

# 8th District Alderman

200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-3533 | [www.milwaukee.gov/district8](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district8) | [rdonov@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rdonov@milwaukee.gov)

# ROBERT G. DONOVAN

SPRING 2009

## Committee Assignments

### Chair

- Public Safety Committee

### Member

- Judiciary & Legislation Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee

## Alderman Donovan To Host Town Hall Meetings

I will hold two town hall meetings in late May to meet residents and discuss issues affecting the 8th District. I hope you can attend the meeting that best fits your schedule or location. Both meetings start at 6:30 p.m. The dates and locations:

- **Tuesday, May 26**  
**Zablocki Public Library**  
**3501 W. Oklahoma Ave.**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, May 28**  
**O.A.S.I.S. Senior Center**  
**2414 W. Mitchell St.**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

I have invited representatives of city departments including the police to answer questions and discuss issues that you are concerned about including crime and crime prevention, neighborhood services, sanitation, recycling and neighborhood development.

## Dear Neighbor:

During the past year we've seen some positive progress in fighting crime in the 8th District, across the near south side, and throughout Milwaukee as a whole. While the battle is far from over, I think it is worth mentioning that Milwaukee police (led by Chief Ed Flynn), along with the Community Prosecution Unit and the involvement of businesses and neighborhood stakeholders, have done an outstanding job in reducing criminal activity and genuinely making our streets safer.

One key ingredient in this effort is **Operation Impact**, now in its second year (please see page 3). In 2008 Operation Impact proved to be as effective as it is innovative, flooding the target area with beat patrol officers and focusing on "broken windows" law enforcement that can have an immediate positive effect on the quality of life in a neighborhood. Amazingly, 36 block watch groups have been formed in the target area since June 2008, and I expect that number to increase this year.

As the chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, nothing is more frustrating to me than hearing and reading about lenient sentences for criminals who belong behind bars. Please take a moment to learn more about my **Court Watch** initiative (see page 2) which aims to hold courts and judges more accountable to the law abiding people of Milwaukee.

This edition of my newsletter also includes many other articles and bits of helpful information, including how to arrange a walk with me through your neighborhood, **Operation Payback** and our continued efforts to fight graffiti vandalism, a way for you to report loud car stereos, helpful phone numbers and spring clean up information, and a special volunteer knitting project aimed at helping out children and others who are suffering during these tough economic times.

Lastly, I hope you can attend one or both of my upcoming town hall meetings (see info at left).

As always, please call me at 286-3533 if you ever have a question or an issue that you'd like to discuss. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please have a safe and enjoyable spring and summer!

Sincerely,

*Bob*

Bob Donovan  
Alderman, 8th District



Simply call 211 to get help with life.

To call using a cell phone, dial 414-773-0211  
or on a pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380.

## Graffiti Problems Persist

Complaints about graffiti vandalism are again on the rise in the 8th District and across several parts of the south side, Alderman Donovan said.

“Unfortunately we are seeing a spike in the volume of graffiti tags right now, and it is always a concern and one of the persistent problem issues I deal with each and every week,” he said. “We are addressing it through reports to the graffiti hotline (286-8715) and police are making arrests and conducting undercover surveillance work to catch the graffiti vandals.”

Alderman Donovan, chair of the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee and vice chair of the city’s Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee, said quick reporting of graffiti by citizens – and quick removal of tags – helps the city in the fight against graffiti. “There is no more visible sign of disorder than graffiti, and we need to continue to be proactive in making sure it’s removed in a timely manner so that it doesn’t increase or spread,” he said.

If you see graffiti please call the city’s graffiti hotline at 286-8715. If you see a person in the act of spraying or scrawling graffiti, please call 911 and report it immediately.



*Operation Payback graffiti paint out event in 2008 had graffiti vandals covering up their handiwork.*

## Alderman Asks For Citizen Court Monitoring

**C**onvinced that rarely opposed local judges have almost completely lost touch with community expectations on punishment and sentencing, Alderman Donovan is calling for citizens to join in a citywide Court Watch initiative to get involved in court outcomes by pushing judges for tougher criminal sentencing.

