

4th

DISTRICT

ALDERMAN

Robert J. Bauman



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SUMMER 26

Dear Neighbor,

As we enter summer, my office has requested the Milwaukee Police Department and the Department of Community Wellness and Safety to pay particular attention to crime and disorder in the neighborhoods of the 4th district with a special emphasis on downtown entertainment districts and vehicle related disorder such as road take overs, reckless driving and excessive noise from cars and dirt bikes. I recognize that this behavior can be very disruptive as residents and visitors attempt to enjoy the many amenities and opportunities for outdoor activity our city offers.

In addition, the Department of Public Works is planning many roadway projects in the 4th District with a special focus on the Third Ward and the East Town neighborhoods. These projects (described in greater detail in this newsletter) are designed to calm traffic, deter reckless driving, provide enhanced bicycle infrastructure and improve the pedestrian experience.

This newsletter will also discuss the process leading up to the historic designation of the UWM Panther Arena and the Miller High Life Theater; amendments to Chapter 78 (the Milwaukee Ordinance regulating animal welfare); development plans for the King Park neighborhood which has sat mostly vacant since the 1960s when urban renewal caused the demolition of dense urban neighborhoods; and a new regulation governing the inspection of parking structures following the collapse of a garage floor in an apartment building on East Knapp St.

Finally I can report that my office is working on legislation to increase penalties and toughen inspection protocols for landlords who constitute a chronic nuisance by reason of multiple outstanding building code violations. Last winter we had far too many instances of heating system failures, among others violations. We have found that some landlords are so big that our current enforcement process and fine structure do not serve as a deterrence nor provide accountability for persistent code violations.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and it remains my great honor to serve as your alderman.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Bauman
Alderman, 4th District



Committee Assignments

Chair

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee
- Capital Improvements Committee
- Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award Selection Committee
- Historic Third Ward Architectural Review Board
- Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes
- Public Transportation, Utilities and Waterways Review Board

Member

- Judiciary and Legislation Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board
- Wisconsin Center District, Board of Directors
- Milwaukee Area-Racine-Kenosha (MARK) Passenger Rail Commission

View meetings online:

milwaukee.gov/citychannel

Follow proceedings:

milwaukee.legistar.com/calendar

E-Notify

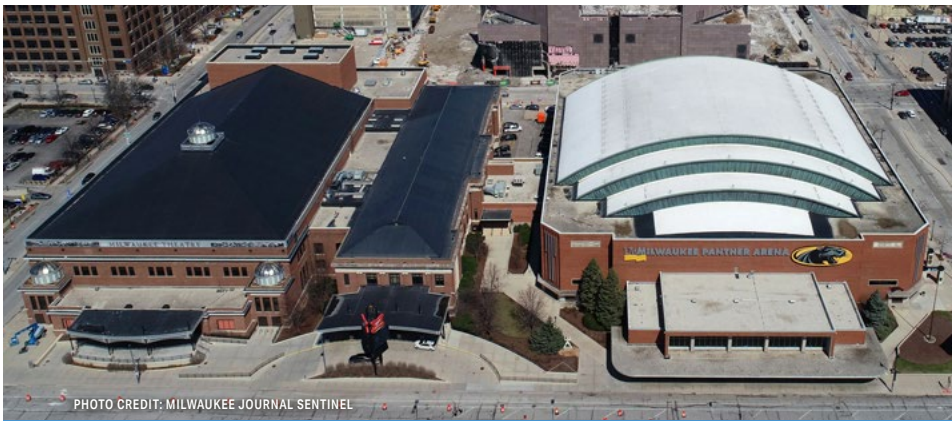
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Visit city.milwaukee.gov/enotify to create an account and select the categories you want to receive updates for.

Designation of the UW Milwaukee Panther Arena and Miller High Life Theatre as Historic Sites

Last fall, media reports began to circulate suggesting that the Wisconsin Center District (the governmental entity that owns and operates the Baird Center, UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena and Miller High Life Theatre) was considering the demolition of the Arena to make room for a large convention scale hotel. The previous May, the Wisconsin Center District CEO commissioned a “Highest and Best Use” study of District facilities which many felt was a prelude to a decision by the District’s 17-member board to demolish the Arena.

