

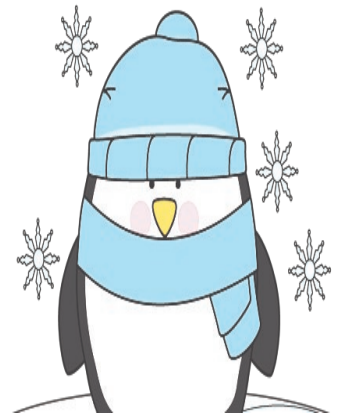
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AMANI United

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 17: December 2017



CRIME CONTINUES TO DECREASE IN AMANI

Crime in the Amani neighborhood decreased another 17.3% in the first 11 months of 2017. And this is on top of the 26.36% decrease in crime in Amani over the past four years (2012—2016). Two big reasons for this drop in crime are increased resident participation and the collaborative community development efforts of Amani agencies including the Amani United Neighborhood Association, COA Youth and Family Centers, and the Dominican Center, and a wide range of partner agencies.

Octavia Parker, Community Organizer for the Dominican Center, explains, “We keep pushing to the community that you have a voice and having all of us agencies on the same page helps.” One way the Dominican Center shows the community to be proactive against crime is by informing residents about the City of Milwaukee Mobile Service Request App. With this app residents can locate, photograph, and provide supporting information to ensure speedy resolution of issues like abandoned vehicles, graffiti, litter, potholes, and more.

Milwaukee Police Department District 5 Captain Heier says that compared to 2016 data, in the entire 5th District homicides are down by 45%, robberies are down by 20%, burglaries are down by 9%, motor vehicle theft is down by 19%, and thefts are down by 11%. Captain Heier stated: “We could not have done this without the partnerships we have developed throughout the district. Together, we have made a difference in the City of Milwaukee and we look forward to working together in 2018.”

The data continues a five year trend in Amani. According to data from the City of Milwaukee COMPASS database:

- Crime in Amani has decreased by 17.3% in the first 11 months of 2017 (January 1—November 30, 2017),
- While Amani’s crime decreased by 17.3%, so far this year (first 11 months) the citywide Milwaukee crime rate has decreased by just 2.4%.
- Overall, this means that in the first 11 months of this year there were 108 fewer crimes in Amani—a decrease from 624 the same 11 months last year to 516 crimes this year.

- The biggest decreases in crime involved the following offenses: criminal damage, entry into locked vehicles, robbery, and vehicle theft. There was also one fewer homicide than last year.
- The data also shows that Amani now has a much smaller percentage of Milwaukee’s overall crime, with Amani crime going from being 1.97% of all of the crime citywide in 2012 to 1.36% of Milwaukee crimes in the first eleven months of 2017.

COA’s Executive Director Tom Schneider notes two critical elements to this success: First, Amani residents are much more involved and are looking out for each other. Residents are now more willing to report crime, and are also participating in Amani United meetings, block watches, neighborhood cleanups, and Amani Community Fun Nights. Second, residents have been actively engaged in building new neighborhood assets in Amani like the new Moody Park, the Children’s Hospital clinic, the Burke Early Education Center, and several “pocket parks” throughout Amani.

Thanks to increased community involvement, Amani continues to see a sustained and substantial decrease in crime. Residents and local nonprofit groups that respond to violence by cleaning streets, building playgrounds, mentoring children and employing young men have a real effect on the crime rate. However, Patrick Sharkey, a sociologist at New York University, says that community groups don’t reduce crime all alone. Instead, they connect with neighbors and improve the capacity of residents to control their own streets.

The crime decrease in Amani is just one example of the incredible results that Amani can achieve thanks to residents engaging with each other to create positive change in their community.

By Tom Schneider, COA Executive Director; Octavia Parker, Dominican Center Community Organizer; and Captain Heier, Milwaukee Police Department

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Dominican Center's LISC AmeriCorps

A new group of LISC AmeriCorps members were sworn in by Mayor Tom Barrett on November 29, 2017. Please help us celebrate Dominican Center's new LISC AmeriCorps member, Dayquwan Staples. Britney Roberson, Dayquwan's supervisor and CBCR Coordinator at Dominican Center, enthusiastically pinned Dayquwan during the ceremony. Congratulations Dayquwan!



