

Milele A. Coggs



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

Dear Neighbor,

Engagement in our community is the key to Milwaukee this fall. Many elements of the state budget and its subsequent legislation are having a direct impact on our City, so we must remain informed and vigilant. In this newsletter, you will learn about legislation I have been a part of here in the City, often in response to changes in the state.

You will also learn in this newsletter that there are opportunities to discuss and impact the imbalance presented in the proposed closures of local post offices and about how the new voter identification law works (and where and how to obtain legal identification so that you may retain your voting rights).

Success still presents itself in the form of the youth of our district and our City and you will learn about interns, Youth Council members and an innovative new event to foster leadership in young girls: Girls Day at City Hall. As always, access to information on other key services in our community like foreclosure resources, smoke alarms, cribs for babies and much more are also within this document.

Do not hesitate to contact my office with questions or to schedule a neighborhood walk through. I wish you a happy holiday season!

Peace, Love & Justice,



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



Scan this QR Code with your phone and link to more updated info on my website!
Or go to: www.milwaukee.gov/district6

Committee Assignments

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

Library Board of Trustees - *Member*

Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault - *Member*

Inaugural Girls' Day at City Hall a Success



Alderwoman Coggs hosted nearly 50 young women at a special event at City Hall this May. The students were offered the opportunity to hear from community panelists who work in public service. These community leaders and elected officials talked to the young women about the importance of public service, education and offered discussion on the many paths available in such careers.

"I am energized and thrilled by the response of these young women. They asked great questions and engaged our service leaders as well," Alderwoman Coggs said. "I have to thank those who came to serve on the panels as well. It proved equally valuable that these leaders were able to work together and network at the event themselves."

Panelists included Sharlen Moore of Urban Underground, Jasmine Johnson of the Social Development Commission and Pfizer, Jayme Montgomery-Baker, the State Director of the Wisconsin League of Young Voters Education Fund, Municipal Judge Valarie Hill, Lelah Huntley of the Flood the Hood with Dreams Project, LaShawndra Vernon of the Milwaukee Hip Hop Congress, County Supervisor Peggy West and County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic.

Upcoming 6th District Meetings

Youth Town Hall Meeting
November 28, 2011 • 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Coffee Makes You Black, 2803 N. Teutonia Ave.

Town Hall Meeting
January 30, 2012 • 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Library, 310 W. Locust St.

Local Health Services Available

Progressive Community Health Centers exists to improve the health and quality of life of the community by providing culturally competent services that address identified needs. Since 1999, Progressive Community Health Centers has been providing quality health care to people of all ages. The group offers services close to home and staff work to help you prevent disease and manage current health problems. By visiting the doctor regularly, you and your primary care provider can track health conditions and catch illness before it starts. In the 6th District, Progressive Community Health Centers is located at:



Hillside Family Health Center

1452 N. 7th Street, 2nd Floor • (414) 935-8000

Free Cribs to Promote Safe Sleeping



In Milwaukee, the second leading cause of infant mortality is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), which is often related to unsafe sleep.

Free cribs are available to families who are unable to purchase one. Before a family is given a crib, parents are provided education and training on proper sleep position and sleep environment for the baby.

The cribs are available from the Milwaukee Health Department at (414) 286-8620 as well as from the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin at (414) 933-0064.

Reopening of Holton Youth Center



The **Holton Youth and Family Center Collaborative (HYFCC)**, located at 510 E. Burleigh St., has reopened to serve our area. The collaborative hosted the year's first Community Action Project in July.

The HYFCC consists of 10 community partner organizations, with **Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.** as the lead agency for a long term effort called the Violence Prevention Initiative through the Medical College of Wisconsin. HYFCC targets its efforts in Milwaukee's Riverwest and Harambee neighborhoods. **Safe & Sound** is one of the core collaborative partners and has also

supported Safe Place after-school programming at the HYFC. In addition, **Safe & Sound** has a strong relationship with District 5 (MPD) and the Community Prosecution Unit.

