

Martin Drive Trolley News

January 2006

FEBRUARY MARTIN DRIVE MEETING

By Pat Mueller

Meet the police officers who patrol our neighborhood!

When: **Monday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m.**
(doors open 6:15 pm)

Where: Milwaukee Urban League School (MULABE)
46th & State Street.

Milwaukee has adopted a philosophy of policing that is inclined towards targeted enforcement or intelligent enforcement. This means the police and the assistant district attorney assigned to our area are trying to know the community and use community input to work intelligently.

We have a superior new commander at the 3rd District, James Harpole.

Come to the meeting February 13 and meet Capt. James Harpole, and the officers and sergeant assigned to our neighborhood, a community liaison and a gang unit officer and their sergeant. Alderman Michael Murphy and a representative of Community Partners will be present.

The meeting will be at the same time and date but at a different location to accommodate the larger crowd we expect. Mark your calendars and come early. Parking will be available on 46th Street or in the school parking lot.<>

FREE TAX PREPARATION

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a nation-wide program and provides income tax assistance for low-income individuals, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking taxpayers, and the elderly. In addition, the program assists individuals who qualify for Homestead Credit or the Earned Income Credit. Representatives from banks and credit unions from dozens of locations across the state will also be on hand at VITA sites to help users open bank accounts to facilitate an electronic tax refund. Below are a few locations.

MATC-Downtown

Atrium/S101
700 W. State Street
Tues. & Thurs. - 5 pm - 7pm
Sat. - 10 am - 1:30 pm

First Service Credit Union

333 N. 35th Street
Tues. - 10 am - 3 pm

Aurora Family Services

First come, first served
Senior citizens served quickly
3200 W. Highland Blvd
Tues. - 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

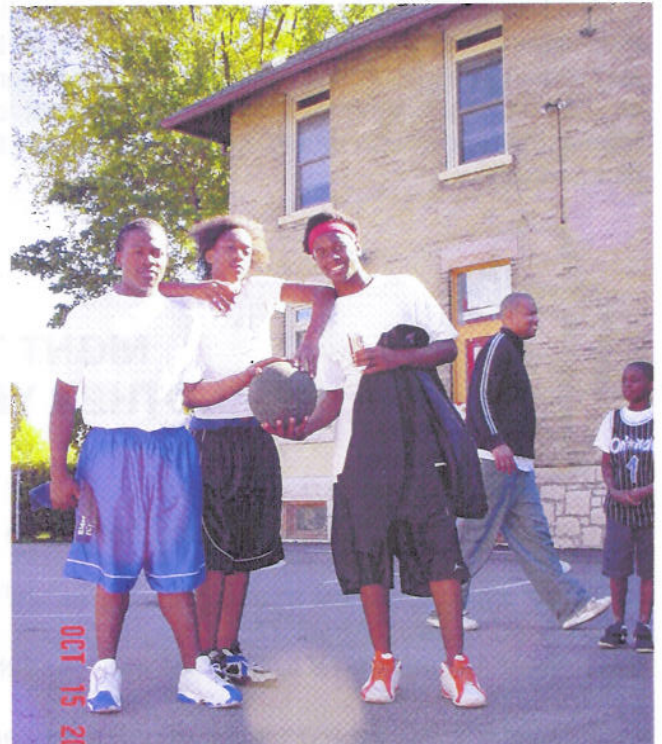
YOUNG NEIGHBORS RAISE MONEY FOR HURRICANE SURVIVORS WITH 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL

Saturday, October 15, was a warm autumn day. It was a bit windy, but that did not stop a bunch of neighbors from enjoying an afternoon of basketball.

The young men on 43rd St had suggested that we raise some money to help Hurricane Katrina survivors. A 3-On-3 basketball tournament was organized. (Each team had three players rather than five players.) Each participant was to either donate a dollar or a non-perishable food item or items. To supplement this, hot dogs, soda, and chips were sold. We raised \$44 for the Red Cross Survivor Fund and collected seven bags of food for the Hunger Task Force Hurricane Survivor collection.

