

TROLLEY

Meeting Reminder **Meeting Notice:** The next Martin Drive Neighborhood Association Meeting

No meeting planned for immediate future watch face book or Martin Drive Web site for announcements

Please see website or Facebook for more information. www.martin-drive.org/contact.html

Published by David Johnson for the Martin **Drive Neighborhood Association**

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The Martin Drive Neighborhood Association is an unfunded association made up of neighbors who volunteer many hours of their time for the greater good of the neighborhood. We always need YOU to volunteer. This enriches your life in the neighborhood and the whole community.

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 2023 Published for the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association

MDNA Coordinating Committee News: And Then There were Three! Bv Marv Andres

The four person MDNA Coordinating

communications in our community.

Committee will become a trio at the end of the summer when committee member Mary Andres steps aside. The committee has

been a committee of four these last 5 years and includes Arlene Chambers, Charlotte Jackson, Raymond Duncan as well as Andres, and helps to coordinate neighborhood activities, events and

The current committee has been preceded by many leadership

structures over the 25+ years of the Association's history as many

neighbors have stepped up to work as servant leaders, prioritizing

for the greater good. There are many ways to be involved in the

Coordinating Committee, training is provided, so please consider

responding to: mdna-cc@googlegroups.com and keep it a quar-

neighborhood from simple greetings, to sharing resources, to meeting with neighbors. If you are interested in serving on the

charles e. fromage fred's diner burgers & custord bistro - craft cocktails & snacks valentine coffee roasters) o'briens pub hish bar & aril pour overs, lattes & espresso neighborhood draft caradaro club casual food & craft beer neighborhood pizza Cold spoons gelato soup market soup & sandwiches gelati & sorbetti highlands cafe wy'east www.meetonviet.com wood fred pizza breakfast & lunch spot

their center allowing them to reach more children and benefit more families and residents. While this expansion takes place, the UEC will use the pool building to continue its work until that project is done.

Project Clean & Green

is a city-wide

DRIVE

program designed to foster neighborhood pride and ownership through coordinated clean up. Collection crews will target one zone each week. Martin Drive's week is May 15. Get your things out by the garbage pickup which will be May **18th**. They will collect up to six (6)

cubic yards per property of unwanted furniture, mattresses or household

items, and garden/yard MARTIN debris in paper yard waste Ш bags.



tet or perhaps even larger.

New HUB PARK in

Harley Space

past few months. Harley Davidson, an undeniable

economic and stabilizing force in this neighborhood, announced plans for the new Hub Park. This park will convert two full blocks of parking lots into a picture-perfect entertainment venue, with a naturalized play area and other amenities adjacent to their headquarters at 37th & Highland/Juneau. Designed by a London design firm, it will be the first LEED certified outdoor space in the US. That means it will be green and provides a framework for healthy, efficient, cost-saving space.

The small park along Highland

and across from Molson- Coors will most likely be renamed Harley Park. In turn, Harley will contribute towards maintenance of the park for ten years as proposed. A groundbreaking for the hub park has happened and the ceremony has already taken place.

Dreamers hope that someday this park can be used for an entry to the Hank Aaron Bike Trail.

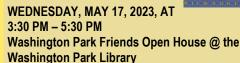
Old & New - While you ponder the excitement of a wonderful new park, remember that we are near a worldly treasure called Washington Park, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. It has seen a resurgence in the past decade, with weekly summer concerts in Washington Park on Wednesdays and other improvements. The Urban Ecology Center (UEC) is set for expanding their building with a cost upwards of \$13 million dollars. The expansion brings more programs, more meeting, and educational spaces in



Newly Organized Friends of Washington Park Group.

News from Pat Mueller and Peter Burgelis

The Washington Park Friends' groups are a vehicle for park users, and advocates, which offer input and support on improvements to the parks. To learn more, come to an open house.



This open house is sponsored by our County Supervisor Peter Burgelis, the Parks People of Milwaukee County and Washington Park Friends. You will have a chance to prioritize what is important at Washington Park, to activate, preserve, maintain and improve safety. access to this beautiful park.

As you ponder things old and new, as you read daily about budget constraints in the city, county, and state, understand things will changed and your support is needed more than ever. Milwaukee County has 180 parks. Our parks have \$500 to \$600 million in deferred maintenance needing to be addressed. Do what you can where you can.

