

# MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD TROLLEY

The Mission of the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association, through programs and projects, is to embrace and foster a sense of belonging and common purpose, resulting in a neighborhood that is beautiful, diverse, secure, and fun for everyone.

Spring 2022 Published for the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association

## Home Improvement Help Grants

From Near Westside Partners

Homeowners – Could You Use \$1,000 Towards Exterior Repair or Repair a Work Order from the City of Milwaukee? The Near West Side Partners is continuing the Live Work Play (LWP) Home Repair Grant in 2022. NWSP is offering matching grants up to \$1000 for home repairs and improvements. Home Improvement Grant Eligibility 1. All the Martin Drive Neighborhood is eligible, and the home must your primary residence 2. Property owners of all incomes are eligible. 3. All repairs must address an exterior condition visible from the street -or- corrects an emergency repair ordered by the Department of Neighborhood Services. 3. If you received a grant last year you cannot apply this year. 4. You must apply and be approved before starting the work.

LWP Home Repair Grants • This grant will match up to \$1000. If your project is \$2,000 (or more) the grant will cover \$1,000. If your project is \$500, the grant will cover up to \$250. • This grant is reimbursable & the application must be approved before work begins. Only work completed after approval will be eligible for reimbursement. • The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and approval before beginning repair work. • Repair grants MAY NOT be used for NEW construction of fences. • The number of awards is limited annually, and a wait-list will be created to manage demand.



Improvement ideas, Exterior Lighting, Painting, and Siding, Landscaping, New windows and storms, Porch Repair/or Replacement, and Replacement of defective gutters and downspouts. For inquiries, email Lindsey at NWSP at [associate@nearwestsidepartners.org](mailto:associate@nearwestsidepartners.org).



### Meeting Notice:

The next Martin Drive Neighborhood Association Meeting will be held on ZOOM for the dates listed below.

- Monday June 11 10:30 am  
**IN PERSON Meeting at Washington Park Senior Center**

Please see website or Facebook for more information.

[www.martin-drive.org/contact.html](http://www.martin-drive.org/contact.html)

Published by David Johnson for the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association



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## Neighborhood Updates

by MDNA Coordination Committee

### Summer Movies

All 4 Fridays in June: June 3, June 10, June 17 and June 24 Great time for outdoor movies at the community garden on N. 46th just off Vliet. Enjoyed by all ages! NOTE Raymond will send you more info

### Next Martin Drive Neighborhood Meeting

MDNA Meeting is Saturday, June 11, at the Washington Park Senior Center from 10:30am - 12:00 pm. We will be together in person for the first time in a long time! Our agenda will include welcoming new neighbors, summer schedule of events and activities, future planning and reports from our elected officials and community partners.

### Annual MDNA Rummage Sale

Saturday, August 6 Annual event that connects the whole neighborhood! **HELP NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT**

### Annual Summer Sizzle

Saturday, August 13 Held at the community garden this annual event is full of activities and great food as neighbors gather and relax together.

### Spooktacular

Friday, October 28 Join in the 29th Annual Trick or Treat extravaganza of night time fun for all ages. **HELP NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT**

## Project Clean & Green

Info Provided by Pat Mueller



Is a city-wide program designed to foster neighborhood pride and ownership through coordinated clean up. Martin Drive Neighborhood's Clean & Green is the week of May 16. The city will pick up to six (6) cubic yards per property of unwanted furniture, mattresses or household items, and garden/yard debris in paper yard waste bags.

How it Works:

On *YOUR REGULAR GARBAGE COLLECTION DAY*, during your assigned Project Clean and Green zone week, residents should place their unwanted items at their regular garbage collection point – either the curb or alley line. In most cases, everything will be picked up on garbage collection day, but allow through the following business day for all items to be collected.

Residents must use brown paper yard waste bags available at area stores for their garden/yard waste.

For curb pick-up, please ensure that all items are kept out of the street and instead placed along the area between the sidewalk and curb, on the lawn edge if there is no sidewalk, or at the end of the

driveway. For alley collection, place items at the alley line.

Please note: This program is only available for 1-4 dwelling unit residences serviced by the City of Milwaukee. DPW Sanitation does not collect from apartment complexes (5 or more units) or businesses.



