

MURRAY HILL NEWS

Volume 2, September, 2002
Issue 1



Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 71133
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Officers

President:

Kay Baldwin
414-332-8979
kaydick@hotmail.com

Vice- President:

Shirley Conlon
conlon42@aol.com

Treasurer:

Denise Delaney
delwilltd@aol.com

Secretary:

Mary Ward
maryruth4744@yahoo.com

Board Members

Troi Rapkin
landladyt@aol.com

Janis Ramos
totyramos@worldnet.att.net

Marty Collins
mcolli@execpc.com

Dick Baldwin
rbaldwin1@wi.rr.com

Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief:
Jess Brownell

Layout & Design:
J. Gerard Capell

Distribution:
Susan McCabe

Printing provided by
Clark Graphics

From the President...

Not quite two years old and already Murray Hill Neighborhood Association has a reputation.....and a good one, so I am told. I am not surprised. We have had an active seven months in 2002 and are still going strong. I extend my thanks to our many members.

Lines of communication and partnerships have been established with Alderman D'Amato and other City officials, the Milwaukee Police Department, other neighborhood organizations, and UWM's neighborhood liaison, Amy Watson. For starters, MHNA co-hosted a County Supervisor Candidates' Forum in June with Watertower Landmark Trust Association. All six candidates participated and over 150 people attended. In April, MHNA, Cambridge Woods and East Side Neighborhoods Associations co-hosted a successful gathering with Chief Arthur Jones, at which he spoke on "Partnership".

Seeking to establish a good quality of life

and improve safety in our neighborhood, MHNA has had meetings throughout the year with members of the Fire and Police Commission, Chief Jones, UWM, and officers of the MPD 5th District. While this led to increased police presence by the 5th District and a quieter neighborhood in the spring, we are all aware that this has been a hot and frustrating summer and tempers are frayed. MHNA is currently in meetings with the 5th District to coordinate efforts to improve the current situation. Residents are asked to inform MHNA of "problem" houses" and we offer information about "How to lodge a complaint." Through group membership e-mail, we alert members to any crimes that occur in our area.

Partnership with the City has led to the denial of Parkside Groceries and Liquor Store's request for a full liquor license and has also resulted in many property owners in the area receiving "fix-up notices" from the

(Continued on page 2)

Schedule of Events

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

September 19, 2002 (Call for Officers' Nominations) Topic: Current State of Affairs... Discussions about UWM study, committees and projects, and more.

October 17, 2002 (Election of Officers) Speakers: Captain Flores and staff of the MPD's 5th District. Topic: Police Department—Neighbor Partnership.

November 21, 2002 Speaker: TBA. Topic: New Zoning Codes...Affects on the Neighborhood.

No meeting in December. Next MHNA's meeting is on Thursday, January 23, 2003.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 12, 2002 - Public Open House Meeting, UWM Neighborhood Strategy and Vision Study; 5:00 to 6:30 PM Regent's Room, Chapman Hall, UWM

Monday, September 16, 2002 - John Gurda, author of the Making of Milwaukee, speaking at Bolton Hall room 150 on UWM Campus at 7:00 pm. This event is co-sponsored by Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association, MHNA, Watertower Landmark Trust Association, and UWM.

Saturday, October 5, 2002 - MHNA's Annual Fall Clean Up 9:00 AM till.....

Calling all MHNA Gardeners

by Janis Ramos

We hate to think about it, but the reality is that the gardening season will all too soon come to an end. What better way to get geared up for fall than with the FIRST ANNUAL MHNA PLANT EXCHANGE??!! Join us for the fun and surprises by bringing plants to share with your neighbors. Bring as many as you like. Date, time and location to be announced. For more information, please contact Janis Ramos at 963-0498 or e-mail at [to-tyramos@worldnet.att.net](mailto:tyramos@worldnet.att.net). Just think, you can share in a piece of your neighbor's garden!

