



Martin Drive Trolley News

Spring 2007

GREETINGS MD NEIGHBORS!

By: Maggie B.



Just to wish all of you a blessed, healthy new year. Let's hope that our problems are all small ones easily solved by a few heads working together, that thinking of others before ourselves becomes the custom in our

neighborhood. Thank you to every one of you who have made the Martin Drive Neighborhood a better place to live and a secret in the city of Milwaukee.

Thanks to everyone who steps up to the plate to run for office, who volunteers for an activity, who notifies neighbors of good things and the not so good things, who puts up signs for the monthly meetings, who keeps the catch basins cleared of leaves and other debris, who keeps their garage doors closed and locked, who keeps lights on in their houses even when they are gone, who picks up litter and everyone who does not litter, who does not leave anything in their cars which might be tempting, who puts their garbage carts away ASAP, who drives carefully and cautiously on our streets, who keeps their choice of entertainment to a tolerable level so that others are not annoyed by what seems to be noise, who shovels their walks in a timely fashion and mows their lawns to suit the season, who reads messages like this and smiles knowing that they are appreciated.<>

NEIGHBORHOOD HOLIDAY PARTY

By: Enrique C.

Thank you for coming to my house on December 11 for the Annual Martin Drive December/Christmas get together. I really had a great time and I hope all who came had a great time and plenty to eat and drink.

Thank you for all the good food and fun that everyone brought. I am sorry for all who missed the get together and hope that you will make the next get together at my house.

Thanks again to all who came and Merry Christmas to all in the Martin Drive Neighborhood. May you have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and an even better 2007.<>

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

By: Ada R.

Free VITA tax preparation service is only available if you earned less than \$45,000 annually. Some services offered are:

- Free E-Filing of your tax return
- Assistance with the Earned Income Tax Credit
- Assistance with other credits
- Opportunity to receive your refund in as few as 7-10 days with direct deposit and refund splitting.
- Opportunity to open a no-charge, low balance checking or savings account.

Locations near the Martin Drive Neighborhood:

MATC-Downtown

Room M173
1015 N. 6th Street
(Enter at 6th & Highland)

**Beginning January 23, -
Ending April 14,**

Tues. & Thurs.-4:30
pm—6:30 pm

Sat.—10 am—1pm

**Senior citizens served
immediately!**

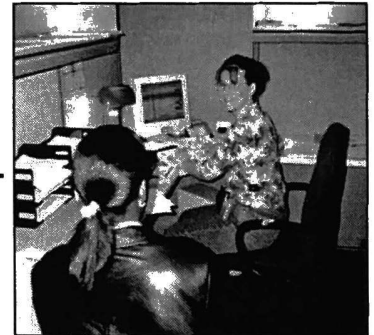
Site will be closed 4/7/2007

Aurora Family Services

3200 W. Highland Blvd.
Tues.—5:30pm—7:30 pm

First Service Credit Union

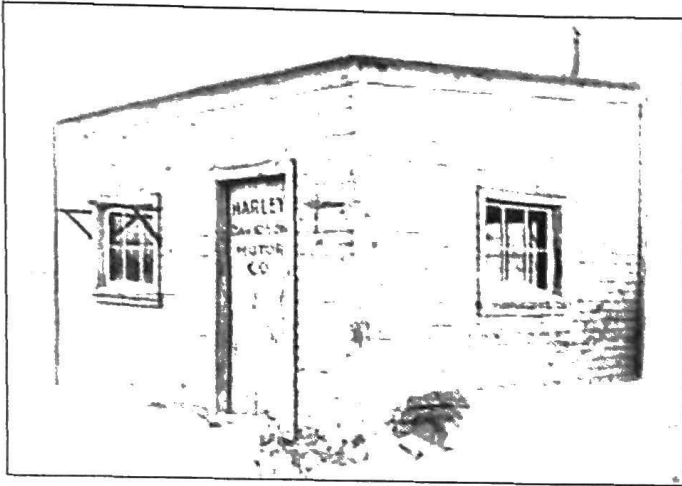
333 N. 35th Street
Wed.—9 am—6 pm
Fri.—9 am—3:30 pm



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 mtblaha@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for the next issue is April 1, 2007.

