



# Ashanti

# Hamilton

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**1st District Alderman**

**Spring/Summer Newsletter 2007**

## Dear 1st District Residents,

The Milwaukee Police Department's **Neighborhood Safety Initiative** was begun on May 20th and has meant a noticeable increase in officers patrolling many streets and alleys throughout the 1st District. I'm pleased that Police Chief Nan Hegerty put together this proactive plan to help reduce crime and violence in Milwaukee, and I'm optimistic that the increased presence of police officers will restore a sense of security in our neighborhoods and business areas. I will be monitoring the activities closely and will work with residents and the police to ensure that things go smoothly.

I strongly encourage all 1st District residents to make an effort to attend one (or all!) of my upcoming **Town Hall meetings** (see story at right). I guarantee that your time will be well spent and that no questions and/or concerns will go unaddressed. I vitally need your input and ideas on improving the 1st District and the city as a whole, and I can learn much from the information that's shared at these important meetings.

This newsletter includes information on economic development activities and home improvement opportunities that are beginning to take shape along the **30th St. Industrial Corridor**, at **Thurston Woods** and the area near the **Eaton Corp.** You'll also find out about a program that helps people obtain a valid driver's license, as well as city efforts to shame a landlord whose 1st District property was chock full of code violations. As usual I've also included information on ways that you can become involved in the prevention and reporting of serious crimes along with some fire safety tips.

Please enjoy the summer and remember that I am available to answer any questions or concerns you may have about our neighborhoods and the city. **Don't hesitate to call or write with your problems, ideas and suggestions.**

Sincerely,

**Ashanti Hamilton,  
Alderman - 1st District**



## Alderman Hamilton's Committee Assignments

### Chair

- City Information Management Committee

### Vice-Chair

- Judiciary & Legislation Committee

### Member

- Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee
- Community & Economic Development Committee
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Board
- Library Board

## Alderman Hamilton To Hold Town Hall Meetings

Alderman Hamilton will hold public town hall meetings in June and July to meet residents and discuss important issues affecting 1st District neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

The meetings will generally start at 6:00 p.m. and will encompass the following dates and locations:

- **Thursday, June 14** in the auditorium at Rufus King High School, 1801 W. Olive St.
- **Thursday, June 21** in the auditorium at Custer High School, 5075 N. Sherman Blvd.
- **Thursday, July 26** at the Agape Community Center, 6100 N. 42nd St.

Please join the alderman for one or more of these important meetings.

## Helpful Summer Tips

Ald. Hamilton would like to remind everyone to be alert and always think "Safety First" when out enjoying summer activities.

Follow these tips:

- Always swim with an experienced swimmer.
- Always swim where there is an adult or lifeguard.
- Always wear seatbelts when traveling.
- Place children in proper safety/booster seats.
- Never leave children in the car alone.
- Never use a grill indoors.
- Keep cooking surfaces clean and cook food thoroughly.

## Play With Water And You Could Get Burned

Ald. Hamilton wants to remind residents that no matter how hot it gets in the city this summer that opening fire hydrants is illegal. The tampering cannot only damage them causing delays during an emergency, but it can also create danger for children playing in the streets and waste thousands of gallons of water.

Residents who see anyone tampering with a fire hydrant are encouraged to call 286-3710.

# KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE AND CLEAN

## Need A Valid Driver's License? Check Out Justice 2000 Program

Lack of a valid driver's license is a significant barrier for many people – particularly low-income youth and people of color who are more easily caught in the cycle of serious legal, financial and social consequences. Driver's license restoration – something spurred in Milwaukee a few years ago by former Mayor Marvin Pratt (former 1st District Alderman) and strongly supported by Ald. Hamilton – positively affects the capacity of these individuals to obtain and keep jobs, to provide a better quality of life for themselves and their families, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities.

The Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability is a comprehensive collaborative effort to reduce the numbers of unlicensed drivers in Milwaukee County through the establishment and operation of a community-wide driver's license recovery and employability resource center in Milwaukee.

Center headquarters are located on the premises of the **Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)** in downtown Milwaukee, within two blocks of the two major court systems involved (State Circuit Court and City of Milwaukee Municipal Court) and a major branch office of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division.