Dayquwan Staples, Mayor Barrett, and Britney Roberson

“Parent Partners” Working With Amani Families

The HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) Program empowers you as your child's first teacher and helps you give your child all the right skills needed to succeed in school and in life! COA's Goldin Center is the new home-base for two Hippy Program Parent Partners! Parent Partners *Taisha Schindel* and *Sarah Piccione* are here to connect parents with this free early child development program. The Goldin Center is located at 2320 W. Burleigh Street (24th and Burleigh).

HIPPY IS...

- **A FREE HOME-BASED** 30-week program designed to help you and your preschooler develop skills needed for school readiness and success.
- **FREE** books, activity packets, learning games, and monthly fun-filled **Family Gathering Nights** are included.
- **FUN** for you and your child as you play and learn together.
- **IMPORTANT** because your child will enter school with a love for learning that will last a lifetime.

WE ARE RECRUITING NOW UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN THAT ARE 3 OR 4 YEARS BY SEPTEMBER 1ST!

TAISHA CAN BE REACHED AT [414-514-3500](tel:414-514-3500) OR tschindel@coa-yfc.org



Auer Avenue Parent Club

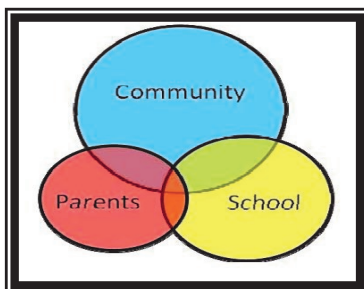
The Auer Avenue Parent Club meets every second (2nd) Tuesday of the month at Auer Avenue School. Parents along with their children have structured play activities, parent education and support, and a family meal. At the monthly meetings parents have an opportunity to meet and participate in a professional forum with other parents. Families have an opportunity to bond together to strengthen the relationships of the parents and students at the school. The goal of the Parent Club is to build relationships among parents, children, and the school community.



The Parent Club was initiated through a partnership with SET Ministries Parent Club and uses the Family and Schools Together (FASTTM) model as its evidence-based framework. FASTTM is an early intervention, award-winning model that builds protective factors around children by engaging parents and connecting them with their schools. It centers on the needs of children and the function of their families.

Auer Avenue parents are invited to come and find out how to be engaged in positively educating your child. The focus for the 2017-18 school year is how we as parents can help to find alternative discipline methods and to reduce suspensions. All parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend. Your involvement in this club is greatly appreciated.

For more information on the Auer Avenue Parent Club please contact Ms. King at (414) 418-8584 or Ms. Gore at (414) 501-0700.



New Amani Food Pantry To Open!

A new community food pantry will be opening at the COA Goldin Center at 2320 W Burleigh Street in early 2018. Initially, the new Food Pantry will be open one day each week, but hopes to expand quickly to 2 days per week. The opening day will be announced soon.

Located inside the COA Goldin Center, the pantry will be run by community volunteers and staff from the Family Resource Center located in the Goldin Center. It will be open to the entire community whether young or old, and whether or not people are participating in other COA programs.

The Center plans to provide food in a unique way. Through a partnership with Hunger Task Force, the COA family resource Center (FRC) will provide the food needed to complete a healthy diet. So rather than simple canned goods, the pantry will provide foods that give the body the essential nutrition that it needs.

