



# Martin Drive Trolley News

April 2005

## MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD ANNUAL MEETING

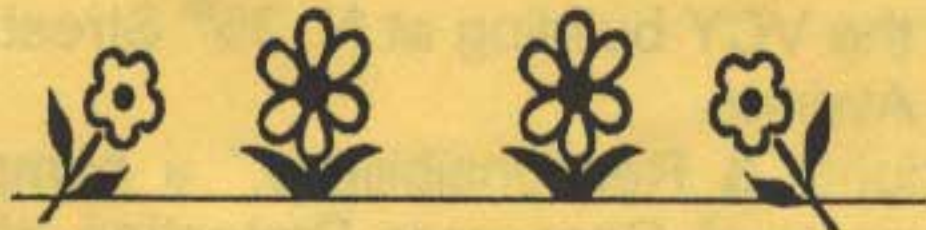
May 9, 2005

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Washington Park Senior Center  
4420 West Vliet Street

The meeting format this year has changed in hopes of maximizing participants' time and benefits of attending the meeting. Here's how it works:

There will be 6-10 tables set up. At each table an individual will discuss one topic. You may ask questions or get information from as many tables as time allows. Examples of choices are: Alderman, County Supervisor, Martin Drive history, homeownership, landscape design, landlord training, police department, youth activities, Martin Drive website, home resources (repair rebates, loans), 46<sup>th</sup> Street landscape project.



## PERENNIAL PLANTS NEEDED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

If you have perennial plants, such as hostas, Bishops Weed, iris or tulips that need thinning this spring, please bring them to the annual meeting so that they can be shared with the neighbors. In return, you may get a plant you have wanted.

Or, bring your perennial plants to the neighborhood clean-up on **April 23** at 9:45 a.m. to use on the two pieces of property on 46<sup>th</sup> Street that the neighborhood has received a permit to beautify this spring/summer.

Let's share the beauty of flowers with everyone and make our neighborhood a garden area to showcase.

## MARTIN DRIVE HISTORY

By Maggie Blaha

Let's picture the south side of Vliet Street between 46 and 47 Streets. For most of us, picturing 47<sup>th</sup> Street means looking at the 41 Freeway. However, it was not that way before 1960. Lynne Grages provided us with a map of the businesses in that block now occupied by a county owned empty lot and a bridge. Jean Horky Kolpatek filled in personal details.

There were two gas stations, one at either end of the block between 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> Streets, serving as bookends to the other businesses. A Mr. Lorenz owned West Park Cleaners, which was just east of Frye's Tavern with resident units. Veronica was the name of one of the Frye's several daughters. There was a fellow named Red Keith who worked in Red's Standard Oil Station on the east end of the block. At the other end was a Mobile Oil station. Try picturing an alley south of those businesses between 46 and 47 streets. Lynn said the alley was very popular with the kids.

Halloween was a big deal in the 1930's, which is probably why we are still trying to make it a kid-safe holiday now. Let's get our mental camera focused on the buildings between 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> streets on the south side of Vliet Street. No mention was ever made about the apartment building facing 44<sup>th</sup> street, which leads me to believe it was not there at that time. A check of the city records showed it was built in 1925, for any of you who are interested.

The building that is Heritage West was Militzer's Grocery, which may have become Lee's IGA in later years. Bayer's Bakery aromas must still be smelled in the building where Eat Cake! is now located. Saffert Meat Market and Kreuser's Drug Store (Kreuser's became Martin's in the 1950's) completed the little neighborhood shopping area. Let's go back to Halloween. According to Jean, treats meant an apple from Militzer, a hot dog from Saffert's, a bun from Bayer's and a candy bar from Kreuser's. Halloween continues to be important to Martin Drive Neighbors.



## FUN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

By Terri Bartlett

The Fun Committee, Pat Mueller, Jackie Ward, Enrique Rodriguez, and Terri Bartlett, held the initial meeting. A tentative plan of fun events for the calendar year, which neighbors can not only participate in, but be a part of the developing process was formulated.

