

ALDERMAN ROBERT G.
DONOVAN200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-3533 | www.milwaukee.gov/district8 | rdonov@milwaukee.gov

SPRING 14

Hello Neighbors,

I hope this edition of my newsletter finds you well, and that the incredibly harsh winter we endured is providing plenty of motivation to get outside and be active – especially in your neighborhood!

And there are plenty of green spaces nearby to enjoy the outdoors, as evidenced by the Menomonee Valley news you will read about on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. The developments in the valley have also been excellent, and there are articles on those pages, as well, to keep you updated on those projects.

A new surveillance camera grant program for business districts (across the 8th District and the city) was launched in front the Wild Flour Bakery at S. 28th and W. Lincoln earlier this year, and the details can be found on page 2. Also on page 2, you will meet the new commander of the 2nd Police District, Capt. Alfonso Morales, and on page 3 you will learn more about “Operation Alley Cat” and the expansion of our alley lighting initiative to Burnham Park (page 8). Also in this vein of crime prevention and safety, I am very pleased to note that I have been appointed to serve once again on the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee.

Also in this newsletter you will meet my full-time (Patty Doherty) and part-time (Maria Salgado) legislative assistants (page 6), you will learn more about my I-Pledge Milwaukee community action plan for uplifting Milwaukee, one block at a time, and you will find out about some of the outstanding initiatives and resources being offered by Layton Boulevard West Neighbors and the Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative (page 7).

Please contact me directly at 286-3533 if you have concerns or questions about city services in the district. As always I look forward to talking to you and your neighbors about ways we can improve the district and our great city. Have a safe and happy spring and summer.

Sincerely,

Bob Donovan
Alderman, 8th District

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

Alderman Donovan has scheduled three town hall meetings to meet residents and discuss issues affecting the 8th District. Please attend the meeting that best fits your schedule or location. The dates, locations and times are:

Tuesday, May 20

U.S. Grant Elementary School
2920 W. Grant St., 6-8 p.m.

Thursday, May 22

Doerfler Elementary School
3014 W. Scott St., 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28

OASIS Senior Center
2414 W. Mitchell St., 6-8 p.m.

Representatives of city departments (including the police) will be on hand to answer questions and discuss issues that you are concerned about, including crime and crime prevention, graffiti, sanitation, recycling and neighborhood development.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**Member**

- Public Works
- Anti-Graffiti Policy
- Public Safety

View meetings at:

www.milwaukee.gov/citychannel
Follow us on Twitter @MKE_CC and @MKE_TV for City of Milwaukee Common Council and City Clerk news, info and updates.

Surveillance Camera Grant Program Targets Businesses, Commercial Corridors ➤

In early March—during a news conference in the 8th District held in front of Wild Flour Bakery, 2800 W. Lincoln Ave.—Alderman Donovan helped launch a new city matching grant pilot program that will bring police-monitored surveillance cameras to individual businesses and commercial corridors across Milwaukee.

The collaborative public safety initiative was sponsored by Common Council President Michael J. Murphy, Alderman Donovan and Alderman Joe Davis, Sr., and supported by Mayor Tom Barrett. It will use a \$250,000 matching grant fund provided by the Milwaukee Police Department and the city's Community Development Grants Administration (CDGA) to help provide monitored surveillance cameras in commercial corridors in Police Districts 2, 3, 5 and 7, where Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other like groups exist to support and help fund improvements. Safe and Sound, Inc. will administer the pilot program, which will expire at the end of 2014.

Alderman Donovan said individual businesses, BIDs and business associations will be provided an opportunity to match the grant funds for the installation of cameras, which have become standard public safety tools in shopping and commercial areas across the U.S. He noted the location of the March news conference—Wild Flour Bakery—was selected because it was the site of a successful MPD investigation brought about by footage from a mounted Operation Impact surveillance camera in 2007.



Alderman Donovan joined Common Council President Michael Murphy, Police Chief Edward Flynn, Mayor Tom Barrett and Katie Sanders of Safe & Sound, Inc. during a March 7th news conference about the new surveillance camera pilot program.

