pension benefits within Milwaukee County.

The item passed the County Board in September and also directs the Corporation Counsel and the Director of Employee Benefits to work with the Pension Board in its review. They must report back to the County Board with their findings.

The taxpayers of Milwaukee County deserve proper administration of all benefits provided to County employees and retirees.

Increase diversity in apprenticeship programs

In September, the Milwaukee County Board approved a resolution to create a work group to improve apprenticeship programs and standards within Milwaukee County. The newly-created Apprenticeship Study Work Group will address major deficiencies in our apprenticeship programs. Supervisor Johnson is interested in improving these programs in part because he was the lead sponsor of the PERC (Park East Redevelopment Compact), which requires increased Apprenticeship Participation.

A recent State of Wisconsin study showed that 85% of construction trade companies failed to employ any African-Americans or Hispanic-Americans. American Indians, Asians and women were also barely represented in those trades.

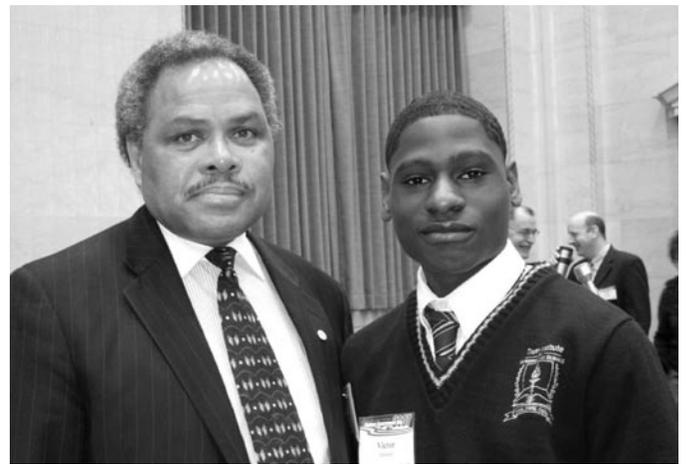
We hope to improve these statistics. This Work Group can raise the bar in Milwaukee County by establishing standards and measures for apprenticeship programs and ensuring that disadvantaged and minority citizens have an opportunity to advance with apprenticeship opportunities, regardless of their level of education or socio-economic status.

The Apprentice Study Work Group will work to increase diversity among apprenticeship programs in Milwaukee County and consist of representatives from the many areas, including construction and manufacturing trades.

This Work Group will bring suggestions forward to benefit Milwaukee County residents who have had difficulty getting into apprenticeships and other training programs.

Our Seniors and Students

Earlier this year, the County Board hosted Student Government Day as well as the Senior Statesman Program. High school students from around Milwaukee County were paired with a County Supervisor and received a behind-the-scenes tour of Milwaukee County Government, including the Courts, the jail and sitting in on a County Board meeting.



Supervisor Johnson is pictured with Victor Jackson, a student from Truth Institute, on Student Government Day.



Supervisor Johnson with Senior Statesmen Wellington Warren, Shirley Warren and Annie Mannery.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY RESIDENTS HAVE SAVED MORE THAN \$83,000 ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Discount available to all Milwaukee County residents with no strings attached

Milwaukee County residents have saved more than \$83,000 on prescription drugs since 2006, thanks to a discount drug card offered by Milwaukee County and the National Association of Counties (NACo). The program allows counties to distribute free prescription drug discount cards offering an average savings of 20% off common retail prescription prices. Those savings greatly exceed what Milwaukee County pays in dues to NACo on an annual basis.

We all know that health care costs are escalating while the number of insured people is decreasing. This benefit provides immediate, substantial relief from the high prices of prescription drugs. No enrollment forms or membership fees are required. Regardless of

age or income, any Milwaukee County resident can simply show the card at any participating pharmacy.

Cards can also be obtained from one of the following locations:

Milwaukee County Board Offices,
901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse Room 201

General Assistance Medical Program,
9501 Watertown Plank Rd.

Department of Health and Human Services,
1220 W. Vliet St. and 1673 S. 9th St.

Department on Aging, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Southside Health Clinic,
1639 S. 23rd St.

Milwaukee County Parks Administration,
9480 Watertown Plank Rd.

MLK Heritage Clinic,
2555 N. King Dr.

16th Street Health Center,
1032 S. 16th St.

Clinica Latina,
1238 S. 16th St.

Lubsey Clinic,
5300 W. Villard Ave.

