

Meetings On The "7th"

Every Odd Month On The 7th

Starting in January 2007
Ald. Wade will hold convenient
district-wide town hall meetings
every odd-numbered month at
the same time and location – the
new **Department of Public
Works facility** at 3850 N. 35th St.

The meetings will start at 6 p.m. in
the Assembly Room at the DPW
facility EXCEPT WHEN THE 7th
FALLS ON A SUNDAY.

**The meetings will be held on
the following 2007 dates:**

- **Monday, January 8**
- **Thursday, March 7**
- **Tuesday, May 7**
- **Monday, July 8**
- **Saturday, September 7**
- **Thursday, November 7**

The meetings will include
discussions of city services
issues, public safety, economic
development, sanitation matters
and any other topics of interest
in 7th District neighborhoods,
Ald. Wade said.

"I set up the meeting schedule on
the 7th of every odd-numbered
month for convenience, so that
people would have a reliable date
and could make an easy note on
their schedule in advance," said
Ald. Wade.

"I am looking forward to hearing
your concerns and discussing
issues that are front and center in
the lives of 7th District citizens,"
he said.



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The Magnificent 7th



2006

7th District Alderman Willie C. Wade

Dear Constituents:

Public Safety, Crime, Taxes. These continue to be among the major challenges and concerns we face. And as we deliberate on the proposed city budget for 2007, I want to assure you that I will be doing what I can to efficiently and effectively provide the services our taxpayers want and need without adding to the costs of providing those services.

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to share with you some of the changes that are occurring in city government, my efforts to improve the quality of life and bring new jobs to the 7th District, and to thank some of Milwaukee's finest young people for their efforts to make this city a better place.

You will find useful and informative articles about my efforts to:

- Transform the Tower Automotive site.
- Eliminate Sherman Blvd. cruising.
- End expensive floodplain insurance.
- Provide jobs and scholarships for youth.

I'm also including a copy of the popular Call For Action booklet with this newsletter. The directory and Internet communications discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, are among the many ways you can contact the proper person with your concerns or questions. Remember you can also share your concerns with me. I welcome your input about dealing with city services or improving our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Willie C. Wade
Alderman, 7th District



Committee Assignments

VICE CHAIR:

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee

MEMBER:

- Licenses Committee
- Public Improvements Committee

COMMISSIONER:

- Redevelopment Authority
- Milwaukee Survive Alive Foundation (board member)



Parade of Homes
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In Your Neighborhood

Tower/A.O. Smith Site Transformation Continues



"This is just the beginning, the first step in the redevelopment of the former Tower Automotive site," said Ald. Wade, as he spoke at dedication ceremonies for the new \$24 million city public works office at the northside complex. Ald. Wade, whose district includes the 140-acre site, said it eventually could include retail, housing, manufacturing and offices. Also pictured to Ald. Wade's right is state Senator Spencer Coggs who also represents the area.

At its peak, the **A.O. Smith** automobile frame factory on N. 27th St. supported some 9,000 workers. In 1997, the property was sold to **Tower Automotive** which closed its operations in March 2006. But the 140-acre site, bordered roughly by W. Capitol Dr. and W. Townsend St., N. 35th St. and N. Hopkins St., is seeing a rebirth.

"It will take years to fully redevelop the complex, but the city's decision to build a new \$24 million public works office on the site is an important beginning," said Ald. Wade, whose district includes the Tower site. The new public works facility at 3850 N. 35th St. houses 480 city employees from four Milwaukee Water Works facilities that were closed and public works employees from two other facilities.

Next year the Department of City Development will begin using a \$250,000 federal grant to create a detailed plan for the property. "My vision is to transform the property into a beautiful mixed-use area of retail, housing, manufacturing and offices and take advantage of this wonderful location," said Ald. Wade. Much of the success of that plan will depend on the city's ability to get more money to help with the environmental cleanup.

The Tower site's new designation as an enterprise development zone has already resulted in the complex receiving up to \$3 million in state tax credits. To be eligible for the credits, companies locating within the new development must create full-time jobs that pay at least 150% of the federal minimum wage.

Capitol Drive Upgrade Complete

Residents now have a beautiful new roadway to take them shopping at the growing **Midtown Center**. The reconstruction of W. Capitol Dr. from **N. 35th St. to N. 60th St.** is a \$4.6 million state project that brought decorative brick crosswalks, new lighting, new sidewalks and many other much needed infrastructure upgrades to locations along W. Capitol Dr.

