Dear Constituents:

It's an honor to have been elected to a fourth term of serving as your representative on the Milwaukee Common Council. I'm both grateful and humbled to have received 98% of the vote in the April 13, 2012 spring election. I will continue to make the most of this opportunity to represent your interests at City Hall.

More than ever, this is a critical time for our district in city government. Big changes are underway that could mean great things for the Magnificent 7th Aldermanic District, and you can read all about them in this newsletter.

Ours is a community that has been hit harder than most by the economic recession, but your city government is taking steps to alleviate the pain. Programs like LEAP and STOP are providing young people with opportunities to gain job experience and earn money by working in paid internships. This newsletter also details programs that are available to help homeowners fight foreclosure, as well as the Housing Resource Fair that brought those programs right to the people. And our efforts are already having an effect.

The former Jackie Robinson Middle School is now home to the Sherman Park Senior Living Center, just one example of cooperation between the city and property developers paying off. At the former site of Tower Automotive on N. 35th St., the Century City Lofts are yet another example of future redevelopment to come.

Once again, the Common Council has passed a city budget that holds the line on property taxes, much like your family has had to make difficult decisions to keep the checkbook balanced. And I've also been active in efforts to bring more accountability and transparency to the way the Milwaukee Police Department does business — efforts that could use your help and are detailed inside this newsletter.

But I'm never too busy to hear from my constituents. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 286-3764 or wwade@milwaukee.gov.

Thanks for your continued support and feedback,

Sincerely,

Willie C. Wade
7th District Alderman

7th District Alderman Willie C. Wade
Spring 2013

Report Vandalism to Vacant Buildings

Callers who report vandalism to vacant buildings in the City of Milwaukee could be eligible for up to $1,000 in reward money, under legislation authored by Alderman Wade.

Alderman Wade said the tip hotline was needed to address what had become a serious problem in many city neighborhoods. “Vandalism to vacant buildings should be a top concern for all city residents and stakeholders, because there is a direct and significant relationship between vandalism to vacant buildings and increased calls for police services, higher incidence of fires (both accidental and intentional), and a steady decline and disinvestment in neighborhoods,” he said.

Those who phone information in to the WetIP hotline – 1-800-78-CRIME – may be eligible for cash rewards if the information provided leads to an arrest and conviction.

Alderman Wade is also behind a new, tougher ordinance establishing a penalty of $1,000 to $5,000 per violation for vandalizing a vacant building and causing more than $500 damage to the property.
Residents Can Petition City for Traffic Calming Devices

Residents who want to improve their quality of life by diminishing the speeding traffic through their neighborhood can take steps to get the ball rolling themselves.

The city’s traffic calming device ordinance creates a process for neighborhood residents to ask the city to construct a device—such as a mini-roundabout or a “speed hump”—to reduce vehicle speeds on residential streets and to improve pedestrian safety. Other traffic calming devices include speed tables, curb bump-outs, and traffic circles and roundabouts at intersections. All of these installations will be carefully designed to ensure the safe movement of emergency vehicles and snow plows.

Under the ordinance, neighborhood residents can petition the city to install traffic calming measures on residential streets. The city reviews each request, determines the best type of traffic calming measure and calculates the cost of the installation. A public hearing is then held before the Council’s Public Works Committee, and if approved, 90% of the cost of the project is divided among adjoining property owners as a special assessment (similar to the process the city uses for sidewalk and alley replacement). Special assessments can be paid in a lump sum or over a period of years with interest as part of the property tax bill.

A typical speed hump will cost about $3,000, and other traffic calming devices will cost slightly more.

If you and your neighbors are interested in looking into some type of traffic calming device, please contact Robert Bryson at 286-3244, or by email at rbryso@milwaukee.gov.

Milwaukee’s Chronic Nuisance Property Code

Property where nuisance activity occurs regularly is a blight on the whole neighborhood. The nuisances frighten away law abiding residents, discourage reinvestment and consume police and other city services. Responsible property owners can and usually do take steps to discourage those that cause such disturbances from occupying their buildings.

The City of Milwaukee’s Chronic Nuisance Property Code says to property owners, in effect, “If you do not take action to try to stop these nuisances from recurring, then you will pay the cost of the city services that must respond to your building.” Passed into law in early 2001, the code is having an effect on reducing the problems where it has been used.

