



## Dear Neighbors,

Since being elected Alderman, I have worked to keep this district, in which I have lived nearly all my life, as safe and as healthy as I have always known it to be. This is a great place to live, but we don't live in a bubble. We are a part of a larger city, and what happens elsewhere has an effect on us, too. An unhealthy area costs tax dollars and stifles development in other areas, costing us badly-needed jobs and posing difficult challenges.

The economic conditions affecting property values throughout the U.S. have impacted Milwaukee as well. Both bank foreclosures and tax foreclosures, where the city is forced to take ownership of a property due to unpaid taxes, have hit many parts of the city hard. While there are only seven city-owned foreclosures in our 13th Aldermanic District, the worst-off district in the city has more than 350 city foreclosures, in addition to bank foreclosures! There are several of these abandoned, sometimes blighted properties per block in some parts of the city, but that is changing. I am proud of the mayor and Common Council's response to the foreclosure crisis. The manner in which we have dedicated resources to combating foreclosure is now being recognized as a national model.

While not directly impacted with foreclosures, this district faces challenges of its own. The 13th Aldermanic District has always been home to many municipal employees, but the state legislature's action to do away with the city's residency rule threatens that distinction. Maintaining our neighborhoods as great places to live and retaining residents is my first priority. Improving quality of life and neighborhoods to attract young professionals, provide buyers for homes and foster middle-class homeownership are also my goals.

It is no coincidence that I have championed this as the Garden District, improved the appearance of the area and created neighborhood and business associations, while supporting the Green Corridor, community gardens, farmers market and bike lanes. I plan to continue these sorts of creative place-making efforts to involve neighborhoods while building pride and ownership. Inserted into this newsletter is a promotional piece for our district. Reviewed by the Greater Milwaukee Realtors' Association, it summarizes and promotes the great things that have been happening here. Please share it with others and spread the good news of the Garden District.

Besides my work in the district, I have been active in renewal efforts in the downtown area and supported other projects that will benefit the city. In this newsletter, you can read all about developments in this district, at City Hall and elsewhere. It will provide insight into projects happening here and in the downtown, as well as a heads-up on other plans.

Wishing you a warm and brief winter,

**Terry L. Witkowski**  
Alderman, 13<sup>th</sup> District



## MEETING DATES

### Town Hall Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2015, 6:30 PM  
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility  
4001 S. 6th St., 3rd floor

### Town Hall Meeting with Mayor Barrett

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 6:30 PM  
Victory School  
2222 W. Henry Ave.

### Public Art Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 6:30 PM  
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility  
4001 S. 6th St., 3rd floor

### Garden Committee

First Tuesday of every month  
Town of Lake Water Tower Facility  
4001 S. 6th St., 3rd floor

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### Chair

- Public Safety Committee

### Vice-Chair

- Judiciary and Legislation Committee
- Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee

### Member

- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Visit Milwaukee Board

### View meetings online:

[www.milwaukee.gov/citychannel](http://www.milwaukee.gov/citychannel)



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## Local District Hero Honored ➤



The Common Council honored a Garden District resident, 15-year-old Joseph Brown, for his quick actions and presence of mind to save the life of an 8-year-old neighbor. While waiting for his brother's school bus, he saw a vehicle hit the neighbor boy and begin to drag him underneath. The driver appeared unaware of what had happened, so Joey ran to the vehicle, pounded on the window and then opened the door to get the driver to stop. Emergency help was summoned, and Joey crawled under the vehicle to comfort the boy until firefighters lifted the vehicle and pulled him out. Emergency personnel said the accident would have been fatal if the vehicle was not stopped when it was. Joey is a student at Ronald Reagan High School, and the city is grateful for his quick-thinking heroism. ■

## Thanks to all Volunteers! ➤



It seems like yesterday that the Garden District Neighborhood Association put out the schedule of events for 2014, but it is already time to begin planning events for 2015! Thanks to Julia O'Connor and her committee for dedicating a huge amount of time to make sure the Farmers Market had vendors, customers, entertainment, permits and excellent management each Saturday. Dawn Reigel, likewise, led the effort and work groups to make the community garden look good and work well. Many thanks to these leaders and all the volunteers who have made this possible for our neighbors.