Twenty-four players mostly male and ranging in age from eight to seventeen formed into eight

(Continued on page 2)



(3- On-3 Basketball—continued from page 1)

teams. About twenty more neighbors, volunteers, and spectators came out to support the event. We saw some excellent plays, and a lot of good sportsmanship and positive behavior. In addition, our neighbor, Erica Henry, arranged for the Artist in Education, Inc. (AWE) studio truck to come by. The Making Connections Milwaukee organization (MCM) needed some help from our younger neighbors with a craft project they designed with the AWE folks. Just about every spectator made at least one "potted tree" to be used as table settings for the organizations annual meeting.

We want to thank the following young neighbors for playing in the tournament. The winning teams are underlined.

Elementary Level: Team One (BJ, Quentin and Meko), Team Two (Justin, Wesley and Greg), Team Three (Douglas, Cain, and Myron)

Middle Level: Team One (Calvin, Brendan, and DeShay), Team Two (Markel, Morgan, and Kayla).

Upper Level: Team One (Mikey, Eron, and Tim), Team Two (Alonzo, Quentin, and Tim), Team Three (Micheal, Isiah, and Bryon)

Note: Each of the older teams won three games, so all are winners because they had a good time. Simply put; everyone had a "ball" whether we played or not.

Next spring it might be fun to organize another tournament, but this time to challenge one of the surrounding neighborhood associations to get some of their young neighbors to compete against our teams. We know who would wind! Check out the pictures below.



NIGHT TIME TRICK OR TREAT ANOTHER YEAR OF FUN AND SUCCESS

By Pat Mueller

Thanks to everyone who helped, donated time and candy. Night Time Trick or Treat was a great success this year.

There were about 60 treating homes on 46th Street from Martin Dr. to Vliet Street. More than ever participated before! About 175, witches, ghosts, ghouls, Spiderman, bumblebees, princesses and the like (kids under 12) registered to trick or treat. And there were more volunteers for security monitors than ever before!

Jennifer Visnaw did a great job of organizing and canvassing the neighbors on 46th Street which resulted in the great number of treating homes signed up.

Once again thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated. It takes the whole neighborhood to make the event fun, safe and memorable.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

By Jennifer Visnaw

Every year, Martin Drive Neighborhood is host to a spectacular Halloween night. 46th Street was chosen for 2005's night trick or treat night.

The empty lot at the top of the block was a perfect setting for a late walk in a haunted graveyard. Volunteers of all ages dressed as witches and goblins and such made for fun walking company.

Little trick or treaters filled the streets, and within five minutes after the starting time, princesses, witches, and mighty super heroes were swarming all over gathering up tons of treats. The children always knew which houses to go to, because lanterns lit their way.

One house, at the end of 46th Street put on an amazing show; they even had two actors towards the end of the evening. There were lights up and down both blocks, and the house with the giant pumpkin and cornstalks seemed to be scaring kids away with the creepy music and mysterious person no face wearing a velvet green hooded cape, not to mention Freddy hiding behind the corn stalks.....Children of the corn!!!!

We'd like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers, patrol and people that handed out candy. We really did it this year, and we made the kids happy. It was a very enjoyable evening, and everyone went home with huge bulging bags. Thanks again, and we hope to see you next year. ■



WHAT WE ALL CAN DO

By Cathy Mackay

I was studying for an exam the other day when I looked out the front window. Outside, lying in the road, was a piece of garbage. To be exact, it was a McDonald's Quarter Pounder package lying in the road. I got out of my chair, went outside, and picked up the piece of garbage.

On the way back to the curbside of the road I saw another piece of garbage. It was a personal use item. Since I had gloves on, I picked that piece up, too. On the way back inside the house, I found a few pieces of paper and cardboard lying on my lawn, and I picked those up.

All in all, my effort to clean up outside took about five minutes.

Now you probably know that I'm going to preach to you about the garbage I find outside of my house, and you're right. However, I'm not going to preach about the type of garbage I find. That's another story for another day.



What I am going to talk about is the importance of picking up the garbage in the front of our houses. That means every day, seven days a week, we pick up the garbage in our yard. It'll only take five minutes of your time each day. Is that too much to ask each one of us to do?

Your probably rolling your eyes by now, and thinking, "I didn't put the garbage there, so why should I pick it up?" The answer to that question came to me right away, "If you want your house and yard to look as nice on the outside as it is on the inside, pick up the garbage."

Not only will your yard look nice, but if everyone does their part, the whole neighborhood will look appealing to the many people who drive or walk through our area. They then can tell other people about a great little neighborhood near Miller Brewery that would be a good area to settle down in. This will keep our neighborhood vital and inviting for everyone!

