

# Ashanti Hamilton



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## Dear 1st District Residents,

We are getting ready for a challenging year at the city. Recent budget battles at the state level will force the Common Council to be vigilant in its examination of our city budget this year. The reduction of state shared revenue by Governor Walker means we face a tough battle and his proposed solutions will not necessarily prevent us from making significant cuts in staff or services.

Last year's budget yielded some new processes in the city, including more frequent recycling schedules and the opportunity to purchase a second garbage cart for \$5 per quarter.

The 1st District has also been vigilant in its dedication to neighborhood groups and block watches. This year we honored Mr. Perkins and his family and launched the Atkinson Capitol Teutonia Festival, giving neighbors the chance to get together with one another and have fun.

I have also launched legislation that solicits results data from our local community organizations, funded by Community Block Grant Development funds, in order to explore better ways to end poverty and joblessness in our city. Many organizations are tasked with this duty, but the Milwaukee Promise (see back page) puts in place a means to raise the bar on results and performance so we can move toward real change in our city.

As always, please contact my office with any concerns and use this newsletter as a resource to learn of new city policies, polling locations, library changes and current legislative issues.

Sincerely,

**Ashanti Hamilton**  
Alderman, 1st District



## Upcoming Events in the 1st District

### Agape Community Center Bloom and Grow

June 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

6100 N. 42nd St. - Distribution of plants & flowers

### ACT (Atkinson Capitol Teutonia) Festival

July 9, 2011, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Villard Avenue Library Carnival Days

August 5, 2011, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Did You Know?

Milwaukee is an exciting place to live with lots of great things to do. Here is but a small sampling of ways to get involved, save money and enjoy yourself in Milwaukee.

**Get paid to work at the polls:**

286-3491 or [www.milwaukee.gov/election](http://www.milwaukee.gov/election)

**Save money with a weekly bus pass:**

[www.ridemcts.com](http://www.ridemcts.com)

**Sample and buy fresh produce:**

[www.fondymarket.org](http://www.fondymarket.org)

**Send your child to a great school:**

[www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](http://www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us)

**Organize a neighborhood cleanup:**

272-5462 or [www.kgmb.org](http://www.kgmb.org)

## Committee Assignments

**CHAIR** City Information Management Committee

**CHAIR** Judiciary & Legislation Committee

**MEMBER** Steering & Rules Committee

**MEMBER** Licenses Committee

**MEMBER** Wisconsin Center District Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT** Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

**View meetings on the web at:** [www.milwaukee.gov/channel25](http://www.milwaukee.gov/channel25)

## Flooding in the District

Last summer, Milwaukee homeowners dealt with the damage of near unprecedented flood waters after two dramatic rainstorms in July. As a result, Milwaukee county was declared a federal disaster area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), but originally, FEMA was granting dollars and disaster relief funding only to agencies, not individuals.

As part of a large concerted effort to appeal to FEMA that the damage extended significantly to individual homes and residences, the city launched a large canvassing campaign to solicit documentation from homes whose basements were destroyed by flood waters. The result was FEMA's declaration that funds would be available to individuals in addition to agencies to help counter the costs of the damages.

In addition to the widespread call for action related to the funding, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and DPW announced a plan in July to spend \$7 million in MMSD funds and \$1 million in city funds to pay for three emergency projects to help reduce basement backups.

Though much of Milwaukee was affected by the flood waters, the 1st District was particularly hard-hit. Alderman Hamilton, in cooperation with former Representative Annette Polly Williams, brought together staff and services to create a Flood Emergency Assistance Team (FEAT) to help address flood victims' needs. The group was formed to help the community work together to provide assistance and resources in hope of restoring a healthy quality of life and to provide some relief from the flood. Community-based organizations played a large role in supporting the district and part of the FEAT effort was to bring all available resources to the table.

"I'm proud of the way residents and neighbors came together to help one another during the floods," Alderman Hamilton said. Continued action is taking place at the national and local levels to help avert these crises in the future. Currently, the City of Milwaukee is applying to FEMA as part of a program that could offer our residents reduced rates on flood insurance.

Residents should be reminded, however, that water in your basement is often a result of sewer lines and back up and homeowners should attend to the condition of their lateral sewer line extending from their home to the city system. Often roots or other debris impede the efficiency of these lines. Basement damage that is the result of sewage backups is not covered by flood insurance, so homeowners should take care to be preventative in their home maintenance.