Building Code Violations

by Janis Ramos

Are you tired of looking at that eyesore house in the neighborhood? You know the one—the roof is caving in, the wood is rotting away, it's in dire need of a paint job. Or, perhaps there's that awful plaid couch on the porch. Well, there is something you can do! Call city building inspector Mike Demski. He is definitely a man of action and his response rate is instantaneous. He will also inform you of what he discovers, including whether citations were issued. You can reach him at 414-286-3882 or by e-mail at MDEMSEK@ci.mi.wi.us. You are urged to contact him to help keep our neighborhood beautiful.

What to do? What to do?

When making complaints to the police about noise or other ordinance violations, always call 933-4444 first. Squads are dispatched only through this contact and we cannot later trace what happened to your complaint if this number wasn't called initially. If you have any problems, questions, or doubts about the action taken by the police, next call Kay or Dick at 332-8979. We have regular communications with the District No. 5 command structure. If a complaint was properly called in, they can later send squads back to an address to issue citations (especially noise-related ones) when none were issued by the original responding squad.

We are drafting guidelines for dealing with these kinds of complaints. They will be available at our next meeting or by request. Please also give us the addresses of chronic problem houses. We want to initiate an organizational response to these properties.

The Safety Committee thanks you for your help and cooperation.

President's Message continued

Department of Neighborhood Services. Cooperation between MHNA and Alderman Mike D'Amato has led to discussions with problem landlords that we hope will bear fruit in the future. MHNA's meeting with the Mayor brought us the assistance of other City programs as well as offers to help at the state level in Residential Parking Permit legislation.

As for partnership with UWM, MHNA requested that UWM assist us with clean up of our neighborhood, with increasing home ownership by the sponsorship of a Walk to Work program and by providing some type of police patrol in the neighborhood. Amy Watson is continuing to seek student organizations to help with clean up but has not yet succeeded. Meanwhile MHNA has a pilot project with six members of Murray Hill adopting their block to keep clean using litter graspers. The Walk to Work proposal has sat on someone's desk at UWM. Now that the Mayor has talked to Chancellor Nancy Zimpher about it, we have been told that the University is behind it but is holding off doing anything until the completion of the University Neighborhood Strategy and Vision Study (good PR). As to UWM police patrolling off campus, we have been informed that the University is not interested in pursuing a change in state legislation to permit this.

MHNA has been a participant in the University Neighborhood study and continues to represent our residents and express their viewpoints. We do have an excellent partnership with Amy Watson, UWM neighborhood liaison, who together with the 5th District will be implementing a UWM funded SLOW DOWN sign program. Some 500 signs will be placed around the university in September. This comes after the 20 signs MHNA put out in June were stolen within five days. Murray Hill will get about 200 of the signs. Please contact Kay Baldwin (332-8879 or kaydick@hotmail.com) if you are interested in displaying signs on your block.

As you can see from this newsletter MHNA is a proactive organization created to keep our neighborhood a great place to live, work and play. This is your organization. Come join us.

ANNUAL FALL CLEAN UP

Come join the camaraderie!!!! On Saturday, October 5, 2002, 9:00 AM, MHNA and the student athletes at UWM will have fun doing a neighborhood clean up. Area captains are needed to assist volunteers with some kick off instructions. A pick up truck and a driver are needed to collect and transport the bags to a city roll off box located next to Riverside Park. If you can volunteer an hour or two, please contact Marty Collins at mcolli@execpc.com.

Mark October 5 as the day to rid your property of this type of eye sore and much more.

Welcome to the Neighborhood by Dick Baldwin

Murray Hill members have assembled a folder of brochures and information sheets designed to help new tenants and homeowners become more informed about living in our neighborhood. Topics covered include daytime parking permit applications procedures, city department telephone numbers, sanitation regulations, tenants' and landlords' rights and responsibilities, graffiti prevention suggestions, etc. Based on older Block Watch examples, this packet is a handout that can be used by our members as they introduce themselves to newcomers on their block.

For more information call Shirley at 414-332-989, or Dick at 414-332-8979.

Bike Loan Pilot Project 2002

The Eastside Transportation Management Bicycle Task Force was created to promote biking as a mode of transportation on the Eastside. The pilot project will start at the UWM campus around September 15. Twenty-five donated used and repaired bikes with locks and computers to record miles will be available to pre-selected students free of charge for one semester. In return, these students will mark the bikes with the UWM colors black and gold at a painting party. Afterwards, they are committed to using the bikes to commute on campus and on the Eastside and to be interviewed regularly about their experiences as bikers (miles biked, need for bike racks, accessories for transportation of books etc).