Washington Park Friends Group Link: (20+) Washington Park Friends | Milwaukee WI | Facebook



Calendar

Compiled by MDNA Trolley editor from Coordinating Committee and Article Contributors 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 MDNA events. Look for Next Meeting info on www.martin-drive.org or Facebook

No Martin Drive Meeting planned at this time watch for announcements.

May 2,3,4 Aquatic Facility use study open for public comments 4-7pm see page 4 for location including Washington Park

May 11 4-7pm Dept of Transportation 175 public meeting Washington Park Page 4 for more details

Week of May 15 Project Clean and Green Check Your Garbage Day Page 6 for more info

May 17 3:30 to 5:30 pm Washington Park Friends open house at Wash Park Library. Pg 4 for more details

May 25th NWS Quarterly Meeting and Resource Fair See Pg 4 this issue for more info

June Fridays: June 2, 9, 16, 23 and June 30 Summer Movies Under the Stars at Neighborhood Garden at dusk Watch Web site and facebook for more info

August 5 Saturday Neighborhood wide Rummage Sale Save the Date

August 12 Saturday Summer Sizzle picnic at Neighborhood Garden Save the date

Parking Permit Changes See Alderman Murphy's article for more information

The City of Milwaukee has recently made improvements in its parking permit system including more flexibility for length of time being purchased, additional opportunities to buy permits, and reminder notifications prior to permit expiration.



Customers now have the option to purchase monthly, weekly, and daily parking permits. PARKING Previously, those seeking a parking permit only had the option to purchase either an annual or 4-month (trimester) permit, and after purchase the permit was only applicable for the remainder of the trimester or annual permit period.

NOTHING

PROIECT



Calling Community Members for Garden Sing By Terri Bartlett

Recently, I came across an invite to a folk sing in Canada! Although I couldn't go, I thought what a lovely idea. So, I spoke to Marc Powers who does sing alongs and joins the Christmas caroling group, about doing the same thing once the weather warms up. We thought if it is scheduled once a month, in the Martin Drive community garden area after supper on a weeknight, folks who like to sing, play an instrument, or just listen can join us as inclined. We would just need to know what songs we should put on the singalong sheet. With that in mind, we would like you to e-mail Marc with your top 3 folks songs at Oldmangower@gmail.com. We are thinking of starting the last week in May. The day and time are to be determined. We do have many musicians and singers in this fine neighborhood, so I hope you'll join and enjoy.

The Buy Nothing Project By Pat Mueller

Ever since doing major clean-ups, picking up litter on our neighborhood streets and seeing how much trash the average American sends to the landfill annually I have been very conscious of my footprint on this earth. I am not alone. I grew

up in a family that saved things because they might be useful later. Like carelessly littering, this is a hard habit to break. How about making those things available for someone who will use them now? I have been using this site and posting things with a photo for someone to claim. You can do it several ways, post a photo of your item, allow people to express interest and then put it on your porch or a designated location for them to pick up. You can also put something at the curb and take a photo. Washington Heights has a Buy Nothing Facebook page. That is where I post and I have had 100% of my things claimed and claimed quickly. Start your post with the title GIVE or FREE. Quick description of the item and a photo. We could sign up for our own Facebook page but since Washington Heights has so many more people and is so close, it works well for now. Martin Drive neighbors can post on their page. Here is the link. (20+) Buy Nothing Washington Heights, Milwaukee, WI | Facebook



2023 Near West Side **Tree Installation**

From Near West Side Organization

As a part of Near West Side Partner's ongoing efforts to

green and beautify the neighborhood. we are excited to offer residents the opportunity to plant trees on their street fac-



ing property! Eleven trees are being offered at a discounted price of \$100. Trees can be purchased at the discounted rate arranged as part of this initiative.

Several native tree species as well as other species have been selected in consultation with Johnson's Nursery, which will lead the site review and installation process. The tree planting program is made possible because of financial support from Wintrust Community Banks, and the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking.

Interested Near West Side property owners may apply by completing the form and submitting a \$100 deposit to Near West Side Partners. Apply now, supply is limited.