Alderman Hamilton spoke with residents following an inspection of the flood-damaged homes near the 5000 block of 19th Place.



Multiple homes in the 1st District experienced extensive damage from the flood waters.

## July Floods: The Aftermath

After first receiving a "no" from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for individual disaster assistance for residents and businesses who sustained significant damages and loss from the record July 2010 rain storms, city and state officials proactively collected additional information about the breadth of the damage and – after additional inspections by FEMA personnel – ultimately convinced FEMA to approve individual assistance funding.

Mayor Barrett, Governor Doyle, and many other city, state, and federal officials deserve credit for going the extra mile and not letting up.

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has approved legislation putting aside \$151 million over an 11-year period to address inflow and infiltration issues (INI) on private property laterals throughout the MMSD district boundaries.

Also, \$500,000 was set aside in the mayor's 2011 executive budget to implement a pilot program (in a specific demonstration area) in coordination with MMSD dealing with INI issues affecting underground private property laterals within the City of Milwaukee.

INI issues are likely a key contributing factor to the basement backwater problems we're seeing throughout the City of Milwaukee during heavy rain events.

## And the New Library Board President is... Alderman Hamilton!



Alderman Hamilton, newly elected as Library Board President, is congratulated by board member County Supervisor Theo Lipscomb.

Alderman Hamilton, a member of the board for the past five years, was elected as the new president of the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) Board of Trustees in May 2010.

As a member of the Common Council for the past six years – all increasingly difficult budget years – Alderman Hamilton is well aware of the many challenges that face the city and MPL. However, he said the board is in the process of implementing a dynamic new facilities plan and a new service model that he believes will end up substantially improving access to library resources and upgrading what the library can offer users.

“As a board, it is our belief that we will be able to get better library services to more people in Milwaukee for less money,” Alderman Hamilton said, referring specifically to the new service model.

Milwaukee Public Library also celebrated the re-opening of its drive through service window. Central Library offers patrons the opportunity drive up for materials drop off and pick up.

**Ald. Hamilton is a long-time advocate of Milwaukee Public Libraries and is honored to have a new library development in his district.**

## Support Your Local Library!

This year, the Common Council worked hard during budget season to keep all city libraries open, though their hours may have changed. Here are some things you can do to support your local library:

- Get a library card
- Return books on time
- Pay your fines
- Hold community meetings there
- Patronize
- Participate in programming
- Encourage others to use the library

Go to [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org) or call 286-3000 to check hours for your favorite libraries!



**Villard Ave. Library - 3310 W. Villard Ave.**

**Atkinson Library - 1960 W. Atkinson Ave.**

## Villard Library Takes Shape



Alderman Hamilton, along with Aids. Kovac and Murphy (far right) broke ground on the city's innovative new library branch. The effort, funded in part by WHEDA tax credits, pairs housing for seniors raising grandchildren with the resources of the library.

The project represents the first time that a branch library in the city will be made part of a mixed-use development. “We ended up with a truly valuable development that not only will lift up this neighborhood, but one that keeps the precious Villard branch library and greatly expands what it has to offer to children and residents,” he said.

Villard Square is also putting people to work, including a provision ensuring that 40% of the construction work hours at the site are worked by city residents, and a commitment by the developer to make a strong effort to hire residents from the surrounding neighborhood. “This is a catalytic project that will stimulate more developments that I believe will bring dozens of new jobs to this stretch of Villard Avenue,” Alderman Hamilton said.

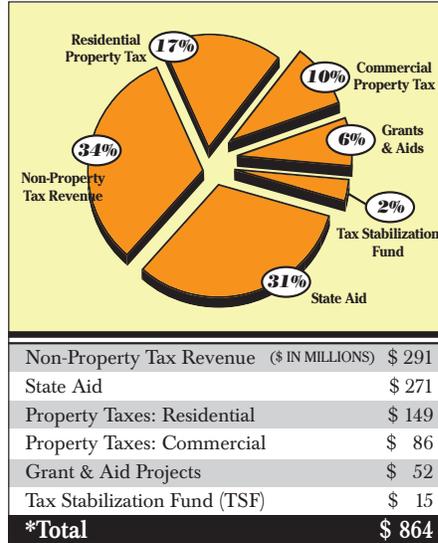
## Milwaukee's 2011 Budget News

The city budget for fiscal year 2011 includes no major service cuts and no increase in the property tax levy.

