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## Heroin and Opioid Overdose Epidemic Focus of Prevention Efforts

The Milwaukee Common Council has created a City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force charged with studying the problems of drug abuse in Milwaukee County and presenting policy recommendations to address the issue.

“Our analysis of the data shows that drug overdose deaths continue to climb in our community,” Alderman Murphy said. “While we have already developed a critical partnership to study this epidemic, the next step is to translate these data into action.”

“That’s where the City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force will come in, analyzing the problem with the help of stakeholders from throughout the community and producing policy recommendations to help reverse this startling, deadly trend.”

Alderman Murphy was the primary sponsor of the legislation creating the task force, which will be composed of experts from throughout city government, county institutions, the medical profession, community organizations and the general public.

The task force will build on the city’s partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and data analysis by Alderman Murphy’s office. An early examination of overdose figures had showed the county was on pace to endure a record number of heroin and opiate overdose deaths in the year 2016, heightening the need for a group to examine potential solutions.

Aldermen Bohl and Murphy also helped launch a prescription drug mail-back program to prevent unused medications from falling into the wrong hands. **Through the program, postage-paid drug disposal**

**envelopes will be available to the public at 10 Milwaukee area CVS Pharmacy locations, through the Milwaukee and Cudahy Police Departments and at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District’s (MMSD) main office on Seebooth Street.**

“Too many people with addiction issues got their start by popping pills they picked out of someone else’s medicine cabinet,” Alderman Murphy said. “If you have unused medications taking up space at your house, mailing them in is the most responsible way to keep your family safe from this threat.”

**For more information on how the Task Force and the Medical College of Wisconsin are raising awareness of and fighting off heroin and opioid addiction, please visit [mkecope.com/](http://mkecope.com/)** ■

## Common Council Approves Annual Housing Trust Fund Grants

The Common Council has approved the Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Advisory Board’s \$526,000 in funding recommendations for six projects that will construct new housing for those in need, rehabilitate existing housing stock and convert historic buildings to adaptive reuse residential developments.

The projects will leverage an investment of more than \$28.7 million in local construction and rehabilitation work over the next year, said Alderman Murphy, chair of the HTF advisory board.

Since 2008, the Housing Trust Fund has awarded nearly \$6 million dollars in grants,

which in turned leveraged \$103 million in projects that created or rehabbed 763 units of housing. Of those, Alderman Murphy said that 345 support veterans, the chronically homeless or those with mental illness, and 473 are accessible for people with mobility impairments.

“It’s really remarkable what we have been able to do with just a little up-front investment on the city’s part,” Alderman Murphy said. “For every dollar we have invested in the Housing Trust Fund, we have already seen a return of 17 dollars in projects to help those in need.”

Alderman Murphy said the six 2017

projects selected by the advisory board for funding will also create jobs and valuable opportunities for construction workers, carpenters and those in the trades.

This year, a total of 12 proposals sought nearly \$2 million in HTF funding.

**The approved 2017 HTF awards include:**

- **\$193,750 for Heartland Housing, Inc.** to aid in the adaptive reuse of St. Anthony Hospital as a 60-unit apartment complex for vulnerable households, including persons who are chronically homeless or have behavioral health issues.

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## MKE Plays Picking up Momentum and Accolades, Raises \$1.4 Million in Donations



The Public Policy Forum recognized MKE Plays at its 24th Annual Salute to Local Government awards event, which celebrated strong financial management, innovation, partnership, and cooperation among government entities. MKE Plays was highlighted as an outstanding public-private collaboration, and Alderman Murphy's former chief of staff Sarah Zarate was honored as a "Leader of the Future" for her work to spearhead the initiative.

While the initial plan for the MKE Plays program called for the Department of Public Works to assess the city's complement of parks and play areas, then replace the 12 in direst need, Alderman Murphy's office spearheaded efforts to raise more than \$1.4 million in generous donations, allowing two more playgrounds to be added to the initial scope of work.

The program's second year also saw the effort to rejuvenate city-

owned play areas produce four new success stories and receive prestigious awards for urban innovation.

Created by Alderman Murphy and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Common Council, the MKE Plays Initiative is implementing a "bottom-up, community-centered approach" to replacing aging or obsolete equipment in city-owned play areas.

"Every child deserves a safe,

engaging space in which to play, no matter where they grow up," Alderman Murphy said. "I take great pride in the enthusiasm the community has demonstrated in its support for this goal."

Each playground is designed with the input of local committees, which determine what sorts of amenities to provide.

To learn more, visit [milwaukee.gov/MKEplays](http://milwaukee.gov/MKEplays).

### What's next for MKE Plays?

In 2017, MKE Plays expects to complete the reconstruction of nine more city play areas, meeting its goal of replacing equipment at 14 parks throughout the city.