“Today surveillance cameras in business areas are very prevalent, and cameras on the near south side have helped solve serious crimes, including fatal hit-and-run accidents,” he said.

“Our police officers cannot be everywhere at all times, and the cameras are a hugely valuable tool to not only deter crimes, but also to catch criminals and help bring them to justice,” said Alderman Donovan, who founded Operation Impact and who has long championed the use of surveillance cameras along busy commercial strips. ■

Meet 2nd District Captain Alfonso Morales ➤

Captain Morales was appointed to the Milwaukee Police Department in 1993. As an officer, Captain Morales was assigned to District Two and the Vice Control Division. In 1999, he was promoted to Detective and worked in the Criminal Investigation Bureau where he worked various assignments from burglaries to robberies to homicide. From 2003 until 2009, he served as Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Bureau, where he managed the night shift Gang Crimes Unit and Homicide Unit. In 2010, he transitioned to the Patrol Bureau, where he managed the detective decentralization project in District Three. He later worked assignments in Internal Affairs, the Police Academy, and HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas). From 2004 to 2013 he was the Crisis Negotiator Commander of MPD's negotiators unit that responded to incidents involving barricaded, armed subjects.

In 2013, Captain Morales was promoted to his current position of Captain of District Two. The district encompasses part of Milwaukee's South Side and is comprised of more than 87,000 residents.

Captain Morales holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Carroll University in Waukesha and has taken masters level classes at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. ■



New Crime Watch Sign Program ➤

An ordinance to establish a crime watch sign program throughout Milwaukee has recently been approved by the Common Council. Although the police have yet to set up eligibility guidelines for participation of neighborhoods, business and block watch groups, provisions for the three types of crime watch signs have already been made.

The three types of signs that will be put in for the program will be those installed at locations along the perimeter of participating neighborhood crime watch areas, those installed in a business watch area and signs installed on individual blocks.

The chief of police has yet to establish standards for the size, placement, wording, etc. for all of the signs, but that is said to be happening soon.

Residents will be glad to know that the Department of Public Works will be installing these signs at no cost to the participating neighborhood association, business group or block club. They will be responsible, though, for any sign fabrication costs that may come up in the future.

Any neighborhood association, business or block watch group interested in participation in the crime watch sign program should apply to the police department through the community liaison officer at the nearest district police station. ■

House Numbers Add Up To Safety ➤

Did you know that houses are required to be identified by address numbers, facing both the street and the alley?

This is done to make it easier for emergency personnel or city workers to find a property.

A rear house number could save a life. In delivering emergency help—police, ambulance, fire—seconds count. In the dark of night, a police officer in the alley cannot always be sure he or she is at the right house. Accurate addresses facing the alley can save precious seconds.

A city ordinance requires that house numbers be a minimum of three inches high. They should be posted facing the alley on a garage or rear of the dwelling. The numbers are available at hardware stores. Rear numbers are not required for houses that do NOT abut on an alley.

New: Operation Alley Cat ➤

One of the best aspects of the Operation Impact alley lighting initiative is that it takes away the darkness that criminals rely upon for concealing their cowardly activities. And now, there's a new pilot project—Operation Alley Cat—that will add surveillance cameras to specific alley locations throughout the Operation Impact area.



“You think criminals hate alley lighting, just wait until they see the cameras being installed as part of Operation Alley Cat!” said Alderman Donovan. “They will scurry away like rats.”

Alderman Donovan said the privately-funded surveillance cameras will be added at several alley locations during the initial pilot phase of Operation Alley Cat this year. The cameras will provide footage that will be monitored by the Milwaukee Police Department. ■

REPORT FRAUD

It is everyone's job to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. If you suspect or witness any fraud, waste or abuse against City of Milwaukee resources, **TAKE ACTION** and **REPORT IT** to the Fraud Hotline at 286-3440, via email (hotline@milwaukee.gov), or online. See milwaukee.gov/comptroller.

Tips may be made anonymously. The Fraud Hotline ensures confidentiality and will not share contact information without consent.

