



Martin Drive Trolley News

July 2006

A PEEK INTO THE PAST

By Lynne G.

Ever wish you could travel back in time and see what your little piece of the Martin Drive Neighborhood looked like 100 years ago? 200 years ago?



Recently, I came across the original title abstract for my house and found that it contained a multi-page story of the land where my house sits. The story begins before Wisconsin was a state and ends on the day in 1922 when my grandparents bought the lot and newly-built house on 46th Street in the Park Front Subdivision.

My peek into the past starts in 1839 when a man named Allen Breed bought a one-half section of land. Translated to today's map, it stretched from Highland Blvd. on the east to 60th Street on the west and from Washington Blvd. on the north to Juneau Avenue on the south.

It was part of a U.S. government land grant to the Territory of Wisconsin for the purpose of building a canal from Lake Michigan to the Rock River and beyond. Though Byron Kilbourn, one of Milwaukee's founders, pushed the idea of a canal, it was never built. Railroads were the new thing and canals were becoming yesterday's news.

Perhaps Allen Breed bought the land with dreams of a prosperous future for his farm and family. After all, the canal would have linked Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, and his farm would be well situated to take advantage of the bustling commercial traffic. I wonder how disappointed he was when the canal wasn't built. He sold some of his land in the following years. The area west of the present 51st Street was sold as well as small parcels in the southeast and southwest corners of his remaining land.

In 1852, Allen and his wife Margaret granted a 66-foot strip of land to the Milwaukee and Wauwatosa Plank Road Company to construct a road. Vliet Street was born.

(Continued on page 4)

ATTENTION MDN PARENTS!

By Lois N.



Looking for a world-class education for your child?

Milwaukee Urban League Academy of Business and Economics (MULABE) is pleased to announce that it is moving its primary grades (K5 and grade 1) to the 46th and State Streets location. Renovations and redecorating are in progress. An Open House will be held as soon as the building is ready.

We actively seek students from the Martin Drive Neighborhood for all grade levels. We appreciate the support the neighborhood has given us since moving our junior academy to the site in 2004. We are eager to further develop the partnership between the school and the neighborhood as we open our primary academy at this beautiful location.

MULABE is a public charter school, chartered by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and managed by Edison Schools. There is no tuition, free transportation is provided, and we are members of the Federal Hot Lunch program. Students wear uniforms to enhance the learning environment, and parent participation is an integral part of our instructional framework.

We, of course, offer a research based, challenging curriculum: the Success for All Reading Program and Everyday Math, along with Houghton-Mifflin Social Studies and Delta Science. Our teaching staff is Wisconsin certified and highly qualified as per NCLB requirements. Specials classes include art, physical education, music, media and technology. In addition, MULABE is committed to teaching personal financial literacy, economics, and entrepreneurship to its students.

Will Allen of Growing Power worked with us to develop The Pumpkin Patch. This is one of the primary school's business and economics projects, providing young students with hands-on experience in growing food for fun and profit.

If you have any questions, or would like a personal tour of either facility, please contact Lois N. at 615-3915, ext. 2213, or call 202-8121. Leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.<>

This newsletter accepts articles about events, issues, editorials, and letters pertaining to the Martin Drive Neighborhood. Submissions must have a name and telephone number for contact. Send submissions to hwproperties@netzero.net; deadlines are: January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1. Articles in this newsletter are written by Martin Drive Neighborhood volunteers.

THE GARDENS ARE UP AND GROWING.

By Shannon V.



My parents and I have always planted different tomato plants and flowers every summer. A couple years ago we moved to 46th Street, where we had a much bigger area to plant. Then we started going to neighborhood meetings and realized that there were other people, who wanted most of the people in the neighborhood to have gardens in their backyards, too.

In March and May, some of the people from the neighborhood went to a special workshops sponsored by Growing Power, so that we could learn how to grow the best plants we could. We went to a place on 54th St. and Silver Spring Dr. that has the last green houses operating right in the heart of the city. We learned how to make compost that turns your soil into "gold."

