

# HinesHERALD

– COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT –

*WILLIE L. HINES, JR.*

*15th Aldermanic District*

City Hall, Room 205 • 200 E. Wells Street • Milwaukee, WI 53202 • PHONE: (414) 286-3965 • EMAIL: whines@milwaukee.gov • www.milwaukee.gov/district15

## Milwaukee's New Spanish Connection

By now I am sure you have heard about two major victories for the City of Milwaukee. In February, we announced that a Spanish company, **Ingeteam Technologies Inc.**, will build its wind-turbine manufacturing plant in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley. Then, in March, Governor Doyle and Mayor Barrett stood in front of the former site of A.O. Smith and Tower Automotive, and announced that **Talgo**, one of the world's leaders in train manufacturing, will base its North American manufacturing operations in Milwaukee's central city.



As president of the Common Council, I was fortunate to play a role in attracting both of these companies to our city. They represent an overall strategy that the Common Council has put in place to attract 21st-Century, clean-technology manufacturing jobs to Milwaukee. All of us – government leaders, non-profits, business entities and residents like you – have a responsibility to put Milwaukee in the best position possible, so that we can succeed in this global economy.

**You might be asking, What can I do to help attract jobs to Milwaukee? The answer: A lot!**

Whenever we organize a community meeting, work to maintain our houses, plant a garden, start a block watch or pick up garbage around our neighborhood, we are helping to put a positive face on the 15th District. Believe it or not, these actions attract businesses and jobs just as much as any tax credits that government entities can offer. Conversely, when we litter, allow criminal elements to take root and generally allow our communities to deteriorate, we send a strong message to potential employers: Go away.

Every single resident has a part to play in the rebirth of Milwaukee and the community-based renewal of the 15th District. So many of you are already engaged in your local version of the "Milwaukee Renaissance," and please know that I personally appreciate all that you do on the front lines of your neighborhoods. For those of you



## PAOI LOR NAMED to FIRE and POLICE COMMISSION

**Paoi X. Lor**, a 15th District resident, was recently appointed to the Fire and Police Commission Board and is notably its first Hmong member. She has been Program Coordinator and Consultant for Hmong Radio since 1999, and with Hmong ABC Radio in Milwaukee since 2003.

She also has experience as a real estate consultant. She holds an A.A. degree from West Coast Christian College in Fresno, California, and a B.A. in Management and Organizational Development from Fresno Pacific University.

She has been a member of the Southeast Asian Consortium since 2006, and is a past board member of Lao-Pha Society and the Hmong-American Peace Academy. She has also served as Executive Board Secretary of the New Salvation Church of God.

President Hines welcomes the addition of Lor to the board. He said, "Our community is incredibly talented and diverse, it is important to see that reflected in the boards that govern our city's decision making."

who have not yet managed to become part of a block watch, community association or other positive initiative, let me encourage you to call my office and get involved: (414) 286-3965.

I don't know how many more Spanish companies will make Milwaukee their home for North American manufacturing, but I do know that our positive efforts are never in vain.

Sincerely,

Willie L. Hines, Jr.



## Dahlberg Named DNS Commissioner

Last year, Art Dahlberg was appointed by Mayor Tom Barrett to serve as Commissioner of the **Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS)**.

Dahlberg, who received his civil engineering degree from Kansas State University, boasts an extensive and impressive career path that includes several honors, awards and certifications all dating back to 1982 in the state of Virginia.

Dahlberg's previous position was as building commissioner in the city of Richmond's Department of Community Development, Bureau of Permits and Inspections. Dahlberg also has extensive experience in code enforcement in various fire and emergency services divisions and has also worked as a Patent Examiner for the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The City of Milwaukee's Department of Neighborhood Services works to ensure that communities are operated in a safe and sufficient manner. DNS helps to resolve neighborhood issues ranging from graffiti, code compliance, construction and environmental and nuisance to landlord training.

Residents most often rely on DNS to help enforce the rules and procedures that keep neighborhoods safe, clean and healthy. Currently, DNS is coordinating with Milwaukee's foreclosure abatement programs and helping neighbors keep solid property values amid foreclosed structures in their area.