Alderman Donovan has long advocated and supported Court Watch efforts for cases in his district and on the city’s south side. But, after learning that the individuals in the July 4 quadruple homicide case were convicted felons whom the alderman said “committed crimes that should have kept them safely behind bars,” he decided it was time to ask for volunteers to make the program permanent and citywide.

“The decent citizens of our community deserve to be protected from these career criminals, but they are being let down by a system that is failing them while letting the crooks off the hook,” he said.

“We in Milwaukee County have a weak link in our criminal justice system and it is very clearly our judges and our corrections system,” he said.

The alderman said volunteers who would be willing to commit a few hours each month to attend court cases “could clearly make a difference and influence judges’ decisions on the severity of the sentences handed down.”

Another recent case cited by Ald. Donovan involves a 46-year-old Cudahy man who – after serving just 16 months for a bank robbery related offense – committed one bank robbery the day he was released from prison and a second one just days later before being apprehended by police.

“These clowns and thugs are released from prison after serving ridiculously short sentences and start committing crimes almost immediately,” Alderman Donovan said.

“If I made decisions that ultimately ended up throwing city services into chaos, I would be tossed out of office,” he said. “These judges are routinely throwing our neighborhoods



*Alderman Bob Donovan calls for citizens to hold judges responsible at a news conference just outside City Hall’s Common Council Chamber.*

into chaos by releasing dangerous criminals onto our streets before they’ve been even remotely punished for their crimes. I firmly believe this would not occur if citizens were there, in court, personally holding them accountable and even sharing personal accounts of the harm these criminals have caused or could cause in their neighborhoods.”

The alderman said he believes many elected judges in Milwaukee County feel immune to public accountability because they often never face an opponent. “Common Council members – myself included – and other elected officials routinely meet with residents and constituents to hear what their concerns are and to find out firsthand the conditions they have in their neighborhoods,” he said.

“Rarely – if ever – have I seen our elected judges out listening to the people,” he said.

Prospective Court Watch volunteers are asked to call Ald. Donovan at (414) 286-3778.

## Operation Impact to be Bigger, Bolder in Year Two

**B**uilding off momentum and successes achieved in its inaugural run in 2008, **Operation Impact** will be better and looking to expand this year, according to its founder, **Alderman Donovan**.

Joined by **Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn, Milwaukee County Deputy District Attorney Jeff Altenburg** and others during a launch **news conference** in the gym at Christ St. Peter Lutheran School, 2229 W. Greenfield Ave., Alderman Donovan said the 2009 version of Operation Impact will be bigger, better and will make an even bigger impact. "We'll be turning up the heat on the bad guys even more, and that means we're hopeful that things will be fairly quiet this summer," he said.

The Operation Impact target area is bounded by W. Pierce St. on the north, W. Lincoln Ave. on the south, S. 16th Street/S. Cesar Chavez Dr. on the east and S. 38th St. on the west – an area located entirely within the 6th Police District.

Amazingly, 36 block watch groups have been formed in the target area since the program started in June 2008, he said. "People saw that it (adding additional beat patrols) was working and that the bad guys were put on ice. People will get involved if they think it will make a difference," he said.

The success has also led to financial support, the alderman said. "Donations poured in and we surpassed our fundraising goal of

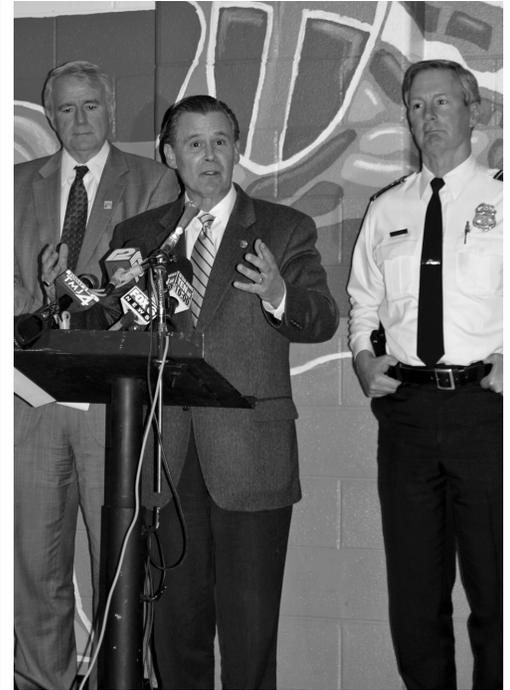
\$176,000 as people decided they wanted to be a part of a new and innovative crime fighting program – and because they liked having safer and more peaceful neighborhoods," the alderman said.

