

MURRAY HILL NEWS

Volume 2, January, 2003
Issue 2



P.O. Box 71133
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Officers

President:

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

Vice- President:

Shirley Conlon
414-332-9869
conlon42@aol.com

Treasurer:

Denise Delaney
414-962-2527
delwilltd@aol.com

Secretary:

J. Gerard Capell
414-962-4638
jgcapell@execpc.com

Board Members

Troi Rapkin
414-332-2201
landladyt@aol.com

Janis Ramos
414-963-0498
totyramos@worldnet.att.net

Marty Collins
414-332-1845
mcolli@execpc.com

Dick Baldwin
414-332-8979
rbaldwin1@wi.rr.com

Mary Ward
414-964-3296
maryruth@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief:
Jess Brownell
414-332-9869

Copy Editor
Janis Ramos

Layout & Design:
J. Gerard Capell

Distribution:
Susan McCabe
414-332-6932

Printing provided by
Clark Graphics

Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

From the President...

A few weeks ago, around 1:00 a.m., which seems to be the witching hour for young adults, one of Murray Hill Neighborhood Association's residents, the father of two young children, requested that a group of young adults quiet down. The response he received was that it was child abuse to raise children on the East side and that is what suburbs are for. While the person has a right to his drunken opinion, we have a right to have quality of life and a safe community. My husband and I raised two sons during the 32 years we have lived here. There are families here now who aspire to do the same. This is what Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is all about: fostering a sense of community, working on finding solutions to problems, and keeping our neighborhood a great place to live, work, and play.

The year ahead will be an important one for our community. The UWM Neighborhood Strategy and Vision Study will go into the Implementation of Strategies discussion stage

in February. Last Fall MHNA members were asked to prioritize strategy proposals. These results are now available. If you were not at the January 23 General Membership Meeting, please call me for a copy. MHNA representatives need your input.

Parking and UWM over-enrollment issues? The ETMA (Eastside Transportation Management Association) will be asking the MHNA Board to vote on a new restricted parking regulations proposal that would change the existing 35 parking regulations in the area around the UWM campus to only three. This issue will be discussed at the general membership meeting on February 20, 2003. A membership group email will also be sent out. AND ... do not forget to send in your opinions about the Street Sweeping program to Alderman D'Amato's office.

MHNA is the first neighborhood association to sit down and discuss concerns with a Uni-

(Continued on page 4)

Schedule of Events

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Held at Riverside High School Cafeteria, Lower Level through entrance No. 5 near Locust St parking lot at 7:00 pm. Upcoming meetings and tentative topics are:

Feb. 20 — Planning Session: Membership input on goals and objectives for the coming year. Continuing discussion on the new ETMA proposed parking regulations

Mar. 20 — Speaker to be Announced

April 17 — Speaker to be Announced

May 15 — Speaker to be Announced

June 19 — Speaker to be Announced

Mar. 20 — Speaker to be Announced

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS —

Riverside Park Urban Ecology Center

Winter fest; Saturday, February 8, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Earth day Celebration; Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.

Graffiti in the City: Urban Art or Just Vandalism Speaker: Sharon Blando; Special Enforcement Inspector; Dept of Neighborhood Services. Tuesday, February 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

To sign up for a program or for information on additional activities call (414)964-8505

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

MHNA has been actively addressing the problem of litter in our area through two approaches. On 10/5/02 MHNA coordinated 80-plus UWM athletes to clean up our entire 58 blocks, filling two pickup trucks with litter and debris. UWM has agreed to do this twice in 2003. Thanks go to Amy Watson, the Athletic Dept., KGMB and the City Sanitation Department. MHNA's Marty Collins was the project coordinator. An Adopt a Block program has been successfully instituted! Volunteers receive a litter pick-up stick and agree to pick up the litter on their adopted blocks twice a month, except when the streets are snow covered. A photo of adopters Jane Pelton and Nancy Jaeger appeared in the Journal Sentinel in October. When you see your neighbors out cleaning our blocks, please say "Thank you!"