Three partners the HYFCC will highlight in this inaugural year are **Wisconsin Community Services**, which has a long history of working with high-risk individuals inside and outside the criminal justice system, **Running Rebels**, which runs youth recreation programs out of its headquarters on W. Fond du Lac Ave. and **Above the Clouds**, an arts education program.

Brew City Bully Club

The **Brew City Bully Club** works to rehabilitate the reputation of pit bulls while reducing fear in the community. Michelle and Jeremy Serocki formed the group in October 2008 to help provide resources and education within our community to end dog fighting and help the fostering and adoption of pit bulls. In 2011 alone, they have spayed and neutered 77 dogs as part of the Prevent a Litter (PAL) program, rescued 7 dogs, provided weekly, private in home support for owners, hosted owner support dog groups and acquired a new building for their pit bull training teams where at risk youth get to work with their dogs and enhance their social skills. The new facility will also host on-site spay and neuter surgery. Contact the Brew City Bully Club at www.brewcitybullies.org for more information.



Project Return Offers Job Programming to Ex-Offenders

Project RETURN (Returning Ex-offenders To Urban Realities and Neighborhoods), is an interfaith ministry that exists to help men and women who have experienced incarceration make a positive, permanent return to community, family and friends. The group offers services to address five primary areas of need: job development, housing, family/community connections, education and personal well-being. The organization takes new clients on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Find them at **2821 N. 4th St., Suite 202** or call **374-8029**.

Neighborhood Walk Throughs



Alderman Coggs would like to thank all of the residents who participated in neighborhood walk throughs this year and she looks forward to more in 2012. Together we will build stronger neighborhoods.



Disparity Study Prompts Changes

Early this year, the City of Milwaukee received the results of a disparity study that sought to measure how our Emerging Business Enterprise program and other initiatives were working. The study found that the process needed adjustment and that there was a need to specifically clarify businesses as women-owned, specific minority-owned and small businesses. Alderman Coggs co-sponsored legislation this fall that implemented the recommendations of the study and worked to name clear categories for percentage participation in City work and procurement contracts. The gender and race clarity now added to this legislation makes it historical, but the impact of these changes will make it an economic success in our community. If you would like to learn more about how your business may be eligible for City contracts, please contact my office.

Deaths in Custody

Alderman Coggs was the lead sponsor on a resolution that directs the Fire and Police Commission to report to the Common Council biannually, by January 31 and July 31, on new incidents of officer-involved shootings and deaths of citizens in police custody.

After a number of deaths of those in police custody came to light, Alderman Coggs wanted a scheduled reporting of these incidents in order to better investigate the causes and to keep all involved aware of procedures for the safe handling of those in custody.



Opposing Recycling Cuts

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced a 40% reduction in funding for the 2011 state recycling grants that are annually provided to municipalities and counties to offset a portion of their recycling program costs. The 40% reduction in recycling grant funding will result in the City receiving a 2011 recycling grant in the amount of an estimated \$2.1 million, or \$1.3 million less than the City had anticipated receiving. Alderman Coggs was a co-sponsor on a resolution that expressed the Common Council's opposition to the 2011 funding reduction and directed the City's lobbying team to lobby the Wisconsin Department of Administration and Department of Natural Resources to restore the funding. The City had anticipated receiving and budgeted approximately \$3.4 million in funding from the state's

2011 recycling grant to offset a portion of the \$10 million 2011 estimated recycling and yard waste program costs and with a sudden cut in funding mid-budget year, the program would be severely impacted.

Fire and Police Communication

Alderman Coggs was also the lead sponsor on a file that called for the Fire and Police Commission to report to the Public Safety Committee the diversity of the Fire and Police Departments in the City of Milwaukee. The dialog fostered at committee discussed what recruiting practices could be deployed to help ensure all measures are taken to enable minority candidates have equal opportunity to serve the City's public safety needs.

