

ALDERMAN
MICHAEL J.
MURPHY

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AUTUMN 15

Dear Neighbor,

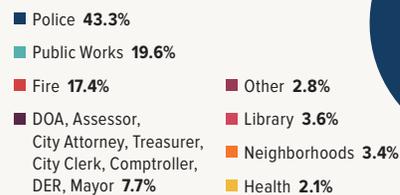
In the weeks ahead, the Common Council will tackle the biggest job that it faces on an annual basis—debating and amending the mayor's proposed \$1.55 billion budget for the 2016 year ahead. In recent budgets, the city has maintained services without significantly raising taxes, even in the face of cuts to our funding by the state government and the devastating effects of the foreclosure crisis. Your input is critical as we determine which programs and projects to prioritize heading into 2016.

Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee will pore over every line item, scrutinizing departments' spending plans and recommending changes that they feel will better serve the community. This process culminates with a meeting of the full Common Council on November 3, during which amendments face their final approval by members casting a final up or down vote on the proposed budget. In the spirit of transparency, every minute of this process is broadcast live on the City Channel (Ch. 25 or 97.25 for Time Warner subscribers, Ch. 99 for AT&T U-Verse subscribers) and online at milwaukee.gov/citychannel.

As proposed by the mayor, the budget would hold steady the city's tax levy, while the tax rate would drop 12 cents, from \$10.71 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$10.59. As a result, a median-valued home worth \$104,000 would pay \$1,101 in city taxes, a decrease of \$13 from last year.

Some items worth noting from the mayor's proposed budget include:

- \$880,000 to equip all police officers with body-worn video cameras
- Ending the cost-saving requirement for police officers to take three unpaid furlough days per year
- Maintaining the police department's sworn strength at 1,880
- Maintaining hours of operation at local libraries
- Moving forward with plans to replace Forest Home and Mill Road Libraries
- Continuing the new trauma-informed care effort, which matches victims of and witnesses to violent crime with the mental health services they need

Tax Levy-Funded Operating Budget:
By Department

Note: Does not include \$299.66 million of DPW-operated Enterprise Funds (Parking, Sewer, Water). Three departments (DPW, Police, Fire) comprise 80.3% of the 2016 Operating Budget.

- Adding two Health Department positions to coordinate efforts to address youth violence
- Quickly re-surfacing 22 miles of streets through the city's High Impact Paving program
- Replacing 15 miles of streets using traditional methods
- Directing \$10.9 million toward neighborhood revitalization and stabilization efforts to combat the effects of the foreclosure crisis

Citizens weighed in with their opinions at a public hearing on the evening of **October 5**, but it's not too late to make your voice heard on these and other important matters. Please contact my office with any input you would like to offer to the budget process by calling **(414) 286-2074** or emailing mmurph@milwaukee.gov.

Thanks,

Michael J. Murphy
Common Council President
Alderman, 10th District





MKE Plays Raises \$1 Million in Private Funding for Playground Revitalizations in the City

Children and park users throughout the City of Milwaukee are benefitting from the MKE Plays initiative to replace deteriorating or outdated playground equipment. Equipment has already been replaced at one neighborhood park, using crucial input and participation from residents in the local area.

“The spirit of collaboration and private investment that is driving this initiative is truly inspiring,” Alderman Murphy said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to rejuvenate these play spaces for our children while operating in a spirit of inclusive collaboration that brings neighborhoods closer together.”

Created by Alderman Murphy and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Common Council, the MKE Plays Initiative is implementing a “bottom-up, community-centered approach” to replacing aging or obsolete equipment in city-owned play areas. The initiative seeks both to raise over \$1 million in private funding and to replace playground equipment with input from local residents who help determine how the park should be designed so it complements neighborhood identity.

As part of the initiative, the Department of Public Works assessed dozens of city-owned parks and play areas, selecting 12 that were in the direst need of replacement. Now, combined with city resources, Alderman Murphy is seeking private donors to finance the improvements while assembling local committees to determine what sorts of amenities to provide. Generous donations from major foundations in the city laid the groundwork for this process, and Milwaukee Magazine even listed the initiative as one of its top 50 reasons to love Milwaukee.