Six neighbors signed up at the Martin Drive Association Annual Meeting in May to create backyard gardens using the ideas we learned about at Growing Power. Will Allen, the founder and owner of GP, donated all the composted soil needed for our gardens.

One day in early June, Will came to the Martin Drive area with a huge truck filled with the special soil. A group of us spent the entire day going to the backyards of each volunteer and wheel barrowed compost from the truck to their garden spots.

The first step was to dig out the top layer of the soil that was already there and move it to the side. We then had to lay down as many wheelbarrows full of compost as it took to fill the area evenly, and then lay the soil back over the new soil. Will, Sharon, Brianna, one of Will's employees and I helped do the digging and lifting, along with some kids from the Urban League Academy on 46th and State Streets.

This has been a very fun learning experience for everyone involved. We are all looking forward to our harvest. Maybe we will have enough produce to set up a small farmer's market in our neighborhoods. We will let you know.<>

YOUTH CLEAN-UP YOUR COMMUNITY DAY, AUGUST 11, FROM 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

By Pat M.

"Our Future Is In Your Hands"

With a background in education and a desire to improve beautiful Washington Park, Asima Wise of the Washington Park Pedal Boat Business is organizing a youth clean-up day. Kids and adults are encouraged to join in clean-up efforts. Participants will receive free lunch and a T-shirt which were donated. Asima received 300 T-shirts, so there should be plenty for any neighborhood group or organization that wants to organize kids to clean the park. If you are interested in helping that day or joining me in taking a group of kids over to the park for the clean-up, please call Pat at 933-5589.<>

A WISE WOMAN BRINGS PEDAL BOATS BACK TO WASHINGTON PARK'S LAGOON

By Pat M.

The Washington Park Pedal Boat Business opened for business on June 23. Asima Wise felt so committed to improving and using the park that she and her husband and five children sacrificed and saved money to purchase four pedal boats and open a small business at the Washington Park lagoon. Her hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The fare is \$5 per person, per half hour.

The enterprise is close to the boathouse near Asima Wise's favorite vista in the park. Wise hopes this spot will become a favorite view of many more people who come to the park to support Asima and her effort to revitalize it. The venture launched with four pedal boats. Each can hold two passengers.

So get ready to pedal in the park, drinking in the beautiful setting and enjoying the sunshine and breeze as it rolls down from the hills and over the lagoon and pedal away pounds and improve your stamina and fitness. What is good for the park is ultimately better for those who partake in the pedal boat experience. By the way, pedaling is easier than you might think.<>



Larry Wise, Asima's husband, in a pedal boat.

THANK YOU & HELP WANTED FOR THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Ada R. has handled the layout and design work for the Martin Drive Trolley Newsletter for past several years. The newsletter has grown strikingly in size and professionalism because of her talents. Ada would like a break from these responsibilities. A very big **Thank You** to Ada for her hard work and passion to keep our neighborhood informed. She will be hard to replace.

It's time to add to the newsletter committee. Did you like this newsletter? Do you have something to offer? Are you familiar with layout in Microsoft Publisher or able to help on this committee in other ways? If so, we need you.

**To Volunteer for the
Newsletter Committee
call Pat at 933-5589**

SUMMER PROGRAM DISAPPOINTMENT

By Sharon W.

Unfortunately, a summer camp program for our young neighbors didn't come together for this summer.

A collaboration of the Martin Drive Association, Milwaukee Public Theater, and MULABE, the school located on 46th and State Streets, wrote a proposal to the UWM Cultures and Community Program to create a summer camp during the month of July at the school. This camp would have created entrepreneurial and cultural arts experiences for middle school/upper elementary aged Martin Drive kids and MULABE students.

A number of factors entered into the cancellation including: lack of funding from UWM; a switch in programming at the MULABE school and the health of the head teacher who was going to facilitate the program.

MULABE school has switched age groups on their two campuses, and in the fall semester the primary grades will attend the 46th and State St school. I am happy to report that the Growing Power part of our plans will still be carried out by the primary aged MULABE students. You'll hear more about this as our plans progress...especially in the fall.

We will keep trying to provide more summer activities for our young neighbors next year.<>

RUMMAGE SALE 2006

By Sharon W.