I **strongly** urge everyone in the 8th District to abide by this important city ordinance:

House Numbers: All city houses and buildings must be identified by a number. The ordinance requires that numbers be not less than three inches in size, be legible and be placed conspicuously on the front of each building. Properties which abut on an alley must also be identified by numbers facing the alley. This is done to make it easier for emergency personnel or city workers to find a property. (Code 275-32-11). ■

Developments In and Around The Valley

Menomonee Valley Projects

Both **Rishi Tea** and **Solaris** have agreed to purchase and build on land in the Menomonee Valley. The two companies will help bring jobs to the area in the fields of manufacturing and office personnel, as well as construction jobs during the build-out of their new facilities.

Rishi Tea, tea manufacturer and seller, has purchased approximately 3.8 acres to the north of Roundhouse Road where it will build a 48,000 square foot office and manufacturing facility. The company has already broken ground on the project and hopes to have the facility completed this summer. Rishi Tea will then hire 20 new employees to work in manufacturing, sales, marketing and administrative positions.

Solaris, based in West Allis, produces durable medical goods and has purchased approximately 3.8 acres north of Wheelhouse Road. The company plans on breaking ground this spring and hopes to be opening this summer. Solaris plans on hiring 25 employees for manufacturing, marketing and sales positions. ■

Bike Fed

The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin has moved its headquarters to 3618 W. Pierce St. in the 8th Aldermanic District. The non-profit advocacy group's mission is to move bicycling forward in the community through education, involvement and legislation.

The organization has thousands of members and helps promote bicycling for bikers of all interest levels and ages. The move to Menomonee Valley will help the non-profit continue to grow and better serve the community. ■



Image courtesy of Briohn Building Corp.

A rendering of new Rishi Tea office and manufacturing facility, projected to be finished this summer.

Menomonee Valley 2.0

The Menomonee Valley 2.0 project has launched with the creation of PlanTheValley.org. Through the website, citizens will be able to learn about the project and stay up-to-date while voicing their opinions. They will be able to take surveys and contribute to forums that will help dictate the direction of the project.

Perhaps one of the best parts of the website is the map feature. With this tool, anyone can take a map of the Menomonee Valley and make suggestions for the project. This interactive feature will help foster new ideas and help make sure everyone's voice is heard. ■



Alderman Donovan has brought together staff from city departments, local neighborhood organizations, real estate professionals and developers to explore opportunities for new commercial and residential development in the 8th Aldermanic District. The group is working on conducting a "design charrette," a strategic session that would be facilitated by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture & Urban Planning to create realistic redevelopment strategies for sites that have been identified. Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Inc. and the Clarke Square Neighborhood Association have been active participants in these efforts.

Image courtesy of Wenk Associates



An artist's rendering – an eastward view of what the Valley will look like after all the changes have been made.

Menomonee Valley From the Ground Up

The Menomonee Valley branch of the Urban Ecology Center has formed a unique partnership with the Menomonee Valley Partners, a nonprofit whose vision is to redevelop the Menomonee Valley into a strong ecological, economic and cultural area in the city. Together they created a joint project—Menomonee Valley – From the Ground Up—a \$26 million project that includes:

- The transformation of 24 acres of wasteland into a freshly planted outdoor learning area
- Doubling of the Hank Aaron State Trail with construction of a six-mile western extension
- Vastly improved pedestrian/ bike access into the valley

To make this happen, the two organizations are working closely with the state, city, and county governments, surrounding neighborhood associations, several Valley businesses, the Forest County Potawatomi, Friends of Hank Aaron State Trail, and others. ■

Three Bridges Park

The new park just east of Miller Park and beneath 35th and 27th has been named Three Bridges Park. The 24-acre park, which is now open to the public, was named after discussions with community leaders, residents and project stakeholders. Three Bridges Park also was decorated with a mural done by local teenagers with support from ArtWorks for Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Arts Board. ■

Urban Ecology Center

The new Urban Ecology Center location in the Menomonee Valley provides a great local resource for both adults and children to learn about and experience nature through a variety of educational programs.