The construction project was delayed one year and that allowed Midtown businesses such as Applebee's, IHOP, Lowe's, Pizza Hut, Pick 'n Save and other retail stores to establish a steady customer base. "I thank all residents for their patience during the construction, and encourage them to patronize Midtown and its surrounding businesses," said Ald. Wade.

W. Capitol Dr. from N. 60th St. to N. 80th St. is the next section of this major street to see a reconstruction. So stay tuned!

Neighborhood Stabilization Mission Through Home Ownership



The **Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America**

(NACA) is a national non-profit

community advocacy and housing services organization. NACA has been a leader in the fight against discriminatory and abusive lending that has devastated families and communities. As a result of the advocacy, NACA can offer the best mortgage in America with: **NO DOWN PAYMENT, NO CLOSING COSTS, NO FEES, NO POINTS, NO PERFECT CREDIT REQUIRED AND A ONE PERCENT (1%) BELOW MARKET INTEREST RATE** (the lowest fixed rate in the mortgage industry).

NACA has over \$10 billion committed to its Best in America home ownership program. The NACA mortgage is a revolutionary product that can be used for:

- Purchase financing to buy an existing home, new construction, condo, multi-family property or a mixed-use property.
- Rehabilitation financing to purchase and renovate a property.
- Refinancing for people saddled with a loan with 10% or higher interest rates or adjustable rate loans that will exceed 10% interest rates.

Borrowers must live in the property as the primary residence as long as they have the NACA mortgage, which supports the neighborhood stabilization mission through owner occupancy. And the homeowner must participate in five actions or activities a year in support of NACA's mission. NACA is located at 4011 W. Capitol Dr. Suite 100. Additional information is available on the web at www.NACA.com or by calling 442-6222.

www.milwaukee.gov/district7

In Your Neighborhood

Flood Insurance Payments Are Finally Over

On Friday, November 11, 2005, new revised boundaries for the 100-year flood plain map for **Lincoln Creek** in the City of Milwaukee were accepted by the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**, meaning that more than 1,500 homes and businesses on the city's northwest side will no longer be required to carry flood insurance.

This significant, positive change for Milwaukee was marked by a special ceremony on Thursday, November 10, 2005 at the Parklawn YMCA, 4340 N. 46th St. The event was hosted by Ald. Wade and included **Unity Caucus** members Sup. Toni Clark, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, a representative of state Sen. Lena Taylor and state Rep. Barbara Toles. Also in attendance were Mayor Tom Barrett, a representative of U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, City Engineer Jeff Polenske, and Kevin Shafer-executive director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.

M&I Bank Vice President Holly Hartman was also on hand to present refinancing options for residents who are no longer in the flood plain area and who may have problems with their mortgage holders still requiring that they maintain flood insurance on their properties.

Ald. Wade, whose 7th Aldermanic District includes segments of the Lincoln Creek area and the 100-year flood plain area, said the new flood plain map boundaries bring relief to Milwaukeeans who for years have been hit hard by the high cost of flood insurance. "The insurance ranges from \$400-\$1,400 per year, and that's a major expense for anyone, especially residents

on fixed incomes and working class people," said Ald. Wade.

Ald. Wade was able to end the expensive insurance payments requirement by leading the effort to revise the flood plain map boundaries, which included technical remapping work by the **Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**, coordination of flood study information and documents by the city's **Department of City Development** and an overall review by the state **Department of Natural Resources** and FEMA. There was also coordination between Milwaukee City Engineer Jeff Polenske and the City of Glendale city planners. The efforts with the City of Glendale were key because the Glendale Common Council had to pass legislation otherwise the whole deal was dead.

"Ald. Wade was persistent about me providing any assistance necessary to ensure that the City of Glendale had everything they needed to move forward on their end of the deal," said Milwaukee City Engineer Jeff Polenske. The efforts were fruitful and the revision of the 100-year flood plain map for Lincoln Creek was final. The requirement of all 7th District homeowners and many 1st, 2nd and 9th District homeowners to pay for flood insurance was finally over.

"Ald. Wade's ability to coordinate several areas of government during this project was inspiring," said Sen. Taylor.

"When Ald. Wade first told me what he wanted to do I was skeptical, **but without his efforts, the flood insurance payment requirements for homeowners in the Lincoln**



Mayor Tom Barrett looks on as Ald. Wade gives many residents of the Lincoln Creek Area of the 7th District the good news that their homes should no longer suffer flooding problems, and that they are no longer required to carry expensive flood insurance. Also pictured, Lois O'Keefe of Congresswoman Gwen Moore's office, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton and state Rep. Barbara Toles.