Rummage Sale Coordinator

Thank you to all of the neighbors who participated in the Fourth Annual Martin Drive Rummage Sale, which was held on Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11, two days for the first time this year.

Twenty-five to thirty area neighbors "drug their stuff" into their backyards and driveways. Although every block was represented, 45th and 46th Streets seemed to have the most spots this year. We were again blessed with fairly good weather. The rain held off on Friday, and Saturday was beautiful.

Of course, anyone can have a sale any time they wish, but for the neighborhood rummage sale a notice is put in the Journal Sentinel and signs are put up to advertise.

The Association needs to know if this year's June dates and two day sale met the needs of our neighbors. Please attend our monthly meetings every second Monday at the Blaha's and, for sure, attend the Annual Meeting next May where we usually finalize plans for next summer's sale. Location of the monthly meetings is 1219 N. 45th Street.

Destruction of the rummage sale sign costs Association: It was reported that some young neighbors destroyed the sign put on the intersection of Juneau Avenue and 46th Street by attaching a firecracker to it. That sign will cost the Association about \$50 to replace.

This kind of vandalism hurts us all. We need to communicate with each other about all of our activities. Signs are a quick and effective way to do so. We would like the signs to be safe.

If you know the young folks responsible for the damage, please speak to them about the harm they have caused. If you would be a guardian of one of our signs next year, will you leave a message for me at Pat M.'s office. Pat's number is 933-5589. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.<>

(A Peek Into the Past - continued from page 1)

In 1875, Allen Breed died without a will. The court declared that his land now belonged to his one son, three daughters, and two grandsons who were the children of his deceased fourth daughter.

What about his wife Margaret? She was allowed to select a 40 acre section of the homestead to live on as long as she wished. She chose the land upon which the original dwelling house and barns stood. It would be interesting to know just where those buildings were. One clue - Margaret was still alive in 1890 when Milwaukee bought some of the Breed land for a city park (now Washington Park). Assuming Margaret still lived on the homestead, her dwelling could have been south of Vliet Street.

In 1898, Margaret received \$100 from the Milwaukee Electric Railroad and Light Company for the right to construct an "electric railroad" on Vliet Street that would run to the western end of West Park (later renamed Washington Park). Now city folks could take the trolley to see the newly built zoo.

Like most families, the Breed family had its share of tragedy. The abstract tells the sad fate of Eugene Horton, one of the grandsons who inherited a share of the Breed homestead. While on a round-the-world voyage in 1887, his ship disappeared after leaving Samarang in Java. Seven years had to pass before he could be declared legally dead. His share of the homestead passed to his brother, who then promptly sold to one of his aunts.

Margaret Breed died in 1903. The heirs held on to the land south of Vliet Street until 1913. Before selling it, though, they briefly leased a 20 acre parcel to a company proposing to build an amusement park. The park, called White City, covered the present 45th, 46th, and 47th Streets between Vliet Street and Juneau Avenue (note: before the freeway, there was a 47th Street between Vliet and Juneau). It seems like this amusement park was located on a perfect spot to draw throngs of fun-loving Milwaukeeans. It was on a trolley line and it was across from the zoo. How could it not be a success? But by 1907, White City was history, and its buildings and dance pavilions were sold at a sheriff's bankruptcy sale.

In 1913, the Breed farm became just a memory when the heirs sold out to developers John Weber and Charles Holzhauser. The rural landscape gave way to new homes for Milwaukee's expanding population. The Park Front Subdivision was recorded on July 6, 1915, in Volume 33 of Plats on page 32 (No. 841096).

But what's the story of the area south of Juneau Ave.? Who were the Breed family's neighbors to the south? Somewhere out there is another old abstract with another peek into the past.<>

ANOTHER BLESSINGS CAFÉ

By Pat M.

Last October, Eugene, opened Another Blessings Café on 50th & Vliet Streets, across from the Vliet Street Commons, under the landmark big coffee cup.



When you enter, you'll recognize

Eugene as the smiling face under the big coffee cup hat. Whether you come for coffee, breakfast, lunch, an evening meeting or a comedy or poetry session, you will always find Eugene to be friendly and talkative. Eugene loves people.