To contact DNS or learn more, please visit [www.milwaukee.gov/dns](http://www.milwaukee.gov/dns) or call 286-2268.

## GREAT LAKES COMPACT *signing*

Governor Doyle joined President Hines and other state and local leaders to sign the Great Lakes Compact into law. The compact



unites all states that border the Great Lakes and creates a policy on water sales to preserve the lake region and helps protect one of Milwaukee's greatest assets—fresh water.

## Walnut Way Leads the Way

**Walnut Way Conservation Corp.** is a local non-profit neighborhood organization whose mission is to sustain an economically diverse and neighborly community through civic engagement, environmental stewardship and economic enterprise.

The group, a core force for change in our district, has been active since 1998, but most recently, they are the focus of the **Zilber Neighborhood Initiative**. The late local entrepreneur Joseph Zilber sponsored a large-scale neighborhood revitalization through his foundation and President Hines is proud that Walnut Way was selected by the Zilber program as the lead agency for the Lindsay Heights neighborhood project.

Walnut Way first renovated a former drug house in the neighborhood and turned it into its neighborhood center. Additionally, the group has focused on environmental action, this year, installing 40 rain gardens, three 500-gallon cisterns and one bio-retention basin with disconnected downspouts. These efforts help to reduce storm water runoff into the sewer system and keep hazardous wastes from our lake basin.

**Walnut Way neighbors meet regularly to guide programs and activities. Some of the activities and programs include:**

- Advocating for bee keeping within the city in partnership with a Common Council ordinance President Hines sponsored.
- The transformation of vacant lots into productive gardens and fruit orchards.
- The hosting of regular community events and meetings at the Walnut Way Center.
- The Walnut Way Youth Program, which offers programming and events for neighborhood children.
- The Gardens to Market (G2M) Program which provides local teens with summer jobs and connects neighbors in urban agriculture activities.

Learn more about Walnut Way, 2240 N. 17th St. at [www.walnutway.org](http://www.walnutway.org) or call (414) 264-2326.

# It's Wrong Not to Teach What's Right

This op-ed piece by President Hines originally appeared in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

There are a number of positives that the Milwaukee Public Schools system can tout. *Newsweek* recently ranked Rufus King High School as the best public high school in Wisconsin. But drastic changes are sorely needed to ensure not only the future viability of the school district but also the long-term success of its overall student population.

Whether we eventually move toward an appointed School Board, smaller individual districts or an internal overhaul, the situation will continue to worsen if MPS does not make a genuine commitment to character development.

Character development is a critical part of transforming MPS students into successful citizens who can contribute to society. While academic knowledge of the sciences, arts, languages, technology and mathematics is vital, I believe that MPS must dedicate resources to establishing an ethical framework for every child who walks through its doors. While I recognize that morals and values can be controversial, because everyone has a different take on rights and wrongs, I also know that we do our community a severe disservice if we do not arm our kids with the life skills that will give them a fighting chance to succeed upon graduation.

When students behave destructively and irresponsibly both in school and in public

without any shame or reproach, then we know we cannot afford to keep ethics out of the MPS curriculum. Some might say that ethical instruction is the job of the family, the church or some other institution. I can appreciate that sentiment. However, there is a place for moral and ethical training in our schools. And there is a simple answer for parents who contend that MPS has no business pushing its own brand of morality. Simply put, MPS already is pushing its own brand of morality.

Whenever a teacher ignores destructive behaviors, a certain morality (or immorality) is left unchecked. A clear message is sent: "The behavior is OK." Whenever scholastic schedules progress without reserving any forum or venue for ethical discussion, a message is sent that morals do not matter. When we neglect to highlight what is right in the world, we unwittingly endorse what is wrong.

Who defines what is right? What do I mean by morals? How are ethics defined? These questions are predictable and valid. Generally speaking, MPS students can benefit from thoughtful instruction regarding personal accountability, respect for others and, perhaps most importantly, respect for self. If we can have specialized curricula designed for the arts and foreign languages, we can afford to reserve part of our curriculum to help our young people function in society. We can help them search out the answers to these and other questions: What are healthy approaches to conflict resolution? Why is it important to listen before speaking? How can we look beyond our narrow view of things to see the impact of our actions on a

community? Why does society work better when we treat others as we want to be treated?