**Justice 2000, Inc.** is a private non-profit organization working to promote and expand opportunities for the safe release and community integration of criminal offenders. The organization believes that social services and community based treatment interventions and community support and supervision can be restorative. Justice 2000 will collaborate with government agencies and community organizations to provide justice system planning, and to support and enhance the effectiveness of services within a coordinated community justice system. For more information call 286-8732 or go to [www.Justice-2000.org](http://www.Justice-2000.org)



Late last year Ald. Hamilton was joined by residents, business people, neighborhood leaders, police officials and another alderman during an **emergency news conference** to bring attention to violent crime in the city's neighborhoods. The gathering, called by Ald. Hamilton, was at **N. Hopkins and W. Fairmount avenues**, near the scene of several violent crimes at that time. Ald. Hamilton said the formula to help bring an end to violence must include more jobs, better education, good policing and strong families.

## Community Standards Reinforced

The following are some of the neighborhood behavior guidelines included in Ald. Hamilton's **Community Standards Initiative**:

- Noise can be an intrusion – Please use common sense.
- Car horns/alarms are only to be used in emergency situations.
- Refrain from vulgar, violent or abusive language.
- Drive carefully, obey speed limits.
- Keep our neighborhoods clean from trash, overgrown weeds, etc.
- Supervise and clean up after your pets.
- Drugs will not be tolerated and police should be notified of drug activity.
- Maintain your home whether it is owned or rented.
- Report suspicious activity to police and report & remove graffiti.
- Our children are our future, they need the care & concern of everyone.

**Ald. Hamilton's walking tours of the district** will include a representative of the district attorney's office to check for violations of city codes and ordinances. You can check with his office at 286-2228 for additional information.

## Free Landlord Training Program

When destructive tenants operate out of rental property, neighborhoods suffer and landlords pay a high price. There is help available, and it's free. The City of Milwaukee's award winning Landlord Training Program works to teach landlords fundamental ways to properly screen tenants, be active managers in their property, how to identify illegal activity and keep it out of their property.

The classes are **FREE** and held on a regular basis through out the year at various locations. They are held on evenings and weekends to accommodate virtually anyone's schedule. The classes are generally either (1) five hour session in one day or (2) two and a half hour sessions for two nights. Attendees get a free 100 page comprehensive manual and handouts on a variety of legal and business issues related to managing a property.

Among the next landlord training classes: **June 19th & 20th • YMCA, 9050 N. Swan Rd.**

Other options are available. To arrange a training session in your neighborhood or for a complete listing of future training dates, call program coordinator **Karin Long** at 286-2954. The Landlord Training Program is a joint effort of the Department of Neighborhood Services and the Milwaukee Police Department.

## Shaming Carried Out On Landlord

In late March the **City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS)** placed a shaming sign on a vacant eight-family residential property in the Eaton neighborhood. The building is at 4265 N. 27th St. and is owned by Roger L. and Ilona G. Stank, who live at 5511 N. 53rd St.

According to Ald. Hamilton and DNS, the Stanks have failed to correct code violations dating back to September 2004. If the Stanks fail to submit an acceptable restoration plan, the city plans to tear the building down and hand the bill to the owners.

This is the second time a residential property has been the focus of a city shaming sign. It is hoped the added attention will motivate the owners to make necessary repairs. The Stank's own four additional properties that are also subject to orders from DNS. The addresses are 6050 W. Appleton Ave., 5511 N. 53rd St., 5500 N. 54th St., 8110 W. Bradley Rd.

"The city can no longer allow absentee landlords to destroy the infrastructure of our neighborhoods," Ald. Hamilton said. "Working closely with DNS and other city departments, I will continue to be diligent on building and property issues."

Using a special city ordinance under Section 218-9, the city declared the Stank building a nuisance and condemned it. This allowed the city to post the sign and use public pressure to get the owners to repair the building. The Stank's are not strangers to building code violations. To date they have received more than \$9,500 in fines for code violations, and they currently owe the city more than \$3,000 on that balance. They also have two cases pending in Municipal Court after being convicted 12 times in the last 3 years on building and zoning code violations.

The city is taking bids to tear down the structure and put the cost of the demolition as a lien on the owner. DNS found that in addition to numerous code violations, the building was also severely overloaded with stored items to the point it posed a potential fire hazard to the neighborhood and firefighters who may have to respond.

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## City of Milwaukee Neighborhood Speed Watch Program

Speeding drivers on residential streets is one of the most common complaints received by the **Milwaukee Police Department** and the **Milwaukee Dept. of Public Works**. The City's Neighborhood Speed Watch Program encourages neighborhood residents to become involved in addressing this problem, and is a part of Milwaukee's new Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

Neighborhood Speed Watch is a public awareness program in which concerned citizens can take an active role in solving the problem of speeders in their own neighborhoods. City residents record speeds and license numbers of cars traveling in excess of speed designations on neighborhood streets. Notification is then sent from the City to the registered owners of those vehicles.