## Vliet Street Repaving Summer of 2022

from Pat Mueller

Yes, that bumpy, pothole-ridden Vliet Street will undergo High Impact Paving sometime this summer. The timeline is still being determined. This type of paving is a fast process that should take a maximum of one week to complete. Not only will this look new and fresh, but it will be a smooth drive with clear street markings. Like the sidewalk project two years ago, the inconvenience will be so worth it.

## Alderman Survey Results

by Dave Johnson

I received a mailing from Michael Murphy's office that I found interesting so I am share with everyone here. He put out a survey to neighbors to see where he should focus his energy. I would have missed this if I didn't watch my mail carefully and read everything from Alderman Murphy. I think this is great to see. I encourage you to participate next time. He really does do something with this information, and is trying to represent everyone. Kudos to you, Alderman Murphy.

The results from that survey are:

### # Top Issues for District Ten Residents

1. Speeding and Traffic Safety
2. Crime Prevention Measures
3. More Police Officers
4. Repairing Potholes and City Infrastructure
5. Securing street surveillance cameras to promote public safety
6. Holding the line on taxes
7. Jobs and commercial revitalization
8. Ensuring street lighting remains fixed
9. More frequent pick up of recyclables
10. Free up parking spaces



## Martin Drive Association Future

By Sharon Williams

This is a question that's been asked about every five or six years over the 29 years of my membership....and every time the question is asked members gather together to find answers, and every time the vitality, the effectiveness, and the excitement returns to then "good old" MDNA.

Because of the loss and "aging out" of many old members, I think that it is now time to call another meeting dedicated to finding some answers to the question posed.

I would also suggest that an "ad hoc" committee be formed to land this special meeting. While the members of the Coordinating Committee could be its core, additional neighbors should be invited ...some older ones for a historical perspective and some "new to the neighborhood" ones for suggestions on what they need to know about MDNA.

This meeting should be heavily promoted. As in the past, informational fliers should be distributed in the neighborhoods, signs should be posted, details should be shared on all MDNA social media, and personal contacts should be made to as many new neighbors as possible. Finally, the structure of this special meeting could be suggested by a review if previous such meetings.

Our neighborhood association has a long, productive history of achieving our stated mission " ,,,,,,to foster and embrace a sense of belonging and common purpose".

Old members....new members, let's get together to plan how to continue to carry out this mission and keep our neighborhood safe, stable and full of diversity of ideas and solutions to todays problems and future beneficial activities.

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# Alderman Murphy Update



Martin Drive Residents,

Happy Spring!

After a difficult couple years dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, I am looking forward to a return to a more normal spring and summer, enjoying all Milwaukee has to offer.

An issue that will be at the top of my mind this summer is public safety, specifically as it relates to combatting the crisis of reckless driving and car theft in our city. Last year, the Common Council allocated \$6 million towards traffic calming infrastructure projects. The funds allocated included my budget amendment of \$1 million to offset special assessment costs billed to property owners, typically associated with the installation of speed humps in neighborhoods.

In addition to the above initiatives, I have sponsored two recent pieces of legislation directing the Department of Administration to lobby for change at the state level. One resolution lobbies to establish an offense of Reckless Driving Creating Imminent Threat of Serious Bodily Harm. The legislation would allow for impoundment of a vehicle upon arrest for the offense. Given the current threat to public safety this crisis has caused, I believe an important next step is taking the vehicles out of the hands of these dangerous drivers and keeping them off the streets.

The second piece of legislation calls on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to adopt the City of Milwaukee's Complete Street Policy for work on streets controlled by the state and when transportation projects utilize State and/or Federal Funds within the City of Milwaukee limits. The Complete Streets policy, adopted by the Common Council in 2018, works to ensure streets are designed for pedestrians and safety first.

I will continue doing my part to utilize all available resources to combat this growing crisis.

