

Milele A. Coggs



City Hall, Room 205 • 200 E. Wells Street • Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 286-2994 • mcoggs@milwaukee.gov • www.milwaukee.gov/district6

Dear Neighbor,

District 6 and the City of Milwaukee are undergoing many changes, and in this newsletter you'll learn about not only new legislation related to our community, but also how stimulus money and other spending programs are helping to ease the foreclosure crisis.

We are also working hard to change and improve our city, and one of the first steps is you. Please notice the information in this newsletter on my public safety survey. Often, we think of public safety as simply protective services like fire and police. Our community's needs reach beyond that, however, and I'd like to know how we can improve the distribution of information on all safety concerns including public health issues and licensing.

District 6 honors students in this newsletter and you can learn about our scholarship winners and our intern. There is also information on development projects in the district.

Updates on local projects like the Humboldt Ave. Bridge construction and resources like jobs and housing help are also available in this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to remind all of you that this is a census year. Census 2010 is essential to the funds Milwaukee receives for roads, schools, neighborhood projects and more. More importantly, each person matters in the count and how our legislators are assigned locally in Madison and Washington is determined by our population counts. I ask that each of you do your part and fill out your census forms. The information you provide on this form is private and essential to the continued growth of our community.

Have a wonderful summer season and as always, please contact my office with any needs or concerns.

Peace, Love & Justice,

Milele A. Coggs, J.D.
6th District Alderwoman - City of Milwaukee



Alderwoman Coggs held a news conference to mount community opposition to Everest College moving to downtown Milwaukee. The college, part of Corinthian Colleges, Inc., has a reputation of poor business practices. Attendees included representatives of the NAACP, MATC Latino Student Organization, Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods, MATC economics professor Michael Rosen, and other council members.

Alderwoman Coggs Honored

Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs was honored as one of Holy Redeemer's 2009 Women of Honor during their annual Women's Day program last fall. The awards banquet recognized 100 women in the area for their contributions to the community, religious organizations and families. Alderwoman Coggs said she is humbled by the honor, which, according to Rowena Davis, chair of the Women of Honor committee, was bestowed upon Coggs for her "fidelity, stewardship and humanitarianism."

6th District Town Hall Meeting

Please join me at our 6th District Town Hall Meeting. You will have the opportunity to voice your concerns to me and representatives from various city departments and learn about resources to help prevent foreclosure.

April 22, 2010 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Andrew Douglas Community Academy, 3620 N. 18th St.

Festival Coming to Harambee June 5

The inaugural Harambee Community Action Day will be celebrated from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 5th on Center St. between N. 4th and N. 6th Streets. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for additional details on my web page at www.milwaukee.gov/district6 and in the community. The free, family-friendly event will include food, music, fun activities for kids, and much, much more.

Public Safety Survey Available

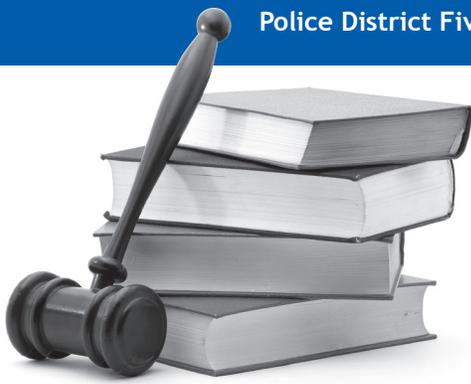
Alderwoman Coggs continues to work to improve public safety and the community's relationship with the various tools available to ensure the health and safety of our neighborhoods. To help her assess the needs in District 6, she has created a survey and is soliciting feedback from residents on their concerns. The survey is at www.milwaukee.gov/district6/publicsafetysurvey and your answers go straight to the alderwoman's office. If you prefer, you can take the survey by phone at 286-2994.

Committee Assignments

Licenses - *Vice Chair* Finance & Personnel - *Member*

Library Board of Trustees - *Member*

Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault - *Member*



Legislative Updates

Abating Nuisance Properties

An ordinance passed by the Common Council late last year, co-sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs, specifies that the owner of any building that has become vacant must register with the Department of Neighborhood Services. The owner must also enclose and secure the building. New minimum requirements for vacant buildings include lot, exterior and interior maintenance and building security standards. Violating these regulations subjects the owner to the standard building code forfeiture - not less than \$150 per violation per day nor more than \$5,000 for each premises.