A minimum of two volunteers are required at all times during the speed watch. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older to participate. Volunteers under the age of 21 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older. This allows high school and college students to participate in the program.

If you are interested in this program, contact David Schlabowske, Milwaukee Department of Public Works, 841 N. Broadway, room 918 Milwaukee, WI 53202 via letter, phone 286-3144 or email at [dschla@mpw.net](mailto:dschla@mpw.net)

## People's Voice Against Crime

Gangs, drugs and violence endanger our community. And in order to reduce crime, the police need help from everyone in the community.

"Too often people are reluctant to get involved in the safety and security of their neighborhoods for fear of reprisals," said Ald. Hamilton. "But there is an answer, the WeTip Hotline, and no one will ever know who you are." Call WeTip at **1-800-78-CRIME**. You may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.

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.

## Crime Prevention With Block Watch

The **Block Watch program** provides residents with specific information on how to reduce or eliminate opportunities for crime. To become involved in a Block Watch, please contact the community liaison officers at the **4th Police District**, 935-7248, or at the **7th Police District**, 935-7278.

## Need A Smoke Detector?

The City of Milwaukee continues to see tragic fires in which smoke detectors were removed or not operating. Ald. Hamilton encourages all residents to have a working smoke detector.

A smoke detector is a very inexpensive safety tool. The fire department recommends that one detector be placed on each floor of your home and one in each bedroom and/or sleeping area. Ald. Hamilton encourages residents of the 1st District who do not have a working smoke detector in their home to call the **Smoke Detector Hotline** at **286-8980** to see if they might be eligible for a free detector.

# COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

## Eaton/DRS Power & Control Technologies TIN Offers Resources For Property Owners

A new forgivable home improvement loan and matching grant program for homeowners and investors looking to update and improve their properties is making resources available in the 1st District.

Through the **Eaton/DRS Power & Control Technologies Targeted Investment Neighborhood (TIN)**, homeowners can take advantage of forgivable loans (grants) for home repairs and to abate code violations. Homeowners must live within the TIN target area (from W. Capitol Dr. to W. Congress, N. 24th St. to the Soo Line RR.) and earn income within certain levels to be eligible. The partnering neighborhood

agency for the Eaton/DRS TIN is **SDC Community Partners**, and the primary contact is Paula Butler (221-6753).

Ald. Hamilton said the TIN program is a neighborhood revitalization strategy in which the City of Milwaukee, working with a neighborhood community partner, focuses resources in a relatively small area (6 to 12 city blocks) in an effort to stabilize and increase owner-occupancy, strengthen property values and improve the physical appearance of a neighborhood.