His mother is the chef. The menu includes bakery, breakfast items like egg sandwiches, wraps and great salads. Eugene's favorite menu item is the Chicken Caesar Salad Wrap. Of course, there is an array of coffee drinks. On Saturday he offers free popcorn for the kids.

Another Blessings Café also caters small events. For years Eugene has been catering different charity events around town.<>

GARDEN PROJECT UP AND "GROWING"

By Sharon W.

During the second week of June a big truck pulled up in front of my driveway. Will Allen delivered the composted soil for my backyard garden. The shoveling crew consisted of one of Will's employees, our young neighbor, Shannon V, age 13, and her cousin Brianna A, age 14 and myself. We spent the day delivering "dirt" to gardens on 46th, 43rd, Martin Drive and the MULABE front yard. The school plans to grow a "pumpkin patch". Much thanks to Will who charged us nothing for all the fertile soil. The gardens are lovingly tended by all of us "backyard gardeners". Stay tuned to hear about the harvest. Hopefully there will be enough to share at a market in front of Deju Vu in the fall. **NOTE: IF YOU KNOW OF ANY YOUNG NEIGHBORS WHO LIKE TO HELP ONE OF US TEND THE GARDENS, ESPECIALLY THE MULABE ONE, LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH PAT MUELLER AT 933-5589**

PRE-DAWN JOTTINGS

By Nelda W.

My daily strolls through Washington Park this summer have given me a new appreciation of this beautiful oasis of peace in the midst of our bustling asphalt jungle. It's a great place for bird watching and quiet contemplation. There are few distractions during the early morning hours.

Unfortunately, the park is both used and abused by many people throughout the course of each day. It pains me deeply to see litter everywhere although there are adequate garbage bins. While trying to pick up whatever lies in my path, I continue to agonize over the magnitude of the problem.

What can we as individuals or as a neighborhood group do to help eliminate litter? Would signage help? How can we instill pride in this green treasure? Can we organize neighborhood groups who would accept responsibility for patrolling specific areas of the park on a rotating basis?

Although usually in the park only during early morning hours, I have occasionally been there in the afternoon and have talked to children that the park belongs to all of us. I have suggested that they not only dispose of their own trash properly, but that they pick up any litter in sight. One group of boys responded very positively.

Some of you who are reading this may never use the park, but what about the litter in your own immediate neighborhood? A recent newsletter suggested that each household spend just five minutes a day picking up their individual area. Perhaps that thoughtful suggestion needs repeated emphasis. Can you commit to just **5 minutes a day** to make your area of our neighborhood a more attractive place to live?

I'm proud to be a resident of the Martin Drive Neighborhood, but am also embarrassed and frustrated when visitors from outside our area comment on unkempt yards and garbage bins displayed in front yards. If you are disposing of large items, please do not put them at the curb until the night before the scheduled pick-up. Unsightly piles of disposable items create a negative image of our neighborhood.

Also, please properly wrap and compact all garbage so that your containers will close. **Open garbage bins provide a welcome haven for rodents.**

Let's all put a little extra effort into making our neighborhood a more inviting place. <>

LANDFARE FESTIVAL FOR FAMILIES AT WASHINGTON PARK

By Pat M.

On Saturday, August 19, bring the family from noon to 5 p.m. to join your neighbors at the Washington Park Landfare Festival for Families. The afternoon promises free fun and family-friendly activities and events for all Washington Park neighbors.

Free Pedal Boat rides will be sponsored by Neighbors United for Washington Park. Adekola Adedapo, a Martin Drive resident, will perform with a jazz trio of young musicians. Entertainment all afternoon will be provided by Milwaukee Public Theater, including a drum circle, the Ajula Performance Troupe, Hmong dancers and musicians, and lots of other music and entertainment. An art fair, local businesses, schools and agencies will be there.

Bring your chairs, blanket, and picnic basket or simply enjoy food for purchase provided by Another Blessings Café. Some free food and treats will be provided by Eat Cake! as supplies last. So come and enjoy.

