

ALDERMAN
RUSSELL W.

STAMPER, II

200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-2659 | milwaukee.gov/district15 | Russell.Stamper@milwaukee.gov

AUTUMN 14

Dear 15th District Residents,

It's an incredible honor to be elected to represent the neighborhood in which I grew up on the Milwaukee Common Council. I had the opportunity to meet many of you in the weeks leading up to this spring's special election, and I'm grateful for your support.

We are entering an important time here at City Hall—the time of year when the Common Council works with the Mayor to determine what our priorities will be in next year's budget. My pledge to you is that I will be an active advocate for your interests here at City Hall, particularly when it comes to housing, employment, public safety and keeping our streets in good repair.

In that same vein, a major election will help shape the future of our state and our nation this fall, and it is critical that every member of our city has his or her vote counted. Inset in this newsletter, you can find a helpful map that will show you exactly where to vote on November 4, how to register to vote and how you can vote early in Milwaukee. Please hang it on your refrigerator as a reminder to get out and vote.

The months since my election have flown by, and it's been a very busy, eventful summer here at City Hall. I have worked with my colleagues on the Common Council to create a number of programs that will help provide Milwaukee residents with jobs, and you can learn about all of these on page 7 of this newsletter. We're also working to address the city's foreclosure issues and the scars they have left on our cityscape, and you can learn more on page 6.

I'm here at City Hall to do your business. If you ever have questions or concerns with an issue in your neighborhood, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 286-2659 or by emailing Russell.Stamper@milwaukee.gov. Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your Alderman!

Sincerely,

Russell W. Stamper, II
Alderman, 15th District



Chosen in a special election to fill the 15th District seat vacated by outgoing Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II was formally sworn in on May 14, 2014. His father, Milwaukee County Reserve Judge Russell Stamper, administered his oath of office.

"Willie Hines served as a dedicated member of this council for 18 years," Alderman Stamper said. "His legacy in Milwaukee is truly great, and I am humbled and grateful to have been afforded the opportunity—and the challenge—of filling his seat."

Alderman Stamper comes to city government with a good deal of legislative experience, having previously served as a representative on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Alabama State before returning to Milwaukee and completing his MBA at Cardinal Stritch University. A lifelong Sherman Park resident, he spent several years serving on the neighborhood board and is an active mentor to at-risk youth.

Visit milwaukee.gov/district15 to view Alderman Stamper's first City Channel interview as a member of the Common Council.

Black Male Achievement Advisory Council Seeks Solutions



Alderman Stamper, Mayor Tom Barrett and other members of the BMAAC hear from community members seeking solutions to the city's problems with violence.

First as a County Supervisor and now as a Common Council member, Alderman Stamper serves on the recently-established Milwaukee Black Male Achievement Advisory Council. This dedicated group of local leaders is committed to addressing the disparities faced by black men and boys in the Milwaukee community, and the negative outcomes that result.

“The solutions to the challenges our young men face must start at a grassroots level,” Alderman Stamper said. “But the strength of the BMAAC is that it seeks out input from the community about solutions that work, and then finds ways to build on that success by coordinating with city leaders and resources.”

Launched with the support of a National League of Cities technical assistance grant, the BMAAC is charged by the NLC with identifying local challenges and opportunities in the plight of black men and boys in Milwaukee, exploring policies and strategies that have the potential to make an impact and developing mechanisms to evaluate and sustain progress over time.

As a part of Milwaukee’s participation in the program, city officials have attended conferences with leaders from all over the country to compare strategies and identify successes. Last spring, Alderman Stamper participated in a meeting of the council in Garden Homes Square Park during which members of the community worked together in search of solutions to a rising tide of violence in the city. And just recently, Milwaukee’s council played host to a delegation of officials from the NLC to highlight local strategies that are meeting with success.

“We have a lot of work to do, but my early experiences with BMAAC give me reason to hope that we can make significant headway on these problems,” Alderman Stamper said. **To learn more, visit milwaukee.gov/bma.** ■

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Member

- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Licenses Committee
- Special Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes

View meetings at:

milwaukee.gov/citychannel.
Follow us on Twitter @MKE_CC, @cityofmilwaukee and @MKE_TV for City of Milwaukee, Common Council and City Clerk news, info and updates.