As a member of the District Board, chair of the city’s Historic Preservation Commission and chair of the Council’s Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee, I had some concerns about this possible demolition and the process that was in place to make such major decisions.



Aerial view of the Miller High Life Theatre (left) and UW Milwaukee Panther Arena (right).

I felt that both buildings were historic structures and would meet the criteria for designation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Miller High Life Theatre, originally opened in 1909 as the Milwaukee Auditorium, is one of the city’s most historically significant cultural landmarks. For more than a century, it has been a key part of Milwaukee’s civic life, and hosted presidential speeches, major concerts, political conventions, and community events. Its architecture reflects early 20th-century design. Generations of residents have passed through its doors, giving it not just architectural value, but deep social and cultural importance tied to the city’s shared history.

The UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena (built in 1950) is a vital community asset, serving as home for the Milwaukee

Admirals, UWM Panthers Division One men’s basketball team, and the soccer league’s Milwaukee Wave. Such sporting events foster inclusivity by bringing together people from different backgrounds, as fans of different ages, incomes, and communities gather to support and cheer on their teams. The arena also hosts graduation ceremonies for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), creating memories for so many students in our community. The arena is a quintessential shared space for education, celebration, and civic connection.

I introduced legislation nominating both buildings for historic designation. Designation was approved by the Historic Preservation Commission, recommended for approval by the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee and approved by the full Common Council on November 25, 2025.

A key point to underscore is that such designation does not prohibit redevelopment, nor does it make demolition impossible. Instead, it introduces a layer of review. Property owners—in this case, the Wisconsin Center District—must apply for a “certificate of appropriateness” before making any major alterations or demolishing structures. This process includes hearings before both the Historic Preservation Commission and the

Common Council, which guarantees opportunities for public input. This procedural safeguard is essential, as it helps to insure that decisions about the fate of prominent public buildings receive a thorough public review rather than be left in the hands of an unelected 17 person board as in the case of the Wisconsin Center District.

Subsequent to designation, the District’s “Highest and Best Use” study was released and the report did indeed recommend the development of a 650 room convention hotel located on the site of The Miller High Life Theatre. No decisions have been made and many questions remain about the ownership, financing and operation of this hotel. But historic designation ensures that the public will have a voice in this process. ▀

Phase I of Milwaukee's Animal Welfare Ordinance Reform adopted

The Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) is a governmental entity funded by Milwaukee County municipalities. MADACC serves as a centralized provider of domestic animal control services. Primary responsibilities include sheltering stray, lost and at-large animals, ensuring compliance with state-mandated care standards and holding periods, managing rabies quarantine cases, submitting specimens for public health testing, and overseeing carcass disposal and cold storage. MADACC also offers limited veterinary services and also offers fostering and adoption services for dogs and cats.



In 2024, MADACC admitted 13,346 animals, which was a 12% increase over 2023. This broke down to 6,617 cats, 6,319 dogs and 410 other animals. Eighty percent of these animals came from Milwaukee, which means city taxpayers fund 80% of MADACC operating costs or \$2m. Animal

admissions have been growing sharply due to increased animal abandonments and strays and a proliferation of illegal dog breeding operations. These issues are costly to taxpayers, cause disorder and sometimes danger in neighborhoods and are definitely inhumane to the animals involved.

Last spring MADACC suggested changes to Chapter 78 (the Milwaukee ordinance governing animal welfare). I introduced phase 1 of those amendments intended to improve the standards related to responsible pet ownership and the humane treatment of animals, better address neighborhood quality of life, and promote fiscal responsibility. After several committee debates, the Common Council voted to approve these amendments in February 2026.

Phase I establishes new residential breeder permit requirements, updates tethering and outdoor housing standards, microchipping requirements for dogs and cats, revised impoundment procedures, and clearer rules governing accidental litters, animal transfers, and animal-number limits.

