

The Vliet Street Community Green Market Starts June 1st



There is a new farmers market coming to town! The Vliet Street Community Market will open and operate weekly on Sundays from 11am – 2pm beginning June 1 and run thru September 28. It will be located in front of the Washington Park Senior Center, visible from Vliet Street.

This market is possible because of sponsorship and involvement from Milwaukee County Parks, Washington Park Senior Center, Hmong American Friendship Association, Outpost Natural Foods, Radio Milwaukee 88.9, and several neighborhood groups. Neighboring farmers and artists will bring a true neighborhood market to Vliet Street offering locally grown, close to home, produce, handmade crafts, demos, and live music.

We are working to provide entertainment and demonstrations each Sunday. There will be cooking demonstrations using fresh seasonal produce by Outpost Natural Foods and Martin Drive resident, Carolyn Carter of Eden Markets.

There is a seasonal vendor fee for an assigned 10' by 10' space at the market and a \$20 weekly fee for vendors who want to participate at random. The money will be invested back into the market in the form of market materials, signage, insurance and a small fee for a market manager. <>



Martin Drive Annual Meeting

Make sure you arrive early for the meeting so you can serve yourself Pizza from Pizzeria Tazza and treats from Eat Cake! Take time to visit the various tables with information about Greening the Neighborhood with compost bins and rain barrels, rebates available to improve your homes, local contractors offering services and the Vliet Street Business Association.

Our guest speakers will be Alderman Michael Murphy and Rosheen Styczynski, Lead Landscape Architect at Zimmerman Design Group who will speak about ten easy and inexpensive ideas to add curb appeal to your home.

You will also receive updates on last year's accomplishments and on upcoming Martin Drive projects like the installation of porch lights through the Light Brigade, rebates from West End Development, our Curb Appeal Project, a community art project and more. And you will meet Cecelio Negrone who will be leading a youth activity

this summer.

Remember to divide up and bring perennials plants to share with neighbors.

Kids Corner
Bring the Kids to the Meeting.
They will have a special place and adult supervision.
Games, Crafts Room!

**Come to the
 Martin Drive Annual Meeting
 Washington Park Senior Center
 4420 W. Vliet
 May 12, 2008
 6pm to 7:30pm**

**Door Prizes
 Pizza & Eat Cake!
 Learn About Rebates**

**Bring Perennial Plants to Share
 with Neighbors!**

We would so much like to hear from more people, have more participation. How can we reach each block? Would you like to offer your input but can't come to a Monday meeting? Would you consider hosting a small Kitchen Table Discussion Group of neighbors from your block with our help? We need involvement from those who live on N. 43rd, N. 44th and N. 46th Street. For more information about the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association, Call Pat 933-5589

Still A Great Housing Market!

By Brad Posnanski, Bradley Realty

Owning and living in an investment property in the Martin Drive Neighborhood is a great opportunity for a number of reasons.



Through the Martin Dr. Duplex incentive program, buying and owner occupying a duplex will qualify you for a \$500 gift card to a home improvement store. In addition to

this, there are numerous benefits to owning your own duplex that include tax incentives, a vested interest in your community, tenant assistance with your home mortgage, and an investment that will appreciate in the long term.

Another reason is you have a voice in your neighborhood. In addition, you will be able to monitor your duplex better if you live in it verses strictly owning an investment property. These two reasons allow you to not only contribute to your neighborhood in a positive way, but it also allows you to seek out tenants who have the same commitment to the neighborhood.

All the news and media about the real estate market leaves us wondering about the stability of our current home or investment property and whether it is wise to even buy real estate in these uncertain times. To put all of the uneasiness to rest, now **IS** a great time to buy, especially if you foresee living in your home for at least two years. Interest rates are near all time historic lows. The number of houses for sale is up, leaving buyers with more selections than have been offered over the last several years. Buyers have more persuasion with negotiations.

Options are once again available for buyers, such as seller credits and negotiating the purchase price of a home, just to mention a few. In the previous market of 2005 to 2006, buyers usually had to pay the asking price if not more. If you are considering purchasing a home, even your first home, consider this. If you purchased a duplex for \$150,000 at 6% amortized over 30 years, your payment would equal \$899.33 per month. (PMI or taxes are not a part of this calculation)

Even though the market is down, 2007 still registered as the fifth best year for the volume of homes sold in the metro Milwaukee/Waukesha area. The average number of days on the market in 2007 for single-family and two-family homes in the Martin Drive Neighborhood was 64 days with an average sale price of \$117,028. As compared to 2006, the average

sale price of \$117,028. As compared to 2006, the average days on the market was 57 days and the average sales price was \$130,515.

Overall, the Martin Drive Neighborhood has been a stable community over the years with no immediate signs of wavering.

Brad is a licensed Wisconsin Real Estate Broker who grew up in the neighborhood and is a partner in the Bradley Realty firm on 60th & Vliet streets. <>

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra returning to Washington Park

Friday, June 27 @ 7 pm

**make plans now to round up your
family, friends & neighbors for this
event!**

Martin Drive is Going Green!

