



2nd District Alderman

# DAVIS

City Hall Room 205, 200 E. Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 53202  
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Winter 2007 Newsletter

## Dear Neighbor:

As I write this letter, my fellow members of the **Finance and Personnel Committee** and I are participating in budget approval meetings to discuss the Mayor's 2008 proposed budget. The proposal comes at a tentative time, released before the state solidified its own budget.

What is most important to me, however, is that this letter represents my efforts and relationship with you and our community. I am proud of our district and its thriving potential and hope that if you have any questions or concerns, you don't hesitate to call our offices at (414) 286-3777. I wish you a safe and warm holiday season and all the good fortune and hope the New Year can bring.

Sincerely,

Joe Davis, Sr.  
2nd District Alderman



## Fireworks Task Force Makes Recommendations

Ald. Davis recently served as co-chair of the Fireworks Task Force from January to July of 2007. The group was charged with studying and implementing prevention and enforcement strategies for regulating illegal fireworks.

With the task of preparing a recommendation to the Common Council, the task force evaluated the City of Milwaukee's fireworks ordinance, surrounding municipalities' fireworks ordinances and state law. They invited speakers and listened to testimony from representatives of the city's Safety Commission and Safety Division, Milwaukee County Sheriff's office, the Wisconsin Attorney General's office and the Milwaukee County District Attorney, John Chisholm.



Ald. Davis and Ald. Terry Witkowski (left) were among the speakers when the Fireworks Task Force announced that after seven months of study, it had a full set of recommendations to be forwarded to the Common Council.

The recommendations of the group were passed by the Common Council on September 25, 2007.

## Committee Assignments

### CHAIR

- Community & Economic Development

### VICE CHAIR

- National League of Cities' Community and Economic Development Policy and Advocacy Steering Committee

### MEMBER

- Finance & Personnel Committee
- Steering & Rules Committee
- Board of Directors - Milwaukee Economic Development Corp.

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

Alderman Davis and his task force colleagues have recommended implementing an educational campaign to change the common perception of fireworks so that people recognize fireworks are illegal and appreciate the dangers associated with them.

Additionally, the group recommended a tracking system so that injury rates and costs to public safety departments can be studied to help identify the common problems fireworks create to lobby for changes to state law.

Ald. Davis is proud of the work of the task force, especially after seeing and knowing first hand some of the dangers of fireworks. In July, Ald. Davis phoned Milwaukee Police concerning the out of control use of illegal fireworks in his neighborhood. In a statement released earlier this year, he praised District 7 police officers Jovan Petkovich and Joe Baltutis for their prompt attention to the matter. Ald. Davis said, "I'm happy that our officers show such dedication to the city and with the recommendations of the Fireworks Task Force now in motion, I look forward to a safer city."

# The New Budget For Milwaukee

Mayor Barrett's budget continues to hold the line on property taxes. The owner of a median valued property in the city will pay just \$24 more in property taxes and fees for city services next year, an increase of only 1.7% – well below the rate of inflation. Mayor Barrett's proposed tax rate is \$8.01 per \$1,000 of assessed value, compared to \$9.73 when he took office four years ago.

## Other highlights of the proposed budget include:

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Continued progress of City of Milwaukee as lead agency for workforce development in the region. There is \$200,000 earmarked to continue the Driver's License Restoration Initiative, removing a major roadblock to employment.

### YOUTH SUMMER JOBS

Invests \$300,000 to mobilize city government, the nonprofit community and the business sector to offer paid internships to Milwaukee high school students. Last year 1,250 young people participated, gaining valuable skills and contacts.

### CITY DEVELOPMENT

City use of Tax Incremental Financing has already created and/or will create an estimated 3,317 jobs and a \$357 million increase in Milwaukee's tax base, and Barrett's budget builds on this success. It authorizes \$64.6 million in Tax Incremental Financing for projects such as Bronzeville, Tower, Midtown and various neighborhood initiatives such as Mitchell Street and others. Also includes \$1.8 million for the development fund.