To learn more, visit milwaukee.gov/MKEplays. ■



PLAYGROUNDS TO BE RECONSTRUCTED

Twelve playgrounds are slated to be reconstructed through the MKE Plays initiative:

●	Arlington Heights
●	67th & Spokane
●	Long Island & Custer
●	Snail’s Crossing
●	DeBack Park
●	17th & Vine
	21st & Keefe
	5th & Randolph
	Buffum & Center
	Foundation Park
	34th & Mt. Vernon
	Trowbridge Square

- **Completed**
- **In Progress**



Alderman Seeks Input on Future of Burleigh/Lisbon Corridors >

Alderman Murphy took notice this year when the bankruptcy filing of an established, west-side Italian restaurant was soon followed by closures of an art specialty shop and a small neighborhood pharmacy due to the long-term owners' retirements.

"These businesses are the mom-and-pop-type shops that bring great value to any neighborhood, and the timing in losing these iconic places in quick succession had a noticeable impact here," Alderman Murphy said.

Thanks to the efforts of the local Alderman, Jim Bohl, Bunzel's Meat Market recently purchased the Artist and Display site and will expand its operations there. However, other vacancies persist. Some are exacerbated by compounding issues, like the bankruptcy delays in the court system for the Mamma's Restaurant site.

To assist with the short- and long-term improvement of the business strip, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Bohl have launched a snapshot planning study for the corridor. The goal is to bring together area residents, businesses and real estate brokers, along with city departments, to spearhead a business corridor plan that will assist brokers in attracting businesses the area wants. The study will also look at potential streetscaping possibilities for Burleigh Street.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Please make plans to attend the Burleigh Street / Lisbon Avenue community meeting and offer your input on the future of these business corridors:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH | 6:30PM

Milwaukee School of Languages, 8400 W. Burleigh Street

Residents are encouraged to visit milwaukee.gov/AreaPlans/West.htm, look for the Burleigh/Lisbon corridor link and complete the survey.

In addition to significant behind-the-scenes planning, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Bohl will host a larger **community meeting on Monday, November 16th, 6:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee School of Languages, 8400 W. Burleigh St.** The meeting will solicit residents' input for the type of businesses they want on Burleigh Street and Lisbon Avenue, as well as their views on streetscaping options that can improve the character of those corridors.

Alderman Murphy said he is hopeful that residents will attend this meeting and help to maximize neighborhood input into business planning for the area. ■

New Bucks Arena Means More Jobs for Milwaukeeans >

A \$500 million construction project to build a new arena for the Milwaukee Bucks will have far-reaching benefits for unemployed and underemployed residents in the City of Milwaukee.

In September, the Common Council voted 12-3 to approve a development agreement with the Bucks that will enable the team to begin construction of a state-of-the-art arena to replace the Bradley Center just north of the current site in downtown Milwaukee. Team officials had said they would consider moving the team to a different city if a deal couldn't be reached, but the agreement will allow the city to continue to benefit from the NBA franchise's presence.

The city will not spend any property tax money to help the Bucks finance the arena.

In negotiations over the project, the city convinced the Bucks to agree that at least 40 percent of the jobs created to build the new arena will go to Milwaukee residents who qualify as unemployed or underemployed. The agreement also committed \$750,000 to recruiting, training and assisting those workers, ensuring that when work is completed on the new arena, they will be qualified to find work on other construction projects in the future.

"Our deal with the Milwaukee Bucks lets us build even more momentum in the city's development boom, putting Milwaukeeans



who need jobs to work and giving them the skills to keep it in the years ahead," Alderman Murphy said.

The deal with the Bucks is similar to one the city struck with Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance over its new 32-story, 550-foot tower downtown. Construction is well under way, and NWM is exceeding its goals—as of last spring, 46 percent of the construction hours were worked by previously unemployed or underemployed Milwaukee residents, and 35 of the 215 city residents working on the project were taking part in an apprenticeship to learn new skills. ■

Nationstar Mortgage Provides \$30 Million to Address Foreclosure Problems ➤

In an effort to alleviate the impacts of the foreclosure crisis, one of the largest Milwaukee area mortgage servicers has agreed to provide the city with \$30 million, comply with initiatives to cut down on blight and meet regularly with customers.

Nationstar Mortgage will make the investment over the next three years, under the deal negotiated by Alderman Murphy and Mayor Tom Barrett, and will provide \$500,000 each year to the city's popular STRONG Homes Loan Program.