Suggestions were gleaned from the survey results and added to the calendar of already planned neighborhood or Vliet Street business events, to take advantage of already planned gatherings of people.

Consideration was given to the amount of work and participant involvement needed for the event, as well as the realistic time frame in which to develop and produce a finished product. A calendar was created and brought to the March neighborhood meeting for discussion. The neighborhood members approved and were willing to promote the ideas offered in the calendar with many neighbors taking small parts to ensure success. Timelines and responsible parties will need to be completed at the next meeting. (See calendar of Upcoming Events on page 4.)



## MARTIN DRIVE MISSION STATEMENT

The Martin Drive Mission Statement was revised to meet current neighborhood philosophy. During the last few months, many varied options were deliberated. The new Mission Statement is as follows:

**THE MISSION OF THE MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD IS TO BUILD AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY THROUGH INCREASED AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT AMONG ALL NEIGHBORS**

## BLUE BOOK GIVES INFORMATION TO GET NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS SOLVED

By Linda Hanig

Information. People need it to solve problems in Westside neighborhoods – big and small, and everything in the middle.

The booklet "A Community Initiative: What to Do about Problems in Your Neighborhood" was designed to give just this, even as times change.

Nicknamed the "Blue Book," it was created to do something different than other resource guides. Rather than simply list City of Milwaukee department names and phone numbers, it gives the criteria of neighborhood problems and situations and suggests which department to contact to get the problems solved. It addresses the most common complaints on the Westside.

Printed in spring of 2001, the Blue Book was envisioned to be flexible, as time would go on. During its four years in circulation, new information has come to light, some procedures have changed and others have begun. Supplements have been inserted in the Blue Book to compensate. Nonetheless, much of its basic information is the same.

Its supplements:

- "Neighborhood Standards for the Westside," its original supplement of the standards created by those who attended the 35<sup>th</sup> Street Initiative meetings in the VCY building at N. 35<sup>th</sup> Street and W. Kilbourn Avenue.
- "Tenants' Rights & Responsibilities," a pamphlet from the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.
- "Calling the Sheriff's Department – Milwaukee County," a list of phone numbers to call for problems and situations county related.
- "Who to Call," a short list of the most recent city phone numbers for neighborhood problems. One significant change since the Blue Book was published is the Loud Stereo Complaint Form on page 8. The Milwaukee Police Department no

(Continued on page 3)

**BLUE BOOK** (Continued from page 2)

longer uses this form. Call the non-emergency police number, as for honking horns and noise from a property.

Other examples of changes and how it was compensated are the list of organizations with a community organizer on page 12. West End Development Corp. no longer has one. The phone number for Community Partners is not in effect. Nonetheless, on the supplement "Who to Call" is a list of current Westside organizations with community organizers.

The Blue Book was created to clarify certain concepts in neighborhoods. I began writing it in 1999 when I found people had misinformation. They called the wrong city department about problems. They believed that problems had to be far worse to get a department to do something to correct it. They did not call because they figured a department already knew about a problem and just did nothing about it. They were afraid to call. As a result, the problems continued.

As I researched information with many city departments, I received encouragement from people who attended the 35<sup>th</sup> Street Initiative meetings and the Blue Book expanded. A committee of people from the meetings helped verify information and edited the booklet. Walter Backlund secured a printer and financial donations to have it printed.

Volunteers and community organizers distributed the Blue Book through Westside neighborhoods. According to one organizer, it became known as the "snitch book" among some individuals in the neighborhood.

I look to the future for more updating of and supplements to the Blue Book and its continued usefulness in solving problems in the neighborhoods. Suggestions are always welcome.



## WHAT'S GREENING ON 46TH STREET?

By Terri Bartlett

The two small empty parcels of land at the beginning of 46th and Vliet and the end of 46th and Martin Drive have long been a concern of the Martin Drive neighbors. The county has often neglected the properties.