This year's Operation Impact fundraising goal is \$250,000, and if a recent neighborhood fundraising event is any barometer, that goal is within reach, Alderman Donovan said. "That smaller event brought in \$6,800 and it was just regular folks giving \$20 donations – lots of \$20 donations," he said.

Foundations, corporations and small business owners have also been very supportive, providing generous and steady funding support for Operation Impact, according to Alderman Donovan.

Expanding Operation Impact east of S. 16th St. and west into the Jackson Park neighborhood is something Alderman Donovan is looking to in 2009. "The basic recipe and approach is there and is proven to be successful, and I strongly believe it will work in those new areas as well," he said.

Operation Impact has so far focused heavily on nuts and bolts "broken windows" law enforcement, with officers enforcing all laws and city ordinances, from littering, loud music and traffic violations to prostitution, theft and robbery. The effort was funded primarily with private donations from local businesses and corporations, and in June 2008 the Common Council formally began accepting private



*Alderman Donovan announces the start of the 2009 Operation Impact during a news conference April 1 at Christ St. Peter Lutheran School, 2229 W. Greenfield Ave. Also taking part (and pictured) are Mayor Tom Barrett and Police Chief Edward Flynn.*

donations for police overtime costs that allowed Operation Impact beat patrol officers to scour the targeted area the entire summer of 2008.

Dozens of community agencies and programs have contributed personnel, volunteers and/or resources to Operation Impact, including UMOS, Southside Organizing Committee, Operation Payback, Community Partners, Weed and Seed, Journey House, Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Weekend Warriors, Milwaukee Christian Center and many others.



### Blessed Sacrament Catholic School

*Alderman Donovan recently spoke to third graders at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, 3126 S. 41st St. "The students had some great questions for me and I enjoyed spending some time with them," the alderman said. The classroom teacher for the students is Emily Janusz.*



## Speed Humps Could Help Your Block



**Above:** This speed hump was installed as an experiment on W. McKinley Blvd. from N. 27th St. to N. 35th St. Some of the rounded raised areas are also called speed tables or “vertical deflection” structures  
**Below:** Another example of a traffic calming device.



Neighborhoods throughout Milwaukee are finding relief from speeding vehicles by having speed humps installed, and 8th District residents can do the same.

Alderman Donovan has long been an advocate for residents to have more of a voice in slowing traffic, and a resolution he co-sponsored and which was adopted by the Common Council a few years ago allows residents to request a traffic calming installation which many people call “speed humps” or “speed bumps.”

Under the program, residents can petition for a traffic calming device and if the city agrees it is necessary, they would be given several choices. For example, a speed hump translates into an average cost of \$150 per homeowner, but that payment can be spread over six years on the homeowner’s property tax bill.

If you and your neighbors are interested in looking into some type of traffic calming device, please email Dave Schlabowske at dschla@mpw.net or call him at 286-3144.

## You Can Report Loud Car Stereos

People living, working and playing in our city are expected to obey all laws and adhere to certain acceptable levels of behavior that respect the privacy and dignity of their neighbors and others.

That latter expected level of behavior and discourse has been shattered in recent years by the ear-cracking, bass-thumping car stereos that seem to rattle our windows at all hours of the day and night. In an effort to help reduce those obnoxiously loud car stereos, **the Common Council has made permanent a new ordinance that allows Milwaukee citizens to take action by lodging complaints against owners of vehicles blasting excessively loud music or sounds** generated by car stereos by simply providing a license plate number, the date and time of the violation and their name and contact information.