Additional phases of the ordinance reform effort are expected as work continues on other animal welfare and enforcement issues throughout the city. ▀

Ordinance mandates new safety inspection protocols for parking structures

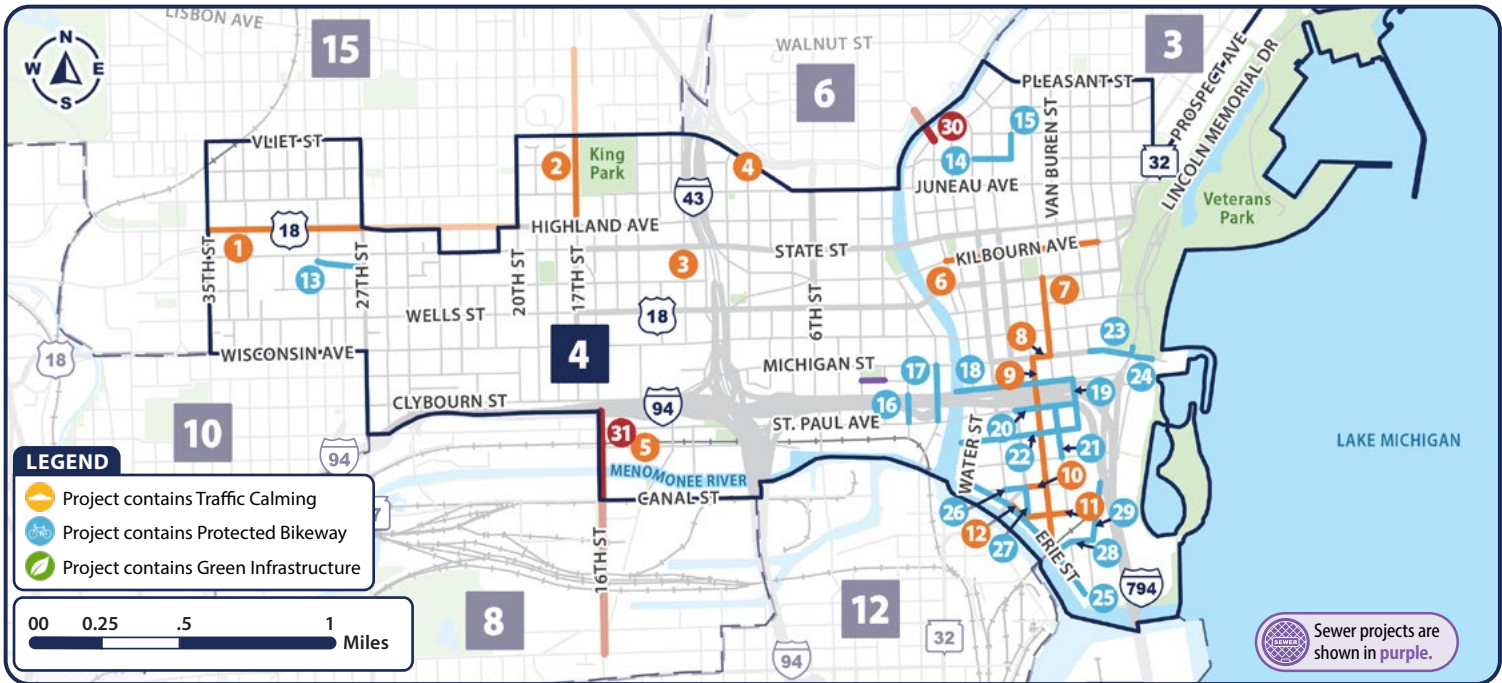
Earlier this year, the collapse of a lower eastside parking structure at a high rise apartment building exposed a gap in Milwaukee's building oversight. Factors such as deferred maintenance, water infiltration, and salt exposure – common in Wisconsin's climate – can weaken concrete over time, creating risk to the public.

I introduced an ordinance requiring periodic structural inspections of parking garages. The ordinance mandates that property owners submit inspection reports to the Department of Neighborhood Services on a phased schedule based on building age and design. This in some ways mirrors Milwaukee's facade inspection program, which aims to catch structural issues before they become dangerous. ▀



PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

PLANNED DPW INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR 2026



Traffic Safety Projects

- 1 W. Highland Blvd. - N. 35th St. to N. 20th St.**
Road diet, protected bike lane, pinned-on bumpouts 🚦🚲
- 2 Safe Routes to Parks - King Park**
Protected bike lane, pinned-on bumpouts, bus boarding islands 🚲🚦🌿
- 3 N. 12th St. - W. Kilbourn Ave. to W. State St.**
Midblock raised crosswalk 🚦
- 4 W. Winnebago St. @ N. 9th St.**
Raised crosswalk 🚦
- 5 16th Street Viaduct Restriping**
Update pavement markings, protected bike lane 🚦🚲
- 6 E. Kilbourn Ave. - N. Water St. to N. Marshall St.**
Protected bike lane, pinned-on bumpouts 🚲🚦
- 7 N. Jackson St. - E. Michigan St. to E. Wells St.**
Two-way protected bike lane 🚲🚦
- 8 E. Michigan St. - N. Jefferson St. to N. Jackson St.**
Protected bike lane 🚲🚦
- 9 N. Jefferson St. - E. Erie St. to E. Michigan St.**
Two-way protected bike lane, pinned-on bioswale bumpouts 🚲🚦🌿
- 10 E. Menomonee St. from N. Milwaukee St. to N. Jefferson St.**
Reconstruct street; add two-way, raised protected bike lane 🚦🚲
- 11 E. Corcoran St. - E. Erie St. to N. Jackson St.**
Two-way protected bike lane, high impact paving 🚲🚦
- 12 E. Erie St. - N. Young St. to N. Milwaukee St.**
Two-way protected bike lane 🚲🚦

Street Paving Projects

- 13 W. Richardson Pl. - N. 27th St. to N. 29th St.**
Paving Type: High Impact
- 14 E. Knapp St. - N. Jefferson St. to N. Broadway**
Paving Type: High Impact
- 15 N. Jefferson St. - E. Knapp St. to E. Ogden Ave.**
Paving Type: High Impact
- 16 N. 2nd St. - W. St. Paul Ave. to W. Clybourn St.***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 17 N. Plankinton Ave. - E. St Paul Ave. to W. Michigan St.***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 18 E. Clybourn St. - Bridge over Milwaukee River to N. Van Buren St.***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 19 N. Van Buren St. - E. Clybourn St. to E. Buffalo St.***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 20 E. St. Paul Ave. - N. Milwaukee St. to N. Van Buren St.***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 21 N. Jackson St. - E. Chicago St. to E. St. Paul Ave.**
Paving Type: High Impact
- 22 E. Buffalo St. - Full Limits***
Paving Type: High Impact

- 23 E. Michigan St. - N. Cass St. to N. Lincoln Memorial Dr. (Northside) / N. Lincoln Memorial Dr. - 300' north of E. Michigan St. to E. Michigan St.**
Paving Type: Concrete Reconstruction 🚦🚲
- 24 E. Michigan St. - N. Lincoln Memorial Dr. to N. Art Museum Dr.**
Paving Type: Concrete Reconstruction 🚦🚲
- 25 E. Erie St. - Water St. to Terminus***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 26 E. Menomonee St. - N. Broadway to N. Milwaukee St.***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 27 N. Milwaukee St. - E. Corcoran St. to E. Menomonee St.***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 28 E. Summerfest Pl. - Full Limits***
Paving Type: High Impact
- 29 N. Harbor Dr. - E. Corcoran St. to E. Menomonee St.**
Paving Type: Path Extension & Resurfacing

Bridge Projects

- 30 Cherry Street Bridge**
- 31 16th Street Bridge**

* Projects dependent on Tax Incremental Finance District (TID) 56 funding availability

UPDATES

For more details and updates on 2026 Construction Projects, visit the DPW Infrastructure Project Map at milwaukee.gov/dpw/projects.