To apply click here or visit

https://docs.google.com/ forms/d/ e/1FAlpQLSdJfwKQ76bVy40 bNCC89RVhHIooBPGoAe4ewveUSpbDQIENw/viewform? vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

Your Support Local Business It Means the Most Most of our

local business are still struggling. Sup-

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IEAR WI	EST	SIDE
A Neighborhood	of Neigh	borhoods

Community Connections Small **Grants Program**

From Terri Bartlett

A few months back while traveling and seeing such wonderful creative ideas, I reached out to the neighborhood to see if anyone was interested in an idea I had, which I briefly explained and shared examples. The feedback was great, so I wrote up the grant. Because I was in an area without consistent connection, I asked Pat Mueller if she could put my info in the grant application form for me. She was more than happy to do so and added a few tweaks, being more experienced than I in that arena. Thank you, Pat Mueller.

I just received a response from Randy Claudio, Executive Assistant of Building Your Dreams LLC, noting they received it and are currently reviewing all applications. Grant determinations will be announced early in May.

Because there was such a great response from many talented neighbors, I thought I'd go ahead and plan the project and if we get the grant, whoopee. I'll need more neighborhood volunteers to have fun with this project.

I will send out an invitation to those who first responded to me to meet later in May. I know there are more who didn't respond, but I know will want to jump on the band wagon. Please, let me know if you are one of them. The more the merrier.

If we have a neighborhood meeting before summer starts, I hope to offer an informative breakdown. If not, I'll plan one so interested parties can attend and participate. I will be also be offering a list of materials needed, of which some may be in your garage or basement just taking up space! So, please stay tuned. There's always room for one or more to have fun. Terri Bartlett

Terribartlett007@gmail.com



Community Happenings: Flyer & Announcements Page

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE >> North 12th Street to North 27th Street

The City of Milwaukee, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), is preparing to begin the West Vliet Street reconstruction project between North 27th Street to North 12th Street (1.023 miles



- Street and N. 27th Street, is scheduled to close to traffic until mid-summer while crews work to reconstruct the roadway. One lane of westbound traffic will be maintain
- » N. 17th Street (WIS 57) at W. Vliet Street, is scheduled to be reduced to one lane in each direction while crews work to reconstruct the outside lanes.
- Side streets, south of W. Vliet Street, are scheduled to close to through-traffic during this stage of construction.
- » N. 14th Street, betv W. Juneau and W. Vliet Street, is scheduled to temporarily allow bi-directional traffic to maintain access to the Martin Luther King Center parking lot

Access to businesses and residences will be maintained throughout construction.

Î57

Please note that all work is weather dependent and subject to change

Gratitude By Maggie Blaha

Gratitude for neighbors cleaning off the sewer grates. Really thrilled with the flowering plants at each home. Almost ready to share plants or shrubs, or doggy doo bags. Talking to the neighbors also out walking, working or sitting. Instant frustration over messy side/back yards Take every opportunity to pick up litter. U mean so much to each of your neighbors. Do not take your efforts for granted but are probably curious. Everyone living in Martin Drive makes life more pleasant.

Which block or street in Martin Drive would you identify as the ideal place for your family to live? Why? How many of your neighbors:

- Do you recognize? •
- Do you know by name?
- Can you identify their car(s)?
- Encourage you to be alert to their pets?
- Do you have some perspective of their health issues?
- Do you recognize possible physical needs?
- Can you recognize people from any street other than yours?



3809 W. Vliet St. petespops.net





Kick off the summer with our 4th anniversary week!

June 13th—Open for Tues. in the summer, and Tues. Trivia!

June 15th — The first concert of our Summer Rooftop Music series, opening with Still No Tomatoes

June 17th— The Super Saturday Sandwiches are back while they last.



WI Legislative Update

by Evan Goyke

State Representative 18th Assembly District May 2, 2023

Martin Drive Neighbors I hope this column finds you and your family well. I wanted to provide an update regarding the ongoing state budget process.

Since my last communication to you, the Joint Finance Committee has traveled the State and held listening sessions in Waukesha, Eau Claire, Wisconsin Dells, and Minocqua. I have also held 3 local district listening sessions. Thank you to all of our neighbors who have attended and contacted me about what is important to you. Your engagement is incredibly valua-



Washington Park Listening Session – Rep. Goyke speaking at a local budget listening session at the Washington Park Senior Center

ble and knowing your thoughts better informs me as the debate moves forward.

