

ALDERWOMAN
CHANTIA
LEWIS

200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-2221 | milwaukee.gov/district9 | Chantia.Lewis@milwaukee.gov

SPRING 17

Calendar of Events >

**State of the District Address**

Wednesday, April 5th – 6:00 p.m.
Vincent High School | 7501 N. Granville Rd.

Bring your family to hear from the first-year Alderwoman herself about her vision for development on Milwaukee's far North Side, including her most recent accomplishments in the district, what's happening now and plans for the future. Organizers will also be revealing the action plan resulting from the recent community design charrette.

Coffee on the Ninth

Tuesday, May 9th – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Starbucks | 7335 W. Good Hope Rd.

Alderwoman Lewis is bringing City Hall to your neighborhood with a series of office hours at your local coffee shop in the 9th Aldermanic District on the 9th of most months. The first "Coffee on the Ninth" will be held Tuesday, May 9. The next "Coffee on the Ninth" will be held on Friday, June 9. Follow Alderwoman Chantia Lewis on Facebook for updates on future events.

Exploring the 9th

Saturday, June 3rd – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Go behind the scenes for a tour at businesses and popular destinations throughout the 9th District. Details forthcoming.

9th District Business Seminar

Tuesday, July 18th – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Direct Supply | 7227 W. Green Tree Rd.

9th District Business Seminar, free, for city residents who want to learn more about owning and operating their own business. The feature event will be a "Milwaukee Shark Tank," where aspiring entrepreneurs will pitch their ideas to business experts.

9th District Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 28th – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Vincent High School | 7501 N. Granville Rd.

Bring your family for a morning of food, fun, agriculture, vendors, live animals and a celebration of fall.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE-CHAIR

- Finance and Personnel Committee

MEMBER

- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Licenses Committee
- Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

VIEW MEETINGS ONLINE:

milwaukee.gov/citychannel

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:

@MKE_CC, @cityofmilwaukee, and @MKE_TV for City of Milwaukee Common Council and City Clerk news, info and updates.

POLICE DISTRICT 4
PUBLIC SAFETY MEETINGSMonthly Public Safety Meeting
Last Tuesday of every month

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Milwaukee Safety Academy
6680 N. Teutonia Ave.

The Milwaukee Police Department 4th District holds a monthly public safety meeting to update neighbors on local trends, initiatives and concerns.

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Milwaukee Safety Academy, 6680 N. Teutonia Ave.

All Things in Common Initiative Brings Services to the People ➤

As part of the Common Council's new, multi-pronged approach to community engagement and public safety, Alderwoman Lewis helped launch the city's "All Things in Common" Initiative to improve neighborhood access to public resources. The initiative will bring some much-needed help and resources to the Woodlands and White Birch communities.

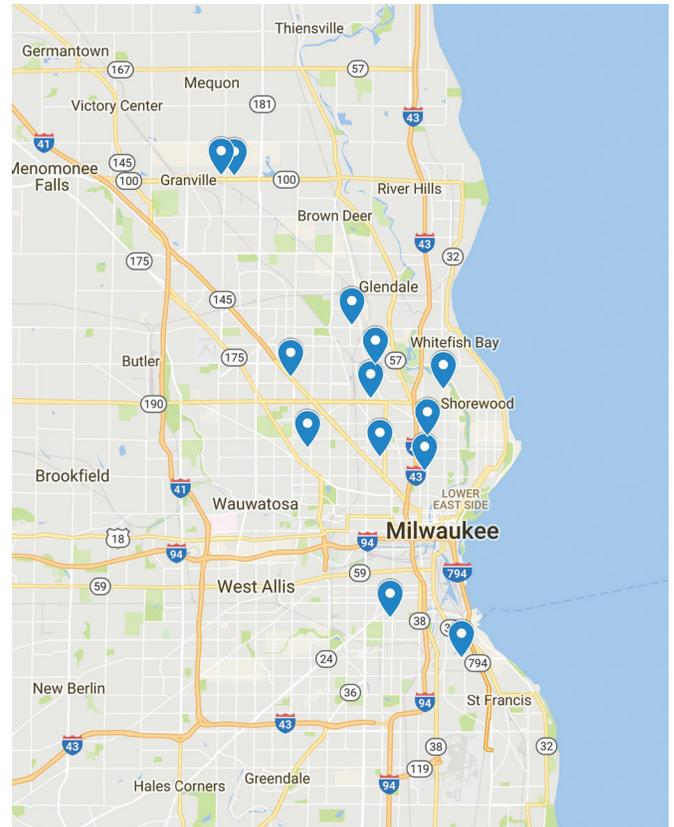
The initiative uses churches throughout the city as "community resource hubs" which not only provide direct services like group-based mentoring, but also offer referrals to city services and in-kind resources provided by philanthropic partners. It's the first-such initiative to receive this level of backing from the city.