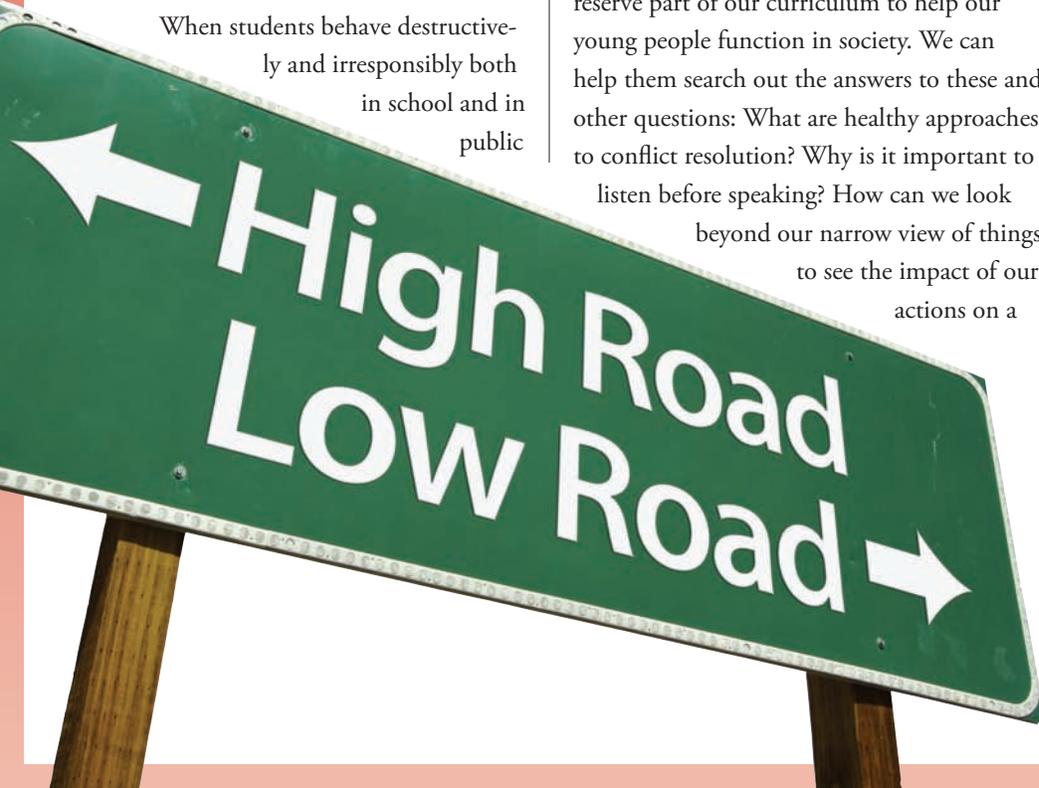
MPS must be more than an intellectual arena, because students are more than academic receptacles. Students are young, impressionable human beings. It is necessary that we have our eye on a prosperous adulthood for them. Therefore, it must be a core responsibility of MPS to prepare students to that end, and a prosperous adulthood is more than memorizing facts and figures.

From Plato to Augustine, from Douglass to King, from Heschel to Twerski, we know that a firm grasp on the laws of human interaction is just as important as understanding the laws of nature. If a young woman behaves in a destructive manner toward her neighborhood, what good is her knowledge of biology, chemistry or physics? No one cares if a rude, disrespectful or ill-mannered young man is good at math.

As Frederick Douglass once said, "It is easier to build strong children than to fix broken men." He was quite right. An ethical and moral framework must be our goal for graduates of MPS, right alongside academic proficiency. If we are to "build strong children" rather than fixing "broken" adults, there is no other way than to engage students on issues of right and wrong within the arena of academia and to do so during their formative years.