I want to highlight a few specific items important to the Near West Side. Alongside the State budget, the Governor has an updated plan for state owned properties. This plan called Vision 2030 includes an initiative for a new State Office Building at the corner of 27th and Wisconsin. Many of you have noticed how different this area looks and I am proud to report ongoing progress. The Governor proposed this new construction in two previous budgets and the majority party declined his request. Instead, Governor Evers has collaborated with private development to construct the building with the State leasing space back, while also prioritizing positive economic activity in other spaces beyond 9:00 am -5:00 pm State employees. Having this building be a catalyst for new economic activity is something I have advocated for and I am happy to see this included in the Administration's plan.

Quality housing continues to be a great need in many parts of our community and across Wisconsin. We all know its importance in the fields of workforce, public safety, and health, among others. Governor Evers included in his budget multiple items that would have an impact on our community:

\$100 million to rehabilitate and restore blighted residential properties with the goal of increasing affordable housing options statewide

\$7.25 million to create a pilot grant program in Milwaukee to help fund qualified whole-home upgrades with the goal of reducing energy burdens and creating a healthier living environment for households with lower incomes

\$5 million for the City of Milwaukee to support improving rental housing safety

May and June will be critical months in our State budget process. During May and the first part of June the Joint Finance Committee will be voting on sections of the budget one at a time. This is where the budget will take shape before it is sent to the full legislature for consideration in June.

Please continue to stay tuned to my e-updates and social media for up to date news. The budget bill is the most important and impactful legislation that will be considered this session. It will affect everybody in our State in one form or another.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. My email is Rep.Goyke@legis.wisconsin.gov and my phone number is (608) 266-0645.

Evan Goyke State Representative 18th Assembly District



Alderman Murphy Update provided by his office staff



MDNA Spring Newsletter

Dear Martin Drive Residents, Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter update finds you well and enjoying the warmer weather. It has been a busy and productive year so far at City Hall. I remain committed to exploring solutions to the most pressing issues facing residents including mitigating reckless driving and improving access to

affordable housing. Please continue reading for additional details on the status of these efforts and other important City updates.

Reckless Driving Initiatives

In April, Governor Tony Evers signed a bill into law allowing municipalities across Wisconsin to enact ordinances authorizing law enforcement to tow and impound a vehicle if its owner is cited for reckless driving and has a prior conviction for reckless driving. I was proud to co-sponsor a new ordinance allowing Milwaukee to enforce these measures. I believe this ordinance will be a useful new tool for law enforcement officials in the fight against reckless driving.

In order for the driver to get their car out of impound, they will have 90 days to pay outstanding reckless driving fines. These fines range from \$400 for a first offense, to a \$1000 maximum for subsequent offenses. Under this ordinance, the driver will also be required to pay for the cost of the tow. The ordinance will likely go into effect in May, pending Common Council and Mayoral approval.

Affordable Housing

A new Department of City Development initiative, Homes MKE, will help to renovate up to 150 vacant, foreclosed homes across 23 Milwaukee neighborhoods with \$15 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds.

These vacant homes will be renovat-

selected in 2022. The development

companies will receive rehabilitation and workforce subsidies to help with renovation costs. These companies

were selected with the intention to

-owned developers.

income restrictions.

fund the majority of local and minority

Developers will choose from one of three options: sell the properties at affordable rates to homebuyers, provide a lease-to-own option, or rent the

properties at affordable rates with

This initiative was grown out of the

2008 housing crisis and subsequent

recession. The City acquired a large

ed by development teams that the city



Ald. Murphy at the Homes MKE Kick-Off on April 19th

number of properties in the years that followed through tax foreclosure. This program provides a great opportunity for residents and local developers alike to generate real wealth and create a more stable future.

City News

Clean and Green Week

This year's Clean and Green week for Martin Drive is scheduled for **May 8-12**th. Clean and Green is available to all 1-4 unit households who receive City of Milwaukee garbage collection service. During this week, crews will collect up to six (6) cubic yards per dwelling unit of unwanted furniture, mattresses, household items, and garden/yard debris in paper yard waste

bags. 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 – by 7 AM. **The following items are not accepted for collection**: appliances, tires, TVs and other electronics (such as computers, printers, scanners, tablets, etc.), construction debris, paint and paint thinner, motor oil, and other hazardous waste. Thank you for doing your part to help clean up the neighborhood!

