

Michael Murphy

10th district alderman



City Hall • (414) 286-3763 • mmurph@milwaukee.gov • www.milwaukee.gov/district10

dear 10th district residents:

I've always believed that communication between elected officials and their constituents is truly the key to good government. As we begin the New Year I'm pleased to update you on several important issues affecting the city and its residents.

In this newsletter you'll read about the creation of a **Housing Trust Fund**, expansion of the **Hank Aaron State Trail**, public art in **Enderis Park**, and a new campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. You will also read about how to appeal your assessment, the new city Wi-Fi deal and the 2007 city budget.

During the past year great strides have been made to improve the quality of life and draw new investment into the 10th District and the city overall. New housing construction at the **Honey Creek Project** and the development of the **Story Hill Gardens** show strong growth in the city's housing market. However, despite these successes, challenges remain for many neighborhoods throughout our city.

Reducing crime and creating jobs continue to be my top priorities. In this year's budget, the Council and Mayor added 40 additional police officers to improve response times and reduce crime. However, the police alone cannot stop crime. We need you. Starting or getting involved in a Block Watch is the first step in making our neighborhoods safe. Inside, you'll find information on how to prevent crime, including steps on how to form a Block Watch.

On a personal note, my wife Terry and I traveled to China this past July to adopt a beautiful little baby, Maggie. Since bringing her home she has added a new depth of love and happiness to our lives. As we begin the New Year I wish you and your family the same joy and peace throughout the coming year.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy
Alderman, 10th District



Reduce Opportunities For Crime

All 10th District residents should try to follow a few simple tips for reducing the opportunity for crimes to occur. **Good locks, simple precautions, neighborhood awareness, and common sense can help prevent most property crimes.**

Locks, Doors, and Windows

- Install and use good deadbolt locks in your doors (*about half of all burglars enter through unlocked doors and windows*).
- Secure sliding glass doors with locks or a rigid wooden dowel wedged in the track.
- Use window pins on double hung windows for safety and convenience.
- Inside, never leave a key in the deadbolt lock (burglars will shatter a door window, reach in and unlock the door).

Outside

- Never leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle. Secure packages in a locked trunk and hide or take electronics.
- Make sure all porches, entrances, and yards are well lit.
- Maintain the neighborhood. Dark alleys, litter, and rundown areas attract criminals.

Answering the Door

- Install a peephole or viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door.
- Do not trust door chains. They can be easily broken.
- Don't open the door to anyone you don't know, but make sure that you appear at the door so that the individual knows you are at home. Insist service personnel verify their identity before allowing them in.

Most importantly, get to know your neighbors! Say hello, exchange phone numbers, plan block parties and other gatherings. Knowing your neighbors is the easiest way to cut crime in your neighborhood.

Committee Assignments

CHAIR	MEMBER
• Finance & Personnel Committee	• Judiciary & Legislation Committee
• Housing Trust Fund Task Force	• Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee
• Arts Board	• Employees' Retirement System Board
VICE CHAIR	
• Steering & Rules Committee	• Wisconsin Center District Board

View meetings on the web at: www.milwaukee.gov/channel25



Crime Prevention: The Block Watch Program Works

Neighborhoods in the 10th District and throughout Milwaukee are discovering the benefits of starting Block Watch groups.

“The Block Watch program is designed to make neighborhoods safer places to live, work and play and, therefore, can help provide a safer environment for our children,” said Ald. Murphy. “Good Block Watch organizations can help stabilize entire neighborhoods and business areas, and that’s why I support them so strongly.”

Most crimes are crimes of “opportunity” and therefore can be prevented. The Block Watch program provides residents with specific information on how to reduce or eliminate opportunities for crimes.

To become involved in a Block Watch, please contact the community liaison officers of the 3rd or 7th Police Districts – **Officer Tom Kupsik (3rd District) 935-7733** or **Officer Shellee Lubus (7th District) 935-7278**. Then talk to your neighbors to get as many residents on your block involved as possible. Officers will assist in providing information at the first meeting. The program will improve communication, cooperation and organization among residents, as well as between residents and the **Milwaukee Police Department**.