Articles in this newsletter are written by Martin Drive Neighborhood volunteers.

Original Harley Davidson Factory Building



Current Harley Davidson Factory Building



MONEY AVAILABLE TO HELP ACCOMPLISH MINOR HOME REPAIRS

By: Linda H.

Funds are available for small repairs to a house through the Minor Home Repair Program, according to the West End Development Corporation winter 2006 newsletter.

The program gives a rebate of half the cost for materials and labor on minor repairs to owner-occupied residential properties. The maximum amount given to an owner is \$750, meaning half of a \$1,500 project.

This funding, which is mostly for low and moderate-income homeowners, covers houses in the City of Milwaukee Community Development Block Grant target area.

For more information, contact WEDC's Andrea Dean at (414) 933-2080. <>

EMPLOYMENT

By: Chris Weber

Hello - Valentines Day is coming up fast. **Milwaukee Flowers** 1925 W. Wisconsin Ave. is seeking the following:

- Computer skilled individuals, 1-2 people
- Driver assistants, 2-4 people, knowledge of downtown helpful
- In-shop assistants, 4-5 people, flower knowledge helpful high school students welcome after school

Lots of hours available starting February 12 We're looking for fast learners and friendly, service-minded individuals. If interested call John 573-1188.....Tell John I REFERRED YOU <>

BACK YARD GARDEN PROJECT RIDES AGAIN!

By: Sharon W.

Most of us who participated in the Backyard Garden Project last summer harvested a lot of good produce. Dan's squash vine went the length of his driveway. I had so many tomatoes some rotted on the vine. We didn't get to share much because we planted too late, in mid-June, which made the harvests later than usual. That will not happen this year!!

Will Allen's magic composted dirt is waiting out in our backyards for us to get started in early May. We need more neighbors to create gardens in their backyards. We can still get some "magic" dirt. The more we produce, the more we can have to sell at the gardener's markets we can set up around the Martin Drive area.

If you would like to join us, contact me, Sharon Williams, through Pat Mueller's office at 43rd and Vliet. Her phone number is 933-5589. It's the same place you register for the Halloween activity.

Remember! Another of our goals is to involve our younger neighbors, so see if you can get a family member or neighbor to help you. With more help, you can grow more and have more produce to share.<>

WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY

By: Jill K.

The Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) knows that people in the Martin Drive neighborhood value their animals and want to keep them safe. WHS would like to provide some helpful advice for you and your furry friend.

Letting your pets roam can expose them to many risks.

To keep your companion animals safe while walking them, make sure that they are on a leash. Local ordinances require that leashes be 6 feet or less. Unleashed dogs are considered at large, and you can be ticketed for allowing your companion animal to roam.

WHS carries humane collars and harnesses that provide control for the guardian and make walking your dog an easy and enjoyable experience. If you walk your dog with a choke chain, consider replacing that painful practice with a collar that helps train instead of restrain. They are an excellent alternative to choke collars by providing control without the likelihood of damaging the dog's throat.

Make sure your dog or cat has an identification tag that includes their name and contact information in case they get away. Also consider microchipping your animal. A microchip is a small computer chip the size of a grain of rice painlessly and permanently inserted between your animal's shoulder blades. It provides an additional form of identification that increases the chances a lost animal will be returned home.

Consider signing your dog up for a manners class at WHS. WHS offers many at convenient times and we use positive reinforcement to teach. Among other things, your dog will learn to walk nicely on a leash and come when called (a valuable cue if your dog gets off leash). Classes are reasonably priced and, in addition to teaching your dog manners, can be a great bonding experience for you and your dog.

Following these guidelines can help to keep your animal and your community safe. For more information, visit our website at www.wihumane.org. <>



MILWAUKEE SAVES/WISCONSIN SAVES

is part of a national social marketing campaign—America Saves. On the national level, it is about teaching a nation of spenders to become a nation of savers with a motto of "You Can Build Wealth."

The goal of Milwaukee Saves is to provide free services to help people save money and build wealth to achieve their financial goals. UW-Extension coordinates Milwaukee Saves.