<u>Assessments</u>

2023 assessment notices have now been mailed to all City of Milwaukee property owners. For property owners wishing to discuss and/or appeal their assessment, they may do so during the open book period, which occurs during the fourth Monday in April and the third Monday in May each year. If, after speaking with the assessor's office, you still believe your assessment is incorrect you may file a written objection by the third Monday in May. For additional details and necessary forms, please visit <u>www.city.milwaukee.gov/assessor</u>.

Parking Permit Changes

The City of Milwaukee has recently made improvements in its parking permit system including more flexibility for length of time being purchased, additional opportunities to buy permits, and reminder notifications prior to permit expiration.

Customers now have the option to purchase monthly, weekly, and daily parking permits. Previously, those seeking a parking permit only had the option to purchase either an annual or 4-month (trimester) permit, and after purchase the permit was only applicable for the remainder of the trimester or annual permit period.

The new monthly, weekly, and daily permits are now available for prices of \$10, \$5 and \$1 respectively, in addition to the 4-month and annual permits that remain as options for purchase.

Parking permit purchasing has long been available online at <u>milwaukee.gov/</u> <u>parking permits</u> and at in-person kiosks in all Milwaukee Police District Stations and at all Milwaukee Violations Bureau locations. Additional kiosks are now available in the City Hall rotunda building at 200 E. Wells St. and at the Zeidler Municipal Building at 841 N. Broadway (Market Street entrance).

As always, I am here to assist you in any way that I can. If you have questions or concerns related to City services, please do not hesitate to contact me at <u>mmurph@milwaukee.gov</u> or 414-286-3763.

Sincerely, Alderman Michael Murphy

MARTIN	DRIVE BLOCK	REPRESENT	ATIVES
BLOCK	REP	RESENATIVE NAM	E contact

47TH - STATE STREET 46TH - VLIET ST. TO JUNEAU AVE. 46TH - JUNEAU AVE. TO MARTIN DRIVE 45TH - VLIET ST. TO JUNEAU AVE 45TH - JUNEAU AVE. TO MARTIN DRIVE 44TH - VLIET ST TO JUNEAU AVE 44TH - JUNEAU AVE. TO MARTIN DRIVE 43RD - VLIET ST. TO JUNEAU AVE. 43RD - JUNEAU AVE. TO MARTIN DRIVE 43RD - MARTIN DRIVE TO HIWAY RAMP 42ND - VLIET TO Mc KINLEY CT Mc KINLEY CT. - HIGHLAND AVE MARTIN DR. APTS. TO HIGHLAND AVE. HIGHLAND EAST AND WEST SIDE 40TH - MCKINLEY TO VLIET 39TH - MCKINLEY TO VLIET 38TH - MCKINLEY TO VLIET 37TH/PL- MCKINLEY TO VLIET 36TH - MCKINLEY TO VLIET VLIET-HIGHLAND TO 39TH

CINDY COBB	414-331-3085
LYNN GRAGES & PAUL NEYMEYR	414-344-1362
CHRISTINE HAPPEL & KEVIN SCHULTZ	414-916-2465
JEFF MITCHELL mitchelljeffe	ryr@gmail.com
KATHY Mc CAULEY	414-517-9797
VERONICA MANCHENO	414-315-1898
CHUCK LANDRY	414-344-1331
RAYMOND DUNCAN	414-294-3828
SHARON WILLIAMS	414-933-6800
CHARLOTTE JACKSON charja	ckson@att.com
ABBY & ERIC ROSE	920-207-2251
MARY ANDRES	414-526-2742
SHARON WILLIAMS	414-933-6800
NEED REPRESENTATIVE Please voluntee	r
BILL THOMPSON	815-814-6880
NEED REPRESENTATIVE Please voluntee	r
NEED REPRESENTATIVE Please voluntee	er
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County Supervisor Peter Burgelis News

by Peter Burgelis

Dear Neighbors,

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your County Supervisor. Thank you again for your trust. I am proud to

represent you and work towards making our community a better place.

The **Wisconsin Department of Transportation**, Milwaukee County, and the City of Milwaukee are collaborating on the Study to Reimagine WIS-175. This 6-lane freeway was constructed in 1962 as part of a larger freeway network that was never completed and decreases access to other neighborhoods and Washington Park. The first **Public Involvement Meeting** seeks public comment on the existing highway to determine community project scope and priorities. No decisions have been made yet, but your early feedback will help shape the study's recommendations. Please attend Thursday, May 11, 2023 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Washington Park Senior Center (4420 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208).