Post Office Closings

The U. S. Postal Service (USPS) has announced its intention to assess whether closure or consolidation of five post offices in the City of Milwaukee is appropriate given factors that include workloads, customer demand and availability of alternative services. These five post offices are identified as the Mid City, Parklawn, Teutonia, Hampton and Dr. Martin Luther King facilities, all located in primarily African-American neighborhoods serving approximately 160,000 City residents.



The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office is one of the stations that has been identified by the U.S. Postal Service for possible closure.

Alderman Coggs sponsored a resolution that urges the Postmaster General of the United States and the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission to maintain affordable, secure and dependable postal services in the City. Additionally, a number of public meetings are being hosted to generate feedback for the USPS to aid us in this process.

According to Alderman Coggs, if all five post offices are closed, 3,400 displaced P.O. Box users would need to transfer their service to another location. "Sadly, I believe many of those affected would simply lose their P.O. Box, negatively affecting their ability to utilize vital USPS services they depend on," she said.

Many of the neighborhoods that would be affected by the possible post office closures have already had delivery stoppages because of crime and public safety concerns, and USPS mailboxes in many of them have been removed or relocated, according to the Alderman. To join the fight against these closures, download a petition and help collect signatures at www.milwaukee.gov/district6.

Voter I.D. Legislation

This year, the state passed a voter identification requirement that, because of the way it is written, may work to disenfranchise many voters. To counteract this potential problem, Alderman Coggs co-sponsored a resolution that directs the Election Commission to cooperate with the Public Information Division-Office of City Clerk to assure that City of Milwaukee residents are made aware of changes in state requirements for voter registration and voter identification. The resolution specifically directs the Election Commission to inform electors and potential electors that their ballots may not be counted if required proof of identification and residency is not submitted in

accordance with the requirements of 2011 Wisconsin Act 23, enacted May 25, 2011. The project also directs the Election Commission to advise residents to report problems, irregularities or difficulties in voting, especially problems that may result in uncounted ballots as a means to attempt to document how many and which voters may have been disenfranchised with the new state law.

The Alderwoman is also hosting voter identification workshops. For more information and directions on how to obtain legal identification for voting purposes, go to www.milwaukee.gov/district6.

Concealed Carry Legislation

The State of Wisconsin has passed legislation allowing for the legal carrying of concealed firearms and weapons. Alderwoman Coggs sponsored a resolution that allows for the City to post notice to residents that such concealed weapons are not legal within its buildings. Posted signs prohibiting the carrying of firearms and other dangerous weapons upon or within buildings and structures owned or leased by the City is in alignment with the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances prohibiting the carrying of firearms in City buildings.



The presence of firearms and other dangerous weapons in places where residents and members of the public engage in City business and public discourse promotes an atmosphere of fear and potential confrontation, therefore, the Alderwoman and a number of her colleagues agreed that the City of Milwaukee would hold to 2011 Wisconsin Act 35 which provides that any person who enters or remains in any part of a building that is owned, occupied or controlled by a local governmental unit while carrying a firearm shall be subject to a Class B forfeiture of up to \$1,000 if the person has been notified not to enter or remain in the building while carrying a firearm.

A similar resolution was passed urging Class B alcohol beverage licensees to post appropriate signs prohibiting members of the public from carrying firearms onto licensed premises.

Teacher in the Library



Looking for help for a student in your family? Starting later this semester, the Martin Luther King branch of the Milwaukee Public Library at 310 W. Locust St. will offer free after-school help for all K-12 students. A certified teacher will be in the library Mondays -

Wednesdays 3:30-6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 3:30-4:45 p.m. The teacher will help students get started with homework, answer questions, and work with librarians to find the right books and resources for your child. The teacher will also help parents and caregivers learn simple ways to help students study at home and do well in school. Branch manager Rachel Collins is looking forward to welcoming your student to the library and introducing him or her to the teacher. No appointment is necessary. Just drop in and your child can start improving study habits and grades immediately. For more information about hours and the starting date call 286-3000.