This article may seem a bit trite, but I'm not the only one who feels this way about the garbage. You see, this summer I sent flyers out every week to get people in the neighborhood to clean up the garbage on Saturday mornings. Some of you participated. Many of you thought the clean-up was a good idea, and at least cleaned up your own yards on that day. If you also think about this issue, go out and clean your yard for five minutes each day. When you see your neighbor next door, invite him to clean up his/her yard for five minutes a day. What a difference it will make in the neighborhood!

While your at it, put your garbage cart back where they belong – in the back yard. During the winter months the garbage men will go to your backyard and pick them up for you. All you have to do is return it to the backyard after the cans have been emptied.

Thank you for letting me get on my bandwagon! Hope to see you outside soon cleaning your yard for five minutes a day! <>

SO YOU WANT TO BUY A HOUSE?

By Pat Mueller

Would you like to own a home? Would you like money to help you purchase that home? Well, look no further! We may have the solution for you!

Through a partnership with Select Milwaukee, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee is offering low income individuals the opportunity to purchase their first home through a locally and federally funded program called Milwaukee Assets for Independence.



The program is a matched savings account or individual development account (IDA) designed to encourage wealth development. Participants in the IDA program will have 6 months to 2 years to save up to \$1,333. After achieving their savings goal, participants then receive matched funds in the amount of \$3:\$1. Each participant can earn a maximum of \$4,000 in match assistance. For example, a participant who saves \$1,333 in their IDA savings account will receive matching funds of \$4000, giving them a total of \$5,333 to put towards the purchase of their new home!

Each client will also receive financial literacy education from the Boys and Girls Club and homebuyer advocacy services from Select Milwaukee, Inc.

Potential participants must be currently employed, have the ability to save on a monthly basis, have a net worth less than \$10,000 (not including a home or one vehicle per household), and must fall within certain income guidelines.

If you are interested in the IDA program for homeownership or have questions about the program, please call Kristin at Select Milwaukee at 414-562-5070 ext 229. She will be happy to give you more information, and send you an application.

DID YOU KNOW... During the winter season, you do not have to take your garbage carts to the curb; the carts are retrieved by Department of Public Works crew. There are no set collection days because when it snows, the trucks are used to plow snow. When you're required to place carts at the curb, a tag will be affixed to your cart, indicating collection days.

CALENDAR FOR VLIET STREET BUSINESS EVENTS

Westside Artwalk

Art*Music*Gifts*Food*Enrichment
Friday, April 28 – 5pm to 9pm
Saturday, April 29 – 10am to 4pm
Merchants of Vliet Street
from 43rd to 60th on Vliet
& Village of Wauwatosa

Garden Party

Sidewalk Sale
Sat. June 10, 10am to 4pm
Merchants of Vliet Street
to 43rd to 60th & Vliet

SUMMARY OF MDNA MINUTES

By Terri Bartlett

Minutes from the meeting of November 14, 2005.
Martin Drive Neighborhood Association

We checked for the residents who have lived in the neighborhood the longest. The goal was to identify historians who may share their childhood memories of living in our neighborhood. The list is below and we hope others can be added to it. Call or e-mail Maggie Blaha at 344-3584, mtblaha@sbcgloral.net.

1. Jean K. - 1922
2. Catherine M. - 1948
3. Lynn G. - 1946.
4. Frank & Josie K. - 1955
5. Betty L. - 50+ yrs.
6. Betty and Al S.
7. Jim F.
8. Gert P.
9. Maggie B. - 1964, Tom - 1971
10. Nelda W. - 1972

Jenny V. and Pat M. declared the Halloween Night of Trick or Treat a complete success (see article on pages 2 and 3).

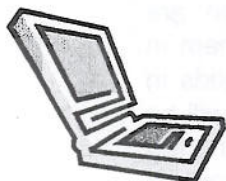
Areas of concern for the past month: Police calls were made about each street in the neighborhood, mostly for robberies or burglaries. Two or more people from the MDNA will attend the 3rd District crime analysis meeting. We do know that two people were arrested for one crime.

Sharon W. related the success of the 3-on-3 basketball event held on October 15 (see article on page 1).