Another focus of my work has been prioritizing Washington Park. As a centrally located, well programed and expansive park, Washington Park is a jewel of District 15 and Milwaukee County broadly. I remain committed to improving safety and preserving the space for future generations to enjoy. Current improvements include bike lane striping on Olmsted Way (early May), \$1.6M lagoon bridge replacement (late summer), \$1M parking lot repair (ongoing and final after UEC construction). Deep pool opening is still a maybe; the wading pool opening is a probably; both depend on the number of lifeguard hires. I need your help to prioritize Washington Park aquatics: Twenty years have passed since the last in-depth review, and an updated inventory and study are needed to plan for aquatic investments in the future. This study includes consideration of advancements in aquatic recreational trends, current facility conditions, the County's financial capacity, market research, and community feedback. As part of the analysis phase, Milwaukee County Parks is connecting with the community through open house events, an online survey through June. Please see the community meetings (below) and complete the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VHBM262

I'm glad that **Washington Park Friends** is organizing- and I encourage you to attend the Open House on Wednesday May 17, 2023 from 3:30 to 5:30pm at Washington Park Library, 2121 N Sherman Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53208. Here you can give feedback and get involved in the work to preserve, maintain, and improve safety and access to Washington Park.

Plans for the HUB or "**Harley-Davidson Parks**" project have been announced and the Milwaukee County Board approved a ten-year agreement and \$350,000 investment from the Harley-Davidson Foundation to update, improve, and rename "Highland Park" to "Harley Park." Milwaukee County still maintains ownership and control of the County Park. Harley-Davidson has been a part of the neighborhood for 120 years and I'm grateful that they have decided to stay and re-invest in the community.

As co-chair of the Transit Safety and Security Task Force, we are evaluating best practices and policy improvements how Milwaukee County can better



protect the bus system, passengers, and operators. Recommendations will be sent to the County Board and County Executive in late summer. The next three public hearings have been scheduled. Please attend and share your thoughts and concerns:

- May 3rd from 4-6pm at International Learning Center (ILC), 639 N 25th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233
- May 15th from 11am-1pm at Kosciuszko Community Center , 2207 S 7th St, Milw, WI 53215
- June 8th from 1-3pm at Brown Deer Park Boathouse, 7835 N Green Bay Ave, Milw, WI 53209

Thank you for your continued support. I am committed to serving you and our community, and I will keep you updated on my progress with these important issues. If you have any questions, concerns, compliments, or want to discuss the County, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Peter Burgelis County Supervisor, District 15 Peter.Burgelis@milwaukeecountywi.gov 414-278-4255 milwaukee.gov/burgelis



From Gwen Moore's Email release



Dear MDNA Neighbors,

I hope you are doing well. We are 100 days into the 118th Congress. I really hit the ground running by introducing several of my signature bills. And as always, I'm using my voice to champion your needs, and in this Congress, I am doing this through a new leadership role and committee assignment. I'm just getting started.