I am the proud sponsor of this ordinance which was in effect as a temporary measure last year.

### So, here’s how it works:

- If you encounter a vehicle with loud music or sounds blaring from it, **get the license plate info and please call the Milwaukee police non-emergency phone number – 933-4444.** Try to remember the location and time you witnessed the vehicle, too.

The ordinance mirrors the city’s nuisance property ordinance, which allows the city to issue tickets and fines to property owners when police are called to investigate multiple complaints at a home or building. Under the nuisance vehicle loud noise ordinance, the owner of a vehicle that is the subject of a loud stereo complaint would receive a warning for the first complaint but would be charged for the cost of enforcement on any subsequent complaints, meaning fines of at least \$100 could be levied for each subsequent occurrence.

With the nuisance property ordinance, any unpaid fines or charges go directly on the owner’s property tax bill, and under this ordinance, charges and fines will go directly to the owner of the vehicle – no matter who might have been driving at the time of the violation.

I strongly encourage you and your neighbors to take advantage of this innovative tool that I believe can help reduce the level of noise that sometimes disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of our homes and neighborhoods.

“People asked for a way to help police identify and investigate vehicles with window-rattling stereos, and this system is easy to use, easy to access, and I strongly encourage people to help police in this area,” Alderman Donovan said, adding: “The police need our help – they can’t do it all by themselves.”

## Putting Up A Fence?

If you are, check the city rules on fences before you put it up. People have had to take down fences after spending money on them because they were too high, in the wrong place or facing the wrong way. For more information on rules governing fences and other permits that may be needed, check the Milwaukee Development Center at [www.mkedcd.org](http://www.mkedcd.org) or call 286-8211.



## Operation Payback

*In April outside the Milwaukee Christian Center, 2137 W. Greenfield Ave., House of Correction inmates participated in the Community Justice Resource Center's (CJRC) Community Service program. They cleaned streets and alleys (and removed graffiti) in the Operation Impact area – Pierce St. to the north, Lincoln Ave. to the south, S. 16th St to the east and S. 38th St. to the west.*

*"These individuals will be giving back to the community, and law-abiding citizens expect nothing less," Alderman Donovan said. "And with the snow now melted away, they'll be filling quite a few bags with litter and debris that is now all too evident." The alderman is working with Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke to explore the possibility of expanding the program further during the summer of 2009 – possibly east of S. 16th St. and west of S. 38th St. into the Jackson Park neighborhood.*



## Operation Payback

## Jackson Park Groups Merge, to Host Fun Summer Event

The Jackson Park Neighborhood Association and the Jackson Park Business Association have joined forces as the **Jackson Park Community Association**. Visit their new website at [www.jacksonparkcommunity.org](http://www.jacksonparkcommunity.org) for updated information.

The JPCA's officers are Ken Franzen – president, Darcy Chastain – vice president, and Jim Henderson – board member/business advisor. For more information on the JPCA contact Ken Franzen at 604-0197.

The groups will host a fun event for children and families this summer. The first **Kids Fest will be held on June 27** at Manitoba Park. The event is for kids of all ages to come together and enjoy games and food.

## New Traffic Calming Project to Improve Pedestrian Safety

A traffic-calming project will soon bring safety improvements to one of the 8th District's busiest intersections. Alderman Donovan said a traffic-calming and streetscaping project will enhance pedestrian safety by creating a singular triangle island with wide sidewalks and curb extensions at the intersection of Forest Home and S. 41st St. as well as S. 43rd St. at Manitoba St. and at Dakota St.

In addition, new crosswalks will be painted and traffic signals will be upgraded with pedestrian countdown timers. The project is funded by the Safe Routes to School program and is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

## Free Landlord Training

For future training dates call 286-2954 or visit [www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining](http://www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining) to learn more about the program and view a class schedule.

