

# THE COGGS CONNECTION

Winter  
2013-2014



**MILELE A. COGGS** 6th District Alderwoman

City Hall, Room 205 • 200 E. Wells Street • Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 286-2994 • [mcoggs@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mcoggs@milwaukee.gov) • [www.milwaukee.gov/district6](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district6)

## Dear Neighbor,

A safe, productive community is an involved community, and an involved community is an informed community. It is my goal in these newsletters to provide the kind of information that helps us all continue to make the 6th Aldermanic District a great place to live and do business.

I look around our district, and I see much to be excited about. The completion of King Commons IV on Martin Luther King Dr. has preserved the historic character of our district, opened up affordable housing to our neighbors and beautified a significant street. Young people have opportunities to explore careers in the city services while getting paid a good wage. And neighbors are rallying together to celebrate the history we hold dear and fight back against crime and vandalism in their neighborhoods.

The City of Milwaukee continues to face challenges, however, and it is up to every citizen to do their part. Many of you did when you voted overwhelmingly in April to support a referendum against ending the practice of same-day voter registration. But you can do more by volunteering to help with neighborhood events; contact my office at 286-2994 to learn more. City leaders have also signed off on a bold initiative to fight back against the city's foreclosure crisis in the year ahead. And, legislation that I sponsored will help us combat for-profit, predatory colleges and universities that seek to take advantage of first-generation and low-income students, fight foreclosure and promote volunteer opportunities.

These important stories, and more, are included in this newsletter.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns, or to request a neighborhood meeting.

Peace, Love & Justice,

Milele A. Coggs, J.D.  
6th District Alderwoman – City of Milwaukee



Scan this QR Code with your phone and link to regularly updated info on my website!

Or go to: [www.milwaukee.gov/district6](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district6)

View meetings on the web: [www.milwaukee.gov/Channel25](http://www.milwaukee.gov/Channel25)

Follow us on Twitter @MKE\_CC and @MKE\_TV for City of Milwaukee Common Council and City Clerk news, info and updates.

## Committee Assignments

City Information Management - *Chair*

Licenses - *Vice Chair* Finance & Personnel - *Member*

Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation - *Member*

Library Board of Trustees - *Member* MMSD - *Commissioner*

Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault - *Member*



Alderwoman Coggs addresses a group of Riverside University High School students who marched all the way from their school to City Hall in order to protest increasing gun violence and to demand stricter gun laws.

## Important City Phone Numbers

Non-emergency police number: 933.4444

License Division: 286.2238

Report illegal dumping 1.800.78.CRIME

Other calls for service, questions or concerns: 286-CITY

## Please make plans to attend these Upcoming 6th District Events:

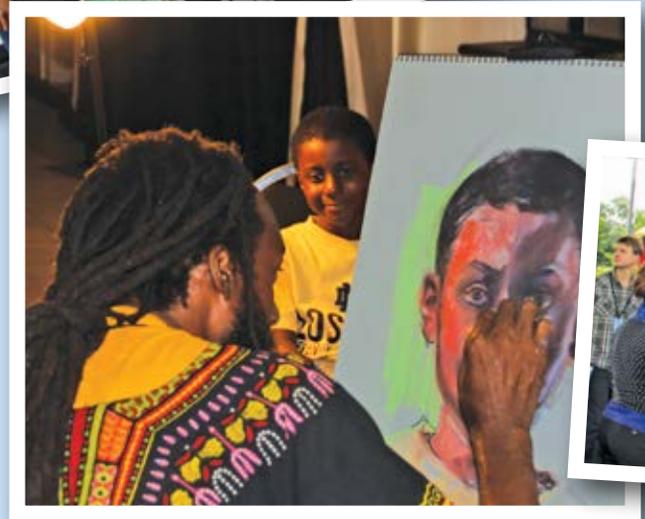
- **MKE Business Mixer**  
Best Friendz Klub House, 2722 N. MLK Dr.  
Friday, January 24, 2014 – 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- **MKE Business Now Entrepreneurship Summit**  
Business and Economics Academy of Milwaukee, Inc. (BEAM), 3620 N. 18th St.  
Saturday, January 25, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Town Hall Meeting, MLK Library, 310 W. Locust St.**  
Wednesday, January 29, 2014 – 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