But the work isn't done yet! The initiative will also unveil MKE Plays 2.0, a comprehensive plan for continuing the momentum and getting the City of Milwaukee recreational portfolio on track for sustainable management. Watch for big news in the months ahead.



Kids had rave reviews for the new playground equipment at Enderis Park. The play area was built with a nature theme, thanks to input from the neighborhood.



Marcus DeBack Park reopened in October. The new play area features a 90-foot zipline, walking track, fitness equipment, permeable pavement basketball courts, challenging toddler elements and a 10-foot tall rope dome—all selected based on resident input.



MKE Plays depends on the generous support of philanthropic organizations like Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's Heart of Canal Street charity, which donated \$100,000 to renovate a playground on Milwaukee's south side. The funds enabled the addition of Witkowiak Park, 1648 S. 4th St., to MKE Plays' to-do list.



## PLAYGROUNDS TO BE RECONSTRUCTED

14 playgrounds are slated to be reconstructed through the MKE Plays initiative:

• Completed • In Progress

• Completed	Arlington Heights
• Completed	Enderis Park
• Completed	67th & Spokane
• In Progress	Long Island & Custer
• In Progress	Trowbridge Square
• Completed	DeBack Park
• Completed	Phillips Park
• In Progress	21st & Keefe
• In Progress	5th & Randolph
• In Progress	Buffum & Center
• In Progress	Foundation Park
• In Progress	34th & Mt. Vernon
• In Progress	Witkowiak Park
• In Progress	20th & Olive

## New Businesses Serve up the Savory off of Hawley Road

Tantalizing meat products and handmade pizzas are now in abundance along the Hawley Road corridor, with the opening last year of two new businesses in the 10th Aldermanic District.

"I'm excited to welcome these new businesses to the area," Alderman Murphy said, "and I look forward to watching them become a part of the rich fabric of life on the West Side."

### Wy'east Pizza

Wy'east Pizza has transformed the property at 5601 W. Vliet St. into a vibrant corner business. Owners James Durawa and Ann Brock developed their business model in a tiny Portland, Oregon-based food cart before they moved back to Wisconsin to be closer to family. Living in Washington Heights, they quickly realized that, with its eclectic collection of locally-owned businesses, Vliet Street would be a perfect fit for their hand-crafted product.

Customers at Wy'east Pizza can watch through the open kitchen as dough is

hand-stretched, topped and then cooked in the building's beautiful Forno Bravo oven. A landscaped patio allows customers to make the most of the warmer months.

### Kettle Range Meat Company

Harkening back to a time when neighborhood butcher shops served various areas of the city, Kettle Range Meat Company offers up a 21st century twist on the concept. Co-owners Mark Bearce and Joe Parajecki, along with their small staff, offer up a vast variety of different meat products—all grown and raised under ethical and humane conditions.

With a dedicated online buyer's club and a reputation as a staple at local farmer's markets, the new brick-and-mortar butcher shop is situated in the remodeled former home of Saz's Catering. Display cases showcase an array of chops, sausages and whole chickens, and a special dry-aging room is visible to customers through a window in the shop. Local cheeses, sauces, spices, rubs and condiments are also available. ■



James Durawa has his new oven fired up and ready to cook a freshly-made pizza.



Chef Jeff Marquardt inspects the pasties as they come out of the oven at Kettle Range Meat Co.



### One Call, That's All

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. Alderman Murphy says the city continues to seek ways to improve communications with residents, and this one-stop number for city services makes it even easier to find the right department and person to handle your complaint or request. **Of course, you can always call Alderman Murphy's office at 286-3763.**

## Common Council Approves Housing Grants

*continued from front page*

- **\$100,000 for J. Jeffers & Company** to construct 41 new units of affordable housing next to the Historic Garfield Avenue School campus in a development that will be known as "the Griot."
- **\$67,962 for Revitalize Milwaukee** to address necessary housing updates, repairs or accessibility modifications for up to six low-income, elderly homeowners.
- **\$20,000 for the Sherman Park Community Association** to replace deteriorating roofs and effect emergency repairs in the Sherman Park Neighborhood Improvement District, providing the required match for up to four low-income households. ■
- **\$100,000 for Gorman & Company** to acquire and rehabilitate 50 units of foreclosed duplexes and single-family homes at sites scattered throughout the city. Construction will include accessibility improvements, and the homes will provide quality, affordable rental housing to families in need.
- **\$44,500 for Habitat for Humanity** to rehab up to eight previously foreclosed properties located on streets with multiple other Habitat owners.