**To learn how to help out this year, attend the Garden Committee meeting listed on the front-page schedule or call 379-2450. ■**

## TOWN HALL MEETING WITH MAYOR BARRETT

Alderman Witkowski is hosting a town hall meeting with **Mayor Tom Barrett** as a special guest.

Residents can ask questions and offer suggestions on neighborhood issues or topics that affect the city as a whole.

**Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 6:30 PM**  
**Victory School, 2222 W. Henry Ave.**

## Calling All Artists ➤

If you're interested in art or are an artist, we need to talk. You may have noticed all the energy and changes happening in the district, but one thing has been missing so far—public art! I'd like to meet with people from the district to hear your ideas. Street art is something in which I have an interest, but I also want to discuss what may be possible and what could be happening!

**I invite you to meet with me and any others who choose to attend on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Water Tower, 4001 S. 6th St. at 6th and Norwich. ■**



**Did you know** carbon monoxide detectors are required in the basement and on each floor of one- and two-family homes, according to a state law that went into effect in 2011? Learn more in the "news" section at [milwaukee.gov/district13](http://milwaukee.gov/district13).

## New Leadership and My Work Assignments

With the election of Alderman Michael Murphy as Common Council president, my assignments have changed. I am now a member of the Finance Committee, giving our district representation in the budget-making process that it has not had in decades. I am still the chair of the Public Safety Committee, which oversees police, fire, health, the Fire and Police Commission, courts, neighborhood services, emergency government and some homeland security-related issues, and I am one of the eight chairs who sit on the Steering and Rules Committee. I serve as vice-chair of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee, which oversees the City Attorney, claims against the city and intergovernmental relations. I recently relinquished my seat on the League of Wisconsin



Alderman Witkowski nominated Alderman Michael J. Murphy to serve as the new Common Council president.

Municipalities Board to the chair of the committee, but I still remain a part of the league's lobbying group.

I still serve on the VISIT Milwaukee board, the Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee and the Local Business Action Team, which is intended to streamline the city's business development process. I attend meetings of the

new West Wisconsin Avenue Development Corporation, Aerotropolis Milwaukee, Gateway to Milwaukee, district neighborhood associations and Historic Highway 41 BID. (A BID, or Business Improvement District, is an area where businesses organize to perform activities and improve their area by paying an extra fee on their taxes). ■

## Local Business Action Team to Help Start Small Businesses

Downtown's BID 21 recently paid for Robert Walsh, the former small business director from New York, to address Milwaukee leaders and BIDs on how New York very successfully multiplied small businesses and streamlined city processes to help them succeed. I was the only alderman to attend the day-long session for elected officials and community leaders.

Based on what I heard from area business leaders, change is needed, and there were many ideas that could be applied to make Milwaukee a friendlier place for small businesses. Working with department heads, I sponsored a resolution that created a Local Business Action Team (LBAT) including department heads from Health, City Development, Neighborhood Services, Licenses, Public Works and Information Technology. Each of these city departments may

be involved in permits, licenses, inspections and approvals before a business can open.

At a committee meeting, a local business leader said that it takes 10 times as long to get certain approvals in Milwaukee as compared to some suburbs. In some cases, he said, up to four inspectors are doing what one inspector does in surrounding communities. If new jobs will address our poverty problem, we are on the wrong track.