Several months ago, the Martin Drive neighborhood was able to obtain temporary permits allowing the neighborhood the upkeep and possible beautification of the land.

This is a big commitment and one of the first allowances of this kind in the city. The Martin Drive residents have great support coming from the county, the Neighborhood Housing Services, the West End Development Corp., the Non-Profit Center, Alderman Michael Murphy and more in the planning to beautify the two parcels of land.

Plans to plant flowers and make the areas pleasing to the eye and possibly a quiet retreat are in the making. The hope is to receive grant monies to develop and promote a teen work program that would include the maintenance of the parcels, as well as meet Martin Drive resident requested needs relating to lawn care. Martin Drive residents have encouraged the project that is in the beginning stages.

If you are a Martin Drive resident and interested in assisting with the planting and/or organization and/or have teens interested in being a part of the process, please call Terri at 931-0435. The more involved, the better the program can grow. We are striving to continue building community by holding hands on a variety of projects and programs.

## FIRST ANNUAL CANCER EDUCATION FORUM

**April 16, 2005**

9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Northside YMCA, 1350 W. North Ave.

Call Shauna Williams at 374-9445 for more information.

Cancer is NOT a death sentence, but IS a disease our community must address.

### SAFETY

Summer is coming and school will be out.

Watch for kids.

**SLOW DOWN, BE ALERT**



## UPCOMING MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

### Westside Artwalk & Vliet Street Days

Friday, **April 29** - 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, **April 30** - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Get ready for the *Westside Artwalk*! It's a community of galleries and businesses abundant with artists, musicians and craftspeople that will enlighten and entertain you - not to mention help you find unique gifts for extraordinary people! Join the vibrant and diverse communities of Milwaukee's Washington Heights and Martin Drive Neighborhoods and the Village of Wauwatosa for a day and evening to remember.

In addition to shopping, enjoy sheet-art projects, demonstrations, and many sites on the tour will have musical entertainment, such as Déjà vu Consignment's jazz vocalist Cassandra McShepard with Open Mike Poetry readings.

### Bicycle-Rodeo

Saturday, **April 30** - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bring your bicycle and helmet and be prepared to have fun! Planned activities include a race, obstacle course, bike check and safety instruction.



### Neighborhood Clean-up & Martin Drive Walkers Club

Saturday, **April 23** - 8:30 a.m. -

Martin Drive Walkers Club kicks off the neighborhood clean-up to coincide with Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful Day at 8:30 am. MD Walkers are to meet in front of Eat Cake! on Vliet and 43rd.

A walk through the neighborhood will include cleaning up the MD neighborhood. At 9:45 a.m. all participants will meet at the property on 46th and Vliet to clean and talk about future ideas. Bring lawn tools and chairs to rest. Afterward, all participants will meet for a homemade chili lunch at one of the neighbor's home from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Everyone is asked to bring along a side dish.

All future walks will be Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. through the MD Neighborhood and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. through Washington Park. Join us in front of Eat Cake! and get some exercise, fresh air, and probably a few laughs!

### Block Parties - June

Plan early, plan now! Gathering neighbors from your block for a simple get together of hot dogs and chips is a great way to meet your neighbors and form alliances. When you know names and faces of those who belong on your block, it makes everything so much simpler. You will be surprised how this can set the tone for a quiet summer. We are encouraging each block to plan a party in June. If you need help with a flyer for your block party, contact Pat at 933-5589 and provide her with the details or ask her for advice on how to organize a really simple meeting.



## SIGN-UP YOUR CHILD FOR A FREE YOUTH DAY IN MAY

By Sharon Williams

The Youth Activities Committee of the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association (MDNA) is planning a day of fun activities for neighborhood children, grades 6 through 9.