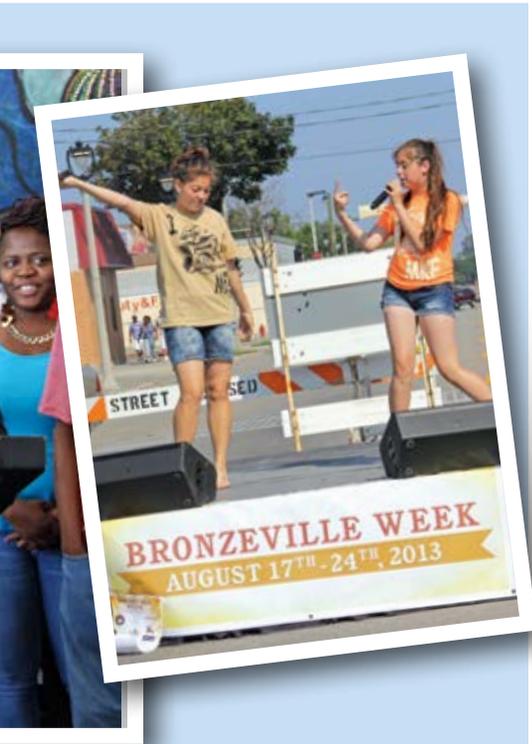
Have a smoke detector installed! Call the Milwaukee Fire Department's Smoke Detector Hotline at (414) 286-8980.

# NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

## New Energy in Bronzeville

Milwaukeeans celebrated a historic hub of African American culture and community this summer in the inaugural Bronzeville Week held August 17 to 24. Approved by the Common Council and sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs and Friends of Bronzeville, the lineup of events included a gallery night, a panel discussion on the history of Bronzeville, the MKE Business Now – Bronzeville Business Resource Seminar, featured film and poetry events, health screenings, “Empowerment Sunday” clean-up and beautification activities, guided trolley tours, a Bronzeville market, and a 50th anniversary celebration of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech.





## Nominations sought for 2013 Dr. James G. White 6th District Difference Makers Awards

Alderwoman Coggs is now seeking nominations for the **2013 Dr. James G. White 6th District Difference Makers Awards**.

Four awards will be presented to 6th District residents, one to a community organization and one to a block club, all of which have contributed to making their neighborhood a better place. Nomination forms are available online at Alderwoman Coggs's website ([milwaukee.gov/district6](http://milwaukee.gov/district6)), or by calling the Alderwoman's office at 286-2994 to receive a hard copy of the form by mail.

Nominations for the Difference Makers Awards will be accepted through January 24th. Alderwoman Coggs will announce the honorees at the 6th District Town Hall meeting on **Wednesday, January 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 310 W. Locust St.**



## Treasurer's Office Offers "Pay at the Bank" Option

The City Treasurer's Office is now accepting property tax payments at several U.S. Bank branch locations across Milwaukee, an arrangement that enables the city to reduce staffing costs while increasing convenience for city taxpayers.

The new program, implemented by City Treasurer Spencer Coggs, eliminates the time and inconvenience of having residents drive downtown to pay their bill at City Hall. Instead, residents can pay their city property tax bill at one of 13 U.S. Bank locations in the city. **One does not need to be a customer of U.S. Bank to participate in this program.**

Near the 6th Aldermanic District, participating bank branches include 5220 W. North Ave., 3720 W. Villard Ave., 2303 N. Farwell Ave., 650 N. Plankinton Ave. and 2537 W. Wisconsin Ave.

**Please note that the bank branches will not issue tax refunds, nor will they accept payments on prior year delinquent tax accounts. Any refund check owed and a tax receipt will be separately mailed by the city to anyone who uses the program.**

To learn more, visit: [www.milwaukee.gov/treasurer](http://www.milwaukee.gov/treasurer)



## "Creational Spaces" Coming To Harambee



With the help of a \$350,000 grant from ArtPlace America, a group of Milwaukee artists plans to transform an urban, industrial scar on the landscape into a unique recreational area serving to tie together two disparate neighborhoods.

Led by the Beintween network, "The Artery" is developing along the former Beerline rail corridor between Keefe Ave. in Riverwest and Capitol Drive in Harambee. Organizers intend the project to not only extend the Beerline trail from where it dead-ends at Keefe, but to create a unique sense of place – what the artists have dubbed a "Creational Space" – through the utilization of artistic elements and flourishes.

Alderwoman Coggs said that grant funding from ArtPlace America will go a long way toward achieving these ends, providing for unique and interactive art installations along the trail to generate interest and foot traffic.