As a member of the Finance and Personnel Committee, Ald. Davis will be reviewing and voting on the budget in the upcoming weeks. The process includes public hearings and a full Common Council vote on November 9, 2007.

**As of this writing, the state is still deliberating final passage of its own budget, which currently includes a reduction in state aid to the City of Milwaukee.** Without this additional revenue, the Common Council and the Mayor may have to consider various options to pass a balanced city budget, including adjusting certain city service levels or increasing the property tax levy.

In 2007, the owner of a median valued residential property (assessed at \$132,900) pays a total of \$1,442.30 in city-related property taxes and fees, based upon \$1,062.82 in city-related property taxes; \$157.48 for water consumption; \$132.00 for solid waste collection; \$78.00 for the local sewer service charge; and \$12.00 for snow and ice removal.

The property tax rate in the Mayor's proposed 2008 city budget is \$8.01 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, an increase of two cents from 2007. In the Mayor's 2008 proposed city budget, the owner of a median valued residential property will pay a total of \$1,466.96 in city-related property taxes and fees, an increase of 1.7% or \$24.66 from 2007. The \$1,466.96 will include an increase of \$2.66 in city-related property taxes to \$1,065.48; a \$5.00 increase for water consumption to \$162.48; no increase in the \$132.00 charge for solid waste collection; an \$8.00 increase in the local sewer service charge to \$86.00; and a \$9.00 increase in the snow and ice removal charge to \$21.00.

Based on a Median Value Home (\$132,900)	Current	Proposed 2008 Budget	Increase from 2007
Overall Taxes and Fees	\$1,442.30	\$1,466.96	\$24.66
<b>Property Tax</b>	<b>\$1,062.82</b>	<b>\$1,065.48</b>	<b>\$2.66</b>
Water	\$157.48	\$162.48	\$5.00
<b>Solid Waste Collection</b>	<b>\$132.00</b>	<b>\$132.00</b>	<b>No Change</b>
Local Sewer Service	\$78.00	\$86.00	\$8.00
<b>Snow and Ice Removal</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>\$21.00</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>

## Call For Action

Additional "Call For Action" Governmental Phone Directories can be obtained by contacting my office. The popular telephone directory is arranged alphabetically by specific problems and topics. To request your **FREE** copy, please e-mail me at [jldavis@milwaukee.gov](mailto:jldavis@milwaukee.gov) or call 286-3787.



You can also view the online version of the "Call For Action" directory at [www.milwaukee.gov/callforaction](http://www.milwaukee.gov/callforaction).

## Local Libraries

Ald. Davis wants to remind the young people in our district that the library is a perfect place to do homework and study. Check out all the events, services and opportunities our libraries offer at the main library webpage at [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org).

### The closest libraries to our district are:

#### Capitol Library

286-3006 • 3969 N. 74th St.

Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

(September –May)

Sundays 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (October-April)

#### Mill Road

286-3088 • 6431 N. 76th St.

Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



## Take Ownership Of Your Neighborhood

There are many challenges facing the city and it's important that everyone who lives in the community takes ownership of their neighborhoods. Ald. Davis wants to remind you that one very important way you can do that is by forming or joining a Block Watch neighborhood organization. Block Watch is a free, community-based, crime prevention program administered by the Community Services Division of the Milwaukee Police Department.

The goal is to help residents organize their neighborhoods to prevent crime in the community. Nobody knows a neighborhood better than the people who live in that neighborhood. Participants watch out for their neighbor's property and report suspicious activities to the police. Block Watch is a great way to get to know your neighbors, and by collaborating with police, make our neighborhoods safer.

Each police district sponsors a community liaison officer and a series of crime analysis meetings for the area. Ald. Davis highly encourages you to get involved in these meetings and be a positive force for change in your neighborhoods.



