

Martin Drive E-News

October, 2007

Martin Drive Neighborhood Association E-Bulletin

In addition to quarterly newsletters, we are starting monthly e-bulletins. The Association is in a new stage of growth and we hope to be able to reach more of our neighbors with news on a timely basis. The purpose of the MDNA E-Bulletin is to make you aware of issues that concern our neighborhood. It will include much good news, fun activities that otherwise might not reach your conscious as well as issues of concern or warning. FYI, we have more positive things to announce than words of warning.

Please encourage your neighbors to go to the website and sign up to be on this mail list. There will be valuable information that will be available first by this list. Most of this information will be published in our quarterly newsletters for those without e-mail. But we can spread the word more quickly by e-mail.

Party for the Parks

Join us Saturday, September 29, 2007 as Milwaukee County Park's celebrates their 100th anniversary. We'll gather in Washington Park with plenty of music and fun for the entire family!
FREE Admission & Parking

**Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Washington Park, 1859 N. 40 St.,
Milwaukee** Tentative Schedule

In the musical line up there will be three live bands: Eddie Butts Band, Brandon James Band, and the Love Monkeys. For added entertainment there will be a DNR Fishing Clinic, Urban Ecology Open House and Paddle Boat Rides. Especially for kids enjoy a Worldwide Day of Play, Balloon-ville, a balloon extravaganza a Street Jam Show and Rock Climbing, Inflatable Slides, Tattoo Station with Games and Music and Free Kite Building Clinic, topped off by Karaoke!

Last but not least, there will be the drawing for the lucky winner of a Harley Davidson.

NIGHT TIME TRICK OR TREAT – It's Time to Plan.

This year's trick or treat even takes place on Friday October 26 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Halloween Planning Committee is busy getting permits, updating flyers, and signs. Registration will be Wednesday Oct. 17 & 24 from 6-8pm. And Saturday, Oct. 20th from 10 am to noon. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this event should contact Pat Mueller at 933-5589 or via e-mail at pat.mueller@hotmail.com.

Martin Drive Give Back Basketball League

Naima Adedapo, our neighborhood youth coordinator, whom many of you may know as Adelola's beautiful young daughter from 42nd Street has been out and about meeting kids in the neighborhood and surveying their interests. There are some great kids and some great parents and now we just need to put them together with some structured and safe activities. Many young boys interested in basketball and football and we were able to put together a neighborhood team which will play for 15 weeks through most of December on Saturdays. Our coach is Scott Staring of 42nd Street and his wife, Mary Staring and Cindy Hartzheim will be driving kids to the league on a weekly basis. We are planning to sponsor food (hamburgers) for one of the Saturdays. More volunteer help will be needed.

Bright Ideas -- The Light Brigade

Sometimes the best ideas are the simplest ideas. And, turning on your porch light is a simple way to boost neighborhood curb appeal and limit opportunities for vandalism and crime. Our two-year grant will allow us to "Light the Night" in the Martin Drive Neighborhood.

The Light Brigade will consist of walking groups of 3 neighbors going door to door, distributing information on rebate opportunities and specifically trying to encourage more people to turn on porch lights. The team will be equipped with energy efficient light bulbs, a ladder and a teenager who will assist in changing the bulbs of needy porch lights. Focus on Energy has also given us \$2 coupons off the purchase of energy efficient light bulbs. By this process, we can identify porch lights that are faulty or need replacement. The grant will provide funds to replace about 30 faulty porch lights throughout the neighborhood at a later date.

Martin Drive has a brilliant opportunity to move this neighborhood forward on many levels. So please open your door and connect with **The Light Brigade** when they come to visit your home. We want and need people from each block to join **The Light Brigade**. Don't let your block be left in the dark. To volunteer or for more information, call **Pat at 933-5589**.

WASHINGTON PARK SENIOR CENTER:

The fall computer classes are soon to begin at Washington Park Senior Center! We offer computer classes for individuals ages 50 and older. There is a fee for classes; however, the price is significantly reduced for seniors ages 62+. We have a variety of classes for beginners all the way to advanced students. We also offer many other different recreational and exercise programs. For class schedules and fees, please contact Jodie Schladweiler at (414) 933-2332, Monday thru Friday 8:30 – 4:00 or via e-mail at jschladweiler@interfaithmilw.org or visit online at www.interfaithmilw.org.