When the Milwaukee Police Department determines that three or more nuisance activities have occurred at a property within a 30-day period, or two drug-dealing, firearms, violent or other serious crimes occur within a one-year period, MPD can notify the owner and request a plan to stop it from continuing. If the owner does not respond or fails to carry out the plan, the cost of all future MPD services related to responding to nuisance activities at the property will be placed on owner’s tax bill by the Department of Neighborhood Services. Citations up to $5,000 per nuisance activity may be issued after a property owner is billed three times for enforcement costs.

There are 20 nuisance activities listed in the code, including but not limited to loud music, loitering, illegal drug activity, harassment, disorderly conduct, battery, indecent exposure, prostitution, loitering, littering, keeping animals that disturb the peace and discharge of a firearm. A complete list is found in 80-10-2 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances.

If you suspect that nuisance activity is occurring on a property in your neighborhood, your first course of action may be to simply ask the property owner to do something about it. Many rental property owners’ names and addresses are listed on the DNS web site at www.milwaukee.gov/dnsns.

In more serious cases, neighbors should call 933-4444 to report the nuisance. Callers are urged to be as detailed as possible. MPD tracks repeated calls for service and can use this information to determine whether or not the Chronic Nuisance Property Code was violated.

You should also keep a log of when the nuisance activities occur (time, date, location, description), and include the name(s) of everyone you called (owner, MPD, etc.). Your observations may help the MPD build their case, if the property has reported calls. You can contact the community liaison officer in your police district for further information.

The MPD reports a high degree of success in using the ordinance to combat nuisance activity. When property owners are presented with credible evidence of illegal activity on their property, most cooperate to prevent its recurrence. Rental property where such activities do not occur is more profitable, so both the owner and the neighborhood benefit in the long run.
Council Holds the Line with 2013 City Budget

Much like most Milwaukee families, city government continues the balancing act of paying its bills while operating within an increasingly confined budget. And again this year, the Milwaukee Common Council has passed an amended city budget that holds the line on property taxes while maintaining crucial city services.

The 2013 tax levy approved by the Common Council in November was $250.39 million, up 0.96 percent from 2012’s $248 million levy, and $20,878 less than the Mayor’s proposed 2013 budget levy. Following a few changes made by the Mayor’s veto pen, the owner of an average Milwaukee home will see a $46 decrease in the city portion of their tax bill, which with a modest $17 increase in fees for solid waste and other services, provides $29 in relief to homeowners.

“Early in the budget process, we identified minimizing the impact on property tax payers as a top priority,” Alderman Wade said. “Continued responsibility and austerity are key to maintaining the city’s fiscal health in the years ahead and maintaining the level of service consistent with other communities.”

The Common Council approved changes to the Mayor’s proposed budget that increase the amount of overtime funding available to the Milwaukee Police Department by $350,000. And with the urban forestry division facing a backlog of tree stumps in need of removal and replacement, Alderman Wade was among the Common Council members who voted to increase funding for those services by $500,000.

As part of ongoing efforts to expand upon diversity and public safety in Milwaukee, Council members signed off on an amendment that finds funding for 13 additional Fire Cadet positions, to start with the scheduled class in September 2013. Fire Cadets are uniformed civilian employees who work in an apprentice-style program designed to prepare them for a career as Milwaukee Firefighters.

“Very simply, this budget offers Milwaukee residents a little more for their tax dollar, without increasing the burden on hardworking families,” Alderman Wade said.

Century City Lofts

The departure from Milwaukee of Tower Automotive in 2002 marked the beginning of opportunities to bring change and development to the area around N. 35th St. and W. Capitol Dr. City leaders like Alderman Wade teamed up with developers to usher in the Century City Lofts project, which is now open for tenants.

Designed by Eppstein Uhen Architects and built with the assistance of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, the apartments are rented at below-market rates to people earning no more than 60% of the Milwaukee area’s median income. The development includes a two-story townhome segment and a larger four-story mid-rise building. Apartments range from one to three bedrooms, and include amenities such as covered parking, a community room and a fitness room.
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 • info@selectmilwaukee.org  
www.selectmilwaukee.org

Neighborhood Stabilization Project  
nspinfo@milwaukee.gov  
www.milwaukee.gov/NeighborhoodStabilizationProgram.htm

Take Root Milwaukee  
A valuable resource that provides free or low-cost, trustworthy and confidential assistance to help you purchase and keep your new home, in addition to alternatives to foreclosure. The group also offers a number of seminars and educational sessions to help with the home buying or foreclosure process.  
(414) 921-4149 • www.takerootmilwaukee.com

Support Your Local Library!