Legislative Work in the 118th Congress

- I re-introduced the School Social Workers Improving Student Success Act with my dear friend and colleague Rep. Barbara Lee. Our legislation would help increase the number of school social workers by directing the Department of Education to award grants to schools most in need of these professionals. School social workers are mental health professionals who can help us respond to the young mental health crisis. As so many of our children face mental health challenges, it is critical that students can access the services they need.
- Last month, we also introduced a resolution to recognize the week of March 6th as School Social Work Week. I am forever thankful to school social workers who help our students navigate a variety of issues, such as poverty and familial conflict. This resolution is a thank you to school social workers around the country for their selflessness and dedication.
- I was proud to join Representatives Lucy McBath, John Katko, and Young Kim in introducing legislation to reauthorize important services provided through the Family Violence Prevention Services Act, which will help ensure domestic abuse survivors and their children can access the resources when they need it, such as culturally competent programs and emergency housing.
- And as Congress begins to consider Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization legislation, I re-introduced my legislation which would help level the playing field, ensuring that the FAA keeps working to support the ability of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) that have historically faced barriers to compete and fairly win work on federally funded projects. This legislation would take a number of steps to help ensure the FAA is tracking how well new DBE's win work at airports, continue to build on my work to support prompt payments of subcontractors and to urge airports to make good faith efforts to ensure DBE's are able to win work on contracts funded using federally imposed Passenger Facility Charges, among other provisions. Too many qualified businesses are being left on the sidelines when they have the ability to do great work.
- Lintroduced a bipartisan resolution with Rep. Nancy Mace, co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, to designate February as National Youth Leadership Month. Our resolution is one way to encourage and applaud the ability of young people, including our foster youth, who are making a difference in their communities.
- You all may have heard a lot about Social Security in the past few months and probably will hear more in the coming weeks, including proposals to put the program on the chopping block!
- I am committed to strengthening our Social Security program for years to come and continue building on its promise to help seniors age in dignity and fight poverty. In addition to helping improve the program's long-term solvency by among other things raising the earnings cap to ensure that those at higher income levels pay their share of payroll taxes that support this program, my bill, **the So-cial Security Enhancement and Protection Act**, would increase benefits for seniors twenty years after retirement, helping those most at-risk of outliving their nest eggs.
- My legislation would also help low-income Americans retire with dignity by increasing the special minimum benefit and recognizing that care is work.
- My bill would also restore the student benefits for children of deceased, retired, or disabled workers, which will help expand access to higher education to more American that we just passed April 18, 2023, Tax Day.
- I would be remiss if I didn't share that I re-introduced the Worker and Credit Reform (aka WRCR Act). My legislation would expand and modernize the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), fighting poverty while encouraging work. My bill will allow the credit to reach workers who have previously been unable to reach its benefits, including childless workers below the age of 25 and workers above the

age of 65. Additionally, the WRCR Act would expand the definition of work, making low-income students and unpaid caregivers eligible for the EITC.

• Maternal Health: I continue to be distressed by the troubling maternal mortality rates in our communities, especially for women of color. While bills have not yet been introduced, I am working hard to address this issue and looking forward to reintroducing my Mamas First bill and working to have several of my other maternal health proposals included in the Black Maternal Health Omnibus which is expected to be introduced in the coming weeks. I also continue to work on a maternal mental health bill. Stay tuned.

Appropriations

Even though there remains a lot of uncertainty, the House has begun work on the FY 2024 funding process, and I wanted to give you an update on some of the efforts I spearheaded to try and secure critical funding increases for federal programs that are important to our community.

- You will find the 15 community project-funded requests that I submitted to the House Appropriations Committee for consideration for funding in FY 2024. This year again, I got a lot of great requests spanning housing, education, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, and health care which speaks to the great needs that continue in our communities. I wish I could have submitted them all!
- TRIO: As co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional TRIO Caucus, and a TRIO alum, I was thrilled to again lead this letter urging increased funding for this critical program that offers support to help vulnerable college students complete their higher education. Too many qualified and talented students don't complete their education because of the challenges they face.
- WIC: This is such an important program that provided public health services and support, including targeted food packages to address the health and wellbeing of vulnerable infants, women, and children. I again spearheaded a letter, signed by over 100 of my colleagues, urging increased funding for this program in FY 2023. On a related note, earlier this year, I led colleagues in expressing support to USDA for its strong new WIC food package rule, which among other provisions, would permanently increase the cash value voucher that can be used to purchase fruits and vegetables.
- VAWA: I am pleased that over 100 of my colleagues joined me in pushing to increase funding for Department of Justice Programs that help respond to the scourge of domestic violence in our communities.
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants: I again led this letter, urging at least \$3.8 billion for this critical program that helps communities combat homelessness in FY 2024.
- Childhood Lead Poisoning/ HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes: I led over 30 of my colleagues in pushing for more funding for the CDC's childhood lead poisoning program which supports efforts to identify and treat children with elevated blood lead levels. That same letter also called for increased funding for the HUD program that helps remediate lead paint-infested housing to help end the threat posed by lead paint to our children.
- Low Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP): Access to clean water is so critical. LIHWAP funding can be used to assist eligible households to keep from having their water cut off including by (1) paying arrears; (2) reconnecting services and covering late fees; and (3) reducing rate charges to a more affordable level. I led colleagues in urging \$300 million in renewed funding for this program in FY 2024.

And there are many more that I can list here but will not. Please know that I continue to advocate for pressing funding priorities in our community.

I will keep you updated on how I am serving you in this Congress. Take care!

Your friend, Gwen