"This deal is the first of its kind that Nationstar has reached with a municipality in which it does business," Alderman Murphy said. "These funds are going to help keep hardworking Milwaukeeans in their homes, they will help eliminate neighborhood decay and

they will reduce the burden that foreclosed properties inflict on our city."

Nationstar services mortgages on around 3,400 properties in the city, and about 150 of those mortgages are in foreclosure. Forty-six of those properties have been abandoned, and pose a risk of becoming neighborhood nuisances if they are not addressed.

But as part of the agreement, Nationstar pledged to comply with city foreclosure ordinances intended to prevent foreclosed properties from becoming nuisances, donate foreclosed property to neighborhood groups and hold face-to-face meetings with customers at least three times a year. ■

Council Cracks Down on Predatory Tow Companies ➤

Horror stories about shady tow truck companies stealing away with cars in the dead of night and holding vehicles hostage for outrageous ransom payments should become a thing of the past, thanks to new legislation by Alderman Murphy.

Perhaps most notably, if you come across a truck that is in the process of hooking up to your vehicle, the driver is now required to offer you the option of paying a \$50 "drop fee" to get your car back immediately. This allows car owners who made the mistake of briefly parking somewhere they shouldn't have to reclaim their vehicle without the expense or hassle of going to the tow lot.

The new legislation also requires tow truck operators to be licensed to do business in the City of Milwaukee, Alderman Murphy said, in order to track abusive or illegal operators and run them out of business. Residents who believe they have been victimized by a tow truck company will be able to file complaints with the city's License Division, and companies will be held accountable for any violations when they renew their licenses.

Alderman Murphy advises residents to know their rights when it comes to towed vehicles:

- If a tow truck has not begun hooking up to your vehicle, you are allowed to move your vehicle to a legal parking spot without paying any fine.
- If a tow truck has started hooking up to your vehicle, but hasn't pulled out into traffic yet, you are allowed to pay a \$50 drop fee to reclaim your vehicle. Tow truck drivers must accommodate such a request.
- Tow truck drivers and companies must accept payment in cash, debit cards or credit cards, and must provide a receipt.



- Tow truck drivers must notify the city before they tow your vehicle. If you suspect your vehicle has been towed, you may call 286-CITY to confirm.
- Milwaukee's licensed towing companies may not tow your vehicle to a location outside the city.
- According to state law, a towing company must allow you to retrieve any items out of your car, without charging you a fee to do so.
- Tow trucks must be licensed to operate in the City of Milwaukee, and must post their license number on the side of their trucks. If you suspect you have been victimized by an illegal tow operation, call the police immediately. ■



Smoother Rides Ahead: Local Roadwork Moves Forward

A source of pain for residents and car suspensions alike, old worn-out roadways are getting some much-needed attention through an innovative city program that resurfaces streets with only a minor inconvenience to city residents.

The High Impact Paving program focuses on extending the useful life of local roads by seven to ten years through a resurfacing process that only takes a day or two to complete. The program has proven itself incredibly popular, and the Mayor’s proposed budget for 2016 includes funds to resurface another 22 miles of roadway.

In the 10th Aldermanic District, the High Impact Paving Program has helped smooth over segments of W. North Avenue, N. 55th Street and W. Roosevelt Drive. The Department of Public Works plans to resurface N. 51st Street from Burleigh to Center and N. 60th Street from Burleigh to Appleton in the 2016 year ahead. ■

Milwaukee Running Festival Provides Big-City Exposure

The City of Milwaukee makes its debut on the national “running scene” this fall with a marquee marathon, half marathon, 5k and one-mile runs in the first ever Milwaukee Running Festival.

Scheduled for Halloween weekend, the running festival showcases many wonderful city landmarks, draws thousands of participants to Milwaukee and generates millions of dollars in local economic activity, all while cementing Milwaukee’s bid as a destination for running and outdoor activities. A health and wellness expo is also a part of the big weekend.

“Having a big-name running event take place here is really just another sign of Milwaukee’s renaissance as a city,” Alderman



Local Startup Businesses Turn Heads

The success of two local startups on Milwaukee’s West Side is just another example of why the 10th Aldermanic District is a great place to live and do business, Alderman Murphy said.