We still have blocks that need to be adopted. Contact Marty Collins at mcolli@execpc.com to join the effort.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS JOINS OUR TEAM

By: Dick Baldwin

Thanks to an intro from the Mayors office, MHNA has been exploring ways to use a central-city based group called Community Partners (CP). CP works the streets and neighborhoods of troubled areas, going door-to-door talking with residents about any problems they may be experiencing. They also serve at times as a go-between with the police. After hearing about the unique set of problems we have with a large, young and transient population living in mostly absentee-landlord owned dwellings, they became interested in trying to help us. For a trial run, they brought a crew of 19 into our neighborhood on a Friday in October. They went door-to-door in blocks that we know suffer a high level of noise, etc. They handed out some of the brochures we use in our Welcome Neighbor packets and talked with anyone at home. Their goal was to reinforce the importance of what it takes to be responsible neighbors and tenants in a densely populated urban area. Based on exit interviews with several of their team leaders, it went well. They had some interesting stories about their contacts, and they have agreed to do this for us several times a year. We thank CP and look forward to having them as part of an ongoing strategy to encourage responsible behavior in our neighborhood.

Murray Hill Reading

What do Murray Hill Board members do in their spare time, when not attending meetings? Well, one board member, Troi Rapkin, has started her own party business for children called Books that Cook! What in the world is that, you may ask? Books that Cook! is a party service that combines children's books around a cooking theme and related craft activity. For example, for a princess theme, Cinderella is read. Cupcakes are made for the ball and then masks and jewelry to wear as well. The children do all of the cooking with Troi supervising. For a western theme, a western version of Cinderella is read, Texas style chili is prepared, and paper bag vests are decorated with a variety of beads, sequins and stencils. Both boys and girls enjoy this type of party. A party can be designed around almost any theme a parent or child can come up with. Troi will come to your house, set up two stations -- one for cooking and one for crafts -- and away they go. Books that Cook! lasts about an hour and a half with another half hour devoted to cake and gift opening done by the parent. The cost is \$125 for a party for up to 12 children; \$10 per child over that. The cost includes all food and craft materials. The parties are appropriate for ages 4-9. So, if you have a child's or grandchild's birthday coming up soon and don't know what to do, try Books that Cook! Its a tasty way to throw a party!

Nature programs In Lake Park

Saturday, February 22, 2003, 1-3 p.m. "Winter Weather Survival." Lake Park Friends and Urban Ecology Center join to help you experience Lake Park in winter. Program to include tips on snow shoeing, tracking and more. Bring snow shoes if you have them; a limited number will be provided. Our leader will be Dan Gray. For further information, call Lake Park Friends at 962-1680 or urban Ecology Center at 964-8505.

March, 2003. Date and program to be announced.

Saturday, April 26, 2003, 1-3 p.m. "The Ecosystems of Lake park." Naturalist Richard Barloga, who has just completed a total vegetative inventory of the park, will explain and demonstrate his findings on a walk through the park. For further information call Lake Park Friends at 962-1680.

Meeting place for the above programs will be the Lake Park Pavilion Community Room, 3133 E. Newberry Blvd. These events are part of an ongoing series of nature programs sponsored by Lake Park Friends in cooperation with Milwaukee County Parks. All events are free and open to

Urban Ecology Center Serves the Neighborhood

Dennis M. Grzezinski, UEC Board

Even though the Urban Ecology Center has been serving our neighborhood for almost a dozen years, many residents of the Murray Hill neighborhood are unfamiliar with it. The center occupies a mobile classroom/office in Riverside Park. Its mission is to preserve, enhance and use the natural resources of Riverside Park, the Milwaukee River, and adjacent green spaces to enrich the lives of those living nearby.

The Center's educational staff provides environmental education programs for teachers and students at East Side and Riverwest schools. The Center provides family and youth programs on weekends, as well as evening lectures, workshops, and discussions on environmental topics from time to time on weekdays.

Many of you have enjoyed the seasonal festivities sponsored by the Center at Riverside Park, or have participated in the Centers urban adventures. (See our listing of upcoming events.)

While located in a modest facility, the Center is open 7 days a week, and houses an intriguing array of exhibits and native Wisconsin animals. Everyone is welcome and invited to drop in anytime. If you have question, please call 964-8505.

Rear House Numbers?

Why do I need a house number that can be seen from the alley? Imagine that the police are trying to respond to a call and a foot chase ensues. If they can tell where they are, they are more likely to be successful. Figuring out which house is the "white one with the green roof" is very difficult, especially at night. Comply with the code and install a house number on the alley side! That call for police or fire service might just be from you someday.