"If you or your family need a little help to get by, you can stop by one of these sites any time to learn what help is available to you and how to qualify," Alderwoman Lewis said. "We know that for busy families, it's not really convenient to run downtown to sign up for services. We wanted to make these programs more accessible to people in their own neighborhoods, and we're grateful for all the churches that have volunteered."

This year in our neighborhood, All Things in Common will also focus on providing community organizing services in areas of greatest need, particularly along Brown Deer Road and especially near the Woodlands and White Birch communities. Alderwoman Lewis said the goal is to stabilize the area and address the concerns of residents and business owners by teaching life skills to those in need of help, providing support, adding beat patrol officers in the summer and creating job opportunities through city programs and job-matching services.

"Like many places in Milwaukee, this area is on the verge of a turnaround," Alderwoman Lewis said. "We just have to put all the pieces in place and provide a support network to connect residents with the opportunities they need."

For more information and a list of All Things in Common sites, visit milwaukee.gov/ATIC ■



Cameras to Help Combat Crime ➤

The City of Milwaukee will put \$150,000 toward surveillance cameras and other efforts to support neighborhood block watches this year, under a budget amendment co-sponsored by Alderwoman Lewis.

"Sometimes the most effective way to combat neighborhood crime isn't just to send in extra officers," Alderwoman Lewis said, "but to mobilize the residents themselves against a criminal nuisance they would rather see go away."

By fostering a more holistic approach to public safety, the council was able to set aside \$150,000 to support neighborhood block watch efforts. The funds will pay for

signage, cameras and additional street lighting in 15 neighborhoods which experience a high incidence of mobile drug-dealing.

"I have heard from residents who are frustrated with the criminal activity in their neighborhoods where the police cannot always respond in time," Alderwoman Lewis said. "This measure empowers those neighbors to help serve as additional eyes and ears on their block."

Residents who believe their block is in need of cameras or extra lighting should contact Alderwoman Lewis's office to express their interest by calling **286-3767 or emailing Chantia.Lewis@milwaukee.gov ■**

A Chance for a Clean Slate at Warrant Withdrawal Wednesdays >

A special series of walk-in court sessions in November helped thousands of Milwaukeeans get their record right with the Milwaukee Municipal Court, lifting warrants and creating simple payment plans for fines they owed to the city.

More importantly, officials at the municipal court stress that anyone can contact them to arrange to have warrants lifted and driver's licenses reinstated. They stress that no one will be arrested for appearing in court to work out a resolution to their court cases.

"People can rack up fines with the city through all kinds of relatively innocent mistakes," Alderwoman Lewis said. "But the problem gets much worse when they fail to pay their fines in a timely manner, and the judges are forced to issue a warrant. Our municipal court judges would much rather work with citizens to resolve their issues than have them arrested."

In the month of November, the Milwaukee Municipal Court hosted three "Warrant Withdrawal Wednesdays," day-long open court sessions specifically to help resolve court issues.

During these events, 2,400 defendants appeared in court, representing a total of 15,397 cases. More than 1,500 defendants had warrants withdrawn, 1,048 had driver's license suspensions vacated and 158 had vehicle registration denials vacated. More than 500 defendants had payment installment plans approved for an estimated 4,270 cases, involving a balance of more than \$584,000.

In addition, 1,078 defendants who hadn't previously appeared in court for their cases did so.

"I would urge anyone with outstanding municipal court warrants to reach out and get your issues resolved before they become a greater problem," Alderwoman Lewis said.

To learn more about Warrant Withdrawal Wednesdays, visit milwaukee.gov/citycourt or call 286-3800. ■

Far North Side Redevelopment the Subject of UWM Workshop >

The Department of City Development has partnered with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Community Solutions Group to explore redevelopment ideas for parts of the 9th Aldermanic District on the far North Side.

The design charrette, as it's known, will provide a vision for the redevelopment of high-priority underused sites along W. Brown Deer Road and N. 76th Street, and is supported by the Granville Business Improvement District. Alderwoman Lewis said the recommendations, including potential land use changes, will be part of a strategic action plan the DCD is creating for the Granville area.

"I am very excited about the potential that this charrette has to spark innovation in our district," Alderwoman Lewis said. "This should really help move forward our efforts to rebrand and reinvigorate the Granville area."

DCD's action plan will recommend strategies to redevelop the commercial corridors, strengthen the area's industrial core, boost workforce training efforts and set priorities for architectural, urban design and streetscape improvements.



"I think that, with the help of this charrette, we can find a happy marriage between industrial properties with family-supporting jobs and neighborhood amenities that residents want to see, like stores, restaurants, entertainment and green space," Alderwoman Lewis said. ■

Start a Block Watch in Your Neighborhood >

Neighborhoods work best when everyone pulls together toward the same goal—and that’s especially true for creating a neighborhood where everyone feels safe and secure.

