property it owns. Call 286-8534 to report litter*(see back panel for more information)* nuisance at scattered site units (Housing Authority-owned single family and duplex) or 286-2931 for the public housing developments.

DPW Sanitation is responsible for litter on City streets, alleys and City owned vacant lots. Call 286-8282.

The **Milwaukee County Parks** are responsible for litter in County Parks. Call 257-6100.

The **Milwaukee County Public Works** Highway Maintenance Division is responsible for litter on highway lands. Call 257-6566.

The **Milwaukee Public Schools** are responsible for litter on Milwaukee Public schools and playgrounds. Call 475-8393.

OTHER ISSUES REGARDING LITTER:

Although DPW Sanitation offers Special Pick-up for some bulky waste, often residents place inappropriate items out or fail to correctly place items in a location accessible to the collection crew. Even if items are correctly placed for special pick-up, they may be scavenged and scattered to a point where they become a litter nuisance. In either case, Sanitation or DNS may order the owner to remove the litter. Call the DPW Call Center at 286-8282 for more information regarding Special Pick-up and items that are not eligible.

Proper use of garbage carts is critical in preventing litter and debris nuisances. Some helpful points to follow include:

1.) Place all garbage and litter into garbage bags that are securely tied. This prevents blowing litter.

2.) Place garbage bags into the cart, ensuring the cart does not overflow and the lid is closed and secure.
3.) Bring the cart to the collection point at the designated date and time and return it when the garbage has been collected. Call 286-8282 to report carts not returned to the property after pickup.

4.) Keep the cart accessible to the collection crew by ensuring that the area around it is free of ice and snow and that nothing else blocks it (such as a vehicle or outside pet).

5.) **If your cart is full, place additional bags of garbage on top of the cart (cover closed). This will reduce the chance that animals will tear it open and create a nuisance. If you always seem to run out of room in the cart, call sanitation at 286-8282 and request that another cart be brought to the property.**

Residents occasionally place garbage into recycling carts. This activity will result in the discontinuance of recycle collection and issuance of a clean-up order.

Community Contact Letters

Community groups can request to become part of the DNS Community Contact letter program. This allows community groups to use a custom designed DNS form to contact properties with code violations related to litter and nuisances. After a reinspection by the community group, DNS is notified and formal orders are issued to those who don't respond. Community groups should send a request to *tweile@milwaukee.gov* to join this program. Be sure to include the name of the organization, name of the individual and a contact phone number. A PDF form will be e-mailed back that can be printed on any printer. You then can print as many as you like. Call 286-5771 if you have any questions.

Want to find a property owner or track your complaint? Click on the GET PROPERTY INFORMATION button and enter the address at the City of Milwaukee Home Page

www.city.milwaukee.gov

produced by the
Department of Neighborhood Services
841 N. Broadway Rm 104
Milwaukee Wi. 53202
(414) 286-2268

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT LITTER?

A Citizens guide to understanding

- **Identifying Litter**
- **Clean-up Approaches**
- **Proper Agency to Contact**
- **Orders and Citations**
- **Special Pick-ups**
- **Special Contact Letters**

City of Milwaukee
Department of Neighborhood Services

DNS-127 Litter V1.3 TNW 1/29/07

WHAT IS LITTER?

Litter is waste, garbage, used tires, manure, stones, sand, gravel, sand, branches, ashes, cinders, sawdust, sweepings, dirt, glass, earthenware, wire, nails, construction waste, liquid waste, ice, snow, paper and all other debris and discarded material of a similar nature. **Litter can also include items stored outside, such as indoor furniture, appliances, car parts, drums, oil, oil tanks, paint, buckets, logs, brush and piles of yard waste. Covering items with a tarp or storing them on a trailer does not make them legal.** Many of these items are further defined in Milwaukee Code of Ordinances Chapter 79.

Litter is not only unhealthy and unsightly, it causes a reduction in property value and can lead to an increase in crime, rodents and other pests. Left exposed, garbage and litter will attract rats and allow them to flourish and reproduce. Rats carry diseases which can be transmitted and are harmful to humans.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I SEE LITTER?

If you can, clean it up. Speak with the tenant or property owner and ask them to clean the area. Volunteer to organize a community or block clean-up. Many community groups conduct organized clean-up activities. Join them.

WHAT IF TALKING TO MY NEIGHBOR OR THE PROPERTY OWNER DOESN'T WORK?

Report the problem to the Department of Neighborhood Services. 286-2268.

WHAT WILL DNS DO?

DNS will send an inspector to investigate the complaint. If an inspector identifies at least a bushel basket of litter, he will order the property owner to clean-up the property. A copy of the order is posted on the property for the resident as well.

WHAT IF THE RESIDENT OR PROPERTY OWNER DOESN'T COMPLY WITH THE CLEAN-UP ORDER?

DNS will refer the debris nuisance to a private contractor for clean-up. The costs associated with the clean-up are placed on the tax bill. Additional penalties may apply.

IS DNS RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING LITTER COMPLAINTS ON ALL PROPERTY?

No. DNS is responsible for investigating litter complaints on privately-owned residential and commercial properties.

WHAT OTHER AGENCIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LITTER CONTROL?

The City of Milwaukee Housing Authority is responsible for removing litter nuisances from

(see back panel for more information)