Regulating Convenience Stores

Alderwoman Coggs co-sponsored an ordinance that helps give the Common Council more ability to regulate the graffiti, litter and vandalism that can be associated with local corner stores. The ordinance also provides for Common Council approval of a new food dealer license for a convenience store. The Common Council may consider the over-concentration of convenience stores that tends to contribute to litter, vandalism, graffiti, curfew violations, harassment of passersby and other unlawful behavior in a neighborhood. The Council may consider whether an area is well served by existing food establishments.



Alderwoman Coggs spoke about the importance of education to a group of students at COA Youth & Family Center. If you would like Alderwoman Coggs to speak to your group, contact her office at mcoggs@milwaukee.gov or 286-2994.

Humboldt Bridge Construction Underway

The Humboldt Ave. Bridge project is in full motion and consists of a larger road development project that includes reconstruction of the bridge over the Milwaukee River, the bridge over Riverboat Road, the ramp providing access to Riverboat Road, six adjacent retaining walls, pavement approaches and utility alterations. The bridge over Riverboat Road is expected to be completed in June 2010.

During construction, the city continues to make all reasonable attempts to accommodate the needs of residents and businesses affected and to expedite the work as efficiently as possible to maintain expected completion dates.

- The contractor has provided two crews to work on both the south side and north side of the river bridge to expedite the construction.
- Once the river bridge and the ramp to Riverboat Road are completed they will be opened to traffic. Construction on the bridge over Riverboat Road is in progress, and Riverboat Road directly under the bridge is now closed to traffic.

Once complete, the Humboldt Ave. bridges will be wider, safer, and a major benefit to the city.

Bronzeville Continues to Grow

The Bronzeville area continues to develop as housing plans and TIN opportunities still remain in the area. To learn more about the projects, go to www.milwaukee.gov/district6 or www.milwaukee.gov/bronzeville to read the updates and project backgrounds. The next update meeting will be **May 12, 2010 from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Northcott Neighborhood House, 2460 N. 6th St.**

King Drive Commons III



King Drive Commons III is the latest phase of the redevelopment of an area of N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. that is bounded by Locust St. on the north, Center St. on the south, 1st St. on the east, and 7th St. on the west. The development will include 24 affordable rental units and an open-air fresh foods market operated by Growing Power's Will Allen.

Free Cribs to Promote Safe Sleeping

In Milwaukee, the second leading cause of infant mortality is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), which is often related to unsafe sleep.

Free cribs are available to families who are unable to purchase one. Before a family is given a crib, parents are provided education and training on proper sleep position and sleep environment for the baby. The cribs are available from the **Milwaukee Health Department** at (414) 286-8620 as well as from the **Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin** at (414) 933-0064.

District Business Growing: C & D Technologies

C & D Technologies, Inc. will generate as many as 150 jobs in the Milwaukee area over the next three years under a \$19 million U.S. Army contract. The company employs about 250 people at its Riverwest factory on Keefe Ave. and will renovate an adjacent building it owns for work under the new contract.

The new operation is expected to employ 10 to 20 people in its first year, expanding over the next three years as the operation moves from research and development to making prototypes to manufacturing. C & D is a provider of lead-acid batteries for standby power systems, supplying backup power to hospitals, data centers and other essential facilities.

"This expansion will result in good-paying, family-supporting green jobs focused on the research and development and manufacture of lithium-ion batteries," Mayor Barrett said.

"I am encouraged by the kind of recruiting Milwaukee business associations and groups like the Milwaukee 7 have done to bring companies like C & D Technologies, Inc. to Milwaukee. The diligence of our community leaders to generate not only family-supporting jobs, but an environment that lures and sustains businesses continues to benefit the 6th District," Alderwoman Coggs said.

Milwaukee Urban League Employment Resources

The Milwaukee Urban League has a dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and sponsors that support and help African Americans achieve their full potential and participate in the social mainstream, to secure economic self-sufficiency, parity and power, and civil rights.

Among the programs it offers is the **Employment Assistance Program (EAP)** which serves a wide range of employers and job seekers. Employers in various industries in the Milwaukee and surrounding areas regularly recruit Urban League clients to fill job openings. Job seekers include entry level, skilled, unskilled, and professionals seeking employment in various fields and disciplines.

The Urban League also offers the **Milwaukee Apprentice Recruitment Project (M.A.R.P.)**, a comprehensive workforce development and training program sponsored by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), which fills the pipeline with candidates for the entire progression from pre-apprenticeship to employment in the construction skilled trades. To learn more about the Milwaukee Urban League and the services it offers, go to www.tmul.org or call (414) 374-5850.