“When citizens become involved in a Block Watch group, a common bond develops between neighbors that instills neighborhood pride and protectiveness, and this can only enhance the quality of life in our city,” said Ald. Murphy.

Winter Parking Restrictions

Parked and abandoned cars are among the biggest problems faced by city crews when they plow our city streets. And Ald. Murphy wants to remind you that winter parking restrictions are in effect until March 1st, and motorists should look for signs describing the parking restrictions along streets that are affected by winter rules. These possible restrictions could include:

- **Specific Side Parking** - No parking on one or both sides of the street Dec. 1 - March 1. No parking on one or both sides of a street during a particular winter month.
- **4” Rule** - Certain residential streets are posted “No Parking When 4” of Snow or More.” No parking is allowed on the side of the street where the sign is posted until snow has been removed.
- **Route Towaway Zone** - No parking is allowed during declared snow emergencies on highways marked with “Snow Route Towaway Zone” signs.
- **Night Parking During Snow Emergency** - If a snow emergency has been declared, night parking regulations are in effect from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on all city streets regardless of the winter parking regulation.
- **Milwaukee Public Schools** make some playgrounds and parking lots available for over-night parking during declared snow emergencies and clean-up periods. Call the **DPW Information Center** at 286-8282 for the location of a playground nearest your home.

Some winter parking regulations are not posted. If you are unsure about regulations in your area, and want information on a particular street, call the **DPW Parking Enforcement Section** at 286-8350. Streets are also listed on the Department of Public Works section of the city web site, www.milwaukee.gov under parking services.

Alderman Joins Front Lines In Teen Pregnancy Fight

Ald. Murphy is part of a new proactive outreach effort that aims to stem the city’s abominably high teen pregnancy rate.

The alderman is a member of the **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Oversight Committee**, established by the **United Way of Greater Milwaukee**. The 33-member committee, which includes leaders from business, education, health care, government and social services, will address the high teen birth rate in Milwaukee and create a public awareness campaign.

Milwaukee has the 6th worst teen birth rate among the 50 largest U.S. cities, surpassing Atlanta,

Chicago, Kansas City and Los Angeles. In 2004, 16.9% of all births in Milwaukee were to females under 20. This has led to a less skilled labor pool, which results in fewer new businesses locating in metropolitan Milwaukee.

The high teen birth rate also contributes to higher health care costs. Each teen pregnancy in Milwaukee costs on average \$79,320 in long-term costs. In Wisconsin, Medicaid covers 85 percent of teen births, and reimburses hospitals for about 65 percent of the actual cost of inpatient services. The gap between what the government

pays and the actual cost drives up insurance premium rates, and strains the state’s Medicaid budget.

Poverty, a lack of education and sexual abuse are also interconnected in this complex issue. Milwaukee has the 4th highest rate of children under 18 living in poverty. Only about 30% of teen mothers graduate from high school. Between half and two-thirds of teen mothers report being sexually molested prior to their first pregnancy.

The task force’s awareness campaign will include billboards,

radio and television ads and flyers. They are also considering creating a collaborative fund to better support prevention efforts, develop an outcome tracking mechanism and develop an annual forum to report on the progress of the various efforts.

“This is a serious issue in Milwaukee,” Ald. Murphy said. “High teen birth rates cripple the city’s ability to attract new businesses and reflect a lack of proper care for our youth. I am committed to making the city aware of this issue and working collaboratively to help resolve it.”



