

Ashanti Hamilton



City Hall • Room 205 • 200 E. Wells St. • Milwaukee, WI 53202 • 286-2221 • www.milwaukee.gov/district1 • ahamil@milwaukee.gov

Dear 1st District Residents,

Thank you. I am honored by your support, participation and investment in this spring's election. Your trust in me continues to drive my work at City Hall and I hope you will be as excited as I am to see the changes in store for District 1.

In this newsletter, you can learn more about the "wheel tax," Villard Avenue library developments and the progress made on Bishop's Creek. We also celebrate the success of the fourth annual Villard Avenue Day Festival and honor the anniversary of the Fair Housing Marches.

This newsletter also contains helpful information and reminders about fall and winter city services and news on the improvements in crime prevention in District 1.

Our district thrives on resident participation in safety initiatives like block watches and community gatherings and these are great ways to be a part of your community. Take note of local police district meetings in our area and remember, please come to me with any concerns or questions about our neighborhoods. Your feedback is essential and welcomed!

I wish you a safe and warm winter season!

Sincerely,

Ashanti Hamilton
Alderman, 1st District



Committee Assignments

CHAIR City Information Management Committee

CHAIR Judiciary & Legislation Committee

MEMBER Steering & Rules Committee

MEMBER Licenses Committee

MEMBER Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Board

MEMBER Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

View meetings on the web at: www.milwaukee.gov/channel25



Ald. Hamilton joined Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Ald. Nik Kovac (District 3), Ald. Michael Murphy (District 10), Ald. Milele Coggs (District 6) and State Senator Spencer Coggs as they celebrated former Alderwoman Vel Phillips and the anniversary of the Fair Housing legislation for Milwaukee.

March on Milwaukee Honors Fair Housing

This spring, Ald. Hamilton joined with Aids. Coggs and Kovac to recognize the efforts of Andre Lee Ellis and Margaret Rozga's work on *March On Milwaukee: A Memoir of the Open Housing Protests*, a play commemorating the efforts of Ald. Vel Phillips and civic leader Father James Groppi. The pair was instrumental in leading and inspiring residents in Milwaukee to demand fair housing laws for the city more than 40 years ago.



During the news conference honoring the play, students from Jared C. Bruce Academy honored the participants of the open housing marches with a balloon release and a pledge to work on changing Milwaukee in a positive way.

MICAH Rally For Job Growth



Ald. Hamilton spoke at the Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) rally hosted here in City Hall this summer. The group spoke in support of job growth and development in the City of Milwaukee.

Fight the Flu!

Ald. Hamilton would like to remind you to get your flu shot this season. Each flu season in the United States, there are approximately 36,000 deaths from influenza. By getting a flu shot for yourself and your family, you not only help yourself by getting sick less throughout the winter, but you also help those around you by spreading less illness.

As of October 8, the flu vaccine will be available for individuals over the age of 2 at Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) weekly walk-in clinics. Please call 414-286-3616 for availability and more information.

There is no cost for a flu vaccination for individuals under the age of 19 at MHD walk-in clinics. The cost of a flu shot for adults is \$30 or no cost when a Medicare Part B or Medicaid card is presented.

MHD will have LAIV, the nasal-spray flu vaccine available for a cost of \$30, to healthy individuals 2-49 years of age who are not pregnant or have long-term healthcare problems.

For more information on the flu shot, go to www.milwaukee.gov/flushots or call 414-286-3616.

Villard Avenue Day Festival

District 1 closed out summer with the fourth annual Villard Avenue Day Festival on September 6. The festival celebrated the sense of community we have in District 1 and featured children's games and activities, food vendors and health information booths.

"This was a great way to be out with our neighbors. It was also a chance to offer the public some much needed information and experience by having local ambulance and paramedic crews on hand and blood and bone marrow donation information available," Ald. Hamilton said.

Children competed in basketball contests and families won a variety of prizes such as bikes, gas cards and more. This year's festival also saw a number of new businesses and new sponsors such as the BloodCenter of Wisconsin and the Salvation Army.

"This important community activity has continued to grow and thrive and that's a testament to how engaged our neighborhood really is," Ald. Hamilton said. Like last year, one of the key events was the blood and bone marrow drive. The BloodCenter of Wisconsin explained that marrow registration is often difficult because many people lack information on how marrow donation works.

Ald. Hamilton would like everyone to be aware of some of the important steps to being a blood or bone marrow donor and encourages those who are able to join the national registry. For more information on marrow donation, go to www.bloodcenter.com.



Combating Crime

The police department announced this fall that the number of homicides in Milwaukee is the lowest it's been in 22 years. In fact, in the first eight months of this year, Chief Flynn announced that the number of firearm-related homicides has decreased 45% since 2007. These are just a few of the improvements in crime abatement the city has seen this year.

"There are a number of new policing initiatives that have seriously curbed crime in our city," Ald. Hamilton said. "Among them include focused efforts by police and the new Neighborhood Task Force program."

The best way to take control of your neighborhood is to maintain a relationship with block watches and community crime groups. Each police district has crime analysis meetings open to the public, as well as Community Liaison Officers who help residents in the care of their neighborhood.

Police District 4 (Northern portions of the 1st District)

Community Liaison Officer: Julie Gonzalez 935-7248

Crime Analysis Meetings: last Tuesday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the police academy, 6680 N. Teutonia Ave.

Police District 5 (Southeastern portions of the 1st District)

Community Liaison Officer: Raymond Robakowski 935-7258

Crime Analysis Meetings: first Thursday of every month at District Five - 2920 N. 4th St. beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Police District 7 (Southwestern portions of the 1st District)

Community Liaison Officer: Shellee Lubus 935-7278

Crime Analysis Meetings: third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Locations TBD monthly.

