

# Ashanti Hamilton



City Hall • Room 205 • 200 E. Wells St. • Milwaukee, WI 53202 • 286-2221 • [www.milwaukee.gov/district1](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district1) • [ahamil@milwaukee.gov](mailto:ahamil@milwaukee.gov)

## Dear 1st District Residents,

Happy Holidays! This has been an eventful year here at City Hall and it has brought many positive improvements for our district and the city.

In this newsletter, you can learn more about the job opportunities local employers have brought to the district and the effort by state agencies like Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to help provide affordable housing and work in our community.

There are also exciting developments in our area that have benefited by the economic stimulus package and the MORE ordinance that mandates community benefits for work projects and it has begun to effect change in new development contracts.

The police districts have been redistributed and our area is now supported by police districts 4, 5 and 7. Learn more about their services, the services of local agencies like the Salvation Army and the staff and students who help our district inside this newsletter!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at (414) 286-2228 or use our webpage, [www.milwaukee.gov/district1](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district1) to learn more about the resources and opportunities available to you.

I wish you a safe and warm winter season!

Sincerely,

**Ashanti Hamilton**  
Alderman, 1st District



## United Negro College Fund Kickoff



Ald. Hamilton was joined by Aids. Bauman, Kovac, Wade and Murphy at the kickoff for the United Negro College Fund's Walk for Education event. The event celebrated its 25th year this summer and the walk helps support the very important fund. "Milwaukee has one of the highest percentages of families living at or below the poverty line, but that shouldn't keep students from dreaming of college and the UNCF helps those dreams become reality," Ald. Hamilton said.

## Balancing the 2010 Budget

This year, public safety was a priority as the Council deliberated the 2010 budget. The Council worked to reduce unpaid furloughs for police officers from four days down to two and no police officers or firefighters will be laid off. The entire \$1.44 billion budget was approved 13-2.

Falling property values have pushed up tax rates overall, however and the combined tax rate for Milwaukee homeowners (including county, city and MPS rates) is expected to rise from \$24.03 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$25.98.

We have benefited from stimulus and federal monies particularly in public safety as one of the only cities to receive full funding for a new police class and federal aid will pay for another 50 officers.

Some important changes were made to our public works including recycling pickups that take place regularly every three weeks, an increase from the once-a-month pick ups of prior years.



## 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

**MEMBER** Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

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

## WHEDA Looks for Workers

This summer, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Association (WHEDA) hosted a job fair at Holy Redeemer's campus in the 1st District. A coordinative effort to help workers in the area take part in the rebuilding of a housing complex as part of the Bishop's Creek project, Ald. Hamilton co-hosted the job fair with WHEDA director, Antonio Riley. Though the job fair took pre-registrations, more than 300 workers showed up, resumes in hand. Agencies coordinated to have more employers on hand to help match workers to jobs.

"I'm impressed with the turnout. We had 17 trade jobs to offer and more than 300 job seekers. It drives me to continue to find ways to pair willing workers with Milwaukee jobs," Ald. Hamilton said.



Ald. Hamilton spoke at the job fair hosted at the Bishop's Creek facility earlier this year. The fair, hosted in coordination with WHEDA brought together area workers and employers hiring for the Bishop's Creek development projects.



Workers wait for the doors to open on the Bishop's Creek job fair. Pre-registration was required and the event had more than 300 workers applying for 17 jobs. As a result, organizers brought in other companies and employers to help place willing workers in family-supporting jobs.



**Milwaukee's Future:**  
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

**April 1, 2010 is Census Day!**  
STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Find out more at: [www.milwaukee.gov/2010census](http://www.milwaukee.gov/2010census)

## Villard Library



This rendering shows what the completed Villard Library could look like. The mixed-use development is innovative in its combining of moderately priced housing with the library facility, catering to the many intergenerational families who can utilize the library services. The project developer is Gorman & Co. and Engberg Anderson architectural firm designed the building, located near the current 3310 W. Villard Ave. library.

New developments continue to push the library project forward. The Northwest Side Community Development Corporation (NWSCDC), the organization behind the library project, manages the Villard Avenue BID. Their strong relationship energizes BID activities and pushes the library project forward. The housing project has also been awarded federal affordable-housing tax credits through the The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. The tax credits create a financing incentive for developers and firms that receive the credits agree to rent apartments at below-market rents to low- and moderate-income tenants.

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.

Follow further developments on the library project through the NWSCDC project page at [www.nwscdc.org](http://www.nwscdc.org) or through Ald. Hamilton's office.

## Police District Changes

This past July, the borders of our police districts were redrawn with the intention of reducing the levels of crime, fear and disorder through community-based, problem-oriented and data-driven policing. In our district, we will now be served by police districts 4, 5 and 7. Contact our office for more details or visit the MPD website at [www.milwaukee.com/police](http://www.milwaukee.com/police) for more information and maps that outline police service.

## MORE Ordinance Brings Work to Milwaukee



The ordinance also had an impact on road work on 51st St. and Keefe Ave. The alderman, pictured here with Aids. Bauman, Wade and Coggs, celebrated the re-opening of the street project made possible by "wheel tax" dollars, stimulus funds and by following the guidelines of the MORE ordinance.