The LBAT understands this, and this is the first time an elected official has brought them to the same table to reorganize, separate out development-related functions and work together. The group will be soliciting business and BID testimony to make sure proposed solutions address local needs. I co-chair the group with the Commissioner of Neighborhood

Services, and we hope to compile our final recommendations in time for changes to be included in the 2016 city budget. I then look forward to shepherding them through the Finance and Personnel Committee. ■





### My Budget Amendments and Efficiency >

I sponsored or cosponsored three amendments to the 2015 city budget to improve city operations and create efficiencies. The first of them added a pilot program in the fire department using two small rescue trucks, which are much smaller than a standard fire rig, to respond to non-fire calls that still warrant an emergency response. For the past two years, statistics show that 95 percent of calls for service did not involve reports of smoke or fire. Three years ago, I asked the city comptroller to study the financial benefits of responding to such calls with smaller trucks instead of half-million-dollar fire rigs, and his report showed that the savings in fuel costs and capital costs would pay for the new equipment in 11 months and then produce ongoing savings.

I also added 10 auxiliary 911 calltaker positions to the budget. Calltakers

hired for the auxiliary positions would receive training for the jobs and then wait to fill any vacancies that occurred, reducing delays and ensuring that 911 callers don't get stuck waiting on hold.

Finally, Alderman Jim Bohl resurrected my money-saving proposal of establishing a recruit class of 10 "community service officers." These civilian law enforcement assistants will respond to non-emergency police calls, freeing up officers for higher-priority matters and putting more cops on the streets. Since I first introduced the idea to Milwaukee in 2006, dozens of major city police departments nationally have gone ahead with similar plans, and so has neighboring Greenfield. I co-sponsored Alderman Bohl's amendment to include Community Service Officers in this year's budget. ■

### Reports Result in Millions Saved—Cuts Don't Always Save Money >

With more oversight of workers' comp claims and more effective collections of money that is owed to the city, we are finding ways to be more responsible with your tax dollars and channel those savings back into more effective city services.

The city has saved millions of dollars in costs related to employee injuries, according to a communication we received at a recent Public Safety Committee meeting. Spurred by reports I requested from the Department of Employee Relations (DER), city officials took action that saved \$7.2 million in employee injury costs and an estimated \$10 to 20 million in workers' compensation since 2008. Prior to that, the discontinuation of

the Employee Safety Report and cuts to risk management and safety positions under the former Mayor John Norquist administration left no one watching the store.

The first safety report took a year and a half to create and was an eye-opener for this administration. DER and Mayor Tom Barrett's accountability-in-management program worked directly with departments, especially the leaders in injury costs like Public Works, Police and Fire. They developed department-specific programs and policies, and I required each department head to appear annually before the Public Safety Committee to hold them accountable. The \$17 to 27 million

that has been saved has helped provide funding for needed services such as police and pothole filling.

With the implementation of the Outstanding Debt Task Force, I can boast of millions more in savings for taxpayers. The task force puts the spotlight on money that scofflaws owe to the city, and has prompted a number of departments to adopt the latest and most effective collection techniques. Annually, these departments appear before a council committee for review. This year, after two years of waiting, the Comptroller added the Fire Department's medical services to the report for annual review as I had requested. I just wish I had kept a running record of those savings! ■



**Did you know** that Police District 6 (which includes our 13th Aldermanic District) has the lowest number of crimes committed in the city? Still great after all these years!

## District Developments

Still a desirable place to locate, these are the latest developments in the Garden District!

1. **Starbucks** – built at 6th St. and Layton Ave.
2. **St. Joseph Academy** – 16th St. and Oklahoma Ave., addition for 16 classrooms and a library.
3. **GESTRA Engineering** – a \$1.9 million headquarters building at 2nd St. and Edgerton Ave.
4. **Jet Intermodal, INC** – a trucking firm on former WE energies land at 1125 W. Waterford Ave.
5. California-based **Wally Park** bought and razed the Wyndham Hotel at 4747 S. Howell Ave. They established their airport parking business and seek two restaurants and a hotel.
6. **Wildenberg Hotel** – Built in the 1850s, the Wildenberg Hotel at 3774 S. 27th St. now has a historic designation.
7. The former trailer court in the 3700 block of S. 27th St. has been cleared and will be offered for development.