Discussions of whether or not MPS should dissolve or who should be accountable for public school failures - these are important issues that must be addressed. (I am personally in favor of a change in governance). But no matter who sits on the School Board, no matter what name we call MPS, all of us need to agree that ethics and morals deserve to have a place in this institution.

Far too many of our children are maturing into adulthood without even engaging in a scholarly discussion of ethics. They are losing out - and so are the rest of us. When we ignore what is moral, we are not being amoral. We are being immoral.



## Recycle Relay



President Hines helped launch the city's new **"Recycle for Good"** campaign during a relay race that required identifying recyclable products. The event, held in **Red Arrow Park** last summer, included teams of Common Council members and promoted the ease with which Milwaukee residents can make recycling a part of their everyday routine.

As part of the 2010 city budget, recycling collection is switching to once every three weeks for most city households (instead of once per month).



Find out more at:  
[www.milwaukee-recycles.com](http://www.milwaukee-recycles.com)



## Support Your Local Library!

As you may know, unfortunately libraries are continuously struggling to stay open, but there are some things you can do to support your local library.

- Get a library card
- Return books on time
- Pay fines
- Hold community meetings there
- Patronize
- Participate in programming
- Encourage others to use the library



Find out more at:  
[www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org)

## Foundation Park

Common Council President Hines recently welcomed a new park in the 15th Aldermanic District. Foundation Park, at 3700 W. McKinley Blvd., near Harley-Davidson's headquarters, is the realization of many months of hard work by residents, area foundations and the City of Milwaukee.

Foundation Park, which includes high-quality playground equipment and welcome green space, was made possible by the generous support of the Harley-Davidson Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the CERES Foundation.

"It has been very gratifying to see these foundations come alongside a core group of dedicated residents to move Foundation Park from a dream to a reality," President Hines said. "I want to especially thank the Harley-Davidson Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the CERES Foundation for their overwhelming gift to the community."

"In addition, David Weber of Milwaukee's **Neighborhood Improvement Development Corp. (NIDC)** deserves much thanks for his dedication to the neighborhood," adds President Hines. "He and I have walked on countless neighborhood walks and participated in numerous community meetings in the area. Along with the Harley-Davidson Foundation, NIDC has done an outstanding job of working with my office to help turn this neighborhood around. Foundation Park is a physical manifestation of the revitalized community that will enjoy it for years to come."



Foundation representatives, residents and NIDC's Dave Weber participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of **Foundation Park at 3700 W. McKinley Blvd.**

## One Call That's All...286-CITY

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

President Hines 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 President Hines' office at 286-3965.



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.

# Teutonia Gardens



The new **Teutonia Gardens** housing project (pictured at left) is entering into Phase II, Franklin Square, and includes affordable housing and a community garden. The project has also sparked further development in the district.

Recently, President Hines welcomed new housing in the 15th District. This \$5.1 million development is phase one of the **Teutonia Avenue Togetherness project (TAT)**, and the Teutonia Gardens-Handsome Plaza is owned by Maures Development Group, LLC and Midwest Affordable Housing Corp. A few months ago, President Hines advocated for the approval of this project's second phase.

Located at the northwest corner of N. Teutonia Ave. and W. Center St., the building has 24 apartment homes for families and the ground floor has 5,400 square feet of commercial space. The anchor tenant is Handsome Barber Shop, which has been in the area for more than 40 years.

"I can recall being a customer at the Handsome Barber Shop as I grew up in this area," said President Hines. "This is a development that will have a catalytic impact on a key intersection in the 15th District. Not only does Teutonia Gardens bring high-quality, affordable housing to residents, it also brings welcome green space and a shot in the arm for local businesses. Melissa Goins and Maures Development Group have put forth an outstanding blueprint for revitalization of the central city."

At left, President Hines proudly joined developer Melissa Goins and **Maures Development Group** to celebrate the success of the project.