Launched in 2009 at 5918 W. Vliet St., Valentine Coffee Co. has quickly grown into a Milwaukee institution, with more than \$1.4 million in projected 2015 revenue. Led by president and CEO Robb Kashevarof and vice president and COO Joe Gilsdorf, Valentine was recently recognized with a Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce Future 50 award.

Also generating significant accolades and growing foot traffic, Story Hill BKC can now brag that it was listed in Milwaukee Magazine’s “50 Reasons to Love Milwaukee.” Located at 5100 W. Blue Mound Rd., Story Hill BKC has earned citywide acclaim as a neighborhood favorite for dinner, brunch or happy hour in just its first year in business.

“Congratulations to both of these fine local businesses for their success and recognition,” Alderman Murphy said, “and thanks for continuing to make this a great place to live.” ■

Murphy said. “We’re fortunate to have been able to work with the event organizers and city officials to smooth over the planning issues that cropped up along the way, and I look forward to the positive exposure this event will create for the city.”

“Events like the Chicago Marathon and the Boston Marathon are ubiquitous, and make up an important part of those cities’ identities,” Alderman Murphy said. “I’m pleased that we can now add the ‘Milwaukee Marathon’ to the rich fabric of our city’s identity.”

Visit milwaukeerunningfestival.com to learn more. ■

A New Approach to Violent Crime

Beyond every police-taped scene of a violent crime, there are shattered lives and unspoken traumas that will haunt their victims for decades to come. But a new city program hopes to treat the psychological wounds that are left when all the questions are answered and the echoes of sirens have faded away.

As part of the 2015 budget, the Common Council created within the Milwaukee Health Department a pilot program to house rapid crisis response teams of trauma informed care specialists in the Police Districts which have the highest rates of violent crime. The idea is to dispatch these specialists to the scenes of violent crimes to provide crucial counseling services to the victims of and witnesses to violent crimes.

“Focusing on the root causes of crime should, dollar for dollar, have a more efficient and far-reaching impact,” Alderman Murphy said. “The people in these neighborhoods know firsthand how traumatizing violence can be, especially for young children.

“Too often, the same children who witness violence one year commit it the next,” Alderman Murphy said. “We need to get in the middle of that cycle and change the expectations on our streets.”

A team at Milwaukee Police Department District 7 is implementing the trauma response pilot project to connect children who have witnessed violence in their home or community to the County Mobile Urgent Treatment Team. When an officer responds to a call, they can refer a child to the mobile team, and the team of clinicians then connects with the family to provide support and access to services. The team has so far responded to more than 50 calls. ■

New State Law Requires Photo ID to Vote

Starting with the 2016 Spring Primary Election, all Wisconsin voters must show an acceptable photo ID before voting. This includes voters at polling places and many absentee voters.

- The address on your photo ID does NOT have to be your current address and the name on your ID does NOT need to be an exact match to your name in the poll book.
- You will need to show one of the photo ID types listed below. Please note that there is no such thing as a “Voter ID Card.”

VOTING AND ACCEPTABLE PHOTO IDS

The following photo IDs are acceptable, even if they are expired (as long as the ID did not expire before November 4, 2014).

- A Wisconsin Driver’s License, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- A Wisconsin Identification Card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (available for free)

Tax Foreclosure Policies Combat Blight

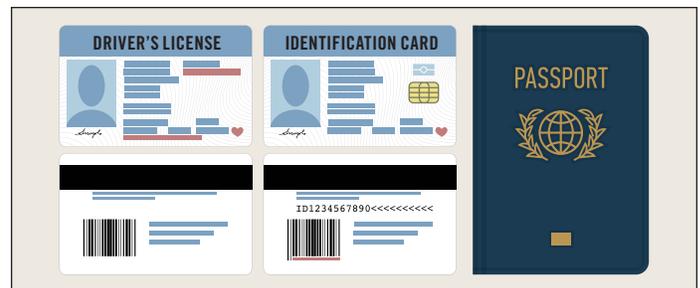
In order to protect neighborhoods from blight and decay, the City of Milwaukee will now be able to fast-track the tax foreclosure process in cases of homes that are vacant or abandoned.

Previously, the process of seizing an abandoned home that hadn’t paid property taxes took up to two-and-a-half years, Alderman Murphy said. In that amount of time, abandoned homes often become a target for vandals or illegal scrapping operations, which further reduce the homes’ value and leaves them stripped of necessary equipment, plumbing and wiring. By the time the city finally takes possession of many abandoned homes, weather damage and decay leave the city with no other option but demolition.