Bridge on Highland - The bridge on Highland leading to Miller Brewing Company and Harley is going to be replaced. It will be closed for construction for at least a year. Work will begin in the fall of 2008.

Sustainable Boulevards – Our city is blessed with a boulevard system that is beautiful and adds to the quality of life of the residents and visitors alike and is unmatched by other cities. A ten year plan is in place to replace the flower filled boulevards with more sustainable foliage and a limited number of signature flower plantings. Our neighborhood is boarded by boulevards on Martin and Highland and if you are interested in seeing a presentation on sustainable boulevards attend the meeting presented by Michael Murphy on September 27th at 6:30 p.m. at Hawley Road Environmental School, 5610 W. Wisconsin in the Auditorium. You can also see a presentation by clicking on this link: <http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/display/router.asp?docid=306> and scrolling down to the section on Sustainable Boulevards.

Let's Let Someone Else Do the Cooking!

Pizzeria Tazza has opened! * 5010 W. Vliet * 414-777-PZZA

The pizza parlor has opened and it is very cute and the food is good. The bench backs are huge slices of pizza and there are other oversized sculptures overhead. Pizza can be purchased by the individual slice for (\$3.50) or there are four sizes of pizza which will set you back from \$11.95 to \$17.95. The family size is 18" – HUGE! There are also homemade appetizers, dinner plates and refreshments including wine and beer. You can dine in, carry out **or they deliver!**

Really Nice Dining * Meritage * 5921 W. Vliet Street -

I also recommend Meritage on 59th & Vliet Street. Very good food, upscale atmosphere by comfortable and entrees won't exceed \$20. Good wine. Great place to impress your friends or significant other!

Art & Soul Gallery Expanded! Art & Soul Gallery, now celebrating its sixth year in business, has recently acquired the store just east of the original gallery creating room to feature fine art shows and expanded yoga studio. If you are interested in yoga schedule, please go to the gallery website for a complete list of fall and winter classes. <http://www.artsoul-gallery.com/>

Simple Ways to Winterize and to Save on Energy Bills Stay Warm, Stay Safe and Save Money

Temperatures will be dropping and gas and energy prices are rising. But there are things you can do to keep heating costs at bay.

1. See which way the wind is blowing!

If you grew up with cost-conscious parents, who told you to put on a sweater every time you complained the house was cold; now that you're paying the bills, you understand their wisdom. But if you identify energy leaks in your home, you may be able to give the sweater a rest without jacking up your thermostat. Go around your house and check for anyplace you feel a draft.

If you've got air leaks around the edges of your windows, rope caulk will be your best friend. One package costs about \$3 at local hardware stores. If you feel a breeze at the bottom of your doors, stock up on door sweeps, which are easy to attach and will run between \$2.50 and \$10. If your old windows leak air, there is a clear and removable caulk that can be purchased to seal up those gaps. Cost under \$5 a tube.

2. Storm windows in the Down Position Please!

And if you've got storm windows, be sure to keep them closed. If you don't have them, you can create temporary ones using a removable plastic film for your windows that you apply using a blow-dryer. Depending on how many windows you need to cover, the film will cost you between \$10 and \$20. Taken together, these measures alone may save you up to 10 percent on your heating bills.

3. Keep it simple!

Also, keep the drapes closed on north-facing windows, and let the sun shine in through your south-facing windows.

4. Take control of the dial!

One of the most obvious ways to cut your heating bill is to cut the heat. Keeping your thermostat low when you're sleeping or away from home, will keep extra dollars in your pocket. If you turn the thermostat down 10 degrees for 8 hours a night you can save 7 percent on your heating bill. If you do the same thing during the day and you're away from home for eight hours, that's another 7 percent. Have a programmable thermostat installed and you can set it so that it lowers the heat 30 minutes before you leave in the morning and begins to raise it again half an hour before you return. Likewise, it can turn the heat down as you drift off to sleep, and raise it as you contemplate that first cup of coffee.

5. Maintain Your Furnace!

Make sure your furnace gets regular tune-ups by a reputable heating contractor. Your system will operate longer and better. Change the air filters in your furnace once a month,

6. Look for Energy Star Replacements!

When buying any new appliances look for the energy star log which means it will be energy efficient. Energy Star products save money and protect the environment. And don't forget energy-efficient home lighting. Replacing incandescent bulbs with their efficient counterparts in high use rooms like kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms and outdoor fixtures could save \$60 per year according to Focus on Energy.