It will be held at the Milwaukee Urban League Academy of Business and Economics. This is the building on the corner of 45th and State Streets.

We are hoping to have it on Saturday, May 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. MDNA will provide workshops that are led by adult neighbors on doll making, step dancing, drumming, and youth business and job ideas. Our goal is to help some of our younger neighbors get to know each other, have some fun, and get ideas for future projects of interest to this age group. We hope these future projects will be both fun and helpful to the continuing improvement of our area.

COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD OR CALL 933-9989.

## DUMPSTER SCHEDULE

By Rob Alsten



5/6/05 42nd & McKinley  
6/3/05 Juneau between 43rd & 44th  
7/8/05 Juneau at 46th  
8/5/05 Juneau between 42nd and 43rd

## PROJECT CLEAN & GREEN

Mayor Tom Barrett announced that city crews will target one zone of the city each week to remove bulky items, **except the following**: appliances, household hazardous waste, more than 5 tires, construction material (roofing, lumber), more than 4 cu. yd. of brush, paint, waste oil or other liquids, computers and electronics. MDN is in zone three and our week is **April 25-29**.

## HOW TO GET YOUR LAWN AND FLOWER BED IN SHAPE

You folks on lower 45th Street have a wonderful resource in your neighbors, **Junior Garcia and Maria Rivas**. Junior is a professional grounds keeper and Maria is a long time flower gardener. I asked them what should we be doing now to help get our lawns and flower beds ready for the coming season. Here is the list of tasks they suggested.

### Lawn care

#### Spring

- ✓ Pick up or rake up any trash and dead leaves in your yard
- ✓ Cut and pull out any weeds (make sure they are really weeds)
- ✓ If it's difficult to pull out the weeds, water the lawn and try the weed pulling again. It will be easier if the ground is moist.
- ✓ Fertilize your lawn using the Spring formula. Bags of it can be found at most garden centers, home improvement stores and hardware stores. Remember your lawn needs fertilizing during each season. Just be sure you are using the formula made for that season. This information is usually right on the bag.

### Flower care

#### Before planting any new flowers

- ✓ remove one to two inches of the dirt
- ✓ add the same amount of new soil
- ✓ mix the new soil into the remaining soil by "turning it over" with a small shovel
- ✓ plant flowers two or three inches down into the soil and two or three inches apart
- ✓ cover the roots with dirt but be careful not to pack it too firmly. You don't want to compress the roots.

Water the flowerbed twice a week after sun down, at night, or in the early morning.

## MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDELINES

This is our neighborhood. The quality of life in our neighborhood depends on mutual respect and concern.

- Keeping your own property up will encourage your neighbors to do the same.
- Graffiti, drugs and gangs cannot be tolerated in our neighborhood.
- Noise is an intrusion. Please use common sense and be especially considerate after 9 p.m.
- Refrain from using car horns in non-emergencies, and ask your guests to do the same.
- Remember the speed limit on residential streets is 25 MPH.
- If your pet spends time outside, please be sure to clean up after it, whether in your yard or someone else's; dogs should be leashed, fenced or supervised.
- Landlords who do not live in the area need to keep their property in a safe and presentable condition.
- Children need to be supervised at all times to help them learn respect for adults, the law, and their property as well as the property of others.
- Remember this is your neighborhood and it is made up of people. Get to know your neighbors. Do your part to watch out for them and they in turn will watch out for you.



## HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

By Terri Bartlett

The Martin Drive neighbors are eligible for several opportunities for homeowner improvement dollars. The Neighborhood Housing Services and the West End Development Corp. have funds available for inside and outside improvements. Many Martin Drive residents have taken advantage of these opportunities the past several years to repair, replace and upgrade; clearly improving property and neighborhood appearance, which has also effected the increased resale price of neighborhood homes and curb appeal. The Martin Drive Neighborhood, according to a recent Sunday Journal real estate article, stated we savor our "Milwaukee-ness." We do so because of the many residents who live and care for this neighborhood, many taking advantage and promoting the home improvement opportunities. Each program has its own set of guidelines. To get more information, call Neighborhood Housing Services of Milwaukee at 344-3013 or the West End Development Corp. at 933-2080 and ask about the home improvement program offered.