Take care ! Alderman Murphy

**HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR friends' small business WITHOUT SPENDING ANY MONEY**  
@ADRIAADAMSCO

- SHARE THEIR POST
- LIKE THEIR POST
- TAG A FRIEND
- COMMENT SOMETHING NICE
- COMMENT AN EMOJI
- POST A PIC (especially if you're in the neighborhood)
- SHOUT THEM OUT
- LEAVE A REVIEW



From farm to fire- locally sourced, mobile wood-fired pizza and provisions. Find us around town for pop-ups and event catering and be sure to follow us on Facebook or [flourgirlandflame.com](http://flourgirlandflame.com)



**NEAR WEST SIDE**  
*A Neighborhood of Neighborhoods*  
 "Live, Work, Play, and Stay"  
[nearwestsidemke.org](http://nearwestsidemke.org)

**Bonjour, Charles here-**  
 Join us on the patio



5811 W. Vliet St. (414) 305-1458



Hey, you should pop by!  
 3809 W. Vliet St.  
[petespops.net](http://petespops.net)

# I 94 East- West Corridor Study

Taken from flier sent to announce study info.

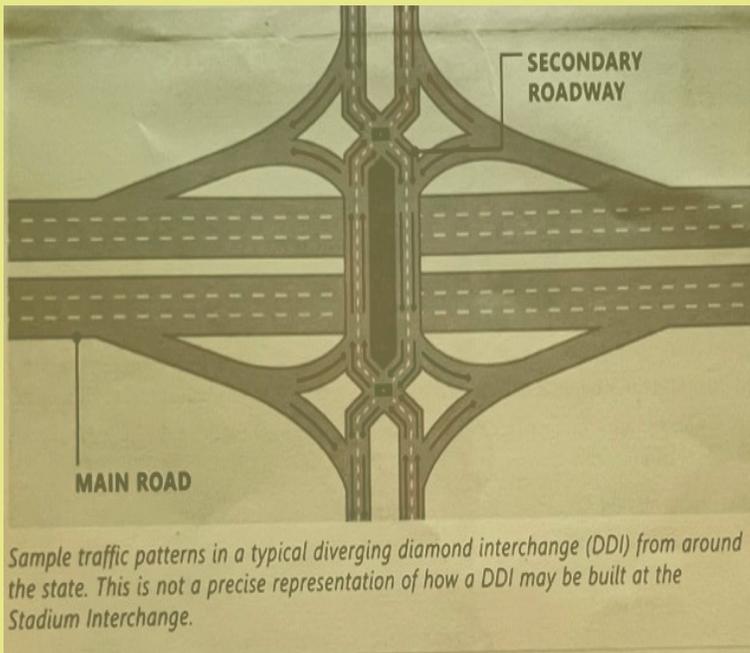
## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

Please join the Wisconsin Dept of Transportation at either of two open house style public involvement meetings. You are invited to view I-94 East-West Corridor study information and talk with project staff and share your thoughts.

The I-94 East-West Corridor extends from just west of 70th St. to 16th street on I-94 and from Wisconsin Avenue to just south of the Stadium Interchange on Wis 175/ Brewers Blvd.

Participants in earlier discussions were able to take advantage of this reconstruction effort to link Hank Aaron trail with Oak Leaf Bike trail. This connects both bike trails together making safer south and east and west bike travels for martin drive neighbors. Please consider stopping to study presentation.

Same info presented both nights



**Tuesday, June 14, 2022 4pm to 7pm**

***At Tommy Thompson Youth Center***

***In State Fair park enter gate 5***

***640 S 84th St.***

***MCTS routes 33/44***

Or

**Wednesday, June 15, 2022 4pm to 7pm**

***At Marquette University High School***

***3401 N Wisconsin Ave Enter from***

***Michigan St. Parking Lot.***

***MCTS Routes 35/30/gold line***



## Garden Cleanup Photos



**The Valley Inn**  
4000 W Clybourn  
Local Owner with Great Food  
Spirits & Friday Fish Fry  
Call to order or stop in  
414-344-1158