### Recent Beautification Projects

8. Urban orchard and parking lot with rainwater harvesting system built in the Green Corridor at 6th and Norwich opposite the Farmer’s Market, funded by a grant and donations which included work by the Energy Exchange, 4121 S. 6th St.
9. Water Works removed the weeds on the hill along Howard Ave. between 8th and 11th streets, planting trees, shrubs and wild flowers.
10. Tim Depledge, DDS, built a pocket park and parking lot at 3967 S. Howell Ave.
11. Cleanup and fence line restoration project on S. 6th St. south of Norwich Ave., funded by grant and Energy Exchange.



### 2015: Road Construction Ahead

12. Howell Ave. (State Highway 38) from Howard Ave. to Layton Ave.: total reconstruction from sidewalk to sidewalk, this state project will include bio-swales from the city.
13. Layton Ave. (County Highway BB) from Howell Ave. to Highway 794: resurfacing by Milwaukee County, but also includes bio-swales from the city.
14. Howard Ave. bridge replacement: traffic is restricted to one lane on one side of the bridge over I-94, a state project.
15. Morgan Ave. from 12th to 20th Streets: resurfacing by the city.
16. S. 27th St. from Howard Ave. to the Kinnickinnic River Parkway: previously delayed due to a regional concrete shortage, should be finished this spring.
17. S. 27th St. and W. College Ave. to the south in Franklin and Oak Creek: State highway project.



Alderman Witkowski took part in the groundbreaking festivities for the new East Library on E. North Avenue. The project has since been completed, and offers Milwaukeeans a preview of the great things to come from other library renovation projects.

## Tippecanoe Library Renovation

It was not long ago that area residents fought the proposed closure of the Tippecanoe Library. Working together, we were successful in showing the importance of this library to the area.

The library is now scheduled for a makeover, which began after the library closed for the day on January 30. A temporary site with a small collection is located in the Copper Kitchen hall just up the block from the library at 3935 S. Howell Ave. and opened on February 2.

Plan to check out the “new and improved” Tippecanoe Library when it reopens on or around October 3! ■

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## Aerotropolis Milwaukee

In early December, I represented Milwaukee on a panel including Denver, Toronto and Detroit at the Aerotropolis Americas conference in Denver. This conference drew attendees from the U.S., Canada and 22 other countries. In 2008, I brought the Aerotropolis concept here after forming the Airport Area Economic Development Task Force. Worldwide, leaders have learned that, in order to compete in a global economy, a region needs the speed and connectivity of transportation forms including air, rail, highway and waterway to move people and products. Under the scope of this concept, we have an edge here in Milwaukee with access to all four forms of transportation. But we need to replace our multi-modal shipping yard and improve rail to move people.

Aerotropolis Milwaukee is a public-private partnership intended to address such needs, with members representing business, municipal, state and county interests. Members are presently developing a land use plan involving the five municipalities in the area around the airport. ■

## Speaking of Speaking

I was honored to be asked to be the sponsor of a Milwaukee Police Department recruit class recently. I spoke to them on the day they were sworn in, I was able to drop in on their training from time to time and, the highest honor for an old cop, I gave the keynote address at their graduation. I probably bored them to tears, but I thought my message was important. As new recruits, they do their job in a different world from the one when I did that work. The mayor and police chief wished them well, they received their certificate of training and are out there protecting Milwaukee as you read this. ■



**Did you know** that the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce estimates that, in the very near future, 60 percent of metro Milwaukee jobs will require a post high school degree? Communities that can attract and retain a talented pool of employees will be home to those jobs. Those that don't, won't.