Milwaukee Collects Fewer Taxes, Incurs Lower Expenditures Than Peer Cities

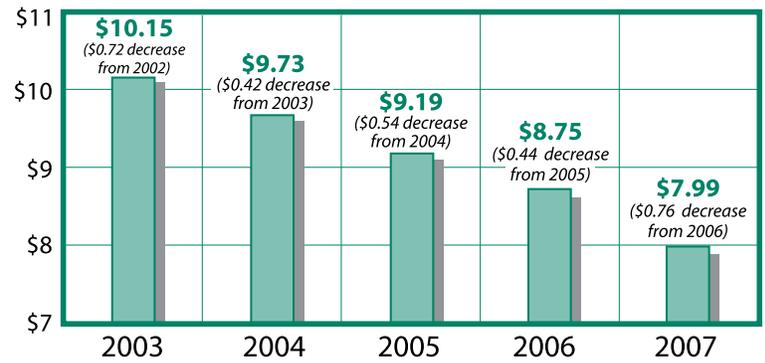
For the third year in a row an analysis of Milwaukee's spending shows that the city spends less on services than our peer cities. "It's easy to jump to the conclusion that we have higher property taxes therefore we spend more," said Ald. Murphy. "However, the opposite is true because other cities choose to pay from other sources, namely sales taxes, assessments and fees."

The 2006 Comparative Revenue and Expenditure Report from City Comptroller W. Martin "Wally" Morics not only shows that the City of Milwaukee collects lower taxes and other revenues than nearly all of nine similar municipalities throughout the country, it also spends less per capita. "Citizens and businesses need to know that despite numerous references to high property taxes in the city, they are getting value for the tax dollars they are paying," Ald. Murphy said.

The report looks at major functions in a city, such as public safety, public works and health services. The comparison indicates that Milwaukee is limited by the state in the amount of revenue it can collect compared with the peer cities, many of which collect sales and income taxes in addition to a property tax. The local taxes collected by the City of Milwaukee are about half of the comparable cities' average. Local taxes in Milwaukee are \$374 (51%) less per person than the average of comparable cities, putting it eighth on the list.

The report compared Milwaukee's revenue sources with Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Oklahoma City, Pittsburgh, Portland, Sacramento and Toledo.

The local tax in Milwaukee is the property tax, and per capita the report indicates that local property taxes are \$98 higher than the average. Unlike many other states however, Wisconsin prohibits local municipalities from imposing local sales and income taxes. "When other local taxes and intergovernmental aids are combined, per capita revenue for the City of Milwaukee is \$412 (22%) less than comparable cities," said Ald. Murphy, "despite the fact that Milwaukee received \$240 less in local taxes and other governmental aids than the other cities in the report."



A Steady "Downsizing" of the City Tax Rate

The report indicates that on the expenditure side, Milwaukee pays \$248 dollars less than the peer cities, ranking the city eighth in per capita expenditures. Public safety expenditures ranked seventh lowest, public works the eighth lowest. "For a family of four it means nearly \$1,000 they don't pay in taxes for services," the alderman said.

City efforts to control the growth in property taxes and decreasing state aid has resulted in a need to look for alternative funding sources and user charges. Here too the report shows Milwaukee's per capita charges for services are \$191 (32%) less than the average of comparable cities.

"This is a message that city officials must do a better job of explaining to city residents," said Ald. Murphy. "Many of the peer cities have a diversified revenue stream with local sales and income taxes that makes their property tax rate look low, but even with fewer revenue options in Milwaukee, this report shows that the city is competitive with similar municipalities around the country."

The 2006 Comparative Revenue and Expenditure Report is available on the Comptroller's page of the city web site, www.city.milwaukee.gov under financial services, or you can call the Comptroller's office at 286-3321 for a copy.

Hawley Road Reconstruction



The roadway reconstruction and re-decking of the viaduct that carries N. Hawley Rd. above the railroad right-of-way and W. State St. from W. Valley Forge Dr. to W. Vliet St. was **completed during the summer of 2006**, and traffic was re-opened to flow in both directions on June 30, 2006. During the 18-month project, the ramps serving the viaduct were also reconfigured to a better alignment. These **"before and after" photos** show a significant improvement to the vital north-south roadway for west side residents and commuters. "This project caused some headaches and inconveniences for residents and businesses, and I commend everyone for their patience," Ald. Murphy said.