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful will be attending the annual meeting and offering information on the use rain barrels and compost bins. We will be offering the rain barrels and compost bins for sale at a great price. Comparables cost much more in catalogs. <>

Call for Broken Shards of Pottery, China and Porcelain

The Martin Drive Neighborhood Association is preparing to do a public art project. Artist, Muneer Bahauddeen, well known for his ceramic tile work, will lead the art project. You may have seen his work on the Walnut Street freeway overpass leading to the downtown. Muneer will create a series of three neighborhood mosaic signs with the help of neighborhood kids. The Washington Park Senior Center will be offering space for us to create this art.

We are looking for shards ceramic, porcelain and pottery. Are you keeping pieces of broken china or pottery because of sentimental value and cannot bear to toss these useless but meaningful treasures? Here is a chance to repurpose them into a beautiful cause. Of added interest would be a brief story of where the piece came from, any sentimental value to you and how the piece became broken. We will use these stories in promotions and possibly a mosaic booklet of stories.

Please bring your broken pieces and stories to the **Déjà vu Consignments**, 4315 W. Vliet Street where they will be placed with care in our community mosaic. Thank you. <>

Walking: You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks!

By Mary Andres

In spite of surprised reactions, I have continued to take walks through winter. Almost everyday for the past six months, I walk about 30 to 40 minutes. Although I have walked for the last several years, I now consider myself a "walker." I walk in my Martin Drive Neighborhood, near my workplace and many other places where I have never walked before. I walk to keep fit and help weight loss. What I didn't know was that I would walk for my mental and emotional well-being.

The freedom of my arms and legs moving together as I proceed has been a new joy. I move and glide and sometimes speed walk. As I move away from my home, my workplace or even a hospital where I wait for a friend's return from surgery, I am moving and so are my thoughts. I take in what is around me, and this often moves my thoughts from one idea to another. I allow free association of my thoughts as I move my body. Sometimes I purposely choose to ponder a situation during a walk or plan out next steps to a project. I always return from a walk refreshed and aware that I have a bit more energy.

In the Martin Drive Neighborhood I see well-kept gardens and lawns. I am encouraged by the seasonal decorations, like the Valentine's Day heart that fills one neighbor's front window. They make me smile. New work on properties is noticeable, as porches are repaired and painting is in process.

I see faces of people whom I don't know and following the walker's etiquette; I smile or nod and even say hello. The response is almost always a positive reply and now I recognize more people on blocks all over. When walking early in the day, I recognize students at bus stops, and they often respond with a sleepy "Morning." I see pets and can identify the house with the big and little dogs that like to pull their owner along the Miller Brewery wall on Martin Dr. I have matched the group of smokers outdoors on a porch of a group home I heard about in the area. And I hear people greeting and stopping to talk to neighbors, snippets of conversation floating back to me as I pass.

I am aware of feeling glad to be alive, to be outdoors on a cold day and know that I will go into a warm house. If someone had asked me to predict that I would someday feel unsettled and out of sorts if I didn't walk, I would have been very surprised. I have walked inside a mall when it was too icy or rainy, but I must admit that it is not the same. For one thing, I want to walk faster than may be possible or polite. And I want to breathe in the air - the outdoor air - and feel that air on my face. I don't want to take a tumble on the ice

so I have been wearing my snow boots and really kicking up a pace as I move worry free through crusty areas on sidewalks.

When I walk near where I work, I put aside the pressure of a deadline or the to-do list, knowing that I have 30 minutes to just be. And this is precisely how I walk when I only have 30 minutes between errands, or home and work.

I now plan when I will walk. If I'm on the eastside, I might just go to the lakefront for a walk around the harbor. If I have groceries to get, I may walk in the Menominee Parkway. And I know the routes to walk in residential areas around several major hospitals.

The only challenge for me is when it is dark and I would love to walk. I am looking into walking a neighbor's dog to solve this challenge. I have never felt unsafe walking. At the request of my adult and almost adult children, I always carry my cell phone.

As the season turns to spring, I love walking in Washington Park where the buds and grass and wonderful birds have been heralding the change in weather. Once in the park I make the figure eight around the lagoon and appreciate the early fishing crowd or just listen for the sound of no traffic.

When I walked in the rain during the first week of April, I noticed the smells and sensations of spring intensified. The umbrella really sheltered me it wasn't a windy rain. I'd like to find a rain slicker - the bright yellow kind preferably. On the same neighborhood walks, I smelled the juicy odors of grilled food and the rich spices I associate with an Indian restaurant.

This gets me back to the old dog (me) and the new trick (daily walking). I am also reaping the benefits of knowing that this time spent walking is something that I can control. In a hectic world that feels great!

Did I mention the chimes of church bells? Or my favorite, all the cardinals I hear?

Mary is an avid walker and resident of the neighborhood

**Walk with your neighbors
for a healthy neighborhood.**



**Martin Drive Movers—
Walking Club starts May 14th at 6:30.
See Next Page for details.**

Martin Drive's Movers—Walk Club Join us May 14th at 6:30 p.m.