## Volunteers Sought for Knitting Project

Claire Zellner from District 8 has recently started a hat and scarves knitting and crocheting project to help those experiencing tough economic times. She realized that many kids go to school not dressed appropriately for the freezing Wisconsin winters and decided to do something about it. The volunteer project started out small as Ms. Zellner and her friend, a crossing guard who works at 15th and Mitchell, donated scarves, hats, and mittens to the children who needed them. After speaking with Alderman Donovan about her aspirations for the project, Ms. Zellner decided to make it a district-wide effort that will also include seniors and others who need hats, scarves and gloves.

In addition to donating to district schools, Ms. Zellner and supporters of her project have also donated to places such as the Battered Women's Shelter, Hope House, and many others. She hopes to make it a year-round project, and one that anyone could help out with.

If you would like more information or want to get involved, please contact Claire Zellner at [claire.zellner@live.com](mailto:claire.zellner@live.com) or call (414) 383-9851.

## Summer Cleanup Tips Include Special Pickups

The city has simplified garbage collection so that you can place bulky items (not more than the size of two couches) next to your garbage cart at your collection point. Call 286-2489 for larger bulk pickups.

As you dispose of unwanted items this summer, remember that the city no longer collects appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, air conditioners, hot water heaters), nor does the city collect construction debris or home computers. These items may be brought into the city's Self Help Centers, 6660 N. Industrial Rd. and 3879 W. Lincoln Ave., or contact appliance collectors.

To request collection of small brush piles through November call 286-2489.

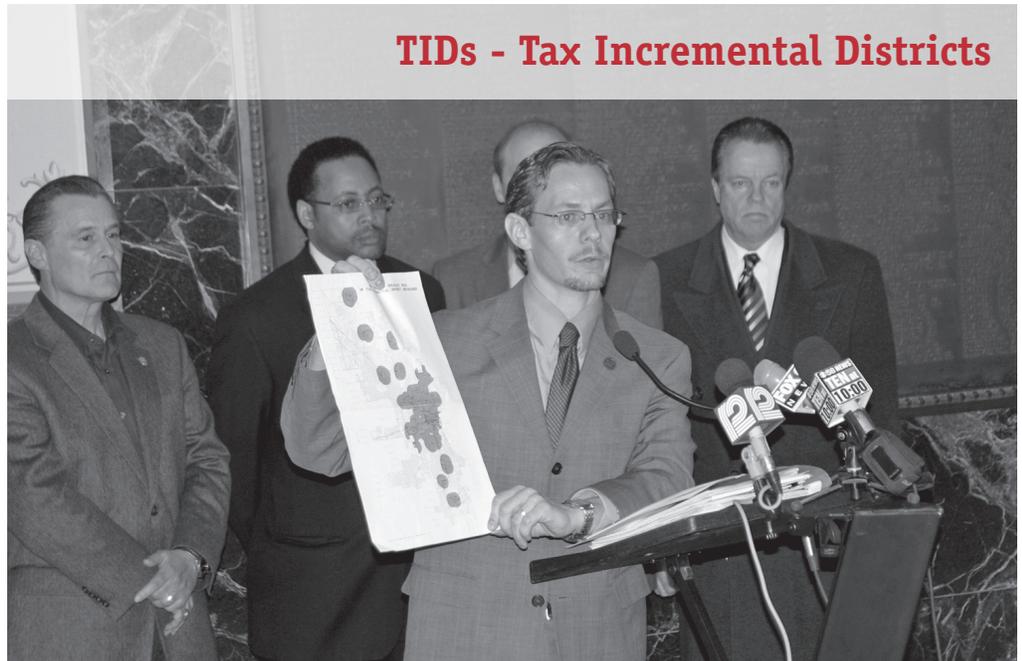


### TIDs - Tax Incremental Districts

*During a March 30 news conference at City Hall, Alderman Donovan spoke in support of a proposal he is co-sponsoring to use millions from city tax incremental districts to fund badly needed street reconstruction projects while providing valuable training and job opportunities for city residents.*

*Drafted by Ald. Jim Bohl, the plan could free up tens of millions of dollars for street reconstruction and maintenance work by amending project plans for some or all of the city's 48 active tax incremental districts (TIDs) to increase the project costs for each district by the equivalent of approximately one year's worth of the district's incremental tax revenue. The additional project cost would then be used to fund street reconstruction work within one half mile of a TID boundary, but not within the TID itself.*

### TIDs - Tax Incremental Districts



## Walk With Alderman Donovan In Your Neighborhood

**A**lderman Donovan will soon be starting his annual series of 8th District neighborhood walk-throughs to learn about residents' concerns and to see conditions firsthand.