Ald. Murphy was joined by **Mayor Tom Barrett** (right), colleague **Ald. Michael S. D'Amato** (left) and members of the Housing Trust Fund Task Force during a special bill signing ceremony in November in the Mayor's Office. **The ceremony marked the creation of the city's first housing trust fund**, which will be used to help create safe, affordable housing for low-income residents. Ald. Murphy was the primary Council sponsor and advocate for the creation of the trust fund, and he credited members of the task force for their "hard work and diligence" on the issue. Those members were: Ald. Michael McGee, Jr., vice-chair; Tom Capp; Sup. Marina Dimitrijevic; Heather Dummer Combs; Department of City Development Commissioner Rocky Marcoux; Lucia Murtaugh; Tony Perez; Brian Peters; Leo Ries; Bethany Sanchez; Mike Soika; and Robert Shelledy.

Ald. Murphy Takes Lead On Housing Trust Fund, Measure Passes

With help from Ald. Murphy the city now has its first housing trust fund, a key component in city efforts to expand affordable housing opportunities in Milwaukee.

Ald. Murphy sponsored a resolution to establish the housing trust fund, which was introduced and approved at the Common Council meeting on September 26. The permanent trust fund will help provide affordable housing for the mentally ill, homeless and disabled more efficiently. It will also help fund renovations to existing apartments and help create new lower-cost houses.

Ald. Murphy chaired the **Housing Trust Fund Task Force**, which met weekly for months to create the structure and blueprint for the trust fund.

Potawatomi Bingo Casino proceeds, revenue from closed tax incremental financing districts and payments that churches or other non-profit institutions make

instead of property taxes will finance the trust fund.

"The fund will help Milwaukee better meet critical housing needs," said Ald. Murphy. "The council wanted to ensure that every citizen in Milwaukee has equal opportunity to live in safe, comfortable and affordable housing."

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

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.

Ald. Murphy 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. Murphy's office at 286-3763.

City Wi-Fi Deal Signed, Construction Begins

After months of negotiations, the City of Milwaukee finalized a contract with Midwest Fiber Networks to construct a system to provide citywide wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) Internet service and a demonstration project is underway on the near west side, Ald. Murphy said. Wireless Internet service is scheduled to begin this spring in the demonstration area that includes the neighborhoods in the 10th District bounded by N. 35th St. and Highway 41, from W. Canal St. to W. Vliet St. Citywide service is expected in 2008.

Ald. Murphy was a co-sponsor of the city legislation that led to the contract with Midwest Fiber and a key participant in negotiations that originally brought the company to the table to pursue a deal. The alderman said the contract allows Midwest Fiber to use city facilities, such as underground conduit, buildings or streetlights to build the privately funded \$20 million Wi-Fi system at its own cost, (no taxpayer dollars involved) and recoup its investment by leasing its network to other companies, including Internet service providers, for a fee. Web sites run by government and non-profit organizations will be available free, but users will pay a fee to access other Internet sites.

"Wi-Fi service is a technological innovation vital to the communication needs of a growing number of businesses, particularly in the high tech sector, and Milwaukee is among the first cities in the nation to deploy this technology," said Ald. Murphy. "It (wireless Internet) is important because it positions Milwaukee among the leading larger U.S. cities when it comes to available technology improvements that enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses."

Council Beats State-Imposed Tax “Freeze”

After weeks of hearings before the Common Council’s budget-writing **Finance and Personnel Committee**, chaired by Ald. Murphy, aldermen voted 14-1 on November 10, 2006 to adopt a 2007 city budget that requires a tax rate of \$7.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value – a level not seen since 1956.

“The Council takes matters of spending and city services very seriously, and this year’s budget presented some very difficult decisions regarding public safety, infrastructure and library funding,” said Ald. Murphy. “In the end I believe we made the right decisions to again hold the line on taxes and spending while maintaining the important and necessary city services to maintain our quality of life.”

The council has now adopted city budgets with flat or reduced tax rates in 17 of the last 18 years.

The new city tax levy, with the lowest percentage tax levy increase of any of the taxing bodies that are included on city property tax bills, means the owner of a \$100,000 city home will see a \$76 decrease in the city portion of the tax bill, from \$875 to \$799. The budget was more than \$100,000 under the state-imposed property tax “freeze.”