### District 4 Upcoming Crime Analysis Meeting

- November 27, 2007
- Crime analysis meetings for District 4 are held on the last Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the police academy, 6680 N. Teutonia Ave.
- District 4 Community Liaison Officers: Joy Bell and Julie Strache, 935-7248

### District 7 Upcoming Safety Coalition Meeting

- November 19, 2007
- Meetings for District 7 are held on the third Monday of every month starting at 6:30 p.m. Locations change monthly, so residents are notified through e-mail or regular postal mail services.
- District 7 Community Liaison Officer: Shellee Lubus, 935-7278



## Welcome District 7's New Commanding Officer

Captain Patrick Mitchell is a 22-year veteran of the Milwaukee Police Department. On September 30, 2007, Captain Mitchell became the commanding officer of District 7. As an officer, Captain Mitchell worked at District 5 and the Tactical Enforcement Unit. In 1995, Captain Mitchell was promoted to detective and during his tenure as a detective worked in the Vice Control Division and Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force. In 2002, Captain Mitchell was promoted to lieutenant of detectives and during his tenure as a lieutenant of detectives worked in the Intelligence Division and the Robbery Unit.

Captain Mitchell was promoted to captain in May of 2007 and assigned to the Neighborhood Safety Initiative. The Neighborhood Safety Initiative, in place this summer and extended through late September, was part of a new crime prevention initiative in the city. Officers of the NSI worked to patrol areas of the city where a visible police presence could act as a deterrent. Members of the NSI patrols met and made contact with thousands of community members over the course of the initiative.

Captain Mitchell is a lifelong resident of the City of Milwaukee and is married with four children. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Concordia University. He is also a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

# Ald. Davis Shares Experiences

This fall, Ald. Davis was invited to speak at an Our Daily Bread Community Outreach event. The group, founded by Director Lea Kyle-Lewis, is a non-profit faith-based organization.

The group specifically offers support to young ladies who are faced with unhealthy challenges and lifestyles. The September event focused on a clothing drive to help homeless Milwaukeeans and showcased Ald. Davis and his work and travel with the Sister Cities projects.

Ald. Davis opened the meeting by casually talking to the young women who were working on the Our Daily Bread program and hearing of their aspirations for college and careers.

As he met and talked with the young women, two young sisters, Masasha and Genesha Murray, impressed him and to offer them further opportunity to engage their community, Ald. Davis invited them to join him when he greeted the Venezuelan Ambassador later that week.

**BELOW:**  
Ald. Davis told the young volunteers at Our Daily Bread, "Push forward in your education. You need to stay focused on success."



Ald. Davis and Mayor Barrett were among the many who shared in the Sister City celebration.

## Sister Cities Initiative

This summer Morogoro, Tanzania became the fourth active Sister City of Milwaukee. Mayor Romanus Ishengoma of Morogoro and Mayor Tom Barrett signed the agreement documents. They were joined by members of the Morogoro delegation, Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. and other Milwaukee officials and special guests.

Ald. Davis, chair of the City of Milwaukee's Sister Cities Committee, said he's proud that Milwaukee is the first U.S. city to consummate a Sister Cities International agreement with a Tanzanian city or region. "This agreement will most certainly be mutually beneficial for the citizens of Milwaukee and Morogoro, and it's truly special to be able to have the official signing take place during the opening ceremony of African World Festival."

The work of the group Hope in Tanzania, a non-profit organization, spearheaded the cooperative effort to become sister cities with Morogoro. Ryan Skaife, a leader for the group recognized a possible relationship when traveling with a university project in 2003. Since then, his work with various charity and development organizations in the country has grown into the Sister City relationship. Skaife said, "Milwaukee and Morogoro have very similar issues, both cities are concerned with education, crime, and city growth and development." This December, Skaife leads a group of 10 Marquette University students to Tanzania to continue the service and diplomacy work the Sister Cities International program encourages.

Morogoro is a city of urban population more than the southern part of Tanzania and is the agricultural hub of Morogoro.