## SUMMARY OF MARTIN DRIVE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL MEETINGS

By Terri Bartlett

**February 14, 2005:** Alderman Michael Murphy's aide, Jessica, discussed with the attendees the property at 4146 W. Martin Drive, which may become a CBRF. Concerns were given to Rep. Tamara Grigsby relating to quality of life issues. Tamara Grigsby, our representative for the 18<sup>th</sup> district invited concerns and comments at 1-888-534-0018.

Dennis Barrish, Director of West End Development Corp., announced he is retiring. He has been connected to Martin Drive for ten years. At first, 80% focus was on crime. Today, we are focused on quality of life issues. Dennis reviewed the minor home repair program.

Sharon and Lois reported on the Youth Group. They are planning a youth art program to be held at the Urban League School for Math and Science some time in the future.

Pat Mueller discussed the four concerts planned for the Washington Park Band Shell, with Harley Davidson's matching pledge to improve conditions of the band shell.

Rob Alsten will schedule the neighborhood dumpsters. David Johnson presented the current updates to the new MD website, [martindrive.org](http://martindrive.org)

**March 14, 2005:** Peter Blewett, president of Milwaukee School Board, announced he is running for another term and discussed a variety of topics.

Dave Johnson spoke about his recent trip to Baltimore on the invite of Jackie Ward, to present the Martin Drive website he designed to the National Convention of Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative.

Youth Group - Sharon, Lois, Katrina and Rose continue to work on a calendar of youth activities and a brochure to promote upcoming events.

Fun Group - Jackie, Pat M., Enrique, and Terri created a tentative plan of events for the neighborhood, including neighborhood walks, clean-up, and childrenfest after the clean-up. The first clean-up was 12 years ago.

A bike rodeo is planned for April 30, Vliet Street Business Day. Pat Mueller is assembling a welcome packet for new residents. The newsletter name will be the *Martin Drive Trolley News*.

**April 11, 2005** - Belle Bergner from Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful discussed materials available for clean-up on April 23, 2005, and offered other options to join clean-ups outside of the MD Neighborhood, as well as benefits to clean-up such as coupons, zoo admission and more.

Pat M. discussed the format of the Annual Meeting. It was decided that 6-10 tables will focus on special subjects and projects in the neighborhood. Participants can move from table to table, asking questions.

We reviewed, Westside *Artwalk*, April 29-30, and the newsletter process. A resident voiced concerns regarding a neighbor's loud motorcycle.

We welcomed three new couples to the Martin Drive Neighborhood.

## MARTIN DRIVE ALERT

By Linda Hanig

People in neighborhoods become empowered with information of all sorts. Empowered people build strong, safe neighborhoods. This newsletter supplies information so that the Martin Drive Neighborhood can be strong and safe.

The following information was taken from an e-mail that was sent February 23 to alert neighbors about a recent vehicle theft and house burglary in the neighborhood. Parts of the message bear repeating so that neighbors who did not receive the e-mail can be informed:

Sometime during the night of February 22 to 23, a van was stolen from a house on West Martin Drive between N. 44th and N. 45th streets. The house was also burglarized between Christmas and February 22. People climbed into the upstairs and took carpentry tools.

This notice is not sent to frighten anyone in the neighborhood. We want to remind you to be city-wise about security for your vehicle and house.

- Keep lights burning during the normal night time hours when you would be home.
- Use a timer so that you do not have to come home to a dark house.
- Use motion lights.
- Adjust your shades or blinds. Have them move some time during your day/evening.
- Lock your car doors.
- Do not leave anything visible in your vehicle. Any small item - change, CDs, tapes, bags and cases of all sorts - can be a temptation for someone. Put them in your trunk or take them with you into the house.