The following is a list of upcoming free Financial Management Seminars that Milwaukee Saves will be conducting:

Buying a Home

March 24, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

4041 N. Richards St.

(414) 290-2406



Milwaukee Saves is looking forward to an upcoming **FREE** Family Resource Day/Youth Piggy Bank Decorating Contest on **Saturday, March 3, 2007**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, 650 W. Reservoir Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212. Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be presented. Lunch will be provided. Also, a variety of financial management seminars for adults, booths about resources for families, and more. This is an opportunity to plan a day the whole family can enjoy.

To **register** and for more information, call (414) 290-2406.c<>

MIDWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION GARDEN TIPS

Order seeds and plants early this month before your favorite varieties are sold out.

Get a jump on spring by forcing branches of spring-flowering shrubs indoors. Choose crossing or damaged branches that need to be pruned. Ideal candidates include forsythia, flowering quince, redbud, and flowering almond.

Repot any root-bound house plants now before vigorous growth occurs. Choose a new container that is 1 or 2 inches larger in diameter than the old

CPA to harried client, I don't care what you say: "You can't deduct your relatives as an organized charity."



IS WINTER WEARING ON YOU?

By Nelda W.

A taste of summer in the heart of winter can take the chill off the season. Valentine's Day is approaching - traditionally a time to indulge ourselves in decadent chocolate. However, if you are looking for an alternative, the fresh ripe fruits and berries you put into the freezer last summer are sure to bring a special flavor and add brightness to your winter table. Try this easy Peach Cheesecake:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 small pkg. vanilla pudding
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 16 oz. frozen peaches (reserve 3T juice)
- 8 oz reduced fat cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 T sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Combine first five ingredients in a small mixing bowl. Beat for two minutes. Pour into a greased 9-inch pie plate. Place peaches over top of batter. Combine cream cheese, 1/2 cup sugar and 3T reserved juice in a small bowl and beat until smooth and creamy. Spread over top of peaches to within 1/2 inch of the outside edge. Combine the 2 tablespoons sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle over top of the cheese. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes or until crust is completely baked. Serves 6-8.<>

ENERGY CONSERVATION IDEAS

Saving energy and using energy efficiently is very important to every family's budget. Whether you are a homeowner or a renter it is important to practice energy saving techniques. ENERGY STAR has the following tips to show you how to be more energy efficient, save money and reduce the risks of global warming. If there are things you can't change on your own, share these tips and encourage your landlord to make a change for the better.

Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy. Replacing your five most frequently used light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ENERGY STAR qualified lights can save more than \$60 a year in energy costs. ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) provide high-quality light output, use less energy and last 6-10 times longer than the standard incandescent light bulbs, saving money on your energy bills and replacement costs.

Remember to always turn off lights when you are leaving a room. Turning off just one 60-watt incandescent bulb, that would otherwise burn eight hours a day, can save about \$15 per year!

(Energy Conversation Ideas-Continued)

If possible, install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping. When used properly, a programmable thermostat with its four temperature settings can save up to \$150 a year in energy costs. Proper use means setting the thermostat at energy-saving temperatures without overriding the setting. You should also set the "hold" button at a constant energy-saving temperature when you're away or on vacation.

Consumer electronics play an increasingly larger role in your home's energy consumption, accounting for 15 percent of household electricity use. Many consumer electronics products use energy even when switched off. Electronics equipment earning the ENERGY STAR helps save energy when off, while maintaining features like clock displays, channel settings and remote-control functions. Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use (like your cell phone charger!).

Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are done using equipment. Even when turned off, electronic and IT equipment often use a small amount of electricity. For home office equipment, this stand-by or "phantom" power load can range from a few watts to as much as 20 or even 40 watts for each piece of equipment. Using a power strip for your computer and all peripheral equipment allows you to completely disconnect the power supply from the power source, eliminating standby power consumption.

A ten minute shower can use less water than a full bath. With a new 2.5 gallon-per-minute (low-flow) shower head, a 10-minute shower will use about 25 gallons of water, saving you five gallons of water over a typical bath. A new showerhead also will save energy — up to \$145 each year on electricity — beating out both the bath and an old-fashioned showerhead. To avoid moisture problems, control humidity in your bathroom by running your ventilating fan during and 15 minutes after showers and baths.

Make sure all air registers are clear of furniture so air can circulate freely. If your home has radiators, place heat-resistant reflectors between radiators and walls. In the winter, this will help heat the room instead of the wall.