Creek area would still be going on. I'm proud of what he has accomplished and it was a pleasure to assist him," said Ald. Hamilton.

Ald. Wade received praise from the mayor for bringing the city, MMSD and the county to the table to make the project happen. "This action, probably more than any other action since I've become mayor, has a tangible outcome," said Mayor Barrett.

"FEMA wouldn't return my phone calls, but when I called Congresswoman Moore and Senator Feingold, FEMA called me back in less than three hours," said Ald. Wade. "That was the beginning of me getting the information I needed to understand what needed to be done. I would like to let the

residents of the 7th District know that you have great representation at every level of government. U.S. Sen. Feingold, U.S. Congresswoman Moore, state Sen. Taylor, state Rep. Jason Fields, state Rep. Toles and County Sup. Clark were all involved in this effort."

Ald. Wade said he wants to thank, on behalf of the residents of the 7th District, City Engineer Jeff Polenske, Kevin Shafer of the MMSD and the City of Glendale Common Council for their support. "And to the Unity Caucus members-Sup. Clark, Ald. Joe Davis, Rep. Fields, Ald. Hamilton, Congresswoman Moore, Sen. Taylor, Rep. Toles," said Ald. Wade, "Without your support, this couldn't have been done. Remember, "Together We Can!"

Just For Youth

Ald. Wade Welcomes Urban Underground To The 7th District

Now, more than ever, Milwaukee teens need opportunities to access alternatives to violence, support for academic achievement and increased chances for higher education instead of incarceration said Ald. Wade. So he was pleased to welcome Urban Underground to the district, an organization working for the educational and social advancement of youth.

Through progressive initiatives, Urban Underground provides opportunities for youth to develop various skills. Since its start in 2000, Urban Underground has been on the frontlines of engaging youth in opportunities to confront and transcend the debilitating effects of violence and poverty. After five years of steady and successful growth, Urban Underground was presented with a unique opportunity to enhance the scope and impact of its work through the establishment of a citywide **Youth Empowerment Center (YEC)**.

The Youth Empowerment Center will provide an environment conducive for youth to pursue opportunities in leadership, education, technology and social enterprise. This year over 400 teens submitted applications to join Urban Underground. The new center will enable the organization to double the number that can become involved in its programs and services. With leading support from NBA coach George Karl, the YEC is well on its way to becoming a reality.



After two years of research, the site at 4850 W. Fond du Lac (above) was selected for the Youth Empowerment Center. It is located in a section of the community with one of the highest concentrations of teens in the city. Situated on two major bus lines just south of the redeveloped Midtown Center, the center provides convenient access to a number of high schools.



Youth Prepare For Future With City Help

The **2006 Summer Youth Internship Program** in Milwaukee was a tremendous success, with the city, state and private sector chipping in to provide jobs for high school juniors and seniors. "I'm happy to support this program which provides employment opportunities that help our youth develop the skills they'll need in the working world," said Ald. Wade. "If my colleagues on the Common Council will support me with another allocation of **Community Development Block Grant** funds for the program, we will continue it in 2007."

This was the second year for the Summer Youth Internship Program in Milwaukee, and the city created 214 jobs to give students the chance to experience careers in city government. City internships were developed in many departments, including public works, forestry, health, marketing, customer service, neighborhood planning and communication.

The young people worked 20 hours per week for eight weeks, and were paid \$7.13 per hour. All youth interns must live within the CDBG target areas. The program includes "Education Fridays" at **Marquette University** where the students work on resume writing, interviewing techniques and workplace behavior.

Youth Also Learn Neighborhood Economic Development

Another summer youth program exposed young people to the economic development facet of city government. **The Main Street Milwaukee Program** collaborated with the Summer Youth Initiative Program to teach youth the potential of neighborhood economic development to create new jobs and wealth, to reduce crime and to increase neighborhood pride and improve the quality of life.

There are four areas in the Main Street Milwaukee program, including the **Burleigh Street Commercial Business District** from N. Sherman Blvd. west to N. 60th St. In addition to learning about urban redevelopment, participants in the youth initiative program also serve as **Main Street Milwaukee Neighborhood Ambassadors**. They are taught how to professionally interact with local business owners, help the merchants access city services and contact the alderman who serves the district.