**AT RIGHT:**  
Sisters Masasha and Genesha Murray greet the Venezuelan Ambassador to the United States.

**FAR RIGHT:**  
Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Ambassador Bernardo Alvarez and Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. welcomed local business representatives and political officials in August when the Ambassador came to talk about energy with Milwaukeeans.





A Sister City agreement with Morogoro, Tanzania was signed at a special ceremony at African World Festival.

## Davis Elected To Board At African World Festival

Ald. Davis was elected president of the African World Festival Board of Directors on September 20, 2007.

"I'm honored and excited to be given this opportunity," the alderman said of his election.

"I believe that the best way to promote tolerance of diversity is events like this in which we can celebrate, share and educate others about our different and unique cultures and heritages."

Ald. Davis, a long time attendee of the festival, hopes he can help continue to find ways to draw people of all backgrounds to the festival to spread awareness and appreciation of the vibrant, rich African culture.

"As our city continues to become more diverse, it's imperative that we promote understanding of our own cultural backgrounds as well as seek understanding of others," he said.

The African World Festival is a celebration of African heritage and culture held at Henry Maier Festival Park each August. Its mission is to promote and share this heritage and culture with all people, celebrate the wonders and contributions of all Africans and African descendents and educate attendees about African life and rituals.

Morogoro  
with an  
population of  
200,000 in  
highlands of  
it is the capitol  
culturally rich  
Region.

## Venezuelan Ambassador Visits Milwaukee

On Wednesday, September 12, Bernardo Alvarez, Venezuela's ambassador to the United States, toured Milwaukee. Ald. Davis hosted Alvarez and his envoy after they met with Mayor Barrett. In June, 2006, Ambassador Alvarez led a delegation of Venezuelan officials to Milwaukee and City Hall to explore a possible Sister City relationship between Milwaukee and Carora, Venezuela. Ald. Davis serves as the chair of the city's Sister Cities Committee.

Ambassador Alvarez has been implementing Venezuela's initiative to provide heating oil assistance to needy families in the United States.

Among Ald. Davis' guests at the reception were Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. and Masasha and Genesha Murray who Ald. Davis met earlier in the week as representatives of Our Daily Bread Community Outreach program. The girls were happy to meet the ambassador and attend the reception complete with high-ranking political officials and local business people.

Ald. Davis said, "It's a wonderful honor to welcome the ambassador to our great city. I have great faith in the relationship Milwaukee can continue to build through our Sister Cities program."



# News Around The District

## CVS Opens

Ald. Davis took part in a special ground breaking ceremony on July 6, 2007 for the first new CVS store in the City of Milwaukee. CVS took over the former Osco Drug locations in the city earlier this year, but the new store at N. 76th St. and W. Perkins (just north of N. 76th and W. Capitol Dr.) marks the first new CVS location. The store will be at the site of the former Sentry Foods store, Ald. Davis said. "This new store is very good news for the neighborhood and for other businesses near N. 76th St. and W. Capitol Dr., and I'm pleased to have been a part of making it happen."



Ald. Davis with John Holborow of Gershman, Brown & Associates development and a representative from CVS as they break ground for the new store at 76th St. and Capitol Dr.

## Midtown Center

Inland Western Retail Real Estate Trust Inc. is keeping Midtown Center at N. 60th and W. Capitol in District 2 growing. The shopping center has acquired two new store leases – Casual Male and Fashion Bug – and there are more to come. Inland acquired the shopping hub in 2005. The real estate company has continued to invest in the center, expanding the square footage of the property and adding new leases.

This fall, the developers continued to build their relationship with the community. They worked in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee and Teen Approach in hosting a Paint 'n Treat Halloween event at the shopping center. The event also featured a BloodCenter of Wisconsin blood drive. Teen Approach hosted a costume contest and awarded prizes to those in top outfits in various categories. Ald. Davis said, "we hope to continue our strong relationship with the development firm and utilize Midtown Center as a space where charity and community events can take place."