You can learn more by visiting: [www.thearterymke.org](http://www.thearterymke.org)

## Council Greenlights Strong Neighborhoods Investment Plan in 2014 Budget

With stagnant property values kneecapping the city's revenue growth, Milwaukee's leaders have opted to tackle the problem head-on with the introduction of a new program known as SNIP.

The flagship proposal of the 2014 budget, the Strong Neighborhoods Investment Plan aims to address the lingering effects of the foreclosure crisis. Due to nonpayment of property taxes, the city has been forced to seize more than 1,250 homes. As a result, these tax foreclosures are lost from the property tax rolls while the city is forced to pay for routine upkeep, and very often the properties' serious maintenance needs go unaddressed.

The city, of course, has no desire to find itself in the business of real estate. SNIP will steer \$11.7 million toward the demolition, rehabilitation, marketing and sale of city-owned foreclosed homes. Alderwoman Coggs was among the supporters of this provision, which she says will bolster property values, beautify neighborhoods and reduce crime.

For more information on SNIP, visit: [www.city.milwaukee.gov/DCD](http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/DCD).

## Girls' Day at City Hall Continues to Grow

In its third year exposing young women to civic role models and career options, Girls' Day at City Hall continued to grow in scope, while earning the endorsement of the Common Council and Mayor Tom Barrett as an official city program.

Founded by Alderwoman Coggs in 2011, Girls' Day at City Hall pairs local leaders with young women from the community, focusing on bringing young professionals who serve as elected officials or community service leaders together with teens to take part in activities that empower the students to impact their community. The events include an address by the Mayor, panel discussions with local leaders and personal growth workshops.

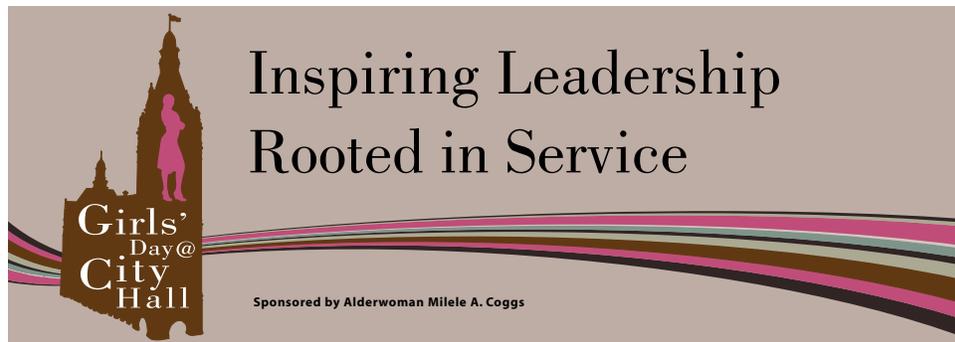
In July 2013, the Milwaukee Common Council passed a resolution designating Girls' Day as an official city program and recognizing the value it offers to young women. Alderwoman Coggs, who is one of just 14 women in the history of the City of Milwaukee to have served as a Common Council member, thanked her colleagues and the Mayor for their support, noting that she hopes the program has the potential to transform the Common Council into less of a "boys' club" than it has been to date.

"I believe my fellow Council members have seen the value of Girls' Day, and recognize that it is a positive program that can nurture and empower future leaders of our city," Alderwoman Coggs said.

Girls' Day was held this year in March. Special guests and panelists included Lelah Huntley of Flood the Hood with Dreams, Rosalynn Wolfe of the League of Young Voters, Martha De La Rosa of the Center for Progressive Leadership, Nikki Purvis of the Office of Small Business Development, Sarah Dollhausen of Tru Skool, LaShawndra Vernon of United Way of Greater Milwaukee, Judge Valarie Hill, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, Milwaukee County Supervisor Peggy Romo-West, State Representative La Tonya Johnson, former State Representative Elizabeth Coggs, Thelma Sias of We Energies, and Mayor Tom Barrett.

"It's very heartening to see so many professional women who are leaders in their community come forward to serve as role models for teens," Alderwoman Coggs said. "Women are still underrepresented in elected office, but participants in Girls' Day at City Hall are inspiring examples of how women are competing and leading in the modern public sphere."