The neighborhood ambassadors also work to improve the physical appearance of key commercial areas with litter and graffiti removal and serve as a visible presence to promote public safety. "These ambassadors serve as important liaisons between city government and local businesses, inform the public about the goals of Main Street Milwaukee and perform a much needed role in improving this city," said Ald. Wade. "It is my hope that the Main Street Summer Youth Initiative can continue in the summer of 2007."

Just For Youth

Congratulations to 29th Street Warning Alumni Scholarship Winners

Ald. Wade would like to extend his congratulations to the recipients of the 29th Street Warning Alumni Scholarships for 2006. **Tatiana Thompson**, a graduate of Wauwatosa West High School, and **Jana Moore**, a graduate of Rufus King High School, **both received a \$1,500 scholarship to help with expenses for their college education.** Tatiana is enrolled at Tennessee State University in Nashville and Jana will attend Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

Ald. Wade sends special thanks to **Victor Barnett**, the executive director of the **Running Rebels Community Association**. "With the support of the Running Rebels this year's scholarship fundraiser was a success," said Ald. Wade. "The Running Rebels were gracious enough to help the 29th Street Alumni Association make this year's scholarship goals a reality for our college bound youth."

A fundraising basketball game between the 29th Street Warning Alumni and the Running Rebels was a win-win situation for the program. Enough money was raised to provide a two-day basketball camp for 50 boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 12 complete with free basketballs, free t-shirts and free meals.

Ald. Wade also wants to acknowledge the continued support of the UWM men's and women's basketball teams, Gary Childs of MPS Recreation, former Milwaukee Brewer Larry Hisle, Sr., 2005 NBA champion Michael Wilks and several local businesses.

"Last but certainly not least our thanks go to everyone who has supported this event for four straight years," said Ald. Wade, "On behalf of all of our past and present scholarship recipients, a sincere and heartfelt **THANK YOU!**"



(TOP) Ald. Wade (top/back row with County Supervisor Toni Clark) pictured this past summer with campers at the 2006 29th Street Alumni Basketball Camp. The free camp offers a nurturing environment for city children ages 9 to 12.

(BOTTOM) Ald. Wade (second from left) and members of the 29th Street Warning Alumni Association pictured with scholarship winner and Tennessee State University student Tatiana Thompson (center - brown and white top) and her family. Ald. Wade, his cousin Mark Wade and friend Daryl Banks founded the basketball program in 1986, and 2006 marks its 20th anniversary.



Ald. Wade (left) was on hand during a special inauguration ceremony for 7th District City of Milwaukee Youth Council member Michelle Jenkins (in red) held in the Common Council Chamber at City Hall.

Praise For The 7th District Youth Council Member

Ald. Wade wants to send a special "thank you" to **Michelle Jenkins**, a graduate of Rufus King High School, who represented the 7th District on the first **City of Milwaukee Youth Council**. Michelle and her peers were responsible for putting together the framework for all future Youth Councils to follow.

Ald. Wade said it was a pleasure to take part in the selection process and the operation of the 15-member Youth Council. "It is very hard to be a pioneer in any field, especially one that involves politics," said Ald. Wade. "My colleagues and I intended to provide the young people of the city with an arena and a voice to let elected officials know the concerns of Milwaukee youth, and together we have provided a high standard of excellence for the future leaders of the City of Milwaukee."

Michelle has chosen to continue her education at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, and as a token of his appreciation, Ald. Wade presented her with a \$500 check to help with her college expenses.

Public Safety

Community Prosecution Team Fights Nuisances Proactively

Identifying problem properties and people and removing both from the community can bring down the crime rate, said Ald. Wade. And that's the role of the **Community Prosecution Unit** and the **Chronic Nuisance Ordinance**.

The Community Prosecution program deals with urban blight and quality of life issues. Partners in the program include police, Assistant City Attorney Adam Stephens, Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney David Malone, city health and public works departments, community-based organizations, and citizens. The community prosecutors have an office in the 7th District Police Station at 3626 W. Fond du Lac Ave. Attorney Stephens can be reached at 935-7746, attorney Malone at 935-7758.

Nuisance properties, which can include gang, gun and drug houses, noise, overgrown weeds and trash complaints, are among the main issues the community prosecutors face. They act as liaisons with landlords and with the police department regarding repeated nuisance calls, and try to give owners the opportunity to correct the problems before prosecution. Criminal charges or civil actions can be brought against problem tenants or owners for nuisance activity and criminal behavior.