EYE ON YOUTH

Meet the 6th District Intern



My name is Charmaine Clark; I am a recent graduate of Believers In Christ High School of Excellence's class of 2011 as the valedictorian with a cumulative GPA of 3.89. I am now attending Alverno College, majoring in biology, with a minor in dance. Studying biology will lead me to my future career of becoming an OB/GYN. Becoming an OB/GYN

has always been something I wanted to do; helping others brings me fulfillment beyond what words can describe.

Being given the opportunity to work for Alderwoman Coggs is one of the greatest experiences that I could ask for. Working for her has given me the opportunity to look at things from a political side, and understand all of the hard work that actually goes on behind the scenes.

Our Youth Council Representative



The 6th District's Youth Council representative is Takiya Eiland. Takiya is a 9th grade student at Community High School. She was referred to the council by her teacher and is an active member of the NAACP Ambassadors for Peace Program. She also plays basketball. She is committed to addressing education issues particularly in MPS.

If you are interested in joining the Milwaukee Youth Council, learn more at www.milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil.

Freedom Essay Scholarship Winners



This year, Alderwoman Coggs announced two winners for the 4th Annual Freedom Essay Scholarship Contest.

Ella White Ragland wrote an essay addressing what freedom means. She is a recent graduate of Messmer High School and now attends Marquette University.

Shaleta Lathon was also awarded a scholarship for her essay. She graduated from St. Joan Antida High School and now attends Saint Xavier University.

Raglan and Lathon will each receive a \$500 award for their essay.

Introducing Milwaukee's New *Single Sort* Recycling Program

Have questions?
Call (414) 286-CITY (2489)
www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com

With MORE Recycling Materials Accepted!

- > All plastics numbered
- > Aluminum containers, foil & pans
- > Bulky #2 plastics (ex. 5-gallon buckets)
- > Cardboard & paperboard
- > Cartons
- > Glass bottles & jars
- > Metal pots & pans
- > Mixed paper & junk mail
- > Newspapers, magazines & catalogs
- > Phone books
- > Steel cans & empty aerosol cans

NEWLY ACCEPTED ITEMS IN BLUE

The City's new single sort recycling program is now in effect. Single sort recycling is a system that allows all recyclables to be mixed together in the recycling cart or bin. It means that only one sort is necessary – separating all the recyclables from trash. Papers and containers no longer need to be kept separate. Special equipment will be used to separate them once they reach a recycling facility. **However, it does NOT mean that garbage and recyclables may be mixed together.**

Important points for Milwaukee residents:

- New items are added to the list of accepted materials (see graphic above)
- Single sort offers increased convenience for residents
- Single sort brings increased revenue to the City
- Single sort allows the use of the same type of truck to collect either garbage or recycling on a given day, meaning the City can serve residents more efficiently.
- Cart dividers will be removed from carts throughout the City. This will be a gradual process, and the dividers will be recycled.
- This change supports the goal of reaching 40% diversion from landfill by 2020

Practice District Safety

Do not be a victim of theft! Follow these tips from Police District 5 and help keep your neighborhood safe.

1. Lock your doors and windows when you leave the house.
2. If you are leaving town, make sure that your home appears to be occupied.
3. Close your windows or blinds so the contents of your house are not visible.
4. Make sure you do not put your empty boxes from new purchases at the curb with your garbage. Cut them up and recycle them.
5. Secure your snow blowers, lawn mowers and bicycles in your garage with a chain and lock.
6. Never leave your house unlocked when you are shoveling or snow blowing your property.

Contact Community Liaison Officer Thomas Kupsik at (414) 935-7258 for more crime prevention tips or to have him visit your home and talk about ways to better secure your property.

To check for sex offenders in your area:

Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry: www.wi-doc.com/offender.htm

Tip Hotline Means \$\$ for Reporting Illegal Dumping



Illegal dumping includes dumping of items, brush, and/or materials on streets, sidewalks, parking lots, vacant lots, alleys, or at vacant properties. We count on residents to report to us when they see illegal dumping.