Alderwoman Lewis is pleased to announce that four new neighborhood block watches are coming online in the 9th Aldermanic District—in North Ridge Estates, Clover Nook, Denver Avenue and Fairway Place. Block watches involve neighbors getting to know each other and working together with police to make their neighborhood safer. Citizens are trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods and cooperate on other crime prevention techniques.

Alderwoman Lewis urges residents to get involved with their local block watch—or, if there is no local block watch, to band together with their neighbors and organize one. Residents can contact Liz at Havenwoods Economic Development Corp. at **431-2276** for assistance in getting organized. ■



Mill Road Library Replacement Taking Shape >

Plans to replace the Mill Road Library are nearing their final phase, as officials and architects continue to iron out the details of the new mixed-use facility, and it is hoped that construction can begin later this year.

The new library will be built at 7717 W. Good Hope Rd. on the former longtime site of the Northwest Senior Center, and more recently the Milwaukee Brotherhood of Firefighters headquarters. Like many of the other library branches that have been upgraded or replaced in recent years, the 17,000-square foot library will include more technology, computers, community rooms and open spaces.

“Our branch libraries are the nerve centers of our neighborhoods,” Alderwoman Lewis said. “Children can learn the value of reading, community members can participate in helpful programs and those in need can be connected with vital resources. This new library will be a terrific asset to residents of the 9th Aldermanic District.”

The Mill Road Library will remain open to patrons while construction of the new facility is underway. When it’s complete, the new library will also feature dedicated



parking for users, mixed-income apartment housing in the upper floors and open green spaces.

Alderwoman Lewis invites community members to share ideas for what should be done with the Mill Road Library once the new facility is complete, as well as naming ideas for the new facility. ■

Far North Side Police Crack Down on Drag Racers >

Officers from Milwaukee Police Department District Four on the far North Side have launched new efforts to curb late night drag racing that has recently become a nuisance activity throughout the area, Alderwoman Lewis said.

“Unfortunately, this sort of activity has been on the rise since earlier last year,” Alderwoman Lewis said. “It seemed like every Friday or Saturday night, you could hear these ‘Fast and the Furious’ wannabes out there tearing up our city streets.”

Not only does drag racing create a quality of life concern for people who have to put up with the noise, Alderwoman Lewis said, but it creates a real safety hazard for anyone who might happen to be out on the street.

In response to residents’ complaints, Alderwoman Lewis said MPD District Four Captain Andra Williams launched a policing crackdown on drag racing activity. Working in

concert with the Alderwoman’s office, she said they identified problem stretches of roads, like N. 107th Street, W. Bradley Road and others, and targeted them for extra enforcement. Officers also implemented a strategy to respond quickly to drag racing complaints from residents.

Residents who witness drag racing should call the Milwaukee Police Department non-emergency number at **933-4444**, Alderwoman Lewis said, in order to report the location of the incident and a description of the cars involved.

“This sort of activity isn’t going to be tolerated in Milwaukee,” Alderwoman Lewis said. “Anyone who wants to gamble and go hot-rodding through our neighborhoods should know that we’re going to see you before you see us, and you’re going to face steep fines.” ■

Council Signs off on “Ban the Box” Legislation for City Job Applicants >

New legislation sponsored by Alderwoman Lewis enshrines as law the City of Milwaukee’s practice of eliminating questions about prior criminal history from applications for employment with the city.

The city’s Department of Employee Relations enacted a policy several years ago that removed requirements for applicants to check a box indicating if they had a criminal past. But Alderwoman Lewis said that approving a council resolution on the matter created a higher degree of permanence for the “Ban the Box” policy, and demonstrates to other local employers the city’s commitment to helping ex-offenders find jobs.

“Once someone has paid their debt to society and atoned for their wrongdoing, their past mistakes should not dictate their future endeavors,” Alderwoman Lewis said. “I am proud to say that, as the employer of around 7,000 municipal employees, the City of Milwaukee continues to stay ahead of the curve on this important issue.”

While finding stable, family-sustaining employment is critical for ex-offenders who are seeking to reintegrate into society, Alderwoman Lewis said that the stigma of their criminal history is often difficult to overcome—sometimes leading to recidivism. She said many potential employ-



ers include questions about criminal history on the initial application for employment, and that information can be used to unlawfully discriminate against job applicants.

When appropriate and allowable under the law, candidates for employment with the city will be subjected to background checks further along in the hiring process, Alderwoman Lewis said, after their individual qualifications have been considered. ■

DISTRICT 9

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Alderwoman, 9th District
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Alderwoman Lewis and her Common Council colleagues announced the All Things in Common Initiative last year to help connect Milwaukee residents with the help they need to succeed. Learn how, inside.

ALDERWOMAN CHANTIA LEWIS

STATE ★ OF THE ★ DISTRICT ADDRESS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH
at 6:00 PM**

VINCENT HIGH SCHOOL | 7501 N. GRANVILLE RD.



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

Mayor Tom Barrett, City Development Commissioner Rocky Marcoux and UWM Director of Community Design Solutions Carolyn Esswein.

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