**Girls' Day will take place in March 2014. Please call Alderwoman Coggs's office at 286-2994 to register. Read Alderwoman Coggs's legislation at [bit.ly/19Z3j0m](http://bit.ly/19Z3j0m).**



## Freedom Essay Scholarship Winners

This fall, Alderwoman Coggs announced the winners of the sixth annual Freedom Scholarship Essay Contest.



Selected from entries sent to the Alderwoman's office, the winners were **Saudia Norfleet**, an industrial technology major at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and **Chakari Monsanto**, who is attending Marquette University and will be majoring in clinical laboratory sciences.



Alderwoman Coggs said each of the winning essays resonated with the theme of the scholarship contest, which asks students to put into words what the concept of "freedom" means to them and how they can combat and prevent prejudice, discrimination and violence in our world today. "These young people demonstrated an understanding of the struggle for equality and freedom that transcends their youth," Alderwoman

Coggs said. "They make me proud and give me hope for the future."

Ms. Norfleet, in her essay, wrote: "Although the freedom we have now was gradually and difficultly obtained over time, it can just as quickly be snatched from under us if we as people do not continue to push to ensure that the rights we are entitled to are actively applied."



In her essay, Ms. Monsanto wrote: "The lessons need to be passed down to new generations. If they aren't aware of such lessons, they will believe anything and accept anything, which is detrimental to their lives."

Each winner receives a \$500 scholarship award.

**Scholarship applications for 2014 will be available in April.**

## Youth Can Get Work as Fire Cadets and Police Aides

Young people aged 17 to 19 who are looking to jumpstart a career serving their city have two unique opportunities available to them through Milwaukee's fire cadet and police aide programs. The apprentice-style courses offer participants the chance to get paid, on-the-job training on a career track that could lead to a fulltime job as a firefighter or a police officer.



Fire cadets serve as full-time employees in various support functions while completing firefighter training. They earn an annual salary of \$23,205 (or \$22,862 for non-Milwaukee residents) and receive full health and dental benefits. Fire Cadets also aid in increasing the diversity of the Milwaukee Fire Department by providing new ideas and problem-solving skills to the fire service. Upon successful completion of the Fire Cadet Program, reaching the age of 21 and passage of a physical ability test, Fire Cadets will be placed in the next scheduled MFD recruit class. Recruits receive a salary of \$30,061, and after completing further training, are promoted to the rank of firefighter, which has a starting salary of \$40,081.

Police aides are uniformed civilian employees who serve in an apprentice-style program designed to prepare them for a career as a police officer. They also earn a minimum of \$23,205 a year (or \$22,862 for non-Milwaukee residents) and receive full health and dental benefits. Duties include administrative and clerical functions and processing department arrestees. Police aides are also required to meet established criteria by completing a prescribed course of college curriculum and a physical fitness program prior to being considered for appointment to the rank of police officer.

**Recruitment for these positions takes place annually.**

**To learn more or apply online, visit [www.milwaukee.gov/jobs](http://www.milwaukee.gov/jobs).**

## NDHS Senior Benefits from Internship



Now a senior at North Division High School, **Takiya Eiland**, who also represents the 6th District on the city's Youth Council, spent the summer working in Alderwoman Coggs's office as a part of the Earn & Learn Summer Youth Internship program. This is how she described the experience:

"I was able to view firsthand what it's like being a Common Council member. I was also able to get a firsthand feel for what it's like to work in a council member's office. During my internship, I was able to gain many skills in typing, Microsoft Word, data entry, Excel and on the phone. Now that my internship is up, I have also landed another internship with a company called Artworks for Milwaukee. Once I complete my senior year and graduate, I plan to attend an HBCU and major in criminal justice.

"Working in the Alderwoman's office has given me just the motivation I needed to help me chase my dreams. It was a really nice experience."

**To learn more about the Earn & Learn program, visit [milwaukee.gov/SYIP](http://milwaukee.gov/SYIP).**

Keep Up to Date  
with the Youth Council

Facebook

[facebook.com/mkeyouthcouncil](https://facebook.com/mkeyouthcouncil)

Twitter

@mkeyouthcouncil

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



## Crime Prevention with Block Watch

Milwaukee's Block Watch program rallies police and neighbors to a common cause and provides residents with information on how to reduce or eliminate opportunities for crime. Police experts nationwide have linked the emergence of block watch groups to local declines in crime rates.

Block Watch members learn about ways to deter crime from a Milwaukee Police Department community liaison officer (CLO) and become better acquainted with their neighbors in the process, increasing security for everyone. Additionally, they learn how to effectively cooperate with police officers and take away the opportunity, ability and desire of criminals to commit crimes.