## Make No Little Plans

“Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men’s blood and probably themselves will not be realized,” said Daniel Burnham. The renowned architect and urban designer’s designs include the famed “Great White City” of the 1893 World’s Fair and other works in Chicago, Milwaukee and throughout the United States. His words are relevant to our current situation here in Milwaukee, as we have a chance to improve large sections of downtown over the next few years. Big things are on the way involving the entertainment district, an arena, convention center expansion, West Wisconsin Avenue, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance and Financial Services, the Couture, the streetcar and the lakefront gateway, to name a few. The changes made today will shape Milwaukee and spur development for decades to come. ■

## Downtown Development

New development anywhere in the city helps provide jobs and adds to the tax base. Besides slimming the budget and finding creative ways to do business, growing the tax base is also a goal at City Hall, and lessens the tax burden on all of us. Downtown development helps the whole city, since downtown makes up three percent of the area of the city but pays 18 percent of the property taxes.

Downtowns around the country are experiencing a resurgence, growing and becoming the “place to be” as people return to cities from the suburbs, and Milwaukee is no exception. In recent years, Milwaukee’s population has risen by 25,000, with the most growth downtown. There has been great development of housing in the Third Ward and all along the river from the North Avenue Dam to the harbor. The 750 apartments in the new North End Project at Water and Pleasant Streets continues the development on the river, and

developers have announced plans for more apartments at three other river sites.

The group working to improve West Wisconsin Avenue identified a need for 3,000 new residences west of the river to revive the area. Just a year and a half later, 440 units are already in development at Wells Street and Plankinton Avenue, Plankinton and Wisconsin, 5th Street and Michigan Street and 8th and Michigan. The Moderne, at Juneau and 3rd Street, is now complete, and added 200 units.

Big changes are on the way for the Milwaukee skyline, as five tall buildings are being developed east of the river—three of them office buildings. The downtown streetcar route comes near all of this development. In the future, the convention center plans an expansion and the new Bucks owners are talking about adding an entertainment district with housing units and a sports facility.

## Meet 13th District Youth Council Member Carol Yang

Carol Yang is now serving as the 13th District’s representative on the City of Milwaukee Youth Council.



The City of Milwaukee Youth Council is group of young leaders committed to making a difference in Milwaukee and advocating for youth issues. They represent young people in their aldermanic districts, meeting with leaders like the mayor, Common Council members, the school superintendent, business owners and community groups.

Ms. Yang is a junior at Greendale High School. She enjoys singing, performing and participating in school activities. As an active member of her community, Carol is involved in Teens Against Tobacco Use (T.A.T.U), Health Opportunities for Students of America (HOSA), Women’s Choir and Math Club.

To learn more, visit [milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil](http://milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil). ■



Alderman Witkowski lent his support to the downtown streetcar project in a press conference in January. The transformative project has the potential to drive economic development downtown and reduce the tax burden on residents citywide, and could include a future spur linking to the airport.

DISTRICT **13**



# ALDERMAN TERRY L. WITKOWSKI



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WINTER **15**



**Terry L. Witkowski**  
Alderman, 13<sup>th</sup> District  
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As chair of the Public Safety Committee, Alderman Witkowski led efforts to honor two Milwaukee Police officers who were seriously wounded in the line of duty when they were ambushed by a gunman in 2009. Officers Graham Kunisch and Bryan Norberg were shot in the face at point-blank range by a man they were questioning in the 800 block of S. 2nd Street. Officer Kunisch suffered severe wounds and injuries in the shooting, including brain injury and the loss of his left eye, and Officer Norberg also sustained severe wounds to his mouth and jaw. The city is grateful for their heroic service.

## Stay Connected with MKE Mobile >

You can now download and explore the new City of Milwaukee Mobile Service Request App (MKE Mobile). MKE Mobile is free and accessible to all Milwaukee residents and can be downloaded on the iTunes App Store or the Google Play Store.

With a few clicks, residents can report, photograph and provide documentation to ensure that neighborhood issues can be resolved quickly. Timely reports allow the proper city authorities to promptly address issues including abandoned vehicles, litter/debris, sidewalks not shoveled, missed collections, graffiti and potholes.

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