However, in cases where it has been established that the home is abandoned, new legislation allows the city to carry out the “in rem” foreclosure process in as little as a year.

“When we lose these properties to vandalism or damage, we are losing our tax base and creating vacant lots that may not be redeveloped for a full generation,” Alderman Murphy said. “Working together with neighbors, we can get these homes into the city’s possession quickly enough to preserve them for future buyers.”

To learn more, visit milwaukee.gov/treasurer. To report an abandoned home in your neighborhood, call Alderman Murphy’s office at 286-2074. ■



- A Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- A U.S. Passport

NOTE: The Election Commission has additional facts about voter identification requirements that can be found at milwaukee.gov/election. ■

City Now Hiring Election Workers ➤

Do you support fair, transparent and accurate elections? If so, the City of Milwaukee Election Commission needs your help.

The Election Commission is hiring election workers for the 2016 elections (February 16th, April 5th, August 9th, and November 8th). Earn some extra money, work at a voting site close to home, and serve as a role model of civic responsibility to your friends, family and neighbors.

For more information, visit milwaukee.gov/election and click on the Election Workers tab, where you will also find the application (either an application to print and mail or one to complete and submit online). You may also pick up an application at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., Room 501 or call the Election Worker Coordinator **Dan Puhek** at **414-286-3491** to request an application by mail. ■

UPCOMING 2016 ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

Spring Primary

TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH

Spring General

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9TH

Fall Primary

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

Fall Presidential Election



If you have any questions, please contact the Election Commission at **414-286-3491** or milwaukee.gov/election.



TRICK OR TREAT SCHEDULE

Once again, the City of Milwaukee will sponsor a city-wide Trick-or-Treat event, and residents and ghouls alike should know that this year's schedule is: **Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM**

Fall Leaf Collection Started October 1st ➤

City of Milwaukee residents can rake leaves into the street for pickup by Department of Public Works sanitation crews. City crews will wrap up leaf collection around November 25.

Residents are asked to rake their leaves into the street at the curb for collection. Sanitation crews will still pick up remaining leaf piles as long as weather permits through November 25. If you haven't raked your leaves into the road by the time crews complete collections in your area, you must bag them and take them to a Self-Help Center for disposal.

For more information, call **286-CITY**. ■



Shovel Your Sidewalks, It's the Law ➤

Please remember that residential and commercial property owners and occupants are required to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow or ice within 24 hours of the end of a storm. This includes the corner crosswalk area for property owners with corner lots, and those whose properties abut a mid-block crosswalk.

If violations are reported, a 24-hour notice is issued. If the sidewalks still are not cleared, a sanitation crew will clear a path and put the charge on the property tax bill. **This year, the fines for failing to remove snow and ice from sidewalks have increased**, in order to provide uniformity with other city regulations and ensure that sidewalks remain passable in winter.

Property owners found to be in violation of this ordinance will be fined \$50 (up from \$25). Those who fail to clear their sidewalk within 24 hours of receiving a violation notice will be assessed additional special charges of \$75

for the second violation and \$100 for the third and subsequent violations in a given winter season. These special charges are in addition to the cost of snow and ice removal billed to the property owner if the city is forced to do the work.

Residents should call (414) 286-CITY to report unshoveled sidewalks in their neighborhood.

If you have neighbors who, due to age or physical abilities, cannot shovel their sidewalks, please reach out to offer them assistance. For elderly or disabled residents who cannot find help with their sidewalks, the Department of Public Works makes city crews available to clear the public sidewalk. A cost is assessed for each instance when this service is utilized. Anyone who is interested in this service should contact Alderman Murphy's office at 286-2074.

For more information, call **286-CITY**. ■

DISTRICT 10

ALDERMAN MICHAEL J. MURPHY



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AUTUMN 15



Michael J. Murphy
Alderman, 10th District
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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Alderman Murphy joined more than 200 volunteers, including partners from Marquette University High School and the Merrill Park Neighborhood Association, in working to replace playground equipment at Merrill Park, a play lot at the corner of N. 35th Street and W. Michigan Avenue. The project was made possible by Let's Play, a partnership between Dr. Pepper Snapple Group and KaBOOM!

MKE Mobile

GET IT NOW

City of Milwaukee services in the palm of your hand.

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