During cold weather, take advantage of the sun's warmth by keeping drapes open during daylight hours. To keep out the heat of the summer sun, close window shades and drapes in warm weather.

Save water by scraping dishes instead of rinsing them before loading in the dishwasher. Run your dishwasher with a full load and use the air-dry option, if available. Rinsing dirty dishes before loading your dishwasher uses a lot of water and energy. Most dishwashers today can thoroughly

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clean dishes that have had food scraped, rather than rinsed, off — the wash cycle and detergent take care of the rest. To make the most efficient use of your dishwasher's energy and water consumption, run the dishwasher only when enough dirty dishes have accumulated for a full load.

Wash your laundry with cold water, whenever possible. To save water, try to wash full loads or, if you must wash a partial load, reduce the level of water appropriately. Hot water heating accounts for about 90 percent of the energy your machine uses to wash clothes — only 10 percent goes to electricity used by the washer motor. Depending on the clothes and local water quality (hardness), many homeowners can effectively do laundry exclusively with cold water, using cold water laundry detergents. Switching to cold water can save the average household more than \$400 annually (with an electric water heater) and more than \$300 annually (with a gas water heater). Washing full loads can save you more than 3,400 gallons of water each year.

Don't over-dry your clothes. If your dryer has a moisture sensor that will automatically turn the machine off when clothes are done, use it to avoid over drying. Remember to clean the lint trap before every load. Dry full loads, or reduce drying time for partial loads minutes per load can cost you up to \$34, every year.

The lint trap is an important energy saver. Dryers work by moving heated air through wet clothes, evaporating and then venting water vapor outside. If the dryer cannot provide enough heat, or move air sufficiently through the clothes, they will take longer to dry or may not dry at all. One of the easiest things you can do to increase drying efficiency is to clean the lint trap before each and every load. This step also can save you up to \$34 each year.

Take time to look at your family practices and try a couple of these tips to reduce energy usage.
[<>](http://lancaster.unl.edu)

MARTIN DRIVE MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2006: Neighbors introduced themselves to a small group this evening. Despite the size of 12, the energy was felt.

There was a short review of matters that were handed over to Karen from West End Corp in the September meeting. Her number is 933-2080.

The Response Team reported on the planned 3 on 3 basketball event scheduled for Oct. 14th from 11:00 - 3:00. Four courts were reserved at Washington Park. Nine to ten volunteers were needed including the five who were signed up. Free Bucks tickets were going to the young people who participated.

Jennifer gave an update on Halloween plans for October 27th from 7:30 - 8:30. Pat pulled the block party permit and the bus company had been notified. The Auxiliary Police were contacted.

Neighbor concerns continue to be noise and apparent truancy. Be alert and call in your concerns as they happen.

Martin Drive Neighborhood shows lots of home repair work being done and lawns were trimmed. Recycling appears to be happening about every two months. For Rent signs are apparent here as well as neighborhoods west of us.

Alderman Michael Murphy's office called to remind us that the budget hearing scheduled for Monday, Oct. 16 was open to all of us. City Hall meetings can also be followed on Channel 25. Jared would request that Alderman Murphy come to our November 9th meeting to share viewpoints of the Council and to hear from his constituents in the Martin Drive Neighborhood.<>

November 13, 2006: Jen V. gave a positive report of the Halloween activity. There was a good turnout and very few problems. We can always use more treating homes. Pat M. stated that 220 children were registered. We were all disappointed that some people continue to choose not to register their children but expect them to be treated. We will continue to use a method of identifying the children who have been registered.

Alderman Michael Murphy shared some information with us and answered many questions, and highlighted some budget processes.

- Milwaukee has had no increase of shared revenue for the past 12 years.
- Teen pregnancy is still way too high, which contributes to our crime rate, under-educated children, families living in poverty, and children of many ages with no focus.
- Changing the lack of healthcare for the uninsured. St. Mary's will receive a \$500,000 grant to provide improved care.
- The question was raised as to education possibilities for those in prison who will once again be on the outside. A small population at the House of Corrections are learning a trade. Alderman Murphy commented on the trade program between MATC, one of the area businesses, and an MPS high school. That is a sign of hope.
- A reminder of the law that a home can receive only three nuisance calls in a month before the owner is billed for the police service.
- Fact: 53,000 people drive without a proper license in the city of Milwaukee.