"Block Watch members not only learn how to deter crime from happening in the first place, they are actively working with police and keeping an eye out for suspicious activity, which also helps solve crimes and bring criminals to justice," Alderwoman Coggs said.

The support of local businesses is vital to the block watches, just as the support of block watches can be a boon to local business. Neighbors and businesses can accomplish many things by working together that they may not be able to do if working alone, and this cooperation is essential to making a neighborhood a cohesive community.

To become involved in a Block Watch, please contact the community liaison officers at the 5th Police District, 935-7258, or at the 1st Police District, 935-7701.

Residents can access the city's crime stats online at [www.milwaukee.gov/compass](http://www.milwaukee.gov/compass). Residents can use the "community mapping" function/application to search out robbery, theft, burglary and other crimes in their area.

**Residents can also sign up for E-Notify (on the city's website – [www.city.milwaukee.gov](http://www.city.milwaukee.gov)) and receive an email when a crime does occur in or near the area in which they live.**

## New Captains in Police Districts One and Five

**Capt. Aaron Michael Raap** is the new commander of Police District One. Having served the department for more than 23 years, Capt. Raap has experience with many aspects of law enforcement which include assignments in Traffic, Crime Prevention, Central Records, Police Districts One and Seven, Criminal Investigation Bureau – Violent Crimes, Vice Control, Neighborhood Investigations and the Intelligence Division. Capt. Raap is the former commander of the Neighborhood Task Force, the Human Resources Division and the Office of Management, Analysis and Planning, which is in the Office of the Chief of Police. He is well versed in many different aspects of modern-day law enforcement and the importance of police-community relations and involvement. Capt. Raap is excited to be working in such an up-tempo, vibrant and engaged police district.

*Capt. Aaron Michael Raap can be contacted at 935-7213.*

**Capt. Thomas Stigler** is the new commander of the Police District Five. Chief Edward Flynn promoted him to Captain on June 23rd, 2013, after more than 23 years of service. As a patrol officer, he worked in Districts One and Three. He was promoted to detective in 1994 and investigated violent crimes and homicides before being promoted to lieutenant in 1998. During his 15 years as a lieutenant, he supervised various divisions including the former Vice Control Division, and most recently he commanded the Homicide Division for two years. With his strong experience in investigations, he is committed to working in partnership with the community to reduce the level of crime, fear and disorder.

*Capt. Thomas Stigler can be contacted at 935-7250*

## Alderwoman Coggs Chosen as Region 7 Director to NLC National Black Caucus

Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs is now serving as the Region 7 Director of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) following her election at the National League of Cities' Congress of Cities and Exposition in Boston.



"I am truly honored by this election," Alderwoman Coggs said. "I am looking forward to bringing my insights and ideas to the initiatives and activities of NBC-LEO."

The NLC Congress's annual meeting works to bring city leaders together in order to share resources, network and discuss issues and difficulties facing U.S. cities today.

Region 7 of the NBC-LEO includes Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. The organization was formed in 1970 with the goal of representing the interests of African American elected officials. This includes increasing the participation of African Americans in the NLC and its steering and policy committees, which will help to ensure that programs and policies reflect the concerns of African Americans and their communities.

This organization also works on its own with members to inform them of issues affecting the African American community, and helps them to achieve community goals through legislation and direct action. NBC-LEO holds annual meetings in concurrence with the Congress of Cities and Congressional City Conference, including a conference in Milwaukee in August 2013.

Alderwoman Coggs is the youngest member currently on the Milwaukee Common Council and the only Alderwoman currently serving.

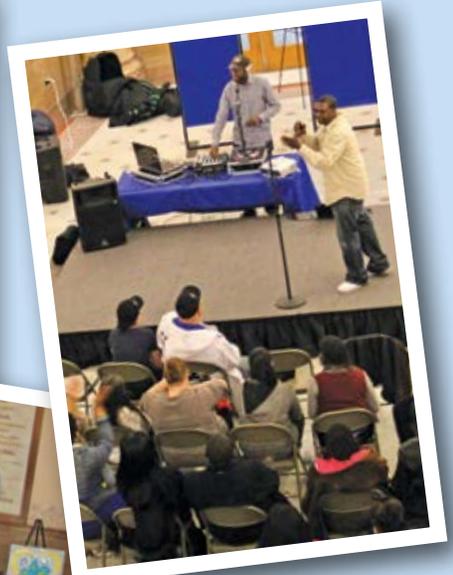


## 6th District Volunteer Opportunities

The wonderful events that make the 6th Aldermanic District a great place to live cannot take place without help from our neighbors. Please, if you're able, lend a hand and volunteer to make your neighborhood a better place. Call Alderwoman Coggs's office at 286-2994 to learn how to help.