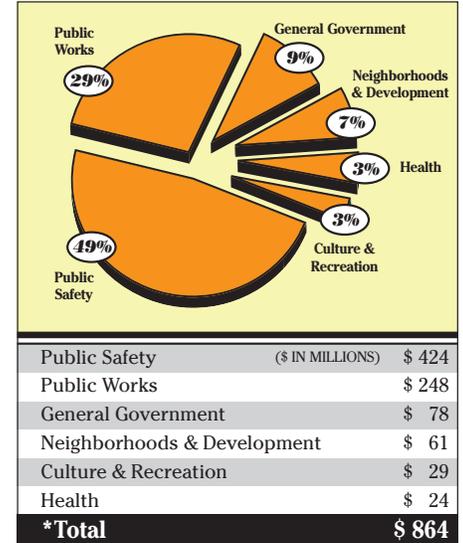
This March, the Common Council opposed the governor's Budget Repair Bill in its entirety because of concern with collective bargaining restrictions in the bill. The Council vehemently advocated for including police and fire unions in the discussion – groups that are currently exempt from increased pension contributions, health care contributions and are still allowed to collectively bargain with the city. Fire and police employees constitute more than 60% of the city's employees and without equal restrictions and "sacrifices" related to the costs of their employment, the City of Milwaukee will still face extreme budget constraints.

Therefore, the concept of "shared sacrifice" also drove another action by the Council related to including fire and police union members in the pension and health care contribution changes.

## 2011 Budget Sources of City Revenue



## City Services Provided by this Revenue



*\*Excludes G.O. debt service paid by the City for MPS purposes.*

## Bishop's Creek Apartments to Open This Spring

A CommonBond Community project, the supportive housing portion of the Bishop's Creek development in the 1st District, is slated to open this spring. The three-story apartment facility will have 55 units, 13 of which will have front porches to give residents the chance to know their neighbors and be active in the community. The project will have highly landscaped, urban edges to also help establish the community as an essential element in revitalizing the neighborhood.

This WHEDA funded project is just one piece of the many redevelopment efforts tethered to the Bishop's Creek community.



Alderman Hamilton joined Alderman Willie Wade and Bishop Sedgwick Daniels on 32nd St. and Hampton Ave. to celebrate the Bishop's Creek project.

## St. Michael's Hospital Developments

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare is creating a new green space area by demolishing the former St. Michael Hospital. During the demolition period, the Family Care Center at the facility will remain open. Wheaton Franciscan will create future medical facilities in the area, but residents are to be aware of the deconstruction project.

**Any safety issues or concerns should be directed to Alderman Hamilton's office or Ben McMullen of J.P. Cullen & Sons at (262) 781-4100.**

## Take Advantage of Home Rehab Programs

The Home Rehabilitation Program offers owner occupants no to low-interest loans, tied to income and family size, and deferred payment loans to income-qualified residents. This program can be used for projects like roofs, siding, code violations, porches, and more.

The Rental Rehab Program offers forgivable loans for rehabilitating rental property. Landlords may be eligible for forgivable loans up to \$14,999 per unit. The loans bear no interest rate, and the loan is forgiven five years after the rehab is completed. Other restrictions apply. The owner must provide at least one matching dollar for each Rental Rehab dollar received. For example, a 2/2 duplex would be eligible for up to \$29,998 of Rental Rehab dollars if the landlord spends at least \$29,998 of their own funds (bank loan, cash). The landlord is required to spend their money first.

The city's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation runs these programs.

**Please call (414) 286-5608 for complete details, or visit [www.city.milwaukee.gov/NeighborhoodImprovement.htm](http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/NeighborhoodImprovement.htm)**

# ACT (Atkinson Capitol Teutonia) Festival



The Perkins family was honored for their more than 42-year contribution to the area at the Atkinson Capitol Teutonia Festival in 2010. Joining Alderman Hamilton were Council President Willie Hines, Jr., Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, and Alderman Willie Wade.

The ACT Business Improvement District commemorated Mr. Perkins' Restaurant owner, Will Perkins, with a permanent memorial during the Atkinson Capitol Teutonia Festival.



Alderman Hamilton joined Council President Willie Hines, Jr., State Senator Lena Taylor, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Alderman Willie Wade, former State Representative Annette Polly Williams and neighbors at the Atkinson Capitol Teutonia Festival last summer.