Volunteers are also needed to clean up before and after the event and act as goodwill ambassadors during the event. Call Pat at 933-5589 to volunteer.<>

FIX IT UP AND HURRY UP-THE NEIGHBORHOOD FIX-UP PROGRAM

Thanks to Alderman Michael Murphy, the Martin Drive Neighborhood has been approved for a Fix Up Program. This grant is made available with money from L.I.S.C. The program is designed to give incentives to property owners to make improvements to the outside of their properties, thereby improving the appearance, as well as the whole neighborhood.

Here are some of the basic guidelines of the program.

- Property owners in the Martin Drive Neighborhood are eligible for rebates towards the cost of improvements made to the exterior of their homes. You are eligible to receive 50% of the cost of your improvements up to \$500 per household.
 - You are eligible for this rebate if you own property in the Martin Drive Neighborhood.
 - Eligible improvements include: exterior painting (trim work, porches or the entire property, house & garden), repairs necessary to comply with exterior lighting, siding repair or replacement, roof repair or replacement, sidewalk repairs, fencing.
 - This money is offered on a first come, first served basis and will not last long, so find a contractor and act quickly.
- To start the process of applying for the rebate or to ask questions, call Pat at 933-5589.<>

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WASHINGTON PARK LANDFARE

at Festival for Families*

Saturday, August 19, 2006, noon - 5 pm

Free, fun and family-friendly activities and
events for all Washington Park neighbors*

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

HMONG AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ASSN
LAND: Lisbon Area Neighborhood Development
LISC: Local Initiatives Support Corporation
MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN
MILWAUKEE CITY LIBRARY AT WASHINGTON PARK
MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT
MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC THEATRE
NUWP: Neighborhoods United for Washington Park
THE PARK PEOPLE OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY
URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN
WASHINGTON PARK BEAT
WASHINGTON PARK SENIOR CENTER VOLUNTEERS
WEYSBA: West End Vliet Street Business Assn

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VOLUNTEERS

LAND
MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN
NUWP
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN
WASHINGTON PARK SENIOR CENTER

CONTACT

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
LAND: 414-934-8540, 414-344-4142

TO DONATE TO
WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVATION:
414-273-7275
NUWP: 414-257-1006

TO VOLUNTEER:
LAND: 414-934-8540

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC THEATRE:
414-347-1685

Northeast corner of park
Inflatable games

Boathouse & vicinity
Hot dogs, chips, cookies, beverages
Restrooms
Register-to-win table
Health screenings
Resource and information tables
First aid and security services

Lagoon
Free pedal boat rides 12:30-4:30 pm
compliments of NUWP
Milwaukee City Library Storyteller from 12:30 pm

Lawn east of Band Shell Stage
Another Blessings Cafe food for purchase
LAND corn roast fundraiser

Lawn south of Band Shell Stage
Art Fair featuring local Artists
Vliet Street merchants

Emil Blatz Temple of Music
A variety of music, dance, comedy, and
interactive entertainment celebrating
neighbors, families, and world cultures.
Free performances begin at noon.

Throughout the Park:
MPT's Rainbow Spectacolo
Enjoy the antics of
Milwaukee Public Theatre's
strolling troupe of jugglers,
clowns, gymnasts, dancers,
mimes and musicians as
they interact with the young
and young at heart.

Picnic on the Lawn
Bring your own blanket, chairs and picnic
basket and get to know your neighbors!



Please donate a dollar

(or just a little more if you can!)

*Milwaukee Public Theatre is 501 c3 nonprofit, 39 year old,
professional education outreach arts organization
that brings communities together through
the visual, performing and healing arts.
Contact us at: 414-347-1685.

Please join all of us in making this neighborhood-wide festival
a smashing success! To produce and present nonstop
programming for all ages throughout the park, MPT is
counting on your support. EVERY AMOUNT HELPS!

Yes!
I'll donate to support the 2006 Festival for Families.

\$ 1 \$ 5 \$ 10 \$

Send check payable to: **Milwaukee Public Theatre***
626 E. Kilbourne Ave., #802, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Donor Name

Address

City State Zip

Please contact me/us: I'd/We'd also like to volunteer:
phone
email