## Important Info

- City Services** .....286-CITY (2489)
- Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance** .....911
- Police (non-emergency)** .....933-4444
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault** .....286-2997
- Flu Hotline** .....286-3616
- Parking Hotline**.....286-8350
- Department of Public Works**.....286-CITY (2489)  
*Snow removal, garbage pickup, etc.*
- Department of Neighborhood Services** ..286-2268  
*Landlord questions, graffiti, etc.*
- E-Services:** [www.milwaukee.gov/eservices](http://www.milwaukee.gov/eservices)

## PRESIDENT'S SPEAKER SERIES



On February 9, 2010, General Manager of the Milwaukee Bucks John Hammond addressed the Council as part of the President's Speaker Series. The series was initiated by President Hines to connect influential community and business leaders with the public through Common Council meetings.



Last year, UWM Chancellor Carlos Santiago joined the Council to discuss the innovative programs UWM is cultivating in Milwaukee.

## Fair Housing Anniversary Honors Vel Phillips



President Hines and his colleagues honored Vel Phillips as they marked the **40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Law in Milwaukee**. Phillips, along with a grassroots coalition of civil rights activists, protested peacefully, marching for 200 nights in a row to achieve passage of the law on April 30, 1968. Milwaukee's law later inspired the 1968 federal Fair Housing Act. Phillips was honored with a slideshow commemorating the historic period and her dedicated work toward eliminating discrimination and injustice.

## The Legacy: New Housing in the 15th District



Mayor Barrett and President Hines' office joined Deloris Sims, founder of Legacy Bank and Sally Peltz, founding president of Legacy Redevelopment Corporation on the corner of 23rd St. and Garfield Ave. to announce the construction of two spec homes for The Legacy. The Legacy is the result of a concerted effort to reestablish quality living in the heart of the City of Milwaukee, and it allows home buyers to select their own builder when designing their house.

The Legacy's lot area, which will feature 51 new homes upon completion, is located between Garfield Ave. and Brown St., and between 24th St. and 21st St. Through buyer incentives, qualified home buyers can build their new house, valued at \$215,000 for as low as \$135,000. For more information visit [www.thelegacymilwaukee.com](http://www.thelegacymilwaukee.com) or call (414) 343-3025.



## The Importance of Infrastructure

The Common Council passed an ordinance that imposes a \$20 municipal motor vehicle registration fee on every Wisconsin-registered vehicle kept in the City of Milwaukee. The money collected from this fee is deposited in a transportation vehicle fund designated specifically for our city's streets, bridges and road-related repairs.

The fee applies primarily to average vehicles, like cars, SUVs, pick-up trucks and minivans.

**This registration fee was implemented for a variety of reasons, including the following:**

1. The greatest number of pothole complaints in recent history.
2. The excessive cost of the city's street assessment process. (Typically, under the old system, homeowners were assessed about \$3,500 for the street in front of their house to be replaced.)
3. The fact that a large percentage of regular street maintenance has been deferred for decades.

Prior to the passage of the \$20 fee, *Governing Magazine*, which covers city and state governments around the nation, wrote the following:

"Milwaukee may be the only city in America where citizens groan when they hear that their streets will be repaved or repaired. That's because if you live adjacent to a torn-up street or alley, you – not the city taxpayers as a whole – have to pay for the repair work. Sometimes that can mean a special assessment of \$3,500 for a single household. Residents regularly lobby aldermen to call off construction crews. As a result, Milwaukee is a pockmarked city, particularly after an especially harsh winter."

This was our city's situation *before* the registration fee was put in place. (After a mayoral veto, the Common Council overrode the mayor's objection and passed the legislation). Now, there are no more street assessments whatsoever. (Residents are still charged minimal assessments for alleys and curbs, if necessary). The fee that was formerly a one-time payment of around \$3,500 for homeowners is now a \$20 annual fee for those who register vehicles. (After all, it's vehicles that tear up our roads, not houses).

"At \$20 per year, the average homeowner would have to live past the age of 175 to reach \$3,500 in repair expenses," added *Governing Magazine*.

Lower payments, better roads and a system that is more fair and equitable for everyone. That's why the registration fee was passed by President Hines and the majority of the Common Council.

## Learn Effective Property Management

Landlords can learn to screen new tenants and how to deal with nuisance properties by enrolling in the City of Milwaukee's **FREE Landlord Training Program**. You'll receive five hours of training and a 100-page manual describing professional property management guidelines.

