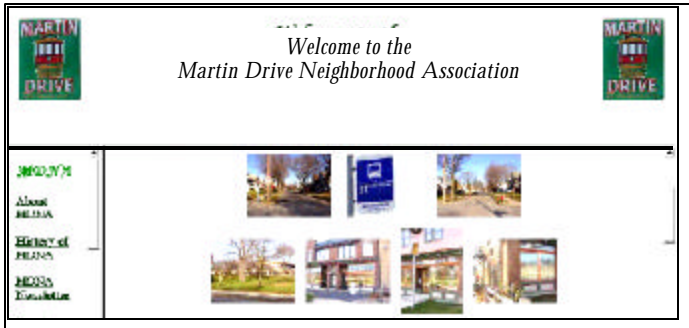


# Martin Drive Neighborhood News

## New Year, New Website!

By David Johnson



Let's welcome the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association (MDNA) to cyberspace at its new home, **[martindrive.org](http://martindrive.org)**!

As of January 2005, the MDNA website came to life on the Internet, to provide news, local history and other information of interest to the residents of the area. The website is organized in such a way that the neighbors who access this site can find not only neighborhood information, but also links to government, local businesses, resources, and historical references about our neighborhood.

In addition, monthly MDNA meeting minutes, electronic newsletter and community notices will be posted. This should help governing bodies, future and existing residents and visitors keep up to date with events and information affecting our community.

In the near future, we are thinking of implementing an electronic discussion board, calendar and some "neighborhood-only" access for non-public information. We welcome and encourage all neighborhood residents to review the site and notify us of any inaccuracies, misspellings or broken links. We want to present a professional looking image and to provide up-to-date information.

When you access this site, you will notice that we have taken great effort to create a uniform look to the site, making it easy to navigate and to help market our neighborhood's many positive attributes to outsiders. Because the site is hosted locally in the neighborhood, the contents will be updated in a timely fashion.

Neighbors...point your web browser to **[martindrive.org](http://martindrive.org)** and see what this site has to offer. The webmaster hopes you like it and find it useful. Don't forget to check it monthly for new information and notices. These are conveniently posted in links on the front page of this site.

New ideas and additions to this site are always welcome. Additionally, the webmaster hopes to hear suggestions from the neighbors to provide contents of interest. Submissions or ideas can be sent to [webmaster@martindrive.org](mailto:webmaster@martindrive.org). Enjoy [martindrive.org](http://martindrive.org)!

## MINUTES OF THE MARTIN DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING ON JANUARY 10, 2005

By Maggie Blaha

Introduction of the twenty-one neighbors in attendance at the beginning of the meeting was important for the several visitors who were also guest speakers.

The Devitts provided a get well card for Al Siemsen, one of our faithful and supportive neighbors, who has been ill since recent surgery. Everyone was invited to sign the card that Linda and Pat then mailed to Al. We have great hopes that Al will soon be with us.

Kevin Ronnie, candidate for Milwaukee Public School Board, requested time to address the neighbors. Kevin spoke about his skills as a professional coalition builder hoping to put together the kids, teachers, and aides and doing what needs to be done in the classrooms. It seems that there has been a suggestion that the people who are working for bus companies should become employees of MPS. Kevin is opposed to that idea. While the QEO was the rule for dealing with the teachers in Wisconsin, school systems were hindered in their ability to raise the teachers' wages. Therefore, the teachers were given good benefits especially in the area of health insurance. Now, the teachers are expected to give up some of these benefits. Therein, lies the problem. For every dollar of salary, there is a sixty-three cent cost in health care. Kevin also acknowledged that the voucher system is not going away. With our heavy connections to the education world, the neighbors questioned Kevin quite thoroughly.

Sandie Hines addressed us about the need for foster parents. Sandie is an employee of Lutheran Social Services, which is a branch of the Milwaukee Child Welfare program. At any given time, we have 3,000 children in foster care. If a child is in foster care for 15 months out of 22 consecutive months, the agency tries to find a permanent home for the child. Sandie is willing to talk to any group interested in helping alleviate this situation. David Johnson told Sandie that he had put her request on our web site in order to get the message out to as many people as possible. She appreciated this timely response.