This year, the Common Council worked hard during budget season to keep all our libraries open, though their hours may have changed.  
Visit www.mpl.org or call 286-3000 to check hours for your favorite libraries!
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.
Jackie Robinson Senior Living

The Sherman Park Senior Living at Jackie Robinson – a 68-unit affordable, independent living facility – is located in the former Jackie Robinson Middle School, 3245 N. 37th St. Amenities include on-site health and vocational training services, a media center, a 16-seat cinema and an existing historic theatre, a community center, business center, and a fitness center. The original Jackie Robinson Middle School building is listed on both the National Register of Historical Places and the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places.

The doors of the former Jackie Robinson Middle School have remained closed for years. But thanks to Youthbuild and a partnership with Gorman & Company, they have reopened to provide affordable housing for local seniors.

With a little renovation, the developers turned the school into a 68-unit affordable, independent senior living facility that opened last year. Amenities in the Sherman Park Senior Living Community include a state-of-the-art fitness center, community center and business center. There is also dedicated space in the facility for the vocational and health services to be provided directly to the residents to help them find jobs and health care.

“We judge a culture by how they care for their seniors,” Alderman Wade said, “and we want to ensure ours have safe, affordable living space. This project is a great example of collaboration between Milwaukee Public Schools and the city.”

Most importantly, the Sherman Park Senior Living Community allows seniors in Sherman Park to remain in the area they know and love.

If you are a senior citizen and you would like to learn more about Jackie Robinson Senior Living, call (920) 966-9905.

Youthbuild, a Wisconsin Fresh Start Initiative, is a workforce development program that provides low-income, at-risk youth and young adults, ages 18 to 21, with comprehensive training and employment services in order to help them lead responsible lives. The Milwaukee Christian Center and the Northcott Neighborhood House are the two agencies that sponsor Youthbuild. Participants receive academic assistance so they can earn their GEDs, as well as hands-on construction skills through the building or rehabilitation of houses. For more information, contact Milwaukee Christian Center at 645-5350 or Northcott Neighborhood House at 372-3770.

LEAP and STOP Expose Youth to Job Skills & Police Awareness

Seventeen young people have a leg up as they prepare to enter the job market, as well as a new appreciation for the work done by the Milwaukee Police Department, thanks to their participation in the city’s inaugural LEAP summer youth work program.

Short for “Learn, Earn and Achieve with Police,” LEAP places young people in paid summer internships with local companies. The Milwaukee Police Department, LISC Milwaukee, and the City of Milwaukee’s Earn and Learn program collaborate to strengthen communication between teens and police, preparing the teens for future career success, all while introducing Milwaukee companies to a diverse group of Milwaukee’s future workforce.

Alderman Wade, a strong supporter of LEAP, said this summer’s group of teen interns is now headed on a path to success in the workplace and in the community. “There is a major benefit for these young people and for Milwaukee when we invest in them by helping them gain the skills they will need to be excellent workers and leaders,” he said.

“We need to increase our base of skilled workers, and LEAP is showing itself to be a program that can help prepare young people, giving them skills and confidence,” Alderman Wade said, noting that some of the graduates have already been offered full-time employment opportunities by participating employers.

Teen interns were selected from the north side neighborhoods of Harambee, Lindsay Heights, and Washington Park, and south side neighborhoods of Clarke Square and Layton Boulevard West (LISC’s five “Sustainable Communities”).

The LEAP program provides paid work with area businesses that can help build work readiness skills and valuable experience opportunities for teens enrolled in the STOP (Students Talking it Over with Police) program. Students in the intern program work at area businesses to learn first-hand how to apply the skills they’ve learned in school and through STOP to the workplace.

Participating employers in this inaugural year of LEAP included Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Educators Credit Union, Harley-Davidson, KBS Construction, LISC, Marquette University, Northwestern Mutual, The PrivateBank, Roundy’s, Taylor Dynamometer, US Bank, and Wheaton Franciscan-St. Joseph.