Interns in Alderman Hamilton's Office



During her first day on the job as an intern for District 1, Ald. Hamilton asked Natyra Prater what she wanted to see and what she wanted to learn. Natyra's response was "Everything."

Prater, a Milwaukee native, is currently a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside where she is studying English, communication, and political science. After graduation Natyra plans to become a news anchor by day and a teacher by night. In her spare time, Natyra is working on finishing her first novel, a fiction story about discrimination in the 1960s.

One of Natyra's highlights from the internship was helping plan the Villard Avenue Day Festival. "I got to meet many people in journalism and different media positions," she said. "I had no idea what to expect from the internship when I first started, but Alderman Hamilton exposed me to everything. It was amazing to me to see how much he does for his constituents."

Villard Square Library

Neighborhood libraries have long been a source of pride in Milwaukee and on Villard Ave., and in cooperation with the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, Gorman & Co., LISC and the City of Milwaukee, an innovative approach to preserving our libraries is in place.

The Villard Square project addresses two strong needs in northwest Milwaukee: the relocation of a neighborhood library that's currently housed in a building that is failing, and housing for families where grandparents are the primary caregivers for the children.

The project will infuse new life into the Villard Avenue Business District and also incorporates sustainable design in such a way that developers predict a 15% savings in operating costs. The design and new facility also include a park-like setting on the roof for residents to enjoy.

This year, the mayor included \$1 million in his budget to help fund the Villard Square project.

The City of Milwaukee 2009 Budget

This year's city budget, much like your household budget, reflected the economic struggles we are facing. As a result, hard choices were made about how to balance residents' fees and taxes with the degree of service the City of Milwaukee is proud to provide. I'm proud of the Finance and Personnel Committee's efforts and the Council's hard work to coordinate a budget that serves the city amid trying times.

This year, the Council kept its pledge to hold the line on property taxes and as a result, the average homeowner will pay approximately \$8.04 per \$1000 of assessed value in city property taxes. The new tax levy means that the owner of a \$150,000 home will see a \$4.05 increase in the city portion of the tax bill, from \$1,202.55 to \$1,206.60.

Additionally, neighborhood libraries will remain open and five person firefighting crews were restored on many engine companies. The Council also amended the mayor's budget to fund 56 new sworn police officers.

A number of regular fees did shift with the budget including the snow and ice fee, the sewer fee and the storm water fee. These shifts were essential in providing the service our constituents expect.

In The Neighborhood...



This summer, Ald. Hamilton hosted numerous walks through the district including one near N. 28th St. and Atkinson St. with area police and Community Liaison officer Shellee Lubus.

Bishop's Creek Moving Forward

The old tannery on the northwest side is seeing continued progress as Bishop's Creek Family Housing moves forward. The Common Council has allowed for the construction of a new building along North 32nd Street to house 55 affordable one-, two- and three-bedroom family rental units. The apartments would be part of a larger development envisioned for the former tannery complex, including preliminary plans to create an African-American cultural center, retail space and other developments.

Bishop's Creek Community Development Corp., an affiliate of Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ, located just a few blocks northwest of the development site, has about 6,000 members. Its large campus includes schools, a Boys & Girls Club, a clinic and a credit union.

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More District Development

This spring, Ald. Hamilton sponsored a resolution that approved the purchase of land owned by Eaton Corporation at 3020 W. Congress St. The land, now owned by the city, will become a space to expand the new Department of Public Works facility.

The space is being allocated for additional storage by expanding DPW's Sanitation District office and garage at 3021 W. Ruby Ave. A new salt dome will also be stored at the site, adding to the development in our district.

Alderman Hamilton

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Fall Leaf Collection



Residents are asked to rake their leaves into the street at the curb for collection by Department of Public Works Sanitation Division crews. After November 15th, sanitation crews will still pick up remaining leaf piles as long as weather permits. If you still have leaves not yet raked into the road, you must bag them and take them to a self-help center for disposal.

Winter Snow Reminders



Property owners and occupants are required by city law to clear sidewalks abutting their property of snow or ice within 24 hours after the snow and ice have stopped falling. Failure to do so could result in the city doing it and charging you.

Don't forget to move your vehicles to allow snow plows to get through and remember, it is illegal to park in one place for more than 24 hours. The Milwaukee Public Schools make a number of school playgrounds available for overnight parking during snow emergencies. Call the DPW Information Center at 286-8282 for the location of the playground nearest your home or with any other questions about winter parking and snow regulations.

Why the "Wheel Tax"

This summer, the Common Council passed an ordinance that imposes a \$20 municipal motor vehicle registration fee on every Wisconsin-registered vehicle kept in Milwaukee. The money collected from this fee is deposited in a transportation vehicle fund and this fund is designated specifically for streets, alleys, bridges, traffic lights and road-related repairs. The fee applies primarily to average family vehicles like cars, SUVs, pick-up trucks and minivans.

If the MVR fee hadn't been imposed, the alternative source of funds to help pay for necessary roadwork would have been property tax increases. Ald. Hamilton voted for the MVR fee because it is fair. The MVR fee shifts the cost of surface transportation to the people who use it—car owners who make use of the roads become the ones helping to pay for their maintenance rather than homeowners.

"The condition of our roads in Milwaukee is a serious problem. To support the repairs and maintenance of this infrastructure, the 'wheel tax' is a rational way to draw revenue from those who use the infrastructure. We cannot continue to pile on property taxes for every financial need of the city. This is a solution that makes sense," Ald. Hamilton said.

The fee is only required once a year as part of your regular car registration renewal. You currently pay \$75 to the state; now, the MVR fee will be collected at the same time, increasing your once a year registration charge to \$95.