Lois reported the Milwaukee Urban League Academy on 46th Street would like to connect with us. This might mean their students would help with such events as collating the newsletter and counting out the copies for people who deliver it. We could possibly use their facility for a Martin Drive event.

We commended several of our neighbors for the new home projects the owners have undertaken. Although we know there are many more, we expressed our thanks to the owners of the homes at 1170 N. 45th, 1215 N. 45th, 1235 N. 45th, 1262 N. 45th, 1247 N. 45th. You might note that all of these are on 45th If you would like to recognize your neighbor in a positive manner, email or call Maggie with the information.

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WIFI COMING TO MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD

By Pat Sieloff

Exciting news! The Martin Drive Neighborhood will be included in the initial Wireless Fidelity (WIFI) Internet implementation.

The plan is to have the system installed possibly within the next four months to the section of the city that has been targeted to get the first wireless access. I believe Ald. Mike Murphy had a role in extending the initial borders to go to Hwy 41 on the west side of town.

The plan is to wire the entire City of Milwaukee within the next 18 months. This means that people who want to access the internet from their home or anywhere in the boundaries of the city. will pay a fee of approximately \$20 per month and have high speed internet access without going through a cumbersome physical phone line.

More details will be shared in the future through newspaper articles or you can contact Mike Murphy's office for information at 286-2221 ◊

(MDN Minute Summaries - continued from page 5)

Christmas ribbons will be out again this year. Interested parties willing to volunteer to put these up were requested.

Some neighbors noted Ald. Michael Murphy was commended in the Shepherd Express as the best alderman in the city. We already knew that, but it is good for the rest of the city to hear it, too. We also appreciate Ald. Murphy sharing the broader picture with us when we ask him questions.

The 20 people in attendance ended the meeting by introducing themselves and giving a positive comment to send us on our way.

December 2005: There was a informal Christmas gathering announced through Maggie's e-mail. A small contingent of neighbors found the time to share the Christmas spirit at Enrique's home on December 12. We thank him for his hospitality

Minutes from the **January 9, 2006** Martin Drive Neighborhood Association

A thank you was offered to those who volunteered to place our neighborhood red ribbons. They set our neighborhood apart and identified us. The appearance of our neighborhood during the Christmas celebration time attracted many comments from visitors. It is our understanding that Pete H. would keep a supply of ribbons for any of the streets that need a location for storage.

A reminder to neighbors: garbage carts do not need to be taken to the street during the winter. Garbage carts left on the sidewalks work just the opposite of the red ribbons (see Cathy Mackay's article on page 4).

Neighbors discussed "flyers" that had been placed in their mailboxes filled with questionable subject matter. Several neighbors knew who had delivered them. The activity had been mentioned to the police and to Ald. Murphy's office. At this point, we chose to ignore it but kept it in the back of our minds. It would be appropriate if neighbors who are seriously troubled by this activity would contact the supervisor at the Vliet Street Post Office as it is a federal offense to put anything but posted mail in the mailbox. This could also affect our method of delivering our newsletters or other information to our neighbors.

Pat M. was contacted by Capt. Harpole's office concerning his desire to meet with the neighbors in the Martin Drive Neighborhood. Pat offered to contact the people involved so that we could have this meeting on our regular meeting night of the second Monday in February. Lois had contacted the Milwaukee Urban League Academy on 46th and State which graciously offered to let us meet there. This "Meet and Greet" provides a chance to become acquainted with the officers of our district and neighborhood.

Maggie asked that we start thinking of our goals for the annual meeting on May 8. The suggestions were to (1) invite political groups and (2) learn about new developments on the Westside. If you want to have your suggestions heard, please email Maggie or come to the meeting and give your opinions.

Sharon W. urged everyone to think about summer and what we want it to look and sound like. Lois and Sharon are working with MULABE to include them in planning summer activities for the kids in our neighborhood. This information will be on the March agenda. Anyone interested in participating in this should contact Maggie and she will get you connected.

Good news from our neighbors was the rummage sale from this past summer was very successful. It's usually held in July, we hope to move the rummage sale to June.

Although the party was planned in short order, we appreciated Enrique's efforts to provide neighbors with a location to celebrate Christmas with our Martin Drive neighbors.

Discussion was held on the new Highland apartments being built. This is a good sign that Martin Drive is a desirable location to live.