With a UEC branch in Menomonee Valley, families have the opportunity to experience nature in an urban environment firsthand. The center is located at 3700 W. Pierce St. and is open from Tuesdays to Fridays from noon to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Some of the upcoming events at the Urban Ecology Center include Young Scientist Club, Animal Feeding, Volunteer Park Rangers and Work Outside days. To learn more about the Urban Ecology Center in the Menomonee Valley please call (414)-431-2940 or go to their website – urbanecologycenter.org. ■



CHECK OUT A GREAT VIDEO FROM LAYTON BOULEVARD WEST NEIGHBORS

A video released in March by Layton Boulevard West Neighbors shows all the ways Silver City, Burnham Park and Layton Park are great neighborhoods to #LiveWorkPlay in Milwaukee. The video, which garnered more than 1,000 views in the first two days after its release, can be seen here: <http://goo.gl/JR19Bi>

MEET THE 8th DISTRICT STAFF



MEET Patricia Doherty

Patricia Doherty is a 1991 graduate of Marquette University and majored in Political Science. She has worked as Alderman Donovan's Legislative Aide for the last five years and really enjoys her work.

Patricia is married and has a grown son, Steven, of whom she is exceedingly proud. Although she grew up in Wauwatosa, Patricia has spent most of her adult life living on the south side of Milwaukee where she and her husband Mike have been homeowners for more than 25 years.

Patricia takes great pride in the reputation that Alderman Donovan has for improving public safety and the quality of life for the people in his district, and the part she plays in achieving those goals.



MEET María Salgado

María Salgado was born in Colombia where she graduated in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. She joined Alderman Donovan's team in 2013 as a part-time Legislative Aide.

María is married and has a 10-year-old daughter Olga, of whom she is very proud. She has adopted Milwaukee as her new home and "loves" the cold weather.

María is dedicated to her work and is proud about being Alderman Donovan's Spanish liaison with his constituents in the 8th District.

Please feel free to contact Patty or Alderman Donovan at 286-3533.

Si usted tiene una pregunta o solicita traducción sobre esta carta, favor de comunicarse con María Salgado al 414-286-3533. ■

One Call, That's All!
286-CITY (2489) ➤

That one number can connect you with 21 departments, 8,800 employees and hundreds of city services, ranging from building permits to parking permission to library hours to garbage pickups. **Of course you can always call Alderman Donovan's office at 286-3533. ■**

Garbage Collection ➤

For more information on your next garbage and recycling collection days, go to milwaukee.gov/mpw or call 286-CITY.

There is NO garbage or recycling collection on the following city holidays:

- **Memorial Day & Furlough Day**
Friday & Monday – May 23 & 26, 2014
- **Independence Day & Furlough Day**
Thursday & Friday – July 3 & 4, 2014
- **Labor Day & Furlough Day**
Friday & Monday – August 29 & September 1, 2014
- **Thanksgiving**
Thursday & Friday – November 27 & 28, 2014
- **Christmas Eve & Day**
Wednesday & Thursday – December 24 & 25
- **New Year's Eve & Day**
Wednesday & Thursday – December 31, 2014 & January 1, 2015 ■

New Maximum Height for Grass and Weeds ➤

On July 23, 2013, the Common Council adopted an ordinance which shortens the maximum allowed height of grass and weeds in yards and vacant lots from nine inches to seven inches.

The ordinance change also increases the penalties for those who fall out of compliance with the grass and weeds height requirement—an attempt to address complaints about blighted and vacant properties in the city.

The Department of Public Works has received media coverage about the height change, and has also been conducting a public information campaign to alert property owners, including a DPW garbage cart tag with details about the change.

Questions about the ordinance change can be directed to 286-CITY(2489). ■





Image courtesy of Layton Boulevard West Neighbors

Community Outreach Liaison Vanessa L. Llanas speaks with residents about home renovation and rehabilitation resources, including the Strong Neighborhoods Investment Program - Homebuyer Assistance program.