Simply call 211 to get help with life.
Cell: (414) 773-0211
Free: (866) 211-3380

Get Connected. Get Answers.

United Way of greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

Resident Survey Yields Results ➤

Alderman Stamper thanks each and every one of his neighbors who filled out and returned a district survey early in the summer. More than 300 people mailed their concerns and opinions to Alderman Stamper, resulting in hundreds of orders for the city or residents to take corrective measures on nuisance properties and problems throughout the area.

“Maintaining a healthy neighborhood is a team effort,” Alderman Stamper said. “The city has considerable leverage to correct neighborhood problems, but we don’t always know an issue exists until it is brought to our attention. Thanks to all of my neighbors who act as an extra set of eyes and ears.”

You can report an issue at any time by reaching out to Alderman Stamper’s office at 286-2659 or by emailing Russell.Stamper@milwaukee.gov. ■

Smoke Detectors Are Lifesavers ➤

Many fatal fires in Milwaukee – including one that took the life of a 46-year-old woman near N. 2nd and W. Townsend Streets on September 6 – have occurred in homes without working smoke detectors.

The Milwaukee Fire Department has provided clear evidence that smoke detectors save lives, and that your chance of surviving a fire in your home depends on whether you have a working smoke detector.

The Milwaukee Fire Department will come and install a free smoke detector in your home if you are a Milwaukee resident and eligible to receive one. Call the Milwaukee Fire Department Smoke Detector Hotline at 414-286-8980.

To qualify, you must reside in either a single- or two-family residence. The smoke detector will NOT be handed to residents – it will be installed by the MFD. ■



A diverse collection of groups came together to paint over and beautify boarded-up windows through the Painting with Purpose program in the Amani neighborhood.



Coming to the corner of N. 25th Street and W. North Avenue—the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care will provide health and education services and create neighborhood jobs.



Residents held a neighborhood barbecue to promote safety and civic pride in the Phillis Wheatley Neighborhood.



Alderman Stamper honors a young man for his participation in the Project Respect neighborhood cleanup program.

★ ★ ★ VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4TH! ★ ★ ★

REGISTER to VOTE

You must be registered at your current address in order to vote. Registrants must provide proof of residence in the form of a valid state-issued ID, a real estate tax bill, a utility bill, a current rental lease or other approved forms. **Visit milwaukee.gov/vote for a complete list, and for a register-by-mail form.**

You can register in person at any Milwaukee Public Library. They can provide voter registration applications and registrars to assist you with completing the voter registration process during regular hours of operation.

Registration by mail and at **Milwaukee Public Libraries** ends 20 days prior to each election. Before or after that date, you can also register in person at the Election Commission offices, Room 501 of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m.

You may also register and vote at your voting site on any Election Day. *Make sure to bring your registration materials with you.*

VOTE EARLY or ABSENTEE

There are two ways to vote an absentee ballot before any election:

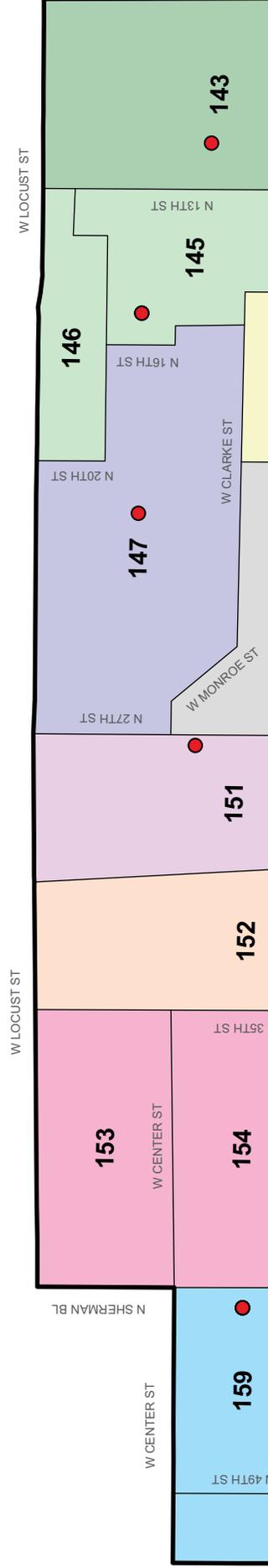
You can vote **“in-person absentee”** by casting your ballot at City Hall before the election. In-person absentee voting begins the third Monday before each election and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before each election. Contact the Election Commission for location and hours.

