

15th

DISTRICT

ALDERMAN

Russell W. Stamper, II



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SPRING 19

Dear Neighbor,

I am honored to serve as your representative on the Milwaukee Common Council as your Alderman, and I thank you for your continued support. We have made significant progress this past year by making our community a safer and healthier place to live, work and play.

Over the past year, our community has come together to address some major issues and I am excited to see what the future holds. Revitalization efforts and development projects have popped up all over the 15th District, and their contributions will bring economic growth and jobs back to our neighborhoods. The Legacy Lofts and Central City Sears developments have brought millions of dollars' worth of investments to the 15th District. Neighborhood clean-up projects like Big Clean MKE that will take place again this summer, and the Fondy Park revitalization project will continue to bring our community together and create a cleaner 15th District.

Along with neighborhood clean-ups and new developments, I have made public health a top priority. If we do not focus on the health of our community members, all the progress we have made will not mean nearly as much. In order to build a healthier community, we have implemented programs to address lead hazards and lead-related health issues. The Common Council approved \$20 million in funding to tackle this ongoing problem in the 2019 city budget.

This summer, I will also be hosting a number of town hall meetings. It is important that community members are engaged with the projects happening throughout our district, and have the opportunity to share their ideas for moving forward. I encourage everyone to come out to these meetings and learn about the progress happening around us and offer your feedback.

As always, please call my office at (414) 286-2659 if you have any questions, concerns, or an idea you want to discuss. And be sure to introduce yourself when you see me in your neighborhood this summer.

See you on the block!

Sincerely,

Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II



Committee Assignments

Chair

- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Disparity Study Independent Review Committee
- Residents Preference Program Review Commission
- Sister Cities Committee

Member

- Steering and Rules Committee
- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee

Connect with Alderman Stamper every First Friday

Alderman Stamper's 15th District Office Hours **every First Friday** of the month will offer residents a great way to connect with him without having to travel to City Hall or attend a meeting. Starting on **Friday, April 5**, he will meet informally with residents from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Coffee Makes You Black (2803 N. Teutonia Ave.). The following **next few First Fridays will be May 3 and June 7**.

"I am looking forward to meeting residents every first Friday in the district, and I encourage anyone with questions or issues to stop down and see me. We can discuss city services or problems on your block – whatever topic that's important to you. I'll see you at First Friday at Coffee Makes You Black!" he said.

Council adopts 2019 city budget that addresses pressing public health issues

After several weeks of deliberation and robust discussion this past fall, the Common Council adopted an amended 2019 City of Milwaukee \$1.5 billion budget that aims to tackle the most pressing health-related issues facing the city. The plan will spend roughly \$20 million for lead issues including removing lead paint and replacing lead pipes, along with hiring a special team to address these issues.

Additionally, Alderman Stamper and the Common Council voted to create an Inspector General position to act as a watchdog for city agencies including the Health Department which has suffered from mismanagement in recent years. Other amendments passed in the budget provide the Health Department additional resources along with flexibility to address violence prevention, sexually transmitted diseases and lead contamination. The budget adds four Community Outreach Liaisons and one Health Project Coordinator while creating a



\$425,000 special purpose account to address elevated blood level follow-up and lead hazard remediation, family and community health visits, and communicable disease prevention.

An innovative approach to public safety will be enacted with an amendment establishing four neighborhood Community Oriented Policing (COP) houses in areas of high crime which will be operated in partnership with the Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee Promise Zones organizations.

The budget also addresses the look, feel and quality of life for neighborhoods. It provides \$25,000 to expand Big Clean MKE from its inaugural four aldermanic district clean-up to a city-wide initiative. City agencies will also be required to collaborate with community groups for better monitoring, security and maintenance of city-owned vacant homes. For those homes slated for demolition, more properties will be razed thanks to \$2.5 million going to the Concentrated Blight Elimination capital project. And more miles of potholes and pavement issues will be addressed with \$7.2 million for the Local Street Reconstruction Program, and \$7.4 million for High Impact Paving projects. ▀

Local Churches join 15th District Revitalization Efforts

Over the last two years, the 15th District's Adopt a Block program has worked closely with faith based institutions to transform the community. It was announced at a press conference hosted by Pastor Greg Lewis on June 2, 2018 that 70 churches have signed on to take responsibility for a single block within the district and help maintain it with monthly clean ups. The ultimate goal is to have 100 churches sign on to the Adopt a Block program, and offer continuous support to the community's revitalization efforts and its residents.