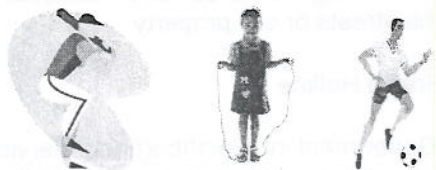
Maggie thanked the 21 people who to attended the meeting and offered their thoughts and opinions.

TENANT SCREENING TIPS

By Pat Mueller

Here are a few tips to lessen your chances of renting to the wrong person.

- ♦ **Always have a prospective tenant fill out a rental application.** Believe it or not, some people rent their properties without a rental application. Rental forms ranging from applications to leases can be purchased at Wisconsin Legal Blank located at 749 N. 37th Street. All these forms are on display at their front desk.
- ♦ **Always do a credit check.** Credit checks are a reliable, non-discriminatory way of determining if an applicant will pay their rent on time. If they have paid their bills on time in the past, they are likely to pay their rent on time. A credit check costs about \$10. This can be done on-line. You can search the web and find many locations that do this but www.citicredit.net is easy to use and to sign up. An Experian credit check costs \$9.95.
- ♦ **Check for criminal records.** Several internet sites will be useful for this purpose. To find local liens and judgments use this site -- <http://wcca.wicourts.gov/index.xsl> To find records of sexual offenses use this site: <http://offender.doc.state.wi.us/public/home.jsp>.



MORE YOUTH ACTIVITIES ARE IN THE WORKS!

By Sharon Williams

The Youth Committee will, hopefully, have some announcements in the next newsletter about our summer plans to provide some fun and productive activities for our young neighbors of all ages.

We hope to even have some employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. As they say, "Stay tuned"!

MDNA TEENS ATTEND FACILITATION

By Asabi Ifatunji

In early September 2005, Antionette Funches, Kayla Grimes and I, Asabi Ifatunji, attended an all-teen workshop led by Bob Hoffman. It was sponsored by the Making Connections Milwaukee organization and was designed to develop group facilitation skills.

We began by learning "ice breakers." These are fun five minute games you play to help everyone get comfortable with their surroundings. We were also provided with the organizational skills needed to help workshops run smoother and to help make it easier for the participants to better understand. We also focused on leadership and networking skills. ■



NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS NOTED IN ONMILWAUKEE.COM

The Milwaukee Nut Company, located at 4227 W. Vliet Street, was featured on the December 3, 2005, OnMilwaukee.com website. In the article Kathy Taback said she and her husband have owned the business for 20 years. She also said that nuts are a popular snack because they are cholesterol free and a good source of protein.

If you want to read the article, you can find it on the Internet at <http://onmilwaukee.com/season/holidays/articles/milwnut.html>.

NEW BUSINESS TO OPEN

A new bakery is scheduled to open on **February 10**. The business is located at 3329 W. Lisbon Ave. and is run by Stephanie Boucher. Daily features are soups, bread and pastries. Hours of operation - Monday - Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 2:00. p.m. Visit the new bakery and show your support.

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 Street342-9595
Ada Rouse

42nd & McKinley
Betty & Al Siemsen 344-3846

43rd Street (North of Juneau)
Katrina Knight 933-0272

44th Street (North of Juneau)
Pat Sieloff933-3013

44th Street (South of Juneau)
Pat & Linda Devitt 344-1019

45th Street (North of Juneau)
Maggie & Tom Blaha344-3584

45th Street (South of Juneau)
Mary Jo Runnoe344-2410

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)
933-2080

Needed

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

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 under Report Problems.

Aldermen:

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

10th District - 286-2221 - Michael Murphy

Community Organizers:

221-8770 - Community Partners

Join Us!

Please join us in our effort to revitalize and restore our neighborhood jewel,

Historic Washington Park!

We have made great strides this past year.

We raised money for bandshell improvements.

We staged the Second Annual WJZI Jazz Series.

We helped organize 'An Afternoon in The Park' for area neighborhoods.

We are now working to bring the Urban Ecology Center and its environmental programming to the park boathouse.

There's so much more we can do, but we need your support and talent!

Neighbors United for Washington Park Annual Membership & Volunteer Form

\$20.00 Annual Membership Fee



YES! I would like to volunteer and be a member of NUWP

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Email _____



Make check Payable to NUWP

Mail check and this form to
NUWP

5050 W. Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208