When you do not follow these types of living-in-the-city rules, you expose yourself and your neighbors to crime. You invite criminals into our area. We don't want them. Thank you for thinking of others.

## SUPPORT A VALUABLE NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE

By Susan Smith

A recent *Shepherd-Express* article caused me to be concerned about whether or not the **Times Cinema** may be in danger of closing.

It's easy to forget we have this historic art-deco venue in our own backyard, let's support our neighborhood business so it will not go the way of other movie theaters. Remember - we need to support all of our Vliet Street businesses to keep them strong and prosperous.



**MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD & BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES**

- Martin Drive Apartments**  
Pat Mueller..... 933-5589
- Martin Drive 43rd - 46th Streets**  
Frank Kopenski..... 933-3066
- Highland Boulevard** ..... (Volunteer Needed)
- Vliet Street** ..... 342-9595  
Ada Rouse
- 42nd & McKinley**  
Betty & Al Siemsen ..... 344-3846
- 43rd Street (North of Juneau)**  
Katrina Knight ..... 933-0272
- 44th Street (North of Juneau)**  
Pat Sieloff ..... 933-3013
- 44th Street (South of Juneau)**  
Pat & Linda Devitt..... 344-1019
- 45th Street (North of Juneau)**  
Maggie & Tom Blaha ..... 344-3584
- 45th Street (South of Juneau)**  
Mary Jo Runnoe ..... 344-2410
- 46th Street (North of Juneau)**  
Beth & Dale Milhans ..... 933-6777
- 46th Street (South of Juneau)**  
Linda Hanig ..... 345-9754
- West End Development Corp**  
(Minor home repair & rebate program)  
Dennis Barrish ..... 933-2080

**WHO TO CALL**

Crimes



**911** - Emergencies: life threatening; crimes in progress like battery, robbery, gunshots.

**933-4444** - Non-emergencies: loud music, neighbor trouble.

**935-7232** - 3rd District: to talk about ongoing problems, to talk with your squad officers, to request that a squad check your house occasionally while you are on vacation, for general information.

**935-7411** - Vice Control Unit - prostitution, narcotics

Other Problems:

**286-2268** - Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS): garbage on private property or lot, nuisance vehicles on private property, disrepair of a building (Building Code Enforcement), rodents, animal feces, overfilled dumpsters or garbage carts, landscaping problems such as dirt eroding onto the public sidewalk.

**286-8282** - Department of Public Works (DPW): snow and ice on the public sidewalk, the grass is longer than 9 inches, weeds, the garbage carts on the public sidewalk, clean up city-owned vacant lot, special garbage collection, missed garbage collection, street lights out, broken branches on city trees.

**286-8350** - Parking Enforcement: abandoned vehicles on the streets or city property.

**286-8715** - Graffiti Hotline

**286-2557** - Department of Neighborhood Services: fire damage to structure to report, get permits, to find out the status, Zoning Enforcement.

**286-3874** - Commercial Building Code Enforcement

For roaming or menacing pets, call the Milwaukee Police Department at 933-4444, or the DNS at 286-2268, or Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission at 649-8650.

You can also report neighbor problems to the city through their web site at [www.milwaukee.gov](http://www.milwaukee.gov) under Report Problems.

**Aldermen:**

15th District - 286-2221 - Willie L. Hines

10th District - 286-2221 - Michael Murphy

**Community Organizers:**

221-8770 - Community Partners

**You're Invited**

We need a Martin Drive resident to represent the **Highland Blvd.** block. Help your block connect to what's happening in our neighborhood by passing out items such as newsletters, welcome packets, and Halloween registration forms. You could be part of a planning committee such as the Fun, Safety, Newsletter, or Youth Group. If you're interested, please contact Maggie Blaha at 344-3584.

Everybody's Welcome