"It's crucial that community members engage directly with their community, and these churches exemplify that mindset," said Alderman Stamper. "These churches are the pillars of our community, and their commitment to our Adopt a Block program is helping our district and our city continually grow and redefine itself." ▀

Stay tuned for Meet Russ on the Block

Alderman Stamper will once again be holding "Meet Russ on the Block" town hall meetings in 15th District neighborhoods this June, July, August and September. More details to come.

The informal town hall meeting format allows neighbors to discuss important issues outside – on their block – with Alderman Stamper and representatives from various city departments.

Alderman Stamper will also be participating in **neighborhood walks**. **To schedule a walk, please call the 15th District office at: (414) 286-2659.**

Watch your mailbox for a postcard inviting you to a Meet Russ on the Block meeting this summer!

Program to combat lead hazards set to start in March 2019

Starting in March of 2019, the Milwaukee Health Department will begin reaching out to 15th District residents whose homes might be affected by lead and will provide the necessary resources needed to detect and prevent lead poisoning. According to MHD research, the 12th and 15th Districts have the highest concentration of lead poisoned children in the city. To combat this epidemic, Alderman Stamper and Alderman José Pérez (12th District) co-sponsored legislation to assist residents with identifying and removing lead from their homes. The Health Department will contract with the Social Development Commission (SDC) to make contact and arrange for in-person visits with 15th District families, and with the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center for 12th District families on the city's south side. The legislation mandates that the MHD and its contractors assist residents in four ways:

- ▶ Inform and educate residents that they are living in housing which may contain lead hazards, explain the health risks of blood-lead poisoning especially for children under 6 years of age, nursing mothers and pregnant women, and share the resources available and how to access them to limit or eliminate the risk of lead exposure and hazards;
- ▶ Offer water filters capable of eliminating lead to households with children under 6 years of age, nursing mothers and pregnant women, provide water filters and replacement filters upon request, and instruct household members on the proper way to install and use them;
- ▶ Perform High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuuming, wet washing and other interim control measures should a resident wish to take advantage of this offer; and
- ▶ Offer and make lead hazard inspection referrals to the City for residents requesting them.

"I am very proud to see this program come to fruition. As Alderman, the health and safety of my constituents is my top priority, and the high concentration of homes containing lead in the 15th District poses major health concerns. I'd like to thank Alderman Pérez for tackling this issue with me, and my hope is that community members gain the knowledge and resources needed to protect themselves from lead poisoning. This is a crucial step in stopping the prevalence of lead poisoned children in Milwaukee," Alderman Stamper said. ▀

15th District Nosey Neighbor Program

Co-created by **Alderman Stamper** and **Alderman Milele Coggs**, the City of Milwaukee's **Alert Neighbor Program** emphasizes community involvement in addressing crime and safety concerns in Milwaukee neighborhoods. The program is a partnership between neighborhood block clubs, the Milwaukee Police Department, the City of Milwaukee, and local non-profits to evaluate persistent neighborhood

issues and develop strategies to reduce these problems.

Known as the Nosey Neighbor Program in the 15th District, the initiative will assist neighborhood block clubs to identify and implement strategies, like reporting criminal activity, holding regular neighborhood meetings, and planning neighborhood improvement projects to reduce safety concerns. Additionally, the

Business Incubators offered free introductory entrepreneurship workshops

Numerous individuals took advantage of free "business incubator" workshops offered by Alderman Stamper and the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care during 2018, and new sessions are expected to be held again this year.

The sessions -- held at the St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus, **2450 W. North Ave.** -- offer a great opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to gain critical knowledge on how to start a business and how to make an idea for a business come to life.