The Task Force is looking for sponsors (individuals or groups of people) to cover the repair of one or more bikes (\$50/each) or split the cost with a friend (\$25 each). Their names will be publicized and, if possible, will be marked on the bikes. **Cory the Bikefixer**, a well-known bike shop on the Eastside, is donating some of the bikes and is repairing all of them at a reduced rate.

The Urban Environmental Center (UEC) in Riverside Park is participating in the project and is, as a tax-exempt organization, the fiscal agent of the project. Checks should be made out to the Urban Environmental Center and be earmarked for the UWM bike project 2002. The donations are tax deductible, the name and address of the donor should be on the check. Each sponsor will receive a receipt.

The checks should be sent to Else Ankel, 3368 N. Bartlett Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53211, who will forward them to the Center. For more information call Else Ankel at 964-4481

About Us ...

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association serves a 58 block area from Hartford Ave. to Bradford Ave., and Oakland Ave. to Downer Ave. Membership is open to all residents, property owners, and businesses. General membership meetings are held the third Thursday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Riverside High School cafeteria (entrance No. 5 and down the stairs). To find out more about us or to share with us your interests and concerns, attend one of our meetings, or contact:

Kay Baldwin, MHNA President— 332-8979,
lkaydick@hotmail.com

Shirley Conlon, Membership Chair— 332-9869,
conlon@aol.com

BEWARE OF WEDNESDAYS

Murray Hill residents who park their cars between Edge-wood, Newberry, Cambridge and Frederick need to look for the new street sweeping parking restrictions signs. The street sweeping pilot project is in effect through November 30, 2002. Parking is prohibited on designated streets and sides of the street between 8 AM-3 PM, even if the sweeper has already gone through.

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month parking restrictions alternate so that residents have one side of the street to use for parking. This program provides for ticketing and towing of motor vehicles that are parked in non-compliance with the parking restrictions.

In the late August a phalanx of tow trucks were seen scooping up 3 and 4 ticketed vehicles per block after the street sweepers had passed and were unable to clean the gutters.

This is not just a minor inconvenience. This is a health and quality-of-life issue. The variety of trash and debris strewn in the streets from house cleanings or remodelings, and just plain old litter-bugs, negatively affects everyone who lives and visits the neighborhood.

Does anyone remember
the No. 1 song by the
Guess Who?

MURRAY HILL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN—Clip and mail, including your check to: MHNA, P.O. Box 71133, Milwaukee, WI 53211

Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-Mail: _____

Membership Dues:

Seniors and Students: \$5.00
Individuals \$15.00
Family \$25.00
Business \$30.00

Membership dues are NOT tax deductible

RIVERSIDE PARK....HABITAT

The Urban Ecology Center at Riverside Park has designed a new kind of play area that emphasizes the natural environment of urban spaces. Groundbreaking of the new Habitat playground is scheduled at the FALL FESTIVAL AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL, on Saturday, September 28, 2002. Come learn how to build an earth-friendly bench and butterfly garden during the morning and listen to music while enjoying an ice cream sundae during the afternoon (12-5 PM).

UWM Neighborhood Strategy and Vision Study

In January, the city's Redevelopment Authority and UWM initiated a jointly sponsored study of the UWM neighborhood, to be conducted by the consulting firm of Smith Group/JJR.

MHNA representatives Kay Baldwin, Barb Finch, and Jim Walrath have participated in the study, expressing the views of our residents in the major areas of parking, transit, housing, and quality-of-life.

At the end of May, when the strategies had been collected and discussed by the Technical and Citizens Advisory groups, UWM was dismayed at the results and threatened to cancel the study. The study has continued, however, and city officials and the consultants have spent the summer gathering more data and working with the university.

A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE to review the draft strategy proposal will be held on September 12, 2002, from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Regents Room in Chapman Hall on the UWM campus.

Reviewing implementation of strategies will be the next step in the study. The study is scheduled to be completed and presented to the City Planning Commission by the end of December. We need and request your input.