Some highlights of the budget:

- Created a \$2.5 million fund to develop affordable housing.
- Restored firefighter staffing for three ladder companies.
- Added 40 police officers.
- No new fee increases.
- Added investigators to Fire & Police Commission to look into allegations of police misconduct.

Property Assessments Can Be Appealed

Assessment notices reflecting new assessed values for real estate parcels in the City of Milwaukee will be mailed to homeowners in mid-April, 2007.

After the notices are mailed the open book period begins. The open book is the time for you to talk to an assessor about your assessment. It is possible until May 21, 2007 to file a formal objection to the Assessor’s valuation of your property. Challenges can be successful when the objections are supported by data that is readily available through research. The objection process is as follows:

First, decide for yourself what your home is worth. You can do that by looking at recent home sales in your area, contacting appraisers or comparing assessments of homes similar to yours (“comparables”) *in your area*. Sales and assessment information is available in the Assessor’s Office, the Milwaukee Public Library or online at www.milwaukee.gov/assessor.

Next, make an appointment or call and talk with a city assessor. In this informal session, you can learn how your assessment was made, what factors were considered and what type of records are kept regarding your property.

If you still disagree with the assessment, the next step is to fully complete and file a written objection form before the third Monday in May (May 21st in 2007) deadline. This form is available at the Assessor’s Office. To properly review the assessed value, the assessor may need to physically inspect both the inside and outside of your property. During the inspection, you can provide any information you feel will be helpful in the review. Then the assessor’s recommendation will go to the Board of Assessors, a group of his/her supervisors. You will receive their decision in writing. If you still disagree, the next step is a hearing before the Board of Review, a panel of five to nine citizens appointed by the Mayor. If you don’t agree with the Board of Review, you can appeal in Circuit Court.

How to Contact Ald. Murphy

Write:

Ald. Michael J. Murphy
City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

E-mail:

mmurph@milwaukee.gov

Call:

286-3763

More info. on the web:

www.milwaukee.gov/district10

Free for the Asking



The City of Milwaukee has free, informative printed materials that I would be happy to send you. Please check off those you would like to receive, then detach this card and mail it to me. *Also, I would be interested in any comments or questions you might have.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Milwaukee Route Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban River Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postcards of City Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> How to Disconnect Your Downspout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brewers 2007 Season Schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Nuisance Property brochure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee: City Government & How It Works | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call For Action booklet (Governmental Phone Directory) | |

Dear Ald. Murphy: _____

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Washington Blvd. Repaving On Tap

The stretch of W. Washington Blvd. between N. 47th and N. 60th Streets is scheduled to undergo major repaving work in 2008, Ald. Murphy said.

The Department of Public Works has placed the Washington Blvd. project on its spring 2008 repaving schedule, meaning crews will take 4-5 months to remove the existing pavement and then replace it with a new surface. Curbs and gutters will be replaced, and bicycle lanes will also be part of the project, Ald. Murphy said.

Ald. Murphy will be hosting a neighborhood meeting on the project with residents in late February. "I've heard from Washington Heights residents, including the mayor, that reducing speeding is a priority," said Ald. Murphy, "And we will continue to look for ways to make the boulevard safer for all residents."

Street parking on Washington Blvd. will be prohibited in the construction area during the project, and work will alternate on either side of the boulevard to ensure that east- and westbound traffic will flow while the work is being done, the alderman said.



In early fall Ald. Murphy participated in a special ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently completed **Honey Creek condominiums**. Also pictured with the alderman (left to right): **Tracy Glynn**, realtor; **Judy Roeming**, condo owner; **Lance Dornbrook**, developer; and **Sheila Firari**, developer.

Honey Creek Condominiums Now Open

A ribbon cutting ceremony on September 28 marked the grand opening of Honey Creek Condominiums.

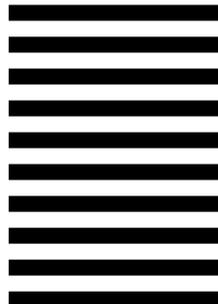
The condominiums, at N. 73rd and W. Stevenson, were built in response to the increasing population of middle-aged and older adults who want to stay in the area but don't want the repair and upkeep of single-family homes.