## MARTIN DRIVE BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

| <u>BLOCK</u>                       | <u>REPRESENTATIVE NAME</u>       | <u>contact</u>            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 47TH - STATE STREET                | CINDY COBB                       | 414-331-3085              |
| 46TH - VLIET ST. TO JUNEAU AVE.    | LYNN GRAGES & PAUL NEYMEYR       | 414-344-1362              |
| 46TH - JUNEAU AVE. TO MARTIN DRIVE | CHRISTINE HAPPEL & KEVIN SCHULTZ | 414-916-2465              |
| 45TH - VLIET ST. TO JUNEAU AVE     | JEFF MITCHELL                    | mitchelljeffery@gmail.com |
| 45TH - JUNEAU AVE. TO MARTIN DRIVE | KATHY Mc CAULEY                  | 414-517-9797              |
| 44TH - VLIET ST TO JUNEAU AVE      | VERONICA MANCHENO                | 414-315-1898              |
| 44TH - JUNEAU AVE. TO MARTIN DRIVE | CHUCK LANDRY                     | 414-344-1331              |
| 43RD - VLIET ST. TO JUNEAU AVE.    | RAYMOND DUNCAN                   | 414-294-3828              |
| 43RD - JUNEAU AVE. TO MARTIN DRIVE | SHARON WILLIAMS                  | 414-933-6800              |
| 43RD - MARTIN DRIVE TO HIWAY RAMP  | CHARLOTTE JACKSON                | charjackson@att.com       |
| 42ND - VLIET TO Mc KINLEY CT.      | ABBY & ERIC ROSE                 | 920-207-2251              |
| Mc KINLEY CT. - HIGHLAND AVE..     | MARY ANDRES                      | 414-526-2742              |
| MARTIN DR. APTS. TO HIGHLAND AVE.  | SHARON WILLIAMS                  | 414-933-6800              |
| HIGHLAND EAST AND WEST SIDE        | <b>NEED REPRESENTATIVE</b>       |                           |
| 40TH - MCKINLEY TO VLIET           | BILL THOMPSON                    | 815-814-6880              |
| 39TH - MCKINLEY TO VLIET           | <b>NEED REPRESENTATIVE</b>       |                           |
| 38TH - MCKINLEY TO VLIET           | <b>NEED REPRESENTATIVE</b>       |                           |
| 37TH/PL- MCKINLEY TO VLIET         | <b>NEED REPRESENTATIVE</b>       |                           |
| 36TH - MCKINLEY TO VLIET           | <b>NEED REPRESENTATIVE</b>       |                           |
| VLIET- HIGHLAND TO 39TH            | <b>NEED REPRESENTATIVE</b>       |                           |

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### Vliet Street Business-



#### 2022 District Three Crime and Safety Meeting Dates:

- Thursday, January 27th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, February 24th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, March 31st, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, April 28th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, May 26th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, June 30th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, July 28th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, August 25th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, September 29th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, October 27th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- Thursday, November 17th, 2022 at 5:30PM
- No December meeting due to holidays

Join District Three Commander, Captain Herb Glidewell in hearing about crime statistics for the district, meet some of your local neighbors and business owners, and learn about new safety topics each month to bring back to your neighborhood. Community Liaison Officers and Community Partnership Officers will be available to answer your questions!



Join the meeting by visiting [bit.ly/mpd3-crimesafety](http://bit.ly/mpd3-crimesafety) or scan the QR code!

222 Lincoln St. Milwaukee, WI 53210 Phone: 414-935-7234 Community Liaison Phone: 414-935-7233 Email: mpd3@milwaukee.gov

## Crime and Safety Meetings announcement and giveaway

The Milwaukee Police Department District Three will hold their monthly Crime & Safety meeting today on Zoom. Meet your local Police Commander, Captain Herb Glidewell, learn about crime statistics in your police district, meet neighbors and business owners, and learn about safety tips to keep you safe.

Safe & Sound will be giving away ONE Ring doorbell camera or flood light to one resident in attendance during the Crime & Safety meeting each month in 2022. If you have not registered for Crime & Safety meetings this year, registration is required (link below). I've attached the flyer with all information. Please share widely and attend if you are able!

SAFE & SOUND PROUDLY SPONSORS

# Ring Camera Giveaway



Each month at the District 3 Crime & Safety meeting hosted by District 3 Captain Glidewell and the Community Partnership Unit, Safe & Sound will giveaway one Ring Doorbell Camera or flood light to one resident in attendance.



Join the meeting by visiting [bit.ly/mpd3-crimesafety](http://bit.ly/mpd3-crimesafety) or scan the QR code!