Terri Bartlett reported on the situation with the green spaces in the Martin Drive Neighborhood (MDN)

## RESIDENTS SEEK SOLUTIONS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

By Linda Hanig

Residents of the Martin Drive Neighborhood Association (MDNA) are taking steps to build a stronger neighborhood by identifying the greatest issues and problems in their neighborhood, then finding the solutions.

At the November 8, 2004, monthly meeting, MDNA residents formed four committees to develop a plan of action on the most prevalent concerns and issues listed on the neighborhood survey taken this past summer. Residents Terri Bartlett and Sharon Williams, recent graduates of Making Connection Milwaukee's School for Resident Leaders, spearheaded the committee and survey processes.

The four committees are:

- **Safety** – to address properties in need of care, illegal drug activity, safety in Washington Park and noise in the neighborhood.
- **Fun** – to put together block parties, a neighborhood picnic and other social events in the neighborhood.
- **Youth** – to search for children and teen recreation and activities, after-school and summer supervision and a summer job program.
- **Newsletter** - to create a quarterly, standardized newsletter for the neighborhood.

The survey represents 20 percent of the 599 MDN households. Half of the surveys were completed when MDN volunteers went door to door asking residents twenty-three questions from a form created by MDN residents. The results of this survey were combined with the results of a survey taken by Making Connections staff using its questionnaire in the MDN. Making Connections arranged for the data from the surveys to be analyzed.

The results were made known at a MDNA meeting/potluck on October 11, 2004, at the Washington Park Senior Center. Over 55 people came with a variety of tasty dishes to share. They sat in groups of neighbors from their respective streets to eat and socialize, then to brainstorm on solutions for the two greatest survey concerns on those streets.

Bartlett said Making Connections helped in the survey and committee processes by giving her and Williams outlines on tasks to do and procedures to follow and reviewing what she and Williams had planned, such as writing the grant that funded the survey process. "When we got stuck, they gave suggestions and support," Bartlett said.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

By Sharon Williams

The Martin Drive Neighborhood Association Youth Activities Committee, consisting of Katrina Knight, Lois Nugent, Rose Onama, Aliza Scott, and me, are having a series of meetings to develop plans for involving our young neighbors (ages 11 to 15, initially) in activities that are both fun and worthwhile. Activities that could not only help their neighborhood, but could also help them develop some talents, acquire some skills, and have fun in the doing. We have "brainstormed" a long list of potential activities, but have to find solutions to some problems before we can put the plans into action.

### Suggested Activities (not in any order)

- ⇒ Create a Rites of Passage program for girls 10-17 years, organized by Rose Onama of 46th Street
- ⇒ Organize a Kickball league, 3-on-3 Basketball league, bicycle races, etc.
- ⇒ Create an oral history project where young neighbors are taught to interview older neighbors, using audio and/or video recorder with the possibility of publishing the results in a regular Martin Drive Newsletter column
- ⇒ Set up a drumming and/or drum making project
- ⇒ Establish a recording/electronic group to both learn the techniques and to record budding neighborhood "stars"
- ⇒ Establish a neighborhood singing group
- ⇒ Organize neighborhood step, precision, and/or ethnic dance groups

**NEWS FLASH!!** Since beginning this report, our committee has met with Barbara Leigh, founder and director of the Milwaukee Public Theater, and some of the problems have been solved. We are now ready to move ahead with many of the plans listed above. BUT, we would like to create a Martin Drive Youth Advisory council to both help make decisions about the plans and to help implement them. **IF YOU ARE OR KNOW A YOUNG NEIGHBOR BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12 AND 16 WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**, send an email to [smilesnpraise2agz@juno.com](mailto:smilesnpraise2agz@juno.com)

Be on the "look out" for some really great activities in the near future - and maybe adults can come, too.

## NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY

By Maggie Blaha

The Martin Drive Neighborhood is beginning the process to collect names and telephone number's of those in our neighborhood who have talent they would like to share for free or a fee to others in our neighborhood such as, computer, plumbing, electric, yard, crochet, and baking, just to name a few. **Everyone has at least one talent!** We need to assure those with construction abilities and talents to share, also have references and certification when necessary.

This neighborhood directory is meant to support our neighbors both in need and in the giving. Please contact your block representative with your talents. P.S. Don't think that you have none to offer, instead think, "What am I good at?" In my experience most people don't realize they have any talent to offer. Even the most common or smallest talent in one person's mind is just what someone else has been searching for.

(MINUTES - Continued from page 1)

that will be taken care of by the neighbors. We have the permits that Pat D. checked over. Greening Milwaukee appears to want to use the space for seedlings. Terri still wants flowers for the Martin Drive triangle

David Johnson displayed the web site that he developed for the MDN. This work in process can be seen at [martindrive.org](http://martindrive.org). David can be contacted at [webmaster@martindrive.org](mailto:webmaster@martindrive.org). We have received many compliments from interested people.

Ada is hoping to have information from the four small groups who have been meeting outside the general monthly meeting. "Harold the Helpful Household Problem Solver" will be introduced in the January issue. We are expecting that neighbors who have expertise or have just learned the hard way, will share their experiences with the neighbors through this column in the quarterly newsletter. It is expected that the newsletters will go out the end of January. Your friendly neighborhood volunteers will deliver the newsletter to each household in the area. Please be alert to the possibility of litter.

It was decided that the power packed 70 minute meeting was long enough for this month. Therefore, in February, we will discuss the "new neighbor packets." The next meeting will be February 14, 2005. If you have suggestions for the agenda, please contact Maggie by February 12 at [mtblaha@execpc.com](mailto:mtblaha@execpc.com).

Whenever we have a need to e-mail neighbors, we will do it under the subject of "**Martin Alert.**" Any alert of theft, crime, etc. should be e-mailed to Maggie Blaha at [mtblaha@execpc.com](mailto:mtblaha@execpc.com), and she will disseminate the information.

## NOISE AND DRUGS COMMITTEE

By Emily Rhode

Our first step was to create an outline of steps to follow when confronted with the problem of noise and/or drugs in the neighborhood. The outline is as follows:

- Contact the offending party and politely ask them to discontinue their nuisance. (omit this step if the problems are drugs)
- Document everything you see or hear. Include time, location and any other details you might have.
- Talk to surrounding neighbors to see if they share the same problem.
- Consider calling the landlord if it is a rental until. See [www.ci.mil.wi.us](http://www.ci.mil.wi.us) and search under DNS and property data. (see Noise Ordinance pamphlet.)
- Follow other steps in Noise Ordinance pamphlet
- Call alderman/alderwoman
- Take about concern at neighborhood meeting

We found that some sources were in need of updating. This includes the neighborhood website and the pamphlet entitled "A Community Initiative". The pamphlet includes information about drugs on page 10. These pamphlets need to have updated phone numbers, and they need to include the alderman's number.

It was also thought that welcome packets (or reminder packets for those who already live here) should be given to all homes in the neighborhood.

Opening the doors of communication was stressed several times in the meeting. Get to know your neighbors! We thought that each street could have a contact list with address, telephone number, and occupation. (Hey, perhaps you have a plumber living next door who you can hire to fix your clogged drain.) This could help promote comradery among neighbors.

## MARTIN DRIVE HISTORY COMMITTEE

By Maggie Blaha

This spot is dedicated to the personal stories of the Martin Drive residents who have lived, grown up, worked, and raised families here. A small group of dedicated residents will be meeting to gather those stories to present to you in the future. The first meeting was held on January 18, 2005.

Catherine Manske and Lynn Grages met with me, Maggie Blaha, to talk about the time we had lived in the Martin Drive neighborhood. Catherine has been here since 1948. Lynn was a baby when her parents moved in with her grandparents in the mid forties. I was the new kid on the block, having been here since graduating from college in 1964. We had much to talk about.