Alderman Stamper, chair of the Common Council's Community and Economic Development Committee, said: "The business incubator series has given aspiring entrepreneurs the support they need for their ideas and makes business ownership accessible to everyone as we work to build the 15th District from within. Ultimately, this will help Milwaukee's north side business community expand."

"Please stay tuned for details about additional upcoming 2019 business incubator workshops!" he said. ▀

To learn more, please contact City of Milwaukee Community Outreach Director Patricia Ruiz-Cantu at: (414) 286-5626. ▀





Alderman Stamper IN THE COMMUNITY



15th District Developments

The 15th District has been blessed with several key new developments that are adding value to the district and the city as a whole. Here is a rundown on some of those new developments:

Central City Sears to be redeveloped

Located on 2100 W. North Ave, a former Sears store has plans to undergo a \$75 million redevelopment project. Milwaukee developer Kalan Haywood bought the 6.5 acre lot back in February 2018 and has gone forward with plans to transform the former shopping center into a hotel, offices and market-rate housing. Just four minutes away from the brand new Bucks arena, this project has potential to capitalize on the thousands of visitors who attend events at the Fiserv Forum and bring new jobs and economic activity to the area.

Haywood plans to transform the three story building in two phases. The first phase of the project includes a 90-room boutique hotel complete with a rooftop deck and restaurant. The hotel also has planned to include four conference rooms, and an 800-car parking structure adjacent to it. The second phase of the project would include office space and apartments, and the potential for a north side public market, similar to the Third Ward's public market.

Haywood has met with many in the community to discuss the project, and is in talks with community investors.

"I haven't used outside investors in the past, but the community wants to be part of the deal," Haywood said. "I'm exploring how to allow them to be investors. We will be super creative on financing."

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity eyes Midtown revitalization effort

The Milwaukee chapter of Habitat for Humanity plans to invest \$10.3 million

to rehabilitate 100 homes in the Midtown neighborhood over the next three years. Habitat for Humanity said they plan on making 20 critical repairs, constructing 65 new homes, and rehabilitating 15 existing properties that are located from North Avenue to Lisbon Avenue and from 30th to 25th Streets. This is the next step for the organization after mainly being focused on the Washington Park neighborhood.

According to Milwaukee Habitat, there was a 48% decrease in violent crime on revitalized blocks in the Washington Park community along with a 20% increase in residents who said they feel more a part of the neighborhood.

Over the next three years, Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity hopes to recreate the highest concentration of affordable single family homes in the city.

Legacy Lofts bring new life to North Ave

Announced back in 2017, the Legacy Lofts project has officially opened its doors to the community. Converted from the former Bloomer Ice Cream factory at 1500 W. North Ave, the Legacy Lofts include 64 new apartments, ranging from one- to four-bedroom units, along with 1,565 square feet of street level retail space below.

This project marks the newest economic development project in the 15th District and has brought \$13.9 million in investments to the community. The former factory, which stood vacant for more than 20 years, has been transformed into modern, affordable housing for the Lindsay Heights neighborhood.

Tandem restaurant turns two

The restaurant Tandem celebrated its two-year anniversary in November and it shows no signs of slowing down. Opened in 2017, Tandem has become a Lindsay Heights favorite, offering down-to-earth food with fresh ingredients.

Like the name suggests, Tandem is a group effort among chef and owner Caitlin Cullen, her employees, and the community. Cullen made a conscious effort to hire her team members from within the community, even though many of them had never worked in the restaurant industry before.

Now two years later, Tandem is still serving delicious food to the Lindsay Heights neighborhood while providing jobs to residents. Tandem is located at 1848 W. Fond Du Lac Avenue and is opened for lunch and dinner, Tuesday through Saturday.

Fondy Park improvements help transform City block

Once considered an eye sore, Fondy Park has been transformed into a modern, eco-friendly park and gathering space. Revitalization efforts for the park were announced back in 2017. The park has since adopted a host of modern amenities. Fondy is the first City park to offer free public Wi-Fi and as part of the City's HOME GR/OWN program, it installed a Storm Water Management System, capable of collecting 88,000 gallons of water after a 24-hour rain event. The park also features solar panels, which help keep maintenance costs low, and community events like its Saturday summer yoga series.