Participating companies employed teens (ages 17-19) 20 hours per week for eight weeks (June through August), Monday through Thursday. Participating employers.

The MPD’s STOP Program is designed to improve communication and build trust between police and teens. STOP was developed to educate young people on the nature of police work and explain the reasons that law-abiding citizens might find themselves interacting with police officers. Students who participate in STOP receive a photo ID, a T-shirt, and certificate of completion.
Public Safety

**Analyze Crime in Your Neighborhood**

Want an idea as to what kinds of crime are taking place in your neighborhood? The Police Department has been posting weekly Crime Analysis maps on the MPD website for your review at [www.milwaukee.gov/police](http://www.milwaukee.gov/police). Look under “Crime Statistics” on the site.

In addition, a summary report of crime and other useful searches is also available on the city web site COMPASS at: [www.milwaukee.gov/compass](http://www.milwaukee.gov/compass)

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**Tip Hotline Means $$ for Reporting Illegal Dumping**

The Common Council has approved a tip hotline whereby callers can be eligible to receive reward money after anonymously providing information on incidents of illegal dumping of debris and/or hazardous materials.

Illegal dumping includes dumping of items, brush, and/or materials on streets, sidewalks, parking lots, vacant lots, alleys, or at vacant properties.

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 anonymous, not just confidential.

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**U.S. Civil Rights Division now Accepting Tips from Milwaukee Citizens about MPD**

Residents who believe Milwaukee Police officers have violated their rights have an outlet for their concerns, with the announcement by U.S. Attorney James Santelle that the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice has set up a toll-free tip line and email address. The information gathered through these sources will be used to help determine whether Mr. Santelle and the Civil Rights Division should conduct a formal “pattern and practice” investigation of the Milwaukee Police Department.

Anyone interested in providing information can contact the Department of Justice by calling 1-855-544-5132 or via email at community.milwaukee@usdoj.gov. The recorded phone message is in both English and Spanish.

Alderman Wade is urging all residents who believe they have witnessed a police abuse of power or have had their rights violated to contact the USDOJ. He also applauded Mr. Santelle and thanked him for his quick response to the concerns.

“Alderman Wade joined other members of the Common Council in calling for greater transparency into the investigation of Derek Williams’s death, one of several instances that prompted the Department of Justice to take a closer look at the MPD.”

“The vital information the Civil Rights Division is collecting could end up forming the groundwork for a formal ‘pattern and practice’ investigation of the Milwaukee Police Department,” Alderman Wade said. “In light of recent events, such an investigation could provide much-needed transparency and justice for those who have been wronged.”

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Get in the Game!

Player registration is now underway for the 2013 Beckum-Stapleton Little League. Youth aged four to 16 who live on the north side of Milwaukee are eligible to sign up.

Interested parents can call Tasha at 737-4839 or 372-5794.

Opening day is right around the corner on Saturday, May 4, so don't delay!

Need Assistance or Have a Question?

Efficient delivery of the hundreds of services provided by city government is only a phone call or a computer click away – in the NEW, full-color “Call for Action” information directory. The popular directory is arranged alphabetically by specific problems and topics, and also includes helpful web addresses and additional information about community attractions.

Remember that in addition to contacting Alderman Wade’s office for help with your concerns, there is one number – 286-CITY (2489) – that can put you in touch with the right department for any questions or concerns about city services.

To save postage and staff costs, please download or print your own copy of the new Call for Action booklet by going to Alderman Wade’s webpage at www.milwaukee.gov/district7. If you need to have a copy mailed to your home, please e-mail a request to damoore@milwaukee.gov.

An online version of the Call for Action is also available at: www.milwaukee.gov/callforaction

NEW Additional Rebates for Moderate Income Homeowners!

Act now and receive up to $7,850 in rewards for air sealing, insulation and home heating equipment.

Don’t Get Left Out in the Cold
Contact an Energy Advocate today to make Smart Energy Pay!
SmartEnergyPays.com (877) 399-1203

Me²
Milwaukee Energy Efficiency
Smart energy pays.

- Have a more comfortable home
- See instant savings on your energy bill
- Get rebates on professionally installed insulation and heating equipment

Program open to City of Milwaukee residents only.