## Safe Streets and Homes

A safe block is the cornerstone of thriving neighborhoods and a city that works. Neighbors who organize around safety and communicate well are crucial in preventing crime.

Get to know your neighbors, and get to know the city employees who can help keep your neighborhood safe. A safe block is an alert and organized block.

Here are some updates on actions being taken to make our community safer:

- Growth of neighborhood activism like our neighborhood groups and block watches
- The Justice 2000 Drivers License Recovery Program works to ensure that unpaid parking tickets do not lead to cycles of felonies and unemployment.
- A new bicycle master plan and traffic calming program are bringing bike lanes and speed bumps to a street near you.

Contact me if you'd like to learn more about our neighborhood organizations and block watches.



## Youth Council Back in Session

The City of Milwaukee Youth Council is a powerful and diverse group of young leaders committed to making a difference in Milwaukee. They work on issues important to youth, talk to peers, family and neighbors about their concerns and take action to address them.

Youth Council members represent young people in their aldermanic districts and meet with leaders like the Mayor, Common Council, School Superintendent, business owners and community groups to advocate for youth. The community is invited to attend all Youth Council meetings and most meetings are broadcast on City Channel 25.

Hikeem Williams-Davis is a 9th grade student at Messmer High School and represents District 1 on the Youth Council. Hikeem joined the council to increase youth voice, meet new people and give back to the community. He believes Milwaukee needs more resources for youth and he is an active member of the TAB advisory board. Youth violence is also an issue that Hikeem wants to address as a council member.

Visit [www.milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil](http://www.milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil) for more information.

## Fatherhood Initiative Award



Alderman Hamilton was awarded the Super Supporter Award to recognize his support of the group's mission at the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative's 2010 Summit.

1st District Alderman

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## New Garbage Pick Up Regulations In Effect

City crews now only pick up one cubic yard of extra material placed out on your designated collection day. This is about the size of an easy chair. Also, there is now a fee to have extra garbage carts.

Households with more than one cart will be charged \$5 quarterly for each additional cart.

**For extra carts or to have unneeded carts removed, call 286-CITY (2489).**

## Alderman Hamilton Sponsors the Milwaukee Promise

Alderman Hamilton drafted The Milwaukee Promise as an amendment to the 2011 city budget. The amendment holds groups, agencies or programs receiving city funds to abate poverty and joblessness accountable to tangible results. Co-sponsors include Alderwoman Cogg, Alderman Wade, Alderman Kovac and Alderman Zielinski.

The proposed amendment will require that any city program or funded organization that earns its dollars based on anti-poverty or job creation grants or missions must provide an accounting of how successful their program was over the course of the year.

This reporting mechanism will allow the city to recognize the programs with the most successful structures so that as budget funds are allocated in the future, we can support those programs whose efforts make a significant impact on eradicating poverty in Milwaukee and direct funds to programs with results.

“We cannot allow for our community to be defined by its poverty and unemployment any longer. Our current stewardship of these public and private resources allows our successes to be drowned out by our failures. It is Milwaukee’s Promise to do better,” Alderman Hamilton said.

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## Project Clean & Green

Project Clean & Green is a city-wide program designed to foster neighborhood pride and ownership through coordinated clean ups, street and alley sweeping, graffiti removal and neighborhood beautification activities sponsored by community organizations. Collection crews will target one zone each week and collect extra items left at the collection point on the scheduled collection day. **In the 1st District, if you live north of Silver Spring Dr., your collection time is May 18-24 and if you live south of Silver Spring Dr., your collection time is April 27-May 3.**

Residents within the targeted zone can place unwanted furniture, mattresses, household items, brush, up to five tires and extra recyclables at the collection point on their scheduled collection day.

If you desire to schedule a group cleanup, you can contact **Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful** at [kgmb.org](http://kgmb.org) or 272-5462 for cleanup bags, gloves or to borrow a limited number of clean up tools (rakes, shovels, brooms).

This is your opportunity to get rid of excess household debris at no cost. After your Clean & Green week, there will be a \$50 charge for all bulky pickup requests larger than 1 cubic yard (about the size of an easy chair).



## Don't Forget to Vote on April 5!

Don't know your polling station on election day? Go to [www.milwaukee.gov/election](http://www.milwaukee.gov/election) to use the interactive street address system to find your representatives and where you vote. Call 286-3491 to speak to someone about your election day questions!