The Common Council approved an ordinance spearheaded by Ald. Ashanti Hamilton that creates wage standards for commercial developments that receive at least \$1 million in financial assistance from the City of Milwaukee.

The ordinance makes several changes regarding the requirements for participation by city residents in public works projects and development projects receiving at least \$1 million in city assistance, including projects getting tax incremental financing or TIF monies. With the proposed ordinance in effect, businesses would be compelled to create jobs and apprenticeship opportunities that employ local residents,

and to give consideration to local business enterprises. Sponsors have said the proposed ordinance is a reasonable "win-win" that will broaden the benefits for the city, city residents, and the businesses involved.

The ordinance will help ensure family-supporting wages for people hired to work on building commercial developments, hotels, stores and other businesses.

Since the ordinance passed earlier this year, we have already seen new development projects take on the requirements of the law and solicit more local employees.

This fall, the Council approved city financing for the Moderne development project on the corner of Old World Third St. and W. Juneau Ave. The project will take about two years to build and includes 203 apartments and 14 condos. This part of the Park East development is now moving ahead, complete with MORE ordinance requirements in place. The development is required to spend 25% of the construction costs with disadvantaged businesses, and 30% of the project's construction work hours must go to Milwaukee residents. The Moderne project will add many new jobs to the city as it is built and it is designed to encourage further development in the Park East area.

## Salvation Army Serves District 1

The Salvation Army, an international movement that seeks to meet human needs without discrimination, has a rich history that spans more than 100 years. The organization has been an integral part of District 1. Just this winter, a toy drive helped to supply local children with Christmas gifts.

The Salvation Army Milwaukee Citadel Worship and Community Center located at 4129 W. Villard Ave., continues to offer after school programming for children and youth of



families living in District 1. Children in grades 1 through 8 can enjoy open gym activities from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.; youth in grades 9 through 12 are welcomed from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

To support the Salvation Army, contact the local branch office at (414) 302-4300. Go to [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org) to learn about the rich history of this organization and the ways you can support their programs.

## Villard Avenue Day Festival Celebrates Its 5th Year as a Neighborhood Tradition

The Villard Avenue Day Festival turned five this past summer and the family-friendly community festival is still a hit with residents and neighbors.

Sponsored with the help of Business Improvement District #19, the free and fun community festival brought neighbors together to celebrate with music and entertainment, food, prizes, games and children's activities. Health information and public safety displays were also a part of this year's festival.

"The neighbors and businesses have really come together to make the Villard Avenue Day Festival a family friendly, safe celebration for all," said Alderman Hamilton. "Residents in the area – especially kids and families – always look forward to it and I love seeing such a strong turnout every year."

This year, the event had added sponsors and again, promoted the blood drive and bone marrow registry coordinated through the Wisconsin Blood Center.



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## Recycle For Good Relay



As part of the launch of city's new recycling campaign, members of the Common Council faced off in a relay race identifying recyclable products. The event, held in Red Arrow Park, promoted the ease with which Milwaukee residents can make recycling a part of their everyday routine. Go to [www.milwaukeecycles.com](http://www.milwaukeecycles.com) to learn more.

**Alderman Hamilton**  
City Hall, Rm 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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## Interns Interact with the District

Ald. Hamilton has a long history with employing young people in his offices to help them gain valuable experience and learn about city government. This year, Natyra Prater returned to the District 1 office to help work with constituents and newcomer Michael Ward, Jr. joined our team through the Summer Youth Internship program. The program hires young people to work in city jobs for eight weeks of the summer. Applications become available in January and residents can contact the office for more information at 286-2221 or visit our website at [www.milwaukee.gov/district1](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district1) to learn more.



Natyra Prater (left) and Michael Ward, Jr. gained experience and learned about city government while interning in Ald. Hamilton's office.

## Making Plans For Winter

Ald. Hamilton wants to remind all residents of some of the requirements during snow and ice control operations. Remember that public safety is the first priority during snow and ice control on the city's 1,400 miles of city streets. Streets are prioritized based on traffic volume, public transportation routes, access to emergency services and schools.

### Please Shovel Your Sidewalks

A reminder that 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.

### Move Your Car To Help Snow Removal

The single biggest problem during major snowstorms is parked and abandoned cars. The plows try to get as close to the curb as they can but those "snowbirds" get in the way and prevent them from completing the job. Ald. Hamilton asks that you move your vehicles so plows can clear the streets curb to curb. 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 286-8350 for the location of a playground nearest your home.

### "Hardship" Assistance Can Help

Is shoveling your sidewalk after a big Milwaukee snowstorm a "mission impossible" because of age or disability? Ald. Hamilton wants you to know that city sanitation workers may be able to give you a helping hand. If you are a senior citizen or disabled and living in a single-family, owner-occupied home, and physically unable to do the shoveling, you may be eligible for "hardship" assistance.

#### Eligibility requirements:

- Resident must own the home
- Others in home must also be unable to shovel
- Only the public sidewalk is cleared, no driveways or private walkways
- Shoveling done only when plowing operations are called
- There is a \$10.00 flat rate each time the sidewalk is cleared
- Call Sanitation Division at 286-3345 for application