Home Improvement Resources For 8th District Neighborhoods ➤

On Tuesday, April 1st, more than 200 south side neighbors attended the 4th Annual Home Improvement Fair organized by Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (LBWN), the Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative (CSNI) and Southside Organizing Committee. The event featured presentations and information tables from 16 organizations about home improvement resources in the **Silver City, Burnham Park, Layton Park, Clarke Square** and other south side neighborhoods.

The City of Milwaukee NIDC table was one of the most visited, where Community Outreach Liaison, Vanessa L. Llanas, connected neighbors with information on **city home rehab resources**, including the Strong Neighborhoods Investment Program (SNIP). The SNIP Homebuyer Assistance program offers a forgivable loan up to \$20,000 for the renovation of a city-owned property, anywhere in Milwaukee, regardless of the applicant’s income.

Other available resources including matching grants up to \$1,000 for exterior improvements in Layton Boulevard West and Clarke Square, energy efficiency improvements that lower utility bills, and no cost home repairs for eligible seniors, veterans and individuals with disabilities.

To learn more about home improvement resources, please contact: LBWN-CSNI Home Improvement Coordinator Kate Wolf, at (414) 944-6007 or housing@lbwn.org. (Se habla español). ■

Alderman Donovan launches I-Pledge Milwaukee ➤

In February, Alderman Donovan was joined by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, Sen. Alberta Darling, Rep. Joe Sanfelippo and Rep. Jessie Rodriguez to announce a community-wide, common sense action plan and community engagement initiative aimed at producing sweeping improvements (especially in the area of public safety) across the 8th District and throughout Milwaukee. The announcement was held in the gymnasium at Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School, 2229 W. Greenfield Ave. as dozens of Christ-St. Peter students looked on.

“To help make Milwaukee a better place I want each of you to start where you are at, and do what you can,” Alderman Donovan told the students and those in attendance. “It could be picking up litter on your block, or shoveling snow for your elderly neighbor, but it will make a positive difference that can be duplicated across the 8th District and the city. In my opinion we can uplift and improve the City of Milwaukee, starting at the block and neighborhood level,” Alderman Donovan said.

During the event, Alderman Donovan also announced some very good news for Operation Impact—the public safety-focused public-private partnership initiative he founded several years ago. “I am pleased to announce major funding donations to Operation Impact from the Kohn Law firm and the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation,” he said. ■

JOIN THE ALDERMAN ON A WALK IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Alderman Donovan will once again be taking to the streets of 8th District neighborhoods for walk-throughs to learn about residents’ concerns and to see conditions firsthand. He will be visiting neighborhoods between May and October (roughly twice a week) for the walk-throughs. **Please join the alderman when he comes to your area!**

If you would like to find out when Alderman Donovan will be in or near your neighborhood, please email (rdonov@milwaukee.gov) or call his office at 286-3533.

ALDERMAN ROBERT G. DONOVAN



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ALD. DONOVAN 'CHURCH CHATS'

Alderman Donovan is available for 'Church Chats.' If you are interested in having Alderman Donovan meet with your congregation members after services, he is interested in meeting with them and listening to their ideas and concerns.

To set up a visit by Alderman Donovan after services, please email rdonov@milwaukee.gov or call 286-3533.



Robert G. Donovan

Alderman, 8th District
200 E. Wells Street
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Alley Lighting Initiative Expanding To Burnham Park

One of the key efforts in recent years for Operation Impact has been increasing lighting in alleys on the near south side to help reduce criminal activities. The effort involves a partnership with WE Energies and lighting units paid for by donated funds to Operation Impact. Alderman Donovan said the alley lighting target area has shifted this year to the **Burnham Park area.**

"We have installed alley lighting units across the Silver City neighborhood and are now installing them in alleys located across Burnham Park," he said. "I am certain neighbors will be welcoming the installation crews when they arrive, and as always I urge residents to contact the police immediately if they witness suspicious persons or activities."

The lighting units are provided by donations made by foundations and private businesses (and individuals) to Operation Impact, a public-private safety partnership founded by Alderman Donovan. ■



If you are interested in having alley lighting installed on your block, contact Alderman Donovan at 286-3533.