#### WHAT IS A CRIME & SAFETY MEETING?

Learn about crime statistics for the district, meet some of your local neighbors and business owners, and learn about new safety topics each month to bring back to your neighborhood.

MEETING DATES ON BACK



### Police Numbers

All Emergencies Dial 911

Non Emergency 933-4444

District Notification 935-7232

Drug House Reports Gang unit  
935-7968 Lieutenant 935-7231

Captain's office 935-7230



# Possible Colorful Crosswalk Project

Concept by Pat Mueller with AWE

This is to make you aware that collaboration is going on between AWE, Alderman Murphy, and the Vliet Street DPW Paving Project. We are working with Alderman Murphy and the DPW to see if it is possible to replace the current crosswalks across Vliet Street on the west side of Highland, at 43rd and at 45th Streets with colorful artistic crosswalks. These are the locations of the current (3) crosswalks west of Highland.



The initial idea was to combine this project with a block party or mini-artist fair but once into the planning, we realized the exact dates are not currently scheduled and there are many factors, like weather that can change the project timeline. No matter what, neighborhood input and engagement will be involved.



This is more difficult than you might think as everyone's safety must be the first consideration. If the collaboration is successful, we will submit a Community Improvement Project Application through the City of Milwaukee NIDC for half of the cost and start raising money for the other half. The total cost of three crosswalks is \$6,000. It is an ideal time because we have the perfect, smooth surface and will already have the street closed. It will be a colorful

gateway from Martin Drive to Washington Park and vice versa. Martin Drive Pride in action again. We promise to keep you posted.



# Artists Working In Education – AWE

Expect to see some positive changes on Vliet Street during this upcoming season. Artists Working in Education which has been rather quiet at its 43rd & Vliet Street location since the pandemic will again start using their space on a more regular basis. They are increasing their



staff to allow them to be more present at this location and available to the community.



**Publishers Note :** Here are some sample of pictures of projects that have been done, This series of articles is something we can join together to help make a reality and bring light to our Neighborhood and good that can be done. Scope and actual project to be determined if we can gain neighborhood and city support. Like the sidewalk project two years ago, the inconvenience will be so worth it.



# WI Legislative Update by Evan Goyke

## State Representative 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Dear Martin Drive Neighbors, Some updates from my office

**401(K)ids**  
This bill would create a savings account for every child born or adopted in Wisconsin. The State would provide a modest initial investment and would manage the investments in the accounts to allow every child access to an interest-earning account. Family members, faith-based or philanthropic organizations, as well as the account holder can make contributions to the account. When account holders turn 18, they would be able to use the money saved for education, buying a home, a medical emergency, or they could continue to keep the account earning interest under the State's management.

**Proposal would open accounts for kids at birth**  
Republican plan would benefit most families for Wisconsin babies

**The Benefits of Early Saving**

These lines show two people, both starting with the same small amount each year. The blue line represents someone who began saving from birth, while the red line represents someone who began saving at the age of 25. By beginning early and taking advantage of compound interest, the individual that began saving at birth retired with **6 times as much savings**.

The goal of this bill is to provide our next generation with an opportunity to go to college, to help purchase a home, to avoid falling into debt, or to be better prepared for their retirement. These benefits can help break the cycle of poverty we see too clearly in our community and the idea of universal saving at birth has been argued to be one of the most impactful tools to begin to close the racial wealth gap in Wisconsin.



### HOW TO CONTACT EVAN

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708

Phone: (608) 266-0645 Toll-free: (888) 534-0018  
Email: [rep.goyke@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rep.goyke@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
Web: <http://goyke.assembly.wi.gov>

## Calendar

Compiled by MDNA Steering Committee

*Mark your calendar!*

Watch for announcements via listserv emails or MDNA website, Facebook, and neighborhood signs for updates about movie night, meet and greets, MDNA Meetings, the neighborhood rummage sale, and other pandemic impacted MDNA events.