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- The \$2.5 million that the Potawatami puts in the trust fund for the city will be used to provide moderate housing in the city.
- AT&T will possibly compete with Time Warner. However, Time Warner needed to make cable available to the entire city and did that by setting up cable boxes. AT&T wants to be selective in identifying where they will locate their services. Time Warner pays the city \$3.5 million a year for the privilege of having sole rights to provide cable service. This is a very complicated issue with many extenuating circumstances.

On a much lighter note, Michael Murphy shared pictures of his new daughter.

Neighbor concerns included hanging the Christmas ribbons and a suggestion to speak to our state representatives about issues including the behavior of some young people who visit in the neighborhood and leave behind negative behavior. Maggie has been in contact with Senator Spencer Coggs' office to request his participation in our January meeting.

Maggie would contact the newsletter group for an update on participation.

Two almost new shops include: Four Corners of the World, on 52nd and North, which handles fair market items. and RE Store which is the surplus shop connected with Habitat for Humanity on S. 60th Street. Remember the Vliet Street stores who need our support.

No meeting was held in December. Enrique hosted the neighborhood holiday potluck. Remember you are a member of the Martin Drive Neighborhood organization by virtue of where you live. Let's get together and enjoy each other's company without the cares of the world. <>

December 11, 2006

On Monday, December 11, 2006, the Martin Drive Neighborhood met at the home of Enrique Cortez for the second annual December/Christmas get-together. Everyone had a good time eating, drinking, talking, singing, listening or just relaxing. There was plenty to eat with many choices and recipes to share. It was an opportunity to socialize, to sing karaoke or to just listen. It was an informal fun time for all. We hope that even more neighbors will participate in 2007 for the 3rd annual Christmas get together at the house of Enrique Cortez. <>

January 8, 2007

Fifteen people attended the meeting. State Senator Spencer Coggs was the guest speaker.

Coggs has represented the Martin Drive Neighborhood since 2003, when he defeated former state Senator Gary George. Coggs handed out his spring 2004 newsletter to introduce his political family, starting with his uncle Isaac Coggs. Former state Rep. Marcia Coggs was his uncle's wife, and County Supervisor Beth Coggs-

Jones and state Rep. Leon Young are his cousins.

The issues on which he is working as a state senator are:

1. Lead paint abatement, his priority. He will bring this issue to the senate floor again so that loans could be made to homeowners and landlords to eliminate lead paint in houses built before 1950.
2. Eliminating paychecks for City of Milwaukee police officers who have been fired.
3. Closing a loophole in the responsible gun owner law. Currently, a person can sell a gun to another person without first doing a background check. Owners of gun shops are required to run a background check before selling a gun.
4. The bully bill. This would require school districts to have a uniform policy regarding discipline of children involved in physically bullying another child. Neighbors encouraged Coggs to make sure that this includes all facets of a school day such as on playgrounds, buses and field trips, as well as while walking home from school.
5. Quality of life issues. Coggs stated that this is an extremely important topic for our next police chief. He remarked that enforcing the curfew has improved the city. He appeared to think that community policing would add to the quality of life for our citizens. Neighbors asked whether the state could provide grant money for police overtime costs that would be incurred.
6. Other topics briefly covered were shared revenue, the formula for school money, the concealed carry law, the laws concerning the sale and use of private fireworks, picture IDs for voting, and electronic machines for voting.

Neighborhood topics discussed:

- Positive comments about the neighborhood: the red ribbons that decorated the neighborhood during the holidays. Thanks go to Pete on 45th and 46th streets and to other unknown people who displayed the ribbons. If you know the names of the unknown, send them to Maggie Blaha.

- Rebates this year for renovating projects. Pat Mueller volunteered to check with the appropriate agencies for information.

- The old boathouse in Washington Park. This is now the Urban Ecology program and was scheduled to be cleaned on Jan. 15.

- 2007 neighborhood events. Chairpersons of events should send Maggie the dates of upcoming events.

- Neighborhood connection to state government through Coggs and Rep. Tamara Grigsby. Our responsibility is to contact our senator and