You can vote **absentee by mail**, where you submit a request for an absentee ballot, a ballot is mailed to you and you vote and mail back your absentee ballot in a postage-paid reply envelope. Requests to receive an absentee ballot by mail must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before an election. Absentee ballots should be postmarked by election day.

For more voting information, go to the Milwaukee Election Commission webpage – milwaukee.gov/election, or call 286-CITY.

* IDS NOT NEEDED TO VOTE

Wisconsin voters will NOT be required to present a photo identification in order to vote on November 4. On October 9, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the state law that would have required voters to show a photo ID on Election Day or when voting absentee. Critics of the law had petitioned the court to take action, citing concerns that enacting the law so close to Election Day did not leave some voters sufficient time to obtain an ID if they did not have one. As a result of the Supreme Court's action, voters will not be required to show a photo ID to vote while the ultimate fate of the Voter ID law is decided. **This information may be subject to change. Visit milwaukee.gov/election for all the latest information.**



City-Owned Vacant Lots Sell For \$1 in 15th District ➤

Property owners in Milwaukee's 15th Aldermanic District can purchase vacant lots from the city for \$1, under legislation sponsored by Alderman Stamper and approved by the Common Council this summer.

"It's my hope that this pilot program will unburden the city of its obligation to maintain vacant lots resulting from the foreclosure crisis," Alderman Stamper said. "There's no reason that these parcels shouldn't be turned over to responsible home owners, who will in turn be able to see to their upkeep and improve their neighborhoods."

The city currently owns more than 2,700 vacant residential lots, a disproportionate number of which (15 percent) are located in the 15th Aldermanic District. Alderman Stamper said that many of the properties were taken as a part of the tax foreclosure crisis, and that, due to neglect, blight and criminal activity, the city was forced to demolish the buildings that stood on those properties. **To learn more, visit milwaukee.gov/VacantLots.** ■

Strong Neighborhoods Plan Targets Foreclosure Problems ➤

The Strong Neighborhoods Plan, a centerpiece of Mayor Tom Barrett's 2014 budget, provides \$11.8 million to redouble city efforts to reduce the number and mitigate the impacts of tax-foreclosed properties that the city owns.

The Department of City Development is responsible for managing and marketing that inventory. DCD staffers are now moving forward on many fronts to implement the Strong Neighborhoods Plan, and the number of personnel devoted to these tasks is growing.

The current inventory of tax-foreclosed buildings is nearly 1,100. Real estate staff members handle the intake of tax-foreclosed properties, inspecting them, negotiating leases with tenants living in units at the time of foreclosure, arranging to re-key and board vacant properties, referring some properties for demolition and marketing the inventory that can be redeveloped. **To learn more, visit the DCD website at milwaukee.gov/cityrealestate.** ■

MAKE A LIVING PROTECTING MILWAUKEE

The City of Milwaukee is now recruiting candidates for jobs as police officers, police aides and fire cadets. Police officers must be at least 21 years old and possess a high school diploma or qualifying GED and a valid driver's license. Fire cadets and police aides must be between the ages of 17 and 19, and may qualify for appointment to a firefighter or police officer recruit class.

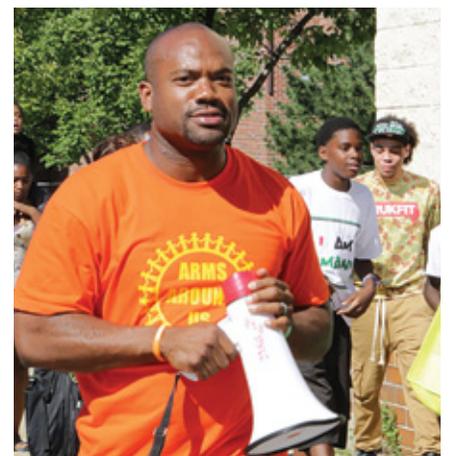
To learn more or apply online, visit milwaukee.gov/jobs.