If you see or know of illegal dumping, call **WeTip** at 1-800-78-CRIME. If the information provided leads to a conviction, you may be eligible for a **reward up to \$1,000**.

If you witness illegal dumping, please provide a detailed description of the vehicle(s) (license plate info, make/model, etc.) and the individual(s) involved. If possible, also provide a description of the items and/or material that was dumped. The hotline is answered by bilingual operators 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are taken for all crimes. All calls are confidential and can be anonymous.

SmartEnergyPays.com

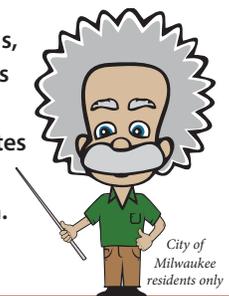
(877) 399-1203

Me²

Milwaukee Energy Efficiency
Smart energy pays.

An energy efficient home is comfortable and cost saving.

Affordable loans, trusted partners and trained Energy Advocates can help you make it happen.



Contact an Energy Advocate today to make Smart Energy Pay!



A Helping Hand For District Seniors



Seniors in the 6th District who need help around the house with lawn care, snow shoveling or minor maintenance are invited

to call Interfaith Older Adult Programs at (414) 220-8669. Interfaith can also add some excitement to the lives of our seniors who are looking to keep active with such activities as arts and crafts, board and table games, health workshops and more.

In addition, Alderwoman Coggs wants residents to know that the City has a special needs service to help remove snow from sidewalks for older citizens and disabled persons. They must certify that they and all occupants of a home are physically unable to shovel. The service is provided only when plowing operations are called and only for the public sidewalk, not for driveways or walkways from the sidewalk to a door. For more information call 286-CITY (2489).

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

PRSRTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE WI
PERMIT NO 4678

Office in the District



For the convenience of 6th District residents, Alderwoman Coggs hosts office hours in the district. This gives district residents an opportunity to discuss questions, comments and concerns directly with the Alderwoman. The next scheduled office hours are:

Tuesday, November 22
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Clinton Rose Senior Center
3045 N. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr.

Foreclosure Help for Homeowners

The City of Milwaukee is committed to helping our neighborhoods remain healthy for generations to come. We are coordinating with various organizations, government agencies and private lenders and reaching out to homeowners facing foreclosure. For access to more resources, visit www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org.



The Common Council voted to fund a new foreclosure mediation program through the Department of City Development (DCD). The program offers legal aid to homeowners facing foreclosure and helps them negotiate solutions with their lender.

Also, neighbors should report problems with boarded up houses to the Department of Neighborhood Services. Call (414) 286-2268 with the address of the property in question or visit www.milwaukee.gov/dns for more information. DCD also provides programs like the **Buy in Your Neighborhood** program and other stabilization options. Go to www.milwaukee.gov/dcd for more information. The following organizations also offer foreclosure solutions:

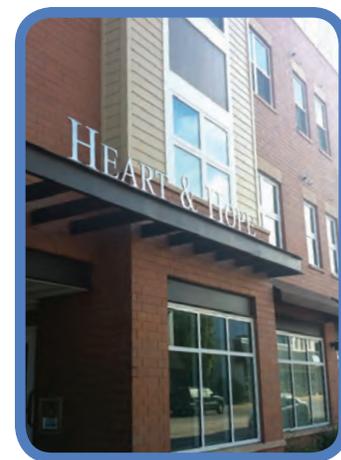
Select Milwaukee

(414) 562-5070 • www.selectmilwaukee.org • info@selectmilwaukee.org

Neighborhood Stabilization Project

nspinfo@milwaukee.gov
www.milwaukee.gov/NeighborhoodStabilizationProgram.htm

Heart & Hope Place



Heart & Hope Place is a new housing community on N. Martin Luther King Dr. in the 6th District and offers 2 and 3 bedroom units with special income-based rates. Contact their offices at 263-2010 for more information or stop by at 3400 N. Martin Luther King Dr.