The project, on the former site of the **Korean Church of Milwaukee**, features 32 two- and three-bedroom condominiums. Each unit includes a master bedroom suite, underground, heated parking, gas fireplace, patio or balcony, a landscaped courtyard and other quality amenities. The units are priced from \$224,900 to \$289,900. Ten of the units are already occupied and four others are waiting for new owners.

"The market is showing a definite demand for more condos on the west side," Ald. Murphy said. "This development will help satisfy some of that demand."



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Hank Aaron State Trail Is Open

Extension Through 10th District Underway

In August Ald. Murphy shared the stage with **Governor Doyle**, **Mayor Tom Barrett** and former Brewer and Milwaukee Braves slugger and Hall of Fame legend **Henry “Hank” Aaron** in a special dedication ceremony marking the completion of the **Hank Aaron State Trail** from Miller Park to the lakefront.

As a huge crowd looked on, Ald. Murphy presented **Bruce Keyes** of the non-profit **Friends of Hank Aaron State Trail** with a Common Council commendation celebrating the event and recognizing the group for its integral role in the trail’s development.

“Without the hard work and dedication of the Friends of Hank Aaron State Trail, it’s unlikely we would ever have been able to open such a wonderful public recreation resource,” said the alderman, noting as well the strong partnering efforts of the state Department of Natural Resources, the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Brewers, Menomonee Valley Partners and Hank Aaron.

While the Hank Aaron State Trail now winds its way from Miller Park through the Menomonee Valley to the city’s lakefront, it will soon take hikers, bicyclists, walkers, runners and skaters westward along a 5.5-mile former railroad corridor. Ald Murphy became aware of the abandonment of the rail line which runs west from Miller Park to the Milwaukee-Waukesha County line and petitioned the state for expansion of the trail through the 10th District. The expansion will enable the trail to nearly double in length.

The trail extension, to be completed in 2009, will go past the historic Ward Theatre on the grounds of the National Soldiers Home, State Fair Park and the Pettit National Ice Center, along the southern edge of the Milwaukee County Zoo and connect with the Oak Leaf Trail at Underwood Creek Parkway.

Make Your Buildings Talk To You!

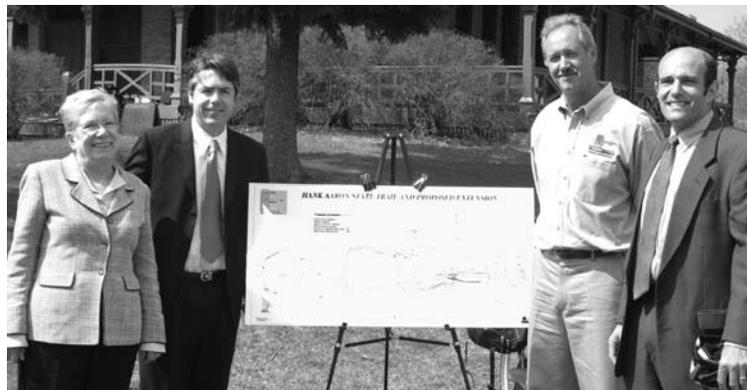
Property owners can now use the **City of Milwaukee’s E-Notify System** to have e-mail sent to you whenever the **Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS)** receives or issues any new document including recorded ownership, orders, complaints or permits. Here’s how:

1. Log in at www.city.milwaukee.gov
2. Click on “Request Services Online” in the left hand column.
3. Register your name and e-mail address to get a password.
4. Re-login at step #2 and use your password and follow the instructions.
5. Click on the “E-Notify” button.
6. Select “Location Based Notification” by checking the box and follow the instructions on entering an address to subscribe to.
7. After checking the “Completed Entering Addresses” box, remember to click the “Update Notification” button at the top before exiting.

You can also set a “range” and get notifications within 600 ft., 1,000 ft., or a half-mile. More help is available at: www.milwaukee.gov/dns



A big crowd was on hand outside Miller Park in August for the dedication ceremony marking the completion of the **Hank Aaron State Trail** from Miller Park to the lakefront. Ald. Murphy and **daughter Maggie** spent a few moments with legendary baseball great **Hank Aaron** after the ceremony.