Schedule a Neighborhood Walkthrough for Your Area ➤

Alderman Stamper is available to make neighborhood walkthroughs to learn about residents' concerns and to see conditions firsthand. He is typically accompanied by police officers, inspectors and officials from the Department of Neighborhood Services and the Department of Public Works and other city staffers. Please join the alderman when he comes to your area.

If you would like Alderman Stamper to come to your block or neighborhood, please call his office at 286-2659 to request a walkthrough. ■



Jobs Available Raising New Tower Downtown >

Work has begun on a new high-rise office tower downtown that will reshape the city skyline, and City of Milwaukee residents will play a crucial role in building it.

As part of a deal negotiated with the Milwaukee Common Council, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership will help Northwestern Mutual meet an objective in which 40 percent of the jobs on the site will go to residents of the City of Milwaukee. In addition, the program has a stated goal of connecting 350 people to a career in the construction trades and placing up to 150 workers on the job site.

Overall, the project is expected to create 1,000 construction jobs. Northwestern Mutual is building the 32-story, 550-foot tower next to its historic 1914 headquarters.

In order to connect residents with job and career opportunities on the project, Alderman Stamper hosted a job fair at North Division High School.

To learn more, call WRTP/Big Step at (414) 342-9787. ■



Second Chances Working for Milwaukee >

Dozens of people trying to make a career for themselves after periods of unemployment or incarceration are finding second chances working for the City of Milwaukee through new transitional jobs programs.

One such program, supported by Alderman Stamper, created 100 positions to supplement Department of Public Works efforts to patch potholes and repair roads. In the program, which is administered by United Migrant Opportunity Services, participants earn a living wage of \$10.10 an hour working for a limited term with the city and gaining valuable on-the-job experience.

“For people who are down on their luck, sometimes all that’s needed is for one employer to give them a chance,” Alderman Stamper said. “With the skills and experience these temporary employees will earn, they will be better qualified for permanent jobs that open up with the city or with private employers.”

Another program, the Dombrowski Landscape Training Initiative, focused on landscape maintenance of city-owned foreclosed and vacant properties. Thirty low-income participants earned valuable job skills and a number of certifications over the course of the 17-week program, all while cleaning up blight in urban neighborhoods. The program was made possible by the bequest of the late Department of Public Works employee, David John Dombrowski. ■



DISTRICT **15**

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AUTUMN **14**

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

I have two town hall meetings scheduled, during which I will meet with residents and discuss important issues affecting the 15th Aldermanic District and the city as a whole. I look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, November 12th – 6:00 p.m.

North Division High School, 1011 W. Center St.

Located in the auditorium

Thursday, November 13th – 6:00 p.m.

Washington High School, 2525 N. Sherman Blvd.

Located in the auditorium



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Alderman, 15th District
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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“Pocket Park” Opens at 14th and Wright ➤

A unique product of Mayor Tom Barrett’s HOME GR/OWN initiative, the Ezekiel Gillespie “Pocket Park” broke ground this summer at the corner of N. 14th St. and W. Wright St.

“This initiative is a great example of the sort of urban revitalization that can transform Milwaukee’s urban core,” Alderman Stamper said at the groundbreaking. “I’m grateful to the Mayor and his HOME GR/OWN project for investing in Milwaukee’s present with a project that pays respect to its past and lays the groundwork for its healthy future.”

The pocket park is a collaborative effort with community partners to repurpose vacant land into an attractive and environmentally-sustainable resource for neighborhood residents. Named for an African-American civil rights and community leader who won a landmark case securing voting rights in Wisconsin and founded Wisconsin’s first African Methodist Episcopal church, the park will include fruit trees and bushes and storm water management features. ■



“This park will be an excellent resource where residents can enjoy the amenities, the weather and each other’s company as they engage in community activities,” Alderman Stamper said. “I look forward to spending time with my neighbors there.”