Lynn remembers the houses being moved off 46th Street when the new "freeway" was being built. Catherine remembers the racing cars coming south on 47th and rounding the bend on Juneau and 46th.

I talked about the rat I found in the outside trash bin. It seems that the moving of the zoo left many critters without their steady source of food.

Keep watching this space for more in-depth Martin Drive Neighborhood memories.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS RECEIVES MAYOR'S AWARD**

One of Martin Drive Neighborhood's own businesses received a Mayor's Urban Design Award on January 7, 2005, for its "customer-friendly graphic and design and animated storefront," according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Eat Cake! at 4303 W. Vliet Street was one of 12 Milwaukee businesses that Mayor Tom Barrett presented the award.

The award, started in 1997, recognizes projects with innovative renovation, architecture and streetscaping.

Pat Mueller, the owner of the building, said she redesigned and renovated the old storefront to accommodate the environment of Eat Cake!. Deborah Pagel, owner and operator, designed the interior. The award is for smaller projects that create a "unique urban environment," Mueller said.

Westside Art Walk  
April 29-30, 2005  
September 30, 2005  
October 2005

## **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

By Terri Bartlett

The group met in November and created an outline that will meet the needs of our neighborhood. It is still in the creation mode as volunteers and talent required to fill the pages are being recruited. The newsletter is focused on providing quality information to meet the needs and interests of our neighbors, while building community. Columns will include monthly meeting summaries, calendar of neighborhood events including the near-by business district, contacts, concerns, people, and telephone numbers to name a few features. We also added a few fun features such as a section on the Martin Drive history (Pat Mueller will do first issue then Maggie and ..... will do the following and Harold the Household Problem Solver. (We need a volunteer = Harold.) Other options include a neighborhood business article, Washington Park news and more. Linda Hanig will be writing for us, Ada Rouse will do the newsletter layout, and David Johnson has volunteered his talented time to create a web site that will focus our newsletter, among other possibilities. Check out [martindrive.org](http://martindrive.org) and let him know what you think! It's in creation as well. We hope to have the first issue or second revised issue in your hands by the end of January. A New Year, new possibilities, new experiences.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN**

By Terri Bartlett

The Community Partnership for Protecting Children, CPPC, is focused on keeping children safe from abuse and neglect and supporting families in the Making Connections area all under one roof!

This project is being done in only five other cities in the country. Making Connections is committed, with the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Child Welfare, W2/Maximus, Milwaukee Public Schools, behavioral and domestic violence services and other supportive services such as housing and food stamps, to name a few to create this new program.

The concept and goal of the project is to help children and families become healthy and independent through a process which allows the family to be an integral part of the healing process. A care plan is created, with goals and approaches, by the families involved and supported with the assist of any service needed.

I have been involved as a member of the CPPC community resident council since this summer and it has been interesting! The resident council is a group of residents from each focused neighborhood who

oversees the project and assures the residents are involved and their needs are being met.

The agencies are very committed as well. The biggest hurdle is to meld the agency's policies and procedures to become one, and one which would protect confidentiality.

In addition, the project will have a second council that will include agency and resident council representation. This group would create the policies procedures and work at problem solving.

The project is beginning to show promise as goals are being realized. A building site, hub director and much more needs to be found before a target opening September, 2005!

I have been asked to request concerns from participants in our neighborhood who have used these services. The project wants to assure prior concerns are addressed and residents' needs are met while in the developing stages, so if you have comments, contact me, Terri.

## POLICE WARN RESIDENTS THEIR CALLS ARE NEEDED

By Linda Hanig

Police warned residents at the Martin Drive Neighborhood meeting on ber 13 that the department did not receive a sufficient number of calls for to take action on recent resident complaints about problem properties.

Officer Thomas Kupsik, a community liaison officer from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, held up the computer printouts of recent calls for police service on these properties. One had no calls. Another had three. At the meeting residents told of more problems than were on the printouts or about which the police did not know.

“For this to be effective, residents must religiously call police,” Kupsik said.