Ald. Murphy took part in a **news conference** earlier this year announcing the state purchase of five miles of abandoned railroad right of way to **extend the Hank Aaron State Trail** from Miller Park west to Underwood Creek Parkway. Pictured with the alderman (from left) are **Mayor Jeannette Bell** of West Allis, **Scott Hassett**, secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources and **Bruce Keyes**, president of the Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail.

New Housing at 50th and Blue Mound



Construction of a planned residential development called **Story Hill Gardens** is getting underway near N. 50th St. and W. Blue Mound Rd. The small, six-dwelling subdivision will bring high-quality single-family homes to slightly more than one acre of land located just **south of Blue Mound adjacent to Mitchell Boulevard Park**. Each home will include about 2,400 square feet of living space, and each will have a driveway and a detached two-car garage. It is expected that the homes will add about \$2.5 million to the city’s tax base.

Michael Murphy

10th district alderman

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Have a Happy New Year!

Mosaic on Burleigh



Ald. Murphy (shown here with Karen Maxine Nagle, a Main Street design committee member) adds a final piece to the first **'Mosaic Obelisk'** established by **'The Mosaic on Burleigh' District**, one of four Main Street Milwaukee Districts. The program brings together public and private resources, businesses and volunteers to jump-start the revitalization of traditional neighborhood main streets.

The Mosaic on Burleigh District runs along W. Burleigh Street from Sherman Boulevard to N. 60th Street. The district is adding new park benches, flower planters, trash receptacles and obelisk sculptures that represent the culturally diverse commercial district and surrounding neighborhood. The mosaic obelisk is made from ceramic, china and porcelain pieces from neighborhood homes.

Alderman Murphy

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

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Enderis Park Neighborhood Receives Grant, Touts New Public Art

The Enderis Park Neighborhood Association (EPNA) has received a **Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative grant** from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Robert L. and Susan Mitenbuler Fund, Ald. Murphy said.

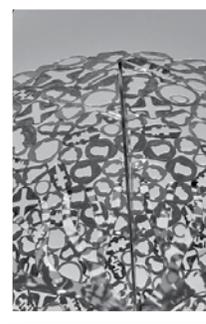
According to Bruce Cameron of the EPNA, the EPNA, Enderis East Association and Lenox Heights Neighborhood Association were three of only four neighborhoods in the city to receive the grants. The initiative targets neighborhoods in Milwaukee seen as having sufficient resources to take advantage of the grant money to continue to build on their standing as healthy communities, Cameron said.

In other EPNA news, late last month a sculpture entitled **"Magic Tree Grove"** was installed at the MPS Enderis Playfield. "This is a significant work by sculptress Nancy Metz White, who created the 'Tree of Life' at the entrance

to Miller Park off W. Blue Mound Rd. and N. 51st St.," said Cameron, noting that the group was aided in its fund raising for the sculpture by an initial grant from the **City of Milwaukee Arts Board**, chaired by Ald. Murphy.

The installation of the sculpture is meant to symbolize the culmination of a two-year renovation of the playfield, a joint project of the surrounding neighborhood associations in cooperation with local businesses and the strong financial and technical support of the **City of Milwaukee's Department of Public Works**.

The renovation work included the removal of cyclone fencing along the Lannon stone walls, installation of a colorful water drop and shade for the wading pool, handicapped accessible ramps to the pavilion, two sand volleyball courts, a running track and an additional swing set and park benches.



"The Magic Tree Grove" – created by artist/sculptor **Nancy Metz White** – was installed at Enderis Park in November 2006. Shown in the photo with Ms. Metz White are neighborhood children **John Michael Krupka** and his sister, **Anna Maria Krupka**.

"The transformation that has taken place at Enderis Playfield is truly wonderful, especially for neighborhood children and the 'young at heart' who use the facilities regularly," said Ald. Murphy.

"The neighborhood residents and groups who contributed to the project should feel tremendous pride and satisfaction at what has been accomplished."