Responsibilities of the Community Prosecution Unit include:

• Nuisance Properties

Homes and buildings that are the repeated sources of complaints and police calls involving drug dealing, prostitution, gambling, trash, dangerous dogs and code violations. Encourage landlords to enroll in the free city Landlord Training Program.

• Crime Prevention

The Community Prosecutor is available to work with schools, churches and community groups to help residents get involved, to discuss crime prevention techniques and how to effectively report criminal behavior to the police.

To report a nuisance property you can also call the police department. The 7th Police District non-emergency number is **933-4444**. Ald. Wade also wants tenants to know that the city **Tenant Retaliation Ordinance** prohibits a landlord from terminating the lease agreement or otherwise retaliating against a tenant for complaining of chronic nuisance violations to the police. A landlord may still evict a tenant for failure to pay rent, committing nuisance activity or violating terms of the lease.

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. Wade. "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.



A new law to keep items used as drug paraphernalia out of neighborhood stores, gas stations, alcohol and tobacco outlets and convenience stores was announced by Ald. Wade, co-sponsor of the legislation which was authorized by a change in state law. The city can now prohibit the possession, manufacture or delivery of drug paraphernalia by persons 17 years of age and older. The previous law did not apply to adults. From left, Police Chief Nannette Hegerty, Inspector Edward Liebrecht, Ald. Wade and Ald. Jim Bohl.

One Answer To Stop Cruising – Water!

Cruising on N. Sherman Blvd. in the 7th Aldermanic District had been a serious problem for many years. But Ald. Wade reports the summers of 2005 and 2006 have seen significant changes in this menacing type of nuisance behavior, in part because of a strategy he initiated which involves 7th District police officers and Department of Public Works employees.

It involved a simple change in the time the boulevard was watered. "It was brought to my attention during constituent meetings that the only time residents along N. Sherman Blvd. didn't experience a cruising problem was on weekends when it rained," said Ald. Wade. "So I directed DPW to start watering the boulevard between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights rather than during daytime hours." Police escort the workers to turn the sprinkler system on and off.

"I received many complaints from citizens criticizing this watering procedure," said Ald. Wade, "But since this practice has been in place, I haven't received any calls to my home or office regarding cruising on N. Sherman Blvd., and there has been no news coverage regarding cruising on that street for the last two summers." Before the system was put in place, Ald. Wade received close to 40 calls per weekend from residents in the N. Sherman Blvd. area complaining about cruising in their neighborhood.

"The summers of 2005 and 2006 have brought some much needed relief to the citizens along N. Sherman Blvd.," said Ald. Wade. "Although the cruising issue is a moving target and far from over, I am happy that these citizens in the 7th District have had a much deserved break from this nuisance behavior. We will continue this practice as long as we get these results."

Public Safety

Services And District Information Are Just A "Click" Away

For those with computers and Internet access, remember the city also has special "one-stop" locations to request information or services.

By using **E-Service Request** you can register a request, resolve an issue, or express an opinion. Your request will be routed to the appropriate city department for action. The city services listed on this web site include some of the most common requests. And after submitting your request, you can easily check its status by simply entering your e-mail address and a password. Previously most service requests were delivered to departments via inter-office mail and returned in the same way. Ald. Wade expects the service to increase the awareness of the scope of city services and information available on-line.

"**E-Service** greatly expands our communication sounding board with the public," said Ald. Wade. It's believed that Milwaukee is one of just a few major U.S. cities offering such a fully-integrated, trackable, user-friendly online city service request system. The E-Service request can be accessed on the www.milwaukee.gov city web site. The site currently serves about 10,000 visitors daily.

E-Notify is another on-line service of the city that can keep you abreast of neighborhood events, legislation and issues affecting the 7th District.

By using **E-Notify** you can find out when important things happen in the city. You can receive several different types of notices from the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Public Schools, including news releases, meeting notices and agendas, job announcements, new property sale listings, bid notices, online auction items, and many others. Once you choose your topics, just sit back and wait for the pertinent information to come directly to you. Sign up by going to www.milwaukee.gov and search for "E-Notify."



Ald. Wade is shown speaking on the steps of the Federal Courthouse to several thousand people who marched earlier this year to protest a jury's acquittal of three former Milwaukee police officers in the beating of Frank Jude Jr. and to call for changes in the justice system. The march was organized by the Unity Caucus, which is chaired by Ald. Wade.