For more information or to register, call Department of Neighborhood Services Program Assistant Jeanne Hagner at 286-2954 or email her at [jhagne@milwaukee.gov](mailto:jhagne@milwaukee.gov).



### Find out more online!

The *Landlord Training 2010* schedule can be found on DNS's website at: [www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining](http://www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining)

## United Methodist Children's Services



The **United Methodist Children's Services affordable rental housing project** is a benefit to Milwaukee and the Washington Park neighborhood as it provides affordable rental housing for low-income families and creates safe, quality, stable housing. The project also offers social service support and through energy efficient building strategies, the utility costs of the units can be kept low.

"Investing in the Washington Park neighborhood will help revitalize the neighborhood and these homes help provide stability to an area that can benefit from stable homes, families and services," President Hines said.



The project was constructed by **TL Reese Construction**, a minority owned, City of Milwaukee firm, in partnership with **Horizon Construction**.



## Alcohol Beverage Task Force

Common Council President Hines, along with the Common Council, created an **Alcohol Beverage Licensing Task Force (ABLTF)** to recommend potential improvements to the licensing process for the City of Milwaukee. "It is paramount that the licensing process be above reproach, without even a hint of wrongdoing. This newly created body has gone a long way in helping the City of Milwaukee completely restore its image for fair and impartial public hearings in license matters."

"We recently accepted the recommendations that the ABLTF submitted," said President Hines. "Some of these have already been implemented and the others are working through the legislative process."

Former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Louis Butler chaired the panel and the group hosted a series of public hearings to generate feedback on the process overall.

## Pushing for Transit Reform



President Hines stood with local community, business and labor leaders during a **news conference this spring to advocate for transit reform through Assembly Bill 723**. The legislation would create a Regional Transit Authority (RTA), providing a dedicated revenue stream for public transit and decreasing the property tax burden.

## Please Participate in PROJECT CLEAN & GREEN

President Hines is encouraging residents and neighborhoods to take part in **Project Clean & Green**, which begins April 12 and continues until June 1. The program is designed to foster neighborhood pride through community clean ups, street and alley sweeping, and graffiti removal, with activities sponsored by community organizations.

The program will focus on one zone within the city weekly. The focus zones cross over aldermanic district boundaries, but in the 15th Aldermanic District, **we participate in Zone 6 (May 17-21) and Zone 3 (April 26-30)**. Residents within the targeted zone can place unwanted furniture, mattresses and other household items at a designated collection point on your zone's scheduled collection day.

If your neighborhood wants to schedule a group cleanup or would like more information, you can contact Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful at **www.kgmb.org** or (414) 272-5462 for cleanup bags, gloves or to borrow a limited number of clean up tools (rakes, shovels, brooms).

For more details, please see:  
**www.milwaukee.gov/mpw**



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### President Hines

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## Help for Homeowners Facing Foreclosure

The City of Milwaukee is committed to helping our neighborhoods remain healthy for generations to come. We are coordinating with various organizations, government agencies and private lenders and reaching out to homeowners facing foreclosure. Contact these agencies as a first step in getting assistance:

**Hope Now** (Hotline 1-888-995-HOPE)  
[www.hopenow.com](http://www.hopenow.com)

**Foreclosure Rescue**  
[www.foreclosurerescue.com](http://www.foreclosurerescue.com)

**Home Ownership Preservation Foundation**  
[www.995hope.org](http://www.995hope.org)

**The Neighbors Work Center for Foreclosure Solutions**  
[www.nw.org](http://www.nw.org)

Programs are available for the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties for both homeownership and responsible rental property ownership. These programs not only offer financial resources, but technical help as well for properties in need of repairs.



President Hines was joined by Mayor Barrett and representatives from the Department of Neighborhood Services as they **launched a program to bring new housing to the Martin Drive neighborhood**. Blighted, foreclosed homes were demolished to make way for the new homes.



### Find out more online!

Visit **www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org** for more information on how homebuyers and investors interested in purchasing a foreclosed property can access these resources.