Look for Next Meeting info on [www.martin-drive.org](http://www.martin-drive.org) or Facebook

- June 11 10:30 am — MDNA Meeting at Wash Park Senior Center
- June 3,10 17,24 — MDNA Movies in Garden Weather Permitting
- Aug 6 — MDNA Rummage Sale
- Aug 13 — MDNA Summer Sizzle
- Oct 28 — MDNA 29th Annual Spooktacular

CHECK WEBSITE and FACEBOOK For more current information.

This session I was honored to serve as the senior Assembly Democrat on the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance. This is Wisconsin's most powerful Legislative committee, responsible for setting our state's two-year budget. This new role meant the ability to elevate the priorities of our community into the budget process, advocate for additional investments in Milwaukee, and support the work of Governor Evers to move Wisconsin forward.

### 2021-2022 Committee Assignments:

- ▶ Joint Committee on Finance
- ▶ Corrections
- ▶ Joint Legislative Council
- ▶ Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties
- ▶ Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions



Attending a public hearing of the Joint Finance Committee to receive public input on the State Budget



Working at my desk on the floor of the Wisconsin State Assembly



Sharing pictures of my newborn son with visiting dentists from the district during their annual advocacy day



Speaking at a press conference to address corrections reform efforts

## Do You Love Washington Park? By Pat Mueller

Frederick Law Olmsted designed our Washington Park. This year is the 200th anniversary of his birth. According to Wikipedia, Frederick Law Olmsted (April 26, 1822 – August 28, 1903) was an American landscape architect, journalist, social critic, and public administrator. He is considered to be the father of landscape architecture. He designed many of the world's favorite parks like Central Park in New York and the Mall in Washington DC. He believed in a grand entryway to the parks and thus we have Highland, Washington, and Sherman Boulevards. He believed the parks were for all the people and hence he supported public transportation as a gateway to the parks. He was an amazing forward thinker, designer, and purveyor of social justice.

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum has an exhibit about Olmsted's influence on Milwaukee. The exhibit called In the Park With Olmsted: A Vision of Milwaukee runs until September 25th.

If you love the park, you should know several groups are working to promote the park.

Washington Park Neighbors is a non-profit with the mission of producing the Washington Park Wednesday concert series, Melissa Muller is the Board President.

Friends of Washington Park- a newly formed park friends' group. It has the broad mission of promoting, maintaining, and improving Washington Park to make it Milwaukee's "City Park" It was formed by Pete Cooney of Pete's Pops, and he is acting as the initial President.

# Fellow Gardeners and Their Supporters

By Jerry Burns



I often kick myself for not having taken “Before” pictures to demonstrate the dramatic differences when improvements have been made. That is the case in thinking about the before and after appearance of the community garden AFTER two or three hours of work on Saturday, of Earth Day weekend. Pat Mueller had ordered a truckload of mulch, and we had a round-up of wheelbarrows, shovels, hoes, rakes and other garden implements. At the end of two or three hours, a very impressive pile of fresh mulch had been spread, one of the compost bins had been filled with raked leaves, the tool shed had been de-cluttered, and a lot of sun and warmth had been absorbed by the workers.

Our work was very significantly assisted by a group of 10 students from a Marquette sorority. Some of the accompanying pictures (coming in a separate email) reveal how diligently—and cheerfully—they contributed to our efforts. I’d like to think we were able to give them something in return (aside from learning how to sing “The Garden Song”). I was reminded of how many people I know, along with my wife and I, were transplants to Milwaukee from other places (Pennsylvania and New Jersey in our case) and ended up staying because of features of the city or relationships they formed here. The ten students call Kentucky, Kansas, Ohio, Minnesota, and Illinois (five of them) home, but I’d like to think that some of them will stay in the city after graduation to enrich our community with their knowledge and talents. What I hope they took away in return was a sense of the importance of community-building.

In reflecting on Earth Day weekend on that grand concept of Community-Building, I thought of no fewer than ten ways that our gardening efforts can contribute to that, and of how a community garden is more than the sum of its parts – the parts being 12 plots in this case and 12 gardeners.

1. Our experience on Saturday demonstrated how “many hands make light work” and how collective efforts can have a seemingly disproportionate impact. Moving that compost pile would have been an overwhelming task for one or two individuals.