Ald. Wade at a news conference announcing his support for a bill in the state legislature that would prohibit paying the salaries of Milwaukee police officers who have been fired while they appeal the terminations. "Paying officers after they have already been fired for just cause cost city taxpayers over \$2.5 million since 1990, including more than \$585,000 to the officers fired in connection with the beating of Frank Jude, Jr., and while officers certainly have the right to appeal, it should not be done at the expense of taxpayers," said Ald. Wade. Rep. Barbara Toles of Milwaukee plans to reintroduce the bill next January. With the alderman, Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. and Mayor Tom Barrett.

A Helping Hand For District Seniors

Seniors in the 7th District who need help around the house with lawn care, snow shoveling or minor maintenance are invited to call **Interfaith Older Adult Programs** at **220-8669**. Interfaith can also add some excitement to the lives of our seniors who are looking to keep active with such activities as arts and crafts, board and table games, health workshops and more.

In addition, Ald. Wade wants residents to know that the city has a special needs service to help remove snow from sidewalks for older citizens and disabled persons. They must certify that they and all occupants of a home are physically unable to shovel. The service is provided only when plowing operations are called and only for the public sidewalk, not for driveways or walkways from the sidewalk to a door. For information call the **DPW Call Center** at **286-8282**.

Block Watch – Citizens Working Together To Prevent Crime

Ald. Wade wants to encourage residents of the 7th District to be active citizens and help reduce residential crime. "Block Watch is a community crime prevention program that can make a difference and can be started by anyone in the community. Communication and information are keys to controlling crime, and Block Watch depends on the involvement of neighborhood residents for success," said Ald. Wade.

The alderman said residents care about their neighborhoods, but he'd like to see much more participation in programs that work to control criminal activity, a major issue throughout the district. If you are interested in organizing a **Block Watch**, please call Ald. Wade at **286-2863** and he will put you in contact with the community liaison police officer in your area.

LOOK INSIDE!



Call For Action – By The Book Or Computer

You have received the latest “Call For Action” booklet with this newsletter, and a limited number of additional copies can be obtained by contacting my office. The popular telephone directory is arranged alphabetically by specific problems and topics. If you would like additional copies please send me an e-mail at wwade@milwaukee.gov or call me at 286-2863.



A group of second graders from Elm Creative Arts School received expert insight on the workings of city government from Ald. Wade during a tour of City Hall earlier this year. The photo was taken in the ornate third floor Council Chamber.

Need A Smoke Detector?

The City of Milwaukee continues to see tragic fires in which smoke detectors were removed or not operating. All homes need **working smoke detectors.**

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. Wade encourages residents of the 7th 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.



Ald. Wade (pictured in sunglasses - middle/rear), who became a member of the Survive Alive Foundation board earlier this year, recently helped distribute free smoke detectors to homes near N. 39th St. and W. Burleigh. Joining the alderman were several members of the Milwaukee Bucks, as well as dedicated members of the Milwaukee Fire Department. Several neighborhood residents joined in for this group photo.



7th District Alderman Willie C. Wade

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Parade Of Homes Showcases Inner City Rehab Homes

The **Dominican Center's 3rd Annual Parade of Homes** on September 9th gave more than 80 people, including Ald. Wade and his 4-year old son Matthew, the opportunity to see the outstanding benefits of the Dominican Center's housing rehab program. Two trolley cars and a tour guide took the participants to five homes in the inner city neighborhood bordered by W. Hadley and W. Keefe, from N. 20th to N. 25th Streets.

The Dominican Center, located at 2470 W. Locust St. in the 7th District, buys tax-deed homes from the city that may have otherwise been razed. The center then links a prospective homeowner with construction professionals and volunteers to rehab the property. To date there have been 57 homes in the program, and most of the participants are first time homeowners. “The rehabs were very impressive and the pride that the homeowners showed in their homes was obvious,” said Ald.

Wade. “The program provides many challenges for the Dominican Center and buyers, but the formula of commitment plus education has equaled success,” he added.

The Dominican Center requires an investment of time, money and work by the homeowners, who must invest their own money as a down payment before the center and others provide matching funds. Bartering grants are also available, allowing homeowners to receive an additional \$1,000 for every 50 hours they spend working on neighboring projects.

The City of Milwaukee supports the program by offering assistance from the **Department of City Development, Health Department, Housing Authority and Community Development Block Grant Program.** “I congratulate the new homeowners and thank the Dominican Center for its outstanding contributions to the city,” said Ald. Wade. “This is an excellent program that I will continue to support in the future.”