## Davis Earns Award

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin (HCCW) selected Ald. Davis as its 2006 Government Advocate of the Year Award recipient. Ald. Davis was credited by the HCCW for his active role in working to foster economic development, his role in launching job training and trades apprenticeship initiatives and his "tireless efforts to promote job creation and advancement opportunities for minorities in the City of Milwaukee."

"I am deeply honored to have been selected by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin for this very special award," said Ald. Davis. "I dedicate the award to the residents and businesses of the 2nd Aldermanic District, and especially to the young people who we need to be successful and prosperous as they will soon be leading our city into the future."

Ald. Davis, chair of the Common Council's Community and Economic Development Committee, was also cited by the HCCW for his efforts to help Manpower Inc. in its successful bid to relocate its corporate headquarters to downtown Milwaukee, and for demonstrating leadership, commitment and espousing a "firm belief in our urban community's strengths, development and progress."

The alderman, who also helped persuade the National League of Cities' Community and Economic Development Steering Committee to hold meetings and events in the city in September 2006, received the HCCW award during its "Echoes of Success" gala at the Midwest Airlines Center on Jan. 20.



Midtown Center was the stage for a Back To School Bash fashion event. Teen Approach youth choreographed the Magic Moments show that wrapped up Midtown Center's Star-Studded Summer. The event took place in front of the Pick 'n Save August 18, 2007.



Maria Monreal-Cameron, President/CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin at the 17th Annual Banquet with Ald. Davis.



**March For Freedom**

Ald. Davis organized the Memorial Day March 4 Freedom. In 2006, the day was the most crime filled day for that area, so in an effort to take back their neighborhood, residents organized the march to commemorate a change and a community activism that works to take back their streets. The march was held near Midtown Center on May 26, 2007. "Because teens and young people are many times an ignored constituency until something bad hits the news, I felt this (march) would be



an opportunity for the positive aspects of our young people to be showcased," the alderman said. "This march was put together in large measure by youth, and it is really their march."



2nd District Alderman

# DAVIS

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“ I wish you a safe and warm holiday season and all the good fortune and hope the New Year can bring. ”

Winter 2007 Newsletter

## Fourth Quarter Water Bill

Ald. Davis would like to remind the residents of District 2 that fourth quarter water bills will be arriving soon. Bills for the fourth quarter are mailed between October 8, 2007 and December 28, 2007. Further, if you have a delinquent water bill (six months or more) and owe more than \$150, those charges will also appear on your annual property tax billing at the end of the year.

Residents should also be aware that Milwaukee Water Works' website now allows for customer payment online. Go to [www.water.mpw.net](http://www.water.mpw.net) to check your account, pay your bill and find other information about water and sewer needs.

The customer service line at Milwaukee Water Works, 286-2830, is also available to help with questions or billing concerns.

**Ald. Davis**  
City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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## Not Too Late To Make Plans For Winter

**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.**

"I know we can be patient and cooperate with Public Works during bad weather," said Ald. Davis, "and while the city tries to do this promptly, it's best to wait, if possible, until the plows finish before shoveling out your driveway approach."

### The Response Depends On The Storm

The Department of Public Works will use only one or two salt trucks to tackle intermittent salting of isolated slippery spots, but a full scale plowing for a big storm will use over 360 pieces of equipment, supplemented by private contractors. The most common operation is a general ice control in which 90 salt trucks are sent out citywide.

During a major storm, a general plowing is called and may take 12 to 18 hours to complete the initial plowing followed by several more days cleaning up after parked cars, touching up intersections and widening streets.

### 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. Davis 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 286-8282 for the location of a playground nearest your home.

### Winter Garbage Cart Collection

During the winter the city removes the requirement to take your garbage and recycling carts to the curb.

There is no garbage or recycling collections on these holidays:

**THANKSGIVING** Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23, 2007

**CHRISTMAS** Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007

**NEW YEAR'S** Monday, Dec. 31, 2007 and Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY** Monday, Jan. 21, 2008

**NOTE:** After these holidays, the day of garbage collection will move one day later in the week. There will be no change in the collection of recyclables after the holiday.