About thirty people attended the September meeting. This meeting followed up on the problems on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street bought out at the meeting on August 9. Then residents told of recent shootings and other problems. No one had been injured in the shootings.

If the police have three calls for service on a property in a 30-day period, a letter is sent to the owner, Kupsik said. The calls are listed on the printouts. The owner then has 10 days to respond with a plan to correct the problem. If the owner does not respond or the plan is not satisfactory, the property is labeled a chronic nuisance or the owner is charged for police service, he said. The printouts showed that Kupsik did not have enough for him to write letters to the owners.

Residents should call even for minor problems, such as barking dogs, Kupsik said. Secondly, they should follow-up on their calls with the captain and himself, he said.

“Sometimes communications break down,” Kupsik said. If a problem is with a 911 call, call the district, he said.

A 10-day check can be done for an ongoing situation, said Lt. Wayne Jensen, second shift commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district. The lieutenant gives it to the squad. If this may be gang related, it goes to the gang unit.

Ten-day checks are an internal matter with his squads and are done for city ordinance violations, Jensen said. During normal patrols the squad officers check on the problem area or property, each night for 10 days. Officers tell the people creating the problem that officers will check on them. Officers will write citations without a complainant because they see or hear the problem themselves. Ten-day checks usually resolve the problem, Jensen said.

Residents also complained in September of unsatisfactory police response to their calls and 911 operators who asked residents to go outside into unsafe situations to get additional information.

Calls to police are prioritized, Jensen said. “They take into consideration the immediacy of the call,” he said.

Ald. Michael Murphy urged residents to call him with their complaints about 911 services.

Kupsik gave residents four police phone numbers to call for drug problems:

- **935-7411** - Vice Control Division – Response to this takes time, Kupsik said. The undercover officers need to make buys. Dealers may be reluctant to sell to them because they know their clientele.
- **935-7733** – community liaison officers – Call them for chronic nuisance problems, Kupsik said. A call to them will be charged as a police call to the property.
- **935-7230** - 3<sup>rd</sup> district captain– The captain does not receive complaints from vice until a week after they are made, Kupsik said.
- **935-7231** - shift commander – Residents can call the lieutenant about unsatisfactory police response to their calls.

## HAROLD THE HELPFUL HOUSEHOLD PROBLEM SOLVER

This is a fun and helpful section created upon request by our neighbors, as a result of the recently completed surveys. This column will field questions and/or concerns regarding homes and gardens, utilizing neighborhood expertise. Concerns are meant to help the novice and give information to help the pocketbook and future bigger concerns whenever possible. Questions can be forwarded, for now, to: [mdnnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:mdnnewsletter@yahoo.com). Hope to hear from you, but until we do, here are a few helpful hints we found on the Internet:

- For icy door steps in freezing temperatures, get warm water and put Dawn dishwashing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze. (Wish I had known this for the last 40 years!)
- Unclog a drain. Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain, followed by a cup of Heinz White Vinegar. Wait a few minutes, then run the hot water.
- Use empty toilet paper rolls to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat, and you can write on the roll what appliance it belong to.

**Martin Drive Apartments**

Pat Mueller.....

**Martin Drive 43rd - 46th Streets**

Frank Kopenski .....

**Highland Boulevard** ..... (Volunteer Needed)

**Vliet Street** .....

Ada Rouse

**42nd & McKinley**

Betty & Al Siemsen.....

**43rd Street (North of Juneau)**

Katrina Knight .....

**44th Street (North of Juneau)**

Pat Sieloff.....

**44th Street (South of Juneau)**

Pat & Linda Devitt.....

**45th Street (North of Juneau)**

Maggie & Tom Blaha .....

**45th Street (South of Juneau)**

Mary Jo Runnoe .....

**46th Street (North of Juneau)**

Beth & Dale Milhans.....

**46th Street (South of Juneau)**

Linda Hanig .....

**West End Development Corp**

(Minor home repair & rebate program)

Dennis Barrish .....

**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.

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](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