### FREE LANDLORD TRAINING

For future training dates call **286-2954** or to learn more about the program and view a class schedule go to:

[milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining](http://milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining)



## Wanted: A Bright Young Leader to Represent the West Side

The Milwaukee Youth Council is in need of a bright young leader from your part of town, between the ages of 14 and 18, to represent the 10th Aldermanic District.

Representing different neighborhoods throughout the city, the 15 members of the Youth Council meet regularly to discuss issues that impact their community and the young people they represent. They offer policy recommendations to the members of the Milwaukee Common Council, and are often given the opportunity to interact and advocate with leaders like the mayor, the school superintendent, business owners and community groups.

To learn more or apply for the position, visit [milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil](http://milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil) and click on "Apply". ■

## Center Street Marketplace Focuses on Safety

Business Improvement District 39, the Center Street Marketplace, is reaffirming its commitment to increased safety in 2017 with a four-point safety plan for the businesses in the commercial corridor, as well as property owners.

BID 39 realizes that a safe commercial corridor requires local stakeholders who are engaged and well-informed. Not only does BID 39 support businesses in that goal, it also focuses on strategies to bring new businesses into the district, and its leadership is proud of their record of sustaining businesses and recruiting diverse entrepreneurs.

The BID also hosts a speaker series. This year's presenters have included CeRenee Consulting, the African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin and Megan McCray, the CEO of McCray Accounting.

Visit [centerstreetmarketplacebid39.org](http://centerstreetmarketplacebid39.org) to learn more. ■

## Need for Foster Parents Outpaces Supply

The need for caring parents who can provide nurturing support to the community's most vulnerable children is not being met by the current supply of licensed foster homes, according to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services.

In 2015, 86 children were placed in foster care from the 10th Aldermanic District. However, at the time, there were only 55 foster homes in this same segment of the community.

"Getting more families to volunteer as foster homes would allow children from our neighborhood to continue to live in familiar surroundings and attend their regular schools during times of crisis," Alderman Murphy said. "As Children's Hospital of Wisconsin ramps up its foster home recruiting efforts, I hope they find many more people who are able to step up and be a hero for these kids."

To learn more about volunteering as a foster home, visit [chw.org/kidhero](http://chw.org/kidhero). ■

## Pettit Center Chosen to Host Olympic Trials

The next year will have big things in store for the Pettit National Ice Center and the City of Milwaukee, because it has been chosen as the U.S Olympic training facility that will host the 2018 Olympic speedskating trials in the long track division. **The trials are scheduled for January 2-7, 2018.**

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for Milwaukee and Wisconsin to promote this distinguished Olympic connection," Alderman Murphy said. "Not many cities are able to host Olympic Trials in any sport."

The nonprofit Pettit Center is currently working to raise the funds it would need to host the event. At the same time, preparations are underway to celebrate the Pettit Center's 25th anniversary on December 31, 2017—a silver anniversary just before the quest for a gold medal begins.

Since its opening in 1992, The Pettit Center has strived to contribute to the health and well-being of the Milwaukee community. More than 425,000 visitors annually make use of the facility, which supports multiple ice sports and features an indoor run/walk track. **More information will be at [thepettit.com](http://thepettit.com) starting June 1st.** ■



## Planning Continues for Bus Rapid Transit along Wisconsin and Blue Mound



Under County Executive Chris Abele, Milwaukee County is continuing to study the idea of a nine-mile regional, East-West Bus Rapid Transit project, which would provide modern transit service connecting major employment, education and recreation destinations throughout the region. Service areas would include downtown Milwaukee, the near West Side, Marquette University, Wauwatosa and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center (MRMC), providing improved access to the region's busiest corridor in a safe manner

and supporting economic development.

In 2016, the county completed a feasibility study and identified a preferred BRT route along Wisconsin Avenue and Blue Mound Road. This year, engineering and development will continue, informing key decisions about where BRT would run on local streets, where stations would be located, station size and design. The county's project team will soon be reaching out to neighborhood and business associations along the route to provide updates in advance of public design preview meetings, which are planned for May.

The county will be holding two individual **BRT Design Preview Public Meetings on June 7, 2017 (Marquette High School, 3401 W. Wisconsin Ave., 5-7 p.m.) and June 8, 2017 (Zoofari Conference Center, 9715 W. Blue Mound Rd., 5-7 p.m.)**

Visit [eastwestbrt.com](http://eastwestbrt.com) to learn more.

## Schedule a Neighborhood Walk for Your Area



Alderman Murphy is available to make neighborhood walkthroughs, learn about residents' concerns and see conditions firsthand. He is typically accompanied on his walkthroughs by police officers, inspectors from the Department of Neighborhood Services, officials from the Department of Public Works and other city staffers.