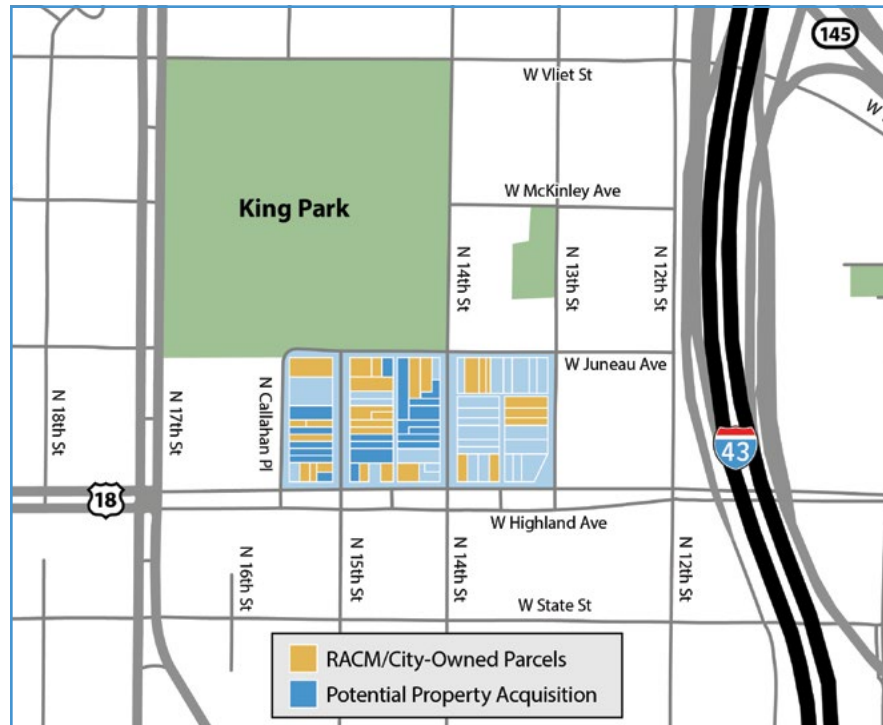


Bringing more housing to the King Park area

Tax Incremental District 67 was created in 2006 to assist the redevelopment of the former Pabst Brewery complex. The TID invested approximately \$29m in public infrastructure, environmental mitigation, selective demolition, and historic preservation. In 2006 the base assessed value was \$9m. As a result of these redevelopment efforts, the Brewery Complex's assessed value has grown to \$252m in 2025. The tremendous success of this TID has resulted in excess funds which can be used for other public projects within a ½ mile radius of the TID 67 boundaries.

TID 67 amendment #2 (approved by the council on June 2) will allocate \$22,450,000 to infrastructure projects, real estate acquisition and housing development in the King Park neighborhood with a particular focus on the area bounded by Callaghan Pl., Highland Ave., Juneau Ave., and 14th street. This area has sat largely vacant since the 1960s when urban renewal programs demolished virtually the entire neighborhood. The area is comprised of approximately 38 vacant lots. There are only a handful of houses still standing.

The goal is to redevelop this area as a mixed income residential neighborhood providing a variety of urban housing types. Specific redevelopment plans will be reviewed in future Common Council meetings. ▀



City and county leaders gather for announcement of new housing initiative May 2026.

If you see potholes, please report them!

- ▶ Call **414-286-CITY (286-2489)** and report them to City Call Center staff.
- ▶ Report via this link (select *Street Maintenance*): milwaukee.gov/click4action.
- ▶ Report them using the **MKE Mobile Action app**.
- ▶ Contact my office by calling **414-286-3774** or by emailing rjbauma@milwaukee.gov.





Ald. Bauman and other elected officials and community members speak out about housing conditions at a press conference hosted by the Near West Side Partners.



Ald. Bauman conducts the card count of Discourse Coffee workers, confirming majority support for unionization.



MKE Mobile Action

Request services, file reports, and follow up from your mobile device.

Examples of issues that can be reported include: abandoned vehicles, graffiti, litter, potholes, etc.

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Ald. Bauman cleans up leaf muck in the spring alongside community members.



Ald. Bauman speaking with a constituent at the Downtown Neighborhood Association/Historic Third Ward Association Public Safety meeting.



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- ▶ Glass bottles & jars
- ▶ Cartons 
- ▶ Metal pots & pans 
- ▶ Mixed paper & junk mail
- ▶ Newspapers, magazines & catalogs
- ▶ Steel cans & empty aerosol cans

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Helpful Telephone Numbers & Websites

DNS Complaint line phone number (414) 286-2268

Unified Call Center (414) 286-CITY (2489)

Click4Action milwaukee.gov/ucc/action

MKE Mobile Action App milwaukee.gov/mkemobile

PARKING milwaukee.gov/Parking/Service-Requests



Milwaukee Delegation Meeting

Members of the Common Council meet with the Milwaukee delegation of state legislators to discuss issues affecting the city.