2. Even though working in the garden is a very manageable “quick-release” activity, doing it together is a great way of getting to know our neighbors and sharing our successes (or disappointments)

3. While some of us are fortunate enough to have our own personal garden spaces at home, gardening together allows us to nurture our sense of public-spiritedness and reminds us vividly that we’re part of a larger social order and that we haven’t chosen to live in a gated community.

4. Being part of a community garden assumes an investment in what some cities call “The Commons” or the common spaces shared by all. The commons in this case represents the paths, the compost bins, the water tank, the tool shed, the pavilion, and the surrounding area. If you are able-bodied and were unable to be present on Saturday, we hope that you’ll carve out an equivalent amount of time to tend to the common areas at some point soon. Some of the needed tasks are obvious, but I’d be happy to point out things that need to be done if necessary.

5. Being part of a community garden implies that one’s own plot reflects, for better or worse, on the rest of the garden. In that sense, it’s like a microcosm of the neighborhood. I have found myself motivated these last two

years by the innovations of other gardeners, and have learned things from their experiences. On the other hand, plots that are left untended can be slightly demoralizing for other gardeners. Worse, they can attract nuisances—animal and human. Untended plots are the equivalent of garbage carts left on the sidewalk several days after pick-up. They say, “Nobody’s home here.”

6. Being part of a community garden raises the possibility that the site will be an attractive focal point for other public-spirited activities. Most of these events have declined or been suspended during the period of Covid, but we hope we are seeing the light at the end of that tunnel, and that the garden area can once again host events as in the past, such as the Friday night movies and the summer picnic. I know that “beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” but we hope that individual gardeners will keep their plots as aesthetically pleasing as they can to make the site an inviting place to gather for such events. Straw and landscaping fabric are available to help suppress weeds, and a bin will be available for when they’re un-suppressible. (Please consider the outside edges of your plot as an extension of yours, for which it’s your responsibility to keep weeded.)



7. Having a dozen or so individuals involved implies that there will often be eyes and boots on the ground, which is really the only kind of security that we have to prevent theft or damage. I have known of some community gardens in which

the gardener functioned like an absentee landlord, who was never around. And I’ve even known of a case where the gardener essentially “sub-let” the plot to someone who lived in a different neighborhood. Let’s try to create a sense of “presence” in the garden, even if that just means strolling by a few times a week to see how your plants are coming along. Or putting upper 46th Street on your dog-walking route as I will be doing.

8. The community garden presents a great opportunity for burden-sharing, although “burden” is probably too strong of a word. I expect to be out of town several times this summer, but I know that I can count on other gardeners to keep my plot watered if necessary. Or to pick my tomatoes if they reach their prime in my absence (in which case a local food pantry would be a good beneficiary). I suspect that most of us are in that situation, so just ask if you need someone to fill in for you. Or you can ask me and I’ll identify a person for you.

9. “Economies of Scale.” Having a dozen of us going in together on a similar undertaking allows us to procure needed supplies at less expense. The mulch on Saturday is a good case in point. If you find yourself in need of some item, let us know. Chances are that others do as well, and we can go in together in procuring it. Our garden already comes with a tool-sharing feature. If you’re a new gardener, there’s no need to go out and buy a shovel, a hoe, a rake and a pitchfork. All are present in the tool shed.

10. Sharing connections to resources. With a dozen gardeners involved, probably one of us has connections with something we can use in the garden. There’s a small craft brewery on North Avenue, for instance, that at times is willing to provide “spent grain,” which would be good for the compost heap if someone re-establishes that connection (I think it’s New Ventures). Those kinds of connections are how we procured bales of straw (feel free to use), the pallets used in constructing the compost bins (which we hope you will also use: Leave some and/or take some compost). Right now we are in need of a replacement 8-foot 2x6 for one of the plots, and we hope to secure one without paying today’s sky-high prices for lumber. Might you know someone with one in their garage?

## City Tax Levy Explained Provided by Pat Mueller

The city's property tax levy as explained by Bob Bauman is the (total amount of revenue to be raised through property taxes) and is not determined until the common council approves the budget. This happens in early November. Then the total assessed value of non exempt real property is divided by the tax levy to generate the tax rate per \$1000 of valuation. Then one can divide their assessment by 1000 and then multiple the result by the tax rate to determine the city property tax. BTW, the property tax levy represents a relatively small portion of the total revenue the city receives to cover all budgeted expenses. In 2022 the total city budget is \$1.7b.