"Bringing these city officials out into our neighborhoods, as a group, is a great

way to immediately begin the process of repairing problems that are in need of attention," Alderman Murphy said. "When there's a walkthrough taking place on your block, please join us and tell us what's on your mind."

If you would like Alderman Murphy to come to your block or neighborhood, **please call his office at 286-3763 to schedule a walkthrough.**

## Dineen Park Targeted for Improvements

Led by Alderman Murphy, the Common Council has approved a plan to make improvements at Dineen Park and help mitigate the risk of local flooding.

The resolution approves a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County that delegates each municipality's responsibilities for the design, construction and maintenance of storm water facilities and park improvements, as well as park improvements that will be added by the city.

It is anticipated that the storm water facilities will help reduce property damage, economic losses and unsafe conditions caused by historic and repeated flooding within the park and the surrounding neighborhood. The park improvements will enhance the use, circulation and safety of the park, while providing new amenities for park users to enjoy.

## What To Do with Electronics Items?

Wisconsin state law bans TVs, computers, and many other electronics items from landfills, and it applies not just to businesses, but to everybody. The Department of Public Works Self Help Centers accept for recycling (at no charge) all of the items that fall under the law.

To learn more about recycling your electronics items, please call the city's United Call Center (286-CITY) at **286-2489**, or go to the DPW city webpage here: [milwaukee.gov/electronics](http://milwaukee.gov/electronics).



## Sherman Park Citizens' Patrol is On The Beat

In an effort to pool their collective efforts into creating a safer community, neighbors have banded together to form a Sherman Park Citizens' Patrol to help keep crime at bay.

The idea is to deter crime by fielding a visible presence of volunteers trained to be good witnesses, inspired by the highly-successful Northwest Citizens Patrol of Baltimore. Since starting active patrols in December, the SPCP has been making its presence known in the community—not only by reporting possible drug deals and incidents of assault and battery, but also by simply being good neighbors. Members introduce themselves to their neighbors, offer safety tips and remind residents when their garage doors are left open, among other things.

"Criminals know that they're in for trouble when they try to victimize an active, engaged community," Alderman Murphy said. "I'm very proud of this proactive group of Milwaukeeans who are pooling their efforts to fight back against crime."

The widespread community support the SPCP continues to receive, as well as grants from the Helen Bader Foundation and Safe and Sound, indicate a bright future for the patrol and its mission to bring back unity to our community.

For information on how to get involved with the SPCP, email [Abie Eisenbach at spcpmke@gmail.com](mailto:Abie Eisenbach at spcpmke@gmail.com).



## Partnership with Mortgage Lender Pays Dividends

A partnership that Alderman Murphy and Mayor Tom Barrett brokered with a prominent mortgage servicing company is helping Milwaukee residents keep and maintain their homes. The partnership with Ocwen helps those who face economic challenges by administering loan modifications as well as low interest loans to help finance critical repairs to homes.

In 2016, more than 260 loans were modified, averaging \$225 in monthly payment savings for Ocwen borrowers in Milwaukee. By the end of 2016, the total principal owed by borrowers in the city had been reduced by more than \$6 million.

With Ocwen's \$75,000 contribution to the Mayor's Strong Home Loan Fund, the City is able to make loans to homeowners

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FROM MPD

- Call the police if you observe anyone walking through your neighborhood who seems unfamiliar to you, or who is acting strangely, looking around suspiciously, walking slowly, rattling windows or ringing doorbells.
- Be aware when you leave your home and check your surroundings. If you see something suspicious, go back inside and call police immediately.
- Be mindful of your routines and patterns around the house, and vary them. For example, do not leave the house at the same time every day.
- Never hesitate to call the police **non-emergency number (414-933-4444 ext. 9)** or feel that your call is a waste of time, and call 911 for crime in progress.

## CLICK2WORK EMAIL LIST CONNECTS RESIDENTS TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Milwaukee residents who are interested in staying up-to-date on job openings throughout the city, career fairs and vocational training opportunities can now sign up to receive regular email and text updates from the city.

Users can register for the **Click2Work E-Notify list at [milwaukee.gov/enotify](http://milwaukee.gov/enotify)**. There, new users can sign up for an E-Notify account, and those with an existing account can subscribe to the Click2Work list under the "Information Updates" category.

for essential home improvements. More than \$86,000 was given by Ocwen to support Milwaukee nonprofits and seven properties were donated.

Alderman Murphy, who has worked consistently for years to bring banks and mortgage lenders to the table to help prevent foreclosures and to stabilize city neighborhoods, said he is pleased with the assistance provided by Ocwen.

"We need an all-hands approach in strengthening neighborhoods and helping homeowners avoid foreclosure," Alderman Murphy said. "This partnership and assistance from Ocwen will help many residents stay in their homes and keep our valuable housing stock stable and viable."