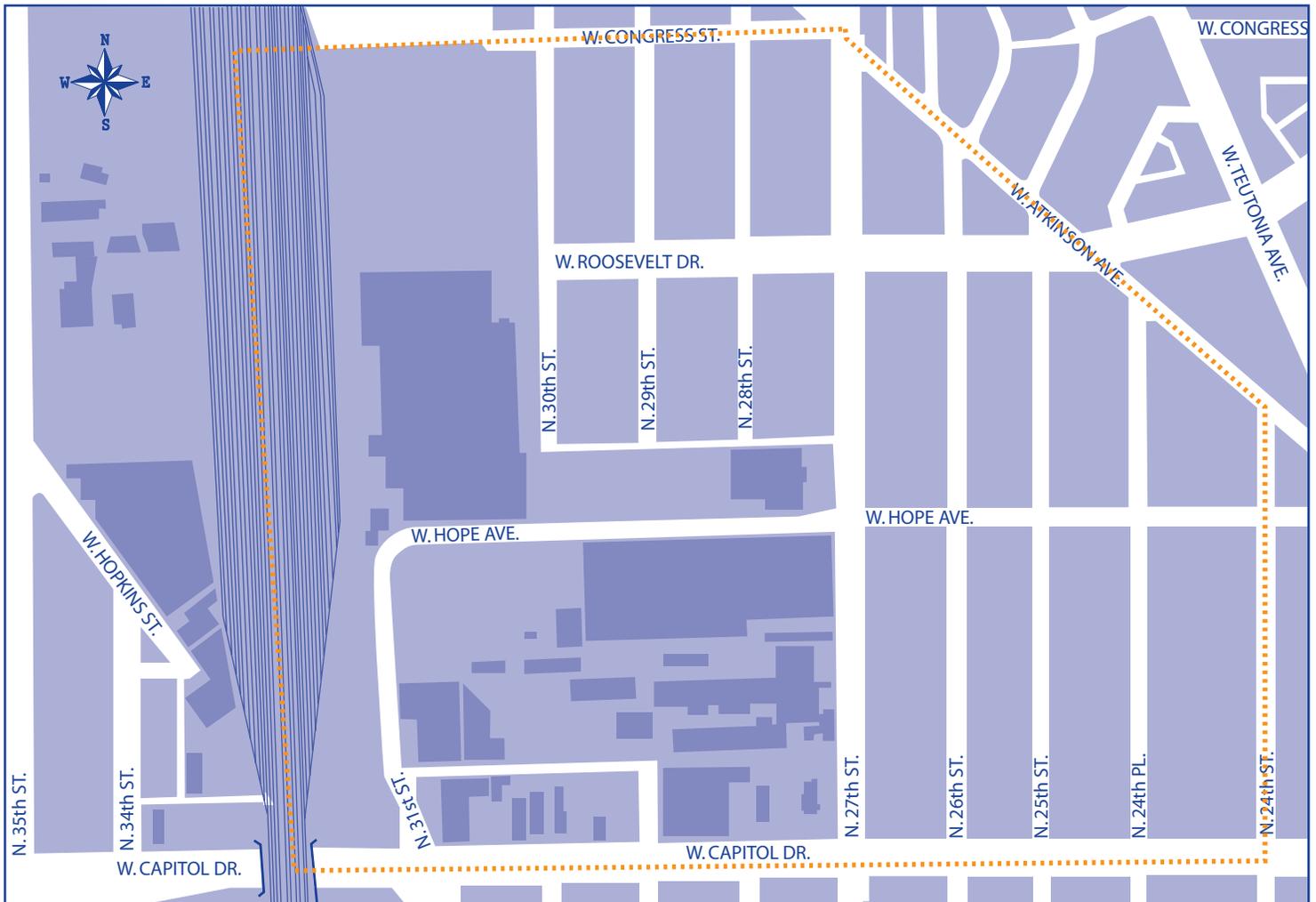
The goal of the program is to reverse trends of disinvestment by improving the

physical and social infrastructure of a neighborhood, improving its desirability as a place to live, work and invest. City departments such as Public Works and the Police Department also work with the neighborhood partner to implement the revitalization plan.

A TIN usually requires three years of intensive activity, including enhanced property rehabilitation loans (for owner-occupants and for investor-owners), promotion of home ownership, blight removal, intensive code enforcement, and public improvements where appropriate. A pool of funds is designated for these activities, but there is also a concerted effort to maximize private investment and coordinate the city's spending with other forms of public investment.

### Eaton TIN Map

**Eaton/DRS Power & Control Technologies Targeted Investment Neighborhood (TIN):** Eligible homeowners can take advantage of forgivable loans (grants) for home repairs and to abate code violations. Homeowners must live within the TIN target area.



# COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

## BID No. 37 Begins Streetscape Design Process For 30th St. Industrial Corridor

Business Improvement District (BID) No. 37 is undertaking several exciting projects in the 30th St. Industrial Corridor – also being called the Greenlight District.

A BID – a special district created at the request of business owners in a designated area of the city – is designed to reinvigorate an area, attracting new businesses and investment, and to improve and enhance the overall physical and business environment. BID No. 37 is bounded by Ruby Ave. on the north, Brown St. on the south, N. 35th St. on the west and N. 27th St. on the east.

Established in 2006, BID No. 37 oversees a graffiti abatement program, maintains regularly scheduled street and litter cleanups, operates safety and security initiatives, and has begun making aesthetic improvements in the district.

The BID No. 37 board of directors has hired a design firm, Schreiber/Anderson Associates, to develop a streetscape design and related guidelines for the district. The design will address gateway entrance features for the 30th Street Industrial Corridor, safety and security enhancements, and aesthetic improvements using plantings and lighting features to make the area more attractive for residents, businesses, employees and visitors.

For more information please call 444-4706 or go to [www.30thstreeticc.org](http://www.30thstreeticc.org)



The 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation is dedicated to supporting the economic vitality of the industrial corridor, by working together to promote the mutual interests of the companies in the corridor, and stimulating economic growth in the community.



Left: Typical curb bump out installation on Brady Street.

Right: Speed hump installation on McKinley Blvd. between 27th and 35th Streets.

## Slowing Speeders With Traffic Calming

Residents of the 1st District now have another tool to slow down cars that are speeding in their neighborhoods. The Milwaukee Common Council late last year passed a measure that will allow “traffic-calming” devices such as speed humps or mini-roundabouts to be installed in their neighborhoods.