**Please join the alderman when he comes to your area.**

Also, if you would like Alderman Donovan to come to your block or neighborhood, please call his office at 286-3533 to request a walkthrough.



**2008 Neighborhood Walk-Through**

## One Call That's All 286-CITY (2489)

That one number can connect you with 21 departments, 8,800 employees and 100s of city services, ranging from building permits to parking permission to library hours to garbage pickups.

Alderman Donovan says the city continues to seek ways to improve communications with residents, and this one-stop number for city services makes it even easier to find the right department and person to handle your complaint or request. Residents will still call 911 for emergencies but can use the new number for any other calls.

**Of course you can always call Ald. Donovan's office at 286-3533.**



## • • • OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS • • •

*(all numbers 414 area code unless specified otherwise)*

Common Council	286-2221	MPS summer recreation info.	475-8180
Mayor Tom Barrett	286-2200	Historic Layton Boulevard Association	
Fire/Police/Ambulance	911	- Patti Davison, Pres.	645-4059
Fire - non-emergency	286-8999	Jackson Park Community Association	
Police - non-emergency	933-4444	- Ken Franzen	604-0197
Dist 2 non-emergency	935-7222	Muskego Heights Community Association	
Dist 6 non-emergency	935-7262	- Chris Carini	643-1428
Health Department	286-3616	Lincoln Village	383-2272
Domestic Violence/assault	286-2997	Layton Boulevard West Neighbors	
Parking Hotline	286-8350	- Charlotte John-Gomez	383-9038 x2513
Public Works (special pickups, street lights, potholes, garbage/trash pickups, water, sewers)	286-2489	Southside Organizing Committee	
Graffiti Hotline	286-8715	- Steve Fendt	672-8090
Nuisance issues (debris, litter, abandoned/illegally parked vehicles, code violations, landlord/tenant problems)	286-2268	City of Milwaukee's FREE Landlord Training Program	286-2954
Boys and Girls Club	383-2350	V.A. Medical Center	384-2000
Milwaukee Christian Center	645-5350	U.S. Postal Services (St. Paul Ave.)	270-2308
Journey House	647-0548	Betty Brinn Children's Museum	390-5437
Medicare/Social Security	1-800-772-1213	Discovery World Museum	765-9966
Interfaith Near Southside Senior Services	384-8448	Milwaukee Art Museum	224-3200
Better Business Bureau	847-6000	Milwaukee County Zoo	771-3040 or 256-5412
Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful	272-5462	Mitchell Park Domes	649-9800
Diggers Hotline	1-800-242-8511	Boy Scouts of America	774-1776
Emergency Crisis Hotline (24 hrs.)	257-7222	Girl Scouts of America	476-1050
Pregnancy Help Center	645-4050	Wisconsin State Fair	1-800-884-3247
Fair Housing Council	278-1240	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin:	
Milwaukee Public Museum	278-2700	Poison Control	1-800-222-1222
MADACC (animal shelter/animal control)	649-8640	Children's - Main Switchboard	266-2000
		Milwaukee County Parks and Rec.	257-7275
		Pettit National Ice Center	266-0100

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### O.A.S.I.S: A Friendly Asset for Milwaukee's Seniors

The Organization for Active Seniors in Society (O.A.S.I.S), located at 2414 W. Mitchell St., is an older adult community center offering a variety of programs and activities for individuals over the age of 50. O.A.S.I.S. offers a variety of programs for members including the free use of a senior-friendly fitness center, a computer lab that offers 10 stations for members, and a community center meal program.