Runway Dog Exercise Area,
1214 E. Rawson Ave.

For more information about NACo's free prescription drug discount card, call toll free **1-877-321-2652** or visit **<http://naco.advancerx.com>**.

Milwaukee County
Prescription Discount Card

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RXGRP: RXMILWI
ISSUER: (80840)
ID:

This plan is not insurance.

Tear off this card and start saving today!

Easy Simply present your card, provided to you in a joint effort of your local county government and the National Association of Counties (NACo), at a retail participating pharmacy and save an average of 20% on your prescription drugs. Finding a pharmacy is easy; 8 out of 10 pharmacies nationwide accept your discount card. No enrollment form, no membership fee, one card, immediate use.

No Limits You and your family may use your prescription discount card any time your prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no restrictions and no limits on how many times you may use your card.

Extra Savings As part of this program you will also be eligible for higher discounts on select medications, as well as high-tech and injectable drugs. For details of these programs and our mail service program, which offers an average savings of 50% on a 3-month supply of select medications, call toll free **1-877-321-2652** or visit **<https://naco.advancerx.com>**.

Información en Español en la parte atrás del folleto

We appreciate our Jurors!

Supervisor Johnson was pleased to honor all Milwaukee County citizens who have served in our jury system. In October, Milwaukee County celebrated Juror Appreciation Month at the Courthouse.

Last year, the County Board requested an audit of the jury selection process, after learning that jury pools did not appear to be representative of the population here in Milwaukee County. The results of the audit came out this summer and, while they show some progress has been made to improve jury inclusiveness, more hurdles remain. While 30 percent of the County's voting-age population is either black or Hispanic, these groups still only make up about 19 percent of juries.

Since the audit came out, the County Board has been working with the Courts to come up with alternative ways to improve jury participation. Efforts already underway include public service announcements that are being distributed to local radio stations, the recording of a television spot, and opinion pieces in the local print media.

These efforts are the latest in a series of initiatives intended to thank jurors and their employers for going out of their way to serve our community. We must encourage people of color to make this same level of commitment. The message to them is, "it's not fair if you're not there!"

Jury service is one of the very few things our country asks of us. Yet, throughout the United States, there are concerns about the need to increase citizen participation as jurors. In Milwaukee County, we are no different and we do everything we can to encourage all citizens to honor their civic duty and serve as jurors.

Ultimately, the responsibility to report for jury duty sits squarely on the shoulders of the person summoned. Through jury service, citizens have a unique opportunity to participate in their government, but they have to show up to participate.



There are four simple, inexpensive things YOU can do to ensure representative juries:

- 1) Respond to the jury questionnaire;
- 2) Report to jury duty when summoned;
- 3) Report a change of address promptly to the Department of Transportation; and
- 4) Sign up for a state ID card if not on the DOT list.

If everyone in the community does these things, we will achieve the balance that benefits us all. You must all join us and step up by spreading the message of the importance of jury service. And, if you have recently served, thank you for your service!

Quick facts about Jury Service:

- ▶ Jury pools are selected from DOT records (Driver's Licenses and other state-issued ID cards).
- ▶ You can be called for service a maximum of once every four years.
- ▶ Jury Management can work with you to reschedule your Jury Service in the event of a conflict.



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Expires January 16, 2008

County Board Secures Affordable, Quality Housing For Persons With Mental Illness

Last year, it was brought to the County Board’s attention that Milwaukee County wasn’t meeting our responsibility to properly assist individuals with mental illness living in our community. As a result, we took an extremely positive step forward by adding one million dollars to the 2007 budget to help those who need it the most.

We identified more than 80 low-income individuals with mental illness living in substandard conditions. We allocated \$500,000 of those funds to provide affordable quality housing for 48 of these individuals. We’re now 60% closer to a solution in securing affordable, quality housing for persons with mental

illness. We also accepted funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help provide housing for homeless people living in Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee County FREE Days!
 Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County Residents only with valid photo ID on the following days:

 Milwaukee Public MUSEUM <i>A World of Difference</i> FREE Every Monday! \$1 off admission adult prices on Tuesday - Sunday	 MITCHELL PARK DOMES FREE Every Monday! from 9:00AM - 11:30AM (except major holidays)
 Milwaukee County ZOO 2008 FREE Days January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5, November 1, & December 6, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year’s Day	 MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM FREE Every Wednesday! (excludes special exhibits)