## Politics & Poetry II at City Hall

Politically-charged poets and spoken word aficionados packed the City Hall rotunda for Alderwoman Coggs's Politics & Poetry II event ahead of the Spring election. Hosted by Kwabena Antoine Nixon (IKAN) and sponsored by the NAACP Young Adult Committee Milwaukee Branch, the League of Young Voters and the Sojourner Family Peace Center, the event was meant to encourage civic engagement and participation in the election. It was dedicated in memory of Anita Brooks, affectionately known in the poetry community as Anita Bee, who was the first poet to ever perform at a Politics & Poetry event and was passionate about voting.



## Motorcycle Safety Week Designated in Victim's Memory

In response to a community group's petition drive, the City of Milwaukee will officially recognize Motorcycle Safety Week during the first week of May in 2014, and during the same week in the years that follow. The drive's organizers sought the designation in memory of Milwaukeean Vinencia Dawson, who was killed in a motorcycle accident on June 30, 2013, and Alderwoman Coggs agreed to be the measure's primary sponsor. 116 Wisconsin motorcyclists were killed in crashes on the state's roadways in 2012. **Read Alderwoman Coggs's legislation at [bit.ly/1idP7Tt](http://bit.ly/1idP7Tt).**



**Saturday, January 25, 2014**  
**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Business and Economics Academy**  
**of Milwaukee, Inc. (BEAM)**  
**3620 N. 18th St. • Milwaukee, WI**

## Legislation Targeting Predatory Schools Protects Students

Predatory, for-profit institutions of higher learning may no longer qualify for city aid, under legislation sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs that aims to protect students and taxpayers alike.

The legislation mandates that all educational institutions must meet federal standards in order to receive financial assistance from the City of Milwaukee. Passed in June, the resolution received the unanimous support of the Milwaukee Common Council.

Alderwoman Coggs said certain educational institutions have been taking advantage of students, overwhelming them with debt and not providing them with the education, resources and benefits which they were due. Very often, the victims are first-generation and low-income students who may not know what other options are available.

"It is my hope that this measure will prevent the sort of fiasco that my district experienced when Everest College opened up shop several years ago, only to achieve pitiful results and then shut its doors," Alderwoman Coggs said.

**Read Alderwoman Coggs's legislation at [bit.ly/19bbVCS](http://bit.ly/19bbVCS).**



*"It is the responsibility of us all to give back to the community that helped to make us who we are." M.A.C.*

# THE COGGS CONNECTION



MILELE A. COGGS 6th District Alderwoman

## Called to Serve

Alderwoman Coggs congratulates Reuben and Mildred Harpole after they were presented with the 2013 Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award on September 4. The honor is awarded annually to recognize city residents who best exemplify late, former Mayor Frank P. Zeidler's legacy of social justice and civic accomplishment. The Harpoles have long served as mentors, role models and advocates for those looking to get ahead and prosper, particularly young African Americans. They have been tireless advocates for the City of Milwaukee, deeply committed to supporting the work of nonprofits with their time and energy, and Alderwoman Coggs is honored to have had the opportunity to nominate them for the award.



City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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## Making Connections

The opening of a unique public works project marks another milestone in the continued development along the Milwaukee River south of Brewers Hill. The Trestle Stair at the Marsupial Bridge repurposes a historic rail trestle, the old Beer Line B. Rising gently along the valley's edge, the Trestle project offers a public promenade and event space connecting the Marsupial Bridge and the Brady Street neighborhood on the eastern end to the North Commerce Street, Beer Line and Brewers Hill neighborhoods on the west.

The heavy timber structure that once carried freight trains now supports a concrete deck, integrated benches, perforated stainless steel railings with LED lighting and a cantilevered overlook, and provides easy access from the Marsupial Bridge to attractions like the Lakefront Brewery. Alderwoman Coggs was among the project supporters who took part in a ribbon cutting this summer.

Also this summer, the city completed rehabilitation work on the Pleasant Street Lift Bridge, which had been closed for work since September 2012.