As birds begin to sing and busy neighbors tend their yards, the neighborhood walking group is getting out their tennies and lacing up their shoes strings. This year's group is very excited for walking to begin! The walks start on Wednesday, May 14 and will continue every Wednesday. The group will meet at 6:30 pm in front of Pat Mueller's home at 4124 W. Martin Dr. and will walk for 45 minutes to an hour.

We have lots of fun events planned during and after our walks, such as a "Stroll Down Memory Lane," a historical walk through Washington Park, and "Earning Your Dinner." After walking, we make our way to Pizzeria Tazza for supper. And we will work up to walking to the new Cold Spoons Gelato for Italian Ice Cream. Please come to join in the fun whenever you can! If you have any question, you can e-mail Katie Halopka at khalopka@hotmail.com





**Sundays 11-2:00
June 1st - Sept 28th**

**Call to the Market
Drum Circle
12**

**Musical Guest
and Demonstrations**

**Vliet Street Community Green Market
Washington Park Senior Center
4420 W. Vliet Street**



Coordinated by the
Vliet Street Community Green Market

**Neighborhoods United for Washington Park
Among American Friendship Center
Making Connections & Radio Milwaukee 88.9**

**Outpost Natural Foods
Queens Crowns
Heritage West Properties**

**Meritage
DeMattia Medical Group**

Neighborhood Tidbits

- The Martin Drive Neighborhood Associations meets monthly @ 6:30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. We usually meet at 1219 N. 45th Street.
- Vliet Street was featured on the front cover of M Magazine — A photo of the Times Cinema billboard read: "West Side Story - A revitalized Vliet Street sparks area's resurgence."
- Martin Drive Neighborhood is bordered by Washington Park, one of three historic Olmsted Parks in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will perform free on Friday, June 27th at 7pm.
- This year the Jazz series will be coordinated by Radio Milwaukee 88.9. The concert series will run every Saturday in July. Bands appearing include: The Paul Spencer Band, Fever Marlene and Northern Room.
- Contact West End Development Corporation for information on rebates of up to \$750 to improve your home. Call Tamara Harris at 933-2080
- Need help landlording? Free advice and counsel from an experienced landlord is available by calling Pat at 933-5589

Ensuring Neighborhood Values of Peace, Quiet, Litter Reduction, Safety, Appearance of Property

Martin Drive Neighborhood – Help it Thrive
Don't Get Mad! Get Active!

Mission

The mission of the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association is to build and promote community through increased awareness and involvement among all neighbors.

Monthly Meetings

All neighbors are welcome, and those who have not attended before will be welcomed with open arms. Monthly meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at 1219 N. 45th St.

Attending is the best way to find out what is happening or express any concerns you may have. In that way, we can all work to address your concerns. We have many years of experience in problems solving, as represented at the meetings.

Litter

Pick litter up even if you did not drop it. Pick up a piece a day. Start a Saturday litter club on your block and meet weekly to pick up litter. Get exercise while everyone wins a beautiful neighborhood.

Noise - Dial 933-4444
Loud music from a boom box stereo that can be heard from 50 feet away is in violation of the noise ordinance. Report noise and citations can be issued to the offender(s). The cost of the citation is \$206.

Safety and Crime Prevention
Dial 911 for

All life threatening situations
All suspected crimes in process
Examples include:

- Prowling
- Battery
- Robbery
- Shots Fired
- Burglary

Non Emergencies

Dial 933-4444

This number is used when an officer is needed at the scene but the situation is not life threatening.
Examples include: Loud music and neighbor trouble (non-violent).

District Notifications –

Dial 935-7232

Non-emergencies when is squad is not needed.

- Examples include:
- Vacant house (You are going on vacation and ask the squad to check your home)
 - Nuisance complaints that are not in progress.

Suspected Drug House

Vice Control Division 935-7411
District Captain 935-7230
District Lieutenant 935-7231
Community Liaison Officer 935-7733

To Speak to a Supervisors

We are in sector 2 within the police district.
Contact Lt. Iris Ziolkowski about ongoing problems at 935-7231, or Iziolk@milwaukee.gov

WeTIP anonymous crime reporting hotline

(for crimes in progress call 911)
1-800-78-CRIME
1-800-782-7463
Up to a \$1,000 reward for info leading to arrest and conviction.

What the Police Needs to Know

When You Call:

- **What** is happening?
- **Where** is it happening?
- **Who** is it happening to?
- **Who** is doing it?

Give as much detail as possible.

Address of the property.

Description of any suspects.

If you want to remain anonymous, tell the police department.

Also, tell the police department if it is OK to contact you by phone or in person.

People Not Taking Care of Their Property

Report Violations to Department of Neighborhood Services 286-2268

Make and e-service Request
Many things can be reported anonymously via the Internet. Go to www.milwaukee.gov

Click City of Milwaukee

Click Service Request

Register your e-mail address

You can now report:

Animal problems,
Garbage & litter,
Graffiti,

Property in disrepair,

Street lights out,

Tall grass & weeds,

Abandoned vehicles,

Carts-recyclable/garbage,

Special garbage pickups,

Snow removal.



Martin Drive Watch

If you have a concern, come to the neighborhood meeting for support.