Milwaukee Earns Top Honors for Diversity

Milwaukee won first place in the National League of Cities' City Cultural Diversity Awards for the MORE ordinance. The award recognizes communities that make clear efforts to increase and support diversity. The ordinance, passed last year and co-sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs, helps ensure that local workers are a part of local development projects. Turn to www.milwaukee.gov/district6 to learn more about the award.

Sidewalk Repair Program

Do you have cracked sidewalks caused by city trees? If so, you may be eligible to have them repaired or replaced at no cost to you. The Common Council has approved an ordinance authorizing \$50,000 to be used for this purpose. Funds are limited and you must apply for consideration. To see if you qualify, contact the Department of Public Works through the call center at 286-CITY.

Free Smoke Detectors

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. Alderwoman Coggs encourages residents of the 6th 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.

EYE ON OUR YOUTH



6th District Intern Rick Banks

Rick Banks is a graduate of Riverside University High School and attends UW-Milwaukee. He plans on double majoring in political science and economics. His future plans are to attend law school and possibly become a legislator. He is a member of the Student Association Senate, the Black Student Union and the newly formed Black Pre-Law Society. He has always been into politics, following the 2000 presidential

election at age nine. This internship, he says, has helped him to become more outgoing in his efforts to work with people, expanded his knowledge of city government and has helped him network with others serving the community.

Five Questions for the College Bound

For youth planning to continue their education after high school, choosing a college to attend is a major decision. The following are five important questions college bound youth should ask about any school they are considering attending.

1. Is the college accredited?
2. Are the credits transferable?
3. What is the college's graduation rate?
4. What is the college's job placement rate?
5. What is the history of the college?



FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

Anelia Patterson was one of two winners of last year's Freedom Scholarship Essay Contest. She is currently a student at Marian University in Fond du Lac.

Go to www.milwaukee.gov/district6 after April 15th to download an application for the **3rd Annual Freedom Scholarship Essay Contest**.



Bring Google to Milwaukee

Google has said it plans to test ultra-high speed broadband networks in trial locations across the country that can deliver Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today, over one gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections. The project could create hundreds of jobs and bring tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure investment.

Google is encouraging people to go to its website to tell why they think their community should be selected for the project. Please support this project by going to www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/public/options and telling Google why you'd like them to use Milwaukee as a test site.



Alderwoman Coggs commended Milwaukee Police and the Department of Neighborhood Services at a press conference following their quick response to an illegal rave party discovered on MLK Drive this past fall.

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How to Challenge Assessments

If you received your assessment and believe it to be incorrect, here is how you can challenge it:

1. Go to www.milwaukee.gov/assessor
2. Click on "Appeals and Assistance" in the left hand column and follow the instructions there.
3. Or call the Assessor's Office at **414-286-3651** for more information.

Remember, objections to an assessment must be written and filed before the third Monday in May.



Support Your Local Library!

This year, the Common Council worked hard during budget season to keep all our libraries open, though their hours may have changed. Go to www.mpl.org to check hours for your favorite libraries!

M.L. King Library - 310 W. Locust St.

September-June Hours:

Mon.-Wed.: 1-8 p.m., Thurs.-Fri.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun.: Closed

July-August Hours:

Mon.: 1-8 p.m., Tues.-Fri.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun.: Closed

Polling Site Changes

Wards 107-108: The Malcolm X Academy polling site has moved to: Northcott Neighborhood House, 2460 N. 6th St.

Wards 100-101: The MLK Library polling site has moved to: Clinton Rose Senior Center, 3045 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Dr.

If you have any questions, please contact the Milwaukee Election Commission at **(414) 286-VOTE**.

City Continues to Fight Foreclosures

If you or someone you know is facing foreclosure, the most important thing to do is to **contact a certified foreclosure counselor as soon as possible**. Go to www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org or call **(414) 286-5610** to contact a certified foreclosure counselor. All of the counselors on the website provide this service **free of charge** and people should be wary of anyone who charges a fee, as foreclosure rescue scams are on the rise.

The city's Neighborhood Stabilization Programs continue to accept applications from individuals who are purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed homes. A list of agencies that provide homebuyer counseling is available on the www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org website and signing up for classes is the first step for anyone who wants to take part in the program.

In mid-January the city learned it will receive \$25 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to help put approximately 1,000 foreclosed and abandoned residential units back to productive use. Also at that time, Habitat for Humanity announced it would receive \$11 million in ARRA funds to build new homes in the city.