Fondy Park has been recognized for its major revitalization project,

winning the prestigious LISC 2018 MANDI Award for Best Public Space. The prize came with a \$1,000 contribution to the project, along with much deserved recognition.

Fondy Park is just another example of the widespread economic and community development projects taking place in the 15th District. Fondy Park has been transformed into a 21st century neighborhood gathering space that benefits the whole community, and continues to seek ways to improve itself.

Town Bank branch signals economic growth

A new bank has popped up in the area of Lisbon and North Ave, filling the much needed community demand for a bank. The Hartland-based company's new location also signals the area's up and coming economic growth.

Mayor Tom Barrett commented on Town Bank's recent move to the 15th District: "Banks are inherently cautious, so the fact that Town Bank is opening and investing on Lisbon Avenue is a strong indication that good things are

happening in this neighborhood," said Barrett.

"There's a renewed influx of capital coming into that area — public and private sector capital — to bring more manufacturing and business growth," said Jay Mack, president and chief executive of Town Bank.

Town Bank prides itself on being a community bank, and the new branch will offer residents and small businesses services needed to support continued growth in the 15th District. ▀

Alderman Stamper hosts "Big Clean MKE"

A wide-scale Milwaukee clean-up effort

In August 2018 Alderman Stamper was joined by residents, volunteers and local neighborhood organizations during the inaugural "Big Clean MKE", a citywide clean-up endeavor in memory of Greg "Ziggy" Zyszkiewicz.



The event included an intensive neighborhood clean-up and ended with a closing celebration featuring a complimentary lunch. Volunteers received a FREE "Big Clean MKE" t-shirt and were invited to enjoy a picnic lunch during the closing celebration. Aldermanic District 15 (Alderman Stamper),

Aldermanic District 1 (Alderman Ashanti Hamilton), Aldermanic District 6 (Alderman Milele A. Coggs) and Aldermanic District 7 (Alderman Khalif J. Rainey) hosted

the community clean-up, and tools and supplies for the event were provided to volunteers.

Big Clean MKE was created in honor of Greg "Ziggy" Zyszkiewicz, a 30-year employee of the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) who was killed in March 2017 while on duty as a Special Enforcement Inspector.

The 2019 Big Clean MKE event will take place on August 17th. "I strongly encourage all residents to join us for Big Clean MKE and to show their support for this important community initiative," said Alderman Stamper. "This is an opportunity to give back to the city, show your passion and love for Milwaukee, and make a genuine difference in the lives of fellow Milwaukeeans."

For additional details please visit:
milwaukee.gov/bigcleanmke. ▀

Members of the community gathered for the first annual Big Clean MKE



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Low-cost Internet option worth checking into

Spectrum Cable is offering (eligible) low-income families new at-cost packages, **Spectrum Internet Assist**, which includes basic service to low-income seniors and families with school-age children for **\$14.99 per month**.



The service is available in certain Milwaukee ZIP codes, and those interested should **go to [SpectrumInternetAssist.com](https://www.spectruminternetassist.com) to see additional details.**



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Report those potholes!

With warmer temperatures just around the corner, potholes will be forming in larger numbers on our city streets as the freeze/thaw cycle ramps up.

What to do? **Ald. Stamper** shares several ways that residents and motorists can report a pothole that needs repair:

- ▶ **Report it online: Select Street Maintenance, then Pothole Patch Requests**
- ▶ **Call the Unified Call Center at (414) 286-CITY (2489)**
- ▶ **Download and use the MKE Mobile app**

Alderman Stamper was joined by Alderwoman Chantia Lewis (behind city trash receptacle), staff from Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, Department of Public Works officials, Milwaukee Police Department personnel and neighborhood stakeholders during a news conference on April 1st at N. 9th St. and W. North Ave. to kick off the City of Milwaukee's "Don't Litter!" campaign. Alderman Stamper sponsored legislation to increase the fine for all littering to \$500 (including all forfeitures, penalties, fees and assessments levied by the Municipal Court) and the \$500 fine is now in effect throughout the city. "I encourage neighbors to work together to discourage littering and to help make the city and the 15th District as beautiful as possible!" he said.