Under the plan, residents can petition for a traffic calming device and if the city agrees it is necessary, they would be given several choices. A speed hump would cost about \$3,000, while a mini-roundabout, or traffic circle, would cost about \$10,000. If affected homeowners agree, 90% of the cost would be split among residents with the city paving fund paying the remaining 10%. Any 1st District residents who are interested can contact Ald. Hamilton’s office.

“People want safer streets and this ordinance is a safety measure which will encourage slower driving, enhance pedestrian safety and allow residents to gain control of busy and dangerous streets,” said Ald. Hamilton. Speed humps and traffic circles have been in place in several city districts on a trial basis and have received positive reactions from residents.

## Thurston Woods TIN Helping Revitalization

Just as with the Eaton/DRS TIN, homeowners in the Thurston Woods Targeted Investment Neighborhood (TIN) can also take advantage of forgivable loans (grants) for home repairs and to abate code violations. Homeowners must live within the TIN target area (from W. Florist Ave. to W. Douglas, N. 35th St. to N. 43rd St.) and earn income within certain levels to be eligible. The partnering neighborhood agency for the Thurston Woods TIN is the Agape Community Center, and the primary contact is Brandie Wilks (464-4440).

Ald. Hamilton said the TIN program is only successful if people access the resources that are being made available. “There is no time better than now to call and at the very least find out if you qualify for the home improvement money that’s being offered in Thurston Woods,” he said.

A TIN usually requires three years of intensive activity, including enhanced property rehabilitation loans (for owner-occupants and for investor-owners), promotion of home ownership, blight removal, intensive code enforcement, and public improvements where appropriate.



# Ashanti Hamilton

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## Need The Right Tool For The Job?

Ald. Hamilton says when you're planning your home repair or improvement projects, your source for getting the right tool for the job could be at your local **Tool Loan Center**. Located at 2500 W. Capitol Dr., the **Tool Loan Program** lends tools to people who own homes in the City of Milwaukee.



Membership is easy, just stop by and sign up. The annual fee is \$35, or \$25 for those 62 years and over. By the way, current and new members can pick up **FREE paint brushes and roller sets** while supplies last.

The Tool Loan Center stocks a variety of hand and power tools from screwdrivers, hammers and pipe wrenches to sanders, saws, ladders and wheel barrows. Funded by the **Community Development Block Grant program**, the Tool Loan Center is open Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call **449-0705** for information.

## How About A Neighborhood Cleanup?

Thinking about cleaning up and beautifying your neighborhood? If your group or block watch club would like to plan a neighborhood cleanup you can contact Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful at 272-5462. Also, large roll-off dumpsters can be reserved from the city's Sanitation Division for weekend group cleanups by calling 286-8282.

Visit me on the web at:  
[www.milwaukee.gov/district1](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district1)

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## It's Spring Cleaning Time

Spring continues to be the best time of year to clean out garages, attics and basements, and there are a few things residents need to remember.

First, although city crews will remove bulky items, they will not collect the following: Appliances, household hazardous waste, more than five tires, construction material, paint, waste oil or other hazardous liquids and more than four cubic yards of brush. Place your unwanted items at your collection point on your scheduled pick up day.

### What's New

This is your last opportunity to dispose of large amounts of bulky items at no charge. After June 1st, bulky pickups that exceed four cubic yards will cost \$50.



### Other Options For Getting Rid of Large Items & Amounts

Ald. Hamilton says there are several ways to avoid any cost:

- Spread out the amount for pickup on regular garbage collection days.
- Reserve a large dumpster for neighborhood weekend cleanups.
- Use the city's Self-Help Centers.

Bulky materials can be taken to the Self Help Centers at 6660 N. Industrial Rd or 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. The city collects household hazardous wastes each Friday and Saturday between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the city's permanent collection station at the Self-Help Center at 3879 W. Lincoln Ave.

## Get to know EDITH (Escape Drills In The Home)

All families should also have a personal escape plan, and practice it at least twice a year. Pull together everyone in your household and draw a floor plan showing two ways out of each room, including windows. Make sure that everyone understands the escape plan and recognizes the sound of the smoke alarm.

If the smoke detectors in your home activate, or if you smell smoke, you should leave the house immediately. Do not delay this by taking any personal belongings with you. Before you open a door to exit a room, feel the door to make sure it isn't warm. If it is warm, there may be fire on the other side, so leave this room by another door or a window. If there is smoke in the house, crawl on the floor where it is easier to both see and breathe.

Once you are out of the house, do not go back in for any reason! Go straight for your family's meeting place to see that everyone is safely out of the home. Call 9-1-1 immediately.