However, property owners received a combined property tax bill in December. This bill combines the property tax for five taxing jurisdictions: City, County, MPS, MMSD and MATC. Each jurisdiction determines their tax levy and tax rate independently but in essentially the same way as the city.

The city tax levy for 2022 is \$305m and the city tax rate is \$10.16 per \$1000 of valuation. If memory serves the combined tax rate (all five taxing jurisdiction) is about \$27 for 2022. In 2023 the city tax rate may decline given the large increase in total assessed value. The city tax levy should be close to the 2022 level since there are state imposed limits on the amount the tax levy can increase. The 2023 tax levy cannot be predicted or tax rate for the other taxing jurisdictions.

By way of example, if one's assessment is \$200,000 you would divide 200,000 by 1000 yielding a result of 200. Multiple 200 by the 2022 tax rate of \$10.16 to determine your city property tax of \$2,032. Based on a combined tax rate of approximately \$27, the combined property tax would be \$5,400.

## Martin Drive Volunteers make it

### happen By Terri Bartlett

Volunteers make things happen. Its true. It's not to say the world would stop spinning without them, but honestly, look at all the charity outreaches, non for profits, community building, humanitarian, educational institutions and fun events around you. None can happen to the extent that they become a success and even tradition without volunteers. Many hands make the task light. I have lived in the Martin Drive Neighborhood for 20+ years and love it, because of its old fashion neighborhood feeling. This means communication between not only neighbors next door, but also neighbors on different streets in the neighborhood and their willingness to promote and maintain that sense of a safe community. This only happens because people volunteer to take the time to help on tasks that supports our neighborhood.

The last few years have been a challenge to maintain community, but we still have been able to foster communication and the spirit of Martin Drive. Limited, it is still proactive. We have

seen many new neighbors the last few years who we would like to say a formal hello and welcome into our special neck of the woods, so we hope the neighborhood meetings, events being planned and community picnic offers that this year. There's so much about our neighbors in our neighborhood that we want to share.

We are known as a strong neighborhood community in our city and that does not come by sitting and watching someone else do. We have worked hard and consistently, often using neighbors on all streets and government officials to keep us safe and proactive. Improvement grants come to us, because we follow through. Drug houses and areas are closed and people arrested, because we watch and report. Properties are maintained, because we know, if we allow breakdown, it sends a message that no one cares and we will be broken down. We get government and law enforcement assist, because we are willing to work more than 50/50 to keep our community a community of which we are proud. Neighborhood events promote fun, communication, friendships, neighbors and neighborhood. We help each other. That being said, those events are organized solely by volunteer neighbors. Many have been doing them for years: many have held different positions and helped while raising families. To give an idea what your neighbors do, I'll try to list the major ones and a few more, but the list is not everything. Forgive me if I missed you. I've listed the event, number of volunteers and the person in charge for the Traditional Martin Drive Neighborhood events through the seasons

- 1. Spring Community cleanup 5-25 volunteers, Pat Mueller/Jerry Burns**
- 2. Plant spring sale = 5-12 volunteers, Pat Mueller**
- 3. Community garden. 5-20 volunteers, Jerry Burns**
- 4. July white elephant rummage sale Sharon Williams**
- 5. Community Picnic Organized by MDNA coordination committee**
- 6. Movies under the stars 1-2 volunteers, Raymond Duncan**
- 7. Halloween Spooktacular 50-150 volunteers, Terri Bartlett**
- 8. Red bow Christmas decorations, 6-10 volunteers, Tom Gilliard lead volunteer**
- 9. Christmas Caroling & pot luck, 5-30 volunteers, Raymond Duncan**
- 10. Martin Drive Newsletter, 1-3 volunteers, Dave Johnson**

In addition to the planning committee's normal duties, Arleen Chambers assures the signs are out in strategic scorners pots to notify Martin Drive residents and passers-by regarding upcoming events and Raymond, is a Jack of many trades, organizes and does the Movie under the stars, our social media and is our email groups gate keeper plus oh, so much