In addition, O.A.S.I.S. provides activities such as ballroom dancing lessons, polka lessons, Spanish classes and computer classes. Membership is \$10 for City of Milwaukee residents and \$20 for non-residents.

For more information, call the O.A.S.I.S center at (414) 647-6041 or visit: [www.milwaukee recreation.net/active-seniors/oasis.htm](http://www.milwaukee recreation.net/active-seniors/oasis.htm).

### Robert G. Donovan

Alderman, 8th District  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

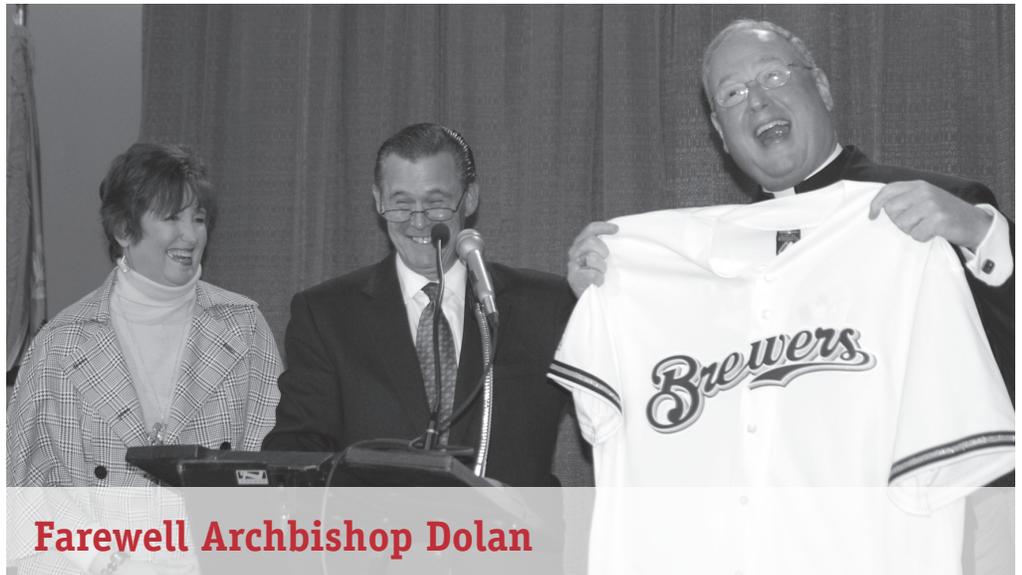
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Milwaukee, WI  
Permit No. 4678

## Zablocki Library Here to Serve You

The operating hours for Zablocki library, located at 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave., are Monday - Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. (Oct. thru April). Besides educational resources, the Zablocki Library offers a variety of programs including preschool story hours, family events and computers for public use.

In addition, the library hosts several monthly events for children such as bilingual story time, gaming for teens and family play dates. Zablocki Library also takes part in informative sessions for teens and adults such as courses like Introduction to Word Processing, Introduction to Spreadsheets, the Stop Teen Violence informative series and "Do You Know What's On Your Credit Report?"

Visit [www.mpl.org/file/branch\\_zablocki.htm](http://www.mpl.org/file/branch_zablocki.htm) for more information or call (414) 286-3055.



### Farewell Archbishop Dolan

*Alderman Donovan shared a light moment with his wife, Kathy, and Archbishop Timothy Michael Dolan during a March 31 farewell event for the Archbishop at City Hall. Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Alderman Michael Murphy, County Executive Scott Walker, District Attorney John Chisholm, Sheriff David Clarke, Cardinal Stritch President Dr. Helen Sobehart and others joined the alderman, who served as the event's emcee. The Greater Milwaukee Fire and Police Pipes and Drums and the Glencastle Irish Dancers provided the entertainment during the ceremony. "Archbishop Dolan has done an immense amount of good for our archdiocese and our city, and although we will miss him dearly, we are very proud of his appointment as the new Archbishop of New York," said Alderman Donovan. "His energy, his uplifting enthusiasm, and his love for the people of Milwaukee has made a difference, and we will always remember and cherish his time here with us."*