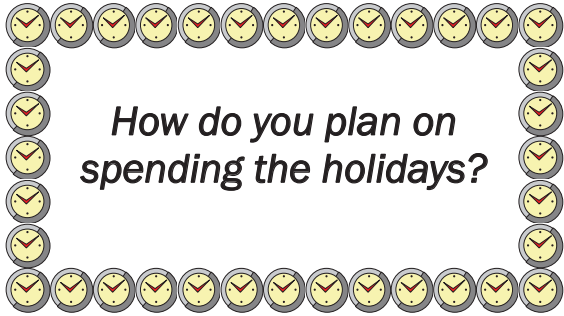
The Family Resource Center realized the need for a pantry during their annual summer meal program at the pavilion in Moody Park. COA and MCIF have been partnering to provide two meals a day to both adults and children in the summer for the past few years. Because of the rising number of participants and the increasing number of meals served, COA realized that the community needed to have access to adequate meals all year round - not just in the summer.

Since the Family Resource Center's main goal is to provide resources for the entire family, COA thought that having this pantry would be a great contribution to the Center's current participants, and would also benefit the entire surrounding community.

We hope the new food pantry will be of great assistance to the neighborhood and alleviate some of the stress our families face regarding food.

By: Princess Byers

Ask Amani



How do you plan on spending the holidays?

“Enjoy my family, my daughter, son, 4 brothers, 2 sisters, and kick back.” —Arthur West, 26th & Auer

“Coordinate an event for the men’s wellness group at Cross Lutheran Church.”—James Peterson, 24th Burleigh of 53 years

“I am a bachelor. I am going to be with family and be thankful I am here.”—Maurice Davis, Burleigh & Chambers

“Stay at home and enjoy my family. (6 children, 13 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren).” —Tommy Smith, 21st & Locust



Eligible students:

- Live or work in the 53206 ZIP code
- Have earned at least 24 college credits*
- Have not completed an associate or higher degree
- Have not attended college in the past two years
- Meet Federal Pell Grant eligibility and have independent status
- Must enroll in a program tied to in-demand careers

* If you have 18 college credits and experience in the workplace, military or government, you may be able to receive up to 6 credits for prior learning to meet the minimum required for this grant. Additional special consideration may be given to students pursuing a degree connected to education.

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West Allis 1200 South 71st Street



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An expansion of the **PROMISE**

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- Do you live or work in 53206?
- Did you start college but not complete a degree?

Grants are available to cover tuition for eligible students.

Apply online now or join us at a neighborhood enrollment event:

Tuesday, Dec. 12

- St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, 2450 W. North Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

- Center Street Library, 2727 W. Fond du Lac Ave.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

- Center Street Library, 2727 W. Fond du Lac Ave.

All event times are from 5 - 7 p.m.

Apply now before Jan. 5, 2018. Start at matc.edu/complete

Community Happenings

December

- 12/19 - Amani United Celebration — 4:30pm @ Black Historical Society, 2620 West Center St.
- 12/21 - Kwanzaa 2017 Ceremonies — 6:00PM @ Black Historical Society, 2620 West Center St.
- 12/21 - Community Fun Night — 5:00PM @ COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh St.
- 12/22 - COA Closed
- 12/26 - COA Closed
- 12/29 - COA Closed

January

- 1/2 - COA Closed
- 1/6 - Amani United Saturday Meeting — 8:30AM @ Dominican Center, 2470 W. Locust St.
- 1/8 - Amani Safety Meeting — 4:00PM @ COA, 2320 W. Burleigh St.
- 1/19 -1/21 - COA Family Resource Center Family Camp — Contact: 414-449-1757 [Goldin FRC]
- 1/23— Amani United Neighborhood Association— 4:30PM @ COA, 2320 W. Burleigh St. - All residents are invited to participate

February

- 2/3 - Amani United Saturday Meeting — 8:30AM @ Dominican Center, 2470 W. Locust St.
- 2/5 - Amani Safety Meeting — 4:00PM @ COA, 2320 W. Burleigh St.
- 2/23 - Community Fun Night — 5:00PM @ COA, 2320 W. Burleigh St. - All residents are invited to participate
- 2/23 - Black Excellence Award to Sister Patricia Rogers— @ Italian American Club, 631 E. Chicago St.
- 2/26— Amani United Neighborhood Association— 4:30PM @ COA, 2320 W. Burleigh St. - All residents are invited to participate