Ice Skating in Lake Park

The ice rink and warming house are scheduled to be open weekdays from 3 to 10 p.m.. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:30 to 10 p.m.. You can confirm the hours of operation by calling the 24-hour rink hotline, 962-1230, or checking the signs in Lake Park.

Thanks to Lake Park Friends for sponsoring the rink. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to Lake Park Friends, P.O. Box 71197, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

The City Takes Action

By J. Gerard Capell

Following a disruptive party at 3056 N. Maryland Ave. in October, not only were some 80 people ticketed for disorderly conduct and under-age drinking, but the Department of Neighborhood Services placed a placard on the building citing the residence as a public nuisance and requiring the tenants to vacate. (Evidently the tenants had a full disco with multiple speakers, strobe lights, and a laundry sink/urinal with privacy curtain in the basement; some party.) Two of the tenants appealed the order to vacate to the Standards and Appeals commission, and on November 21, 2002, several MHNA members showed up to testify if given the opportunity. As it turned out, our participation was not needed.

Appearing at the hearing were the landlord's attorney, one tenant who had not appealed and his father, and members of the Department of Neighborhood Services. Unfortunately, the two tenants who had appealed did not show up. The commission was left with no one before them with standing (legalese for having a direct involvement in the appeal) and so, despite efforts by the landlord's attorney and the other tenant's father to obtain a postponement, the commission let the City's order stand.

In a way, it was a hollow victory. The Department of Neighborhood Services would have preferred to present their case to establish a precedent for the use of the order, but were unable do so because there was no one to argue against. The third tenant was perhaps a victim of circumstances, having been out of town the weekend of the party, and there was the possibility of a deal to allow that student to remain in the house at least until the end of the semester. Even so, the city and the neighborhood have taken one more step toward making the area a more stable and nicer place to live for everyone -- including students, even though some might not readily agree.

Bike Loan Program

The East Side Transportation Management Association, UWM, Urban Ecology Center, and Cory the Bike Fixer are again sponsoring a bike loan program for students and faculty at UWM this spring. Obviously, we would like to encourage the use of bicycles by students and faculty at UWM. You can support this program by donating used bikes. Drop them off at Cory the Bike Fixer, 2410 N. Murray Ave. He is open Tue-Fri from noon to 6 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Older classic bikes and newer mountain, road and hybrids are best; so-called department store bikes like Huffy, Murray and Mongoose are apparently a problem. If you have doubts about the usefulness of your bike, call Cory first. Any questions about this program should be directed to Jim Plaisted, ETMA Treasurer, at the East Side B.I.D.

(President's Message Continued from page 1)

iversity of Wisconsin regent. This will be an ongoing discussion as soon as the dust settles in Madison.

The February 20th General Membership Meeting will be devoted to membership input and establishment of goals for the next two years.

How about a Walk/Run fundraiser? How about a children's tea party? How about other types of fun community activities? The Plant Exchange will be back in the Spring

Many of the members of the Housing Survey, Safety, Membership, Communications, and Social/Fun committees have been involved for two years now. We need new blood and ideas. We now have a stake in and a say about our community. This is your organization. Come join us.

Kay Baldwin, MHNA President

About Us ...

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association serves a 58 block area from Hartford Ave. to Bradford Ave., and Oakland Ave. to Downer Ave. There are 119 members and 81 households. 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:

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

Dining with Denise

By Denise Delaney

If you are looking for a friendly neighborhood restaurant with great food that's a little out of the ordinary, you have got to try Lula's Café.

My husband and I visited this clean, quiet Oakland Avenue establishment on a cold Monday evening in November. We discovered very quickly how outstanding food, the hospitality of the owner, and conversation with neighbors can warm the spirit.

Somali owners Omar Gagale and his wife, Lula Osman, offer both East African and Italian dishes. Entrees include beef, chicken, lamb, goat, pasta and vegetarian selections, with more exotic flavors stemming from Somalian, Ethiopian and Eritrean preparations.

I sampled an excellent roasted goat entree, served with seasoned rice and a fresh green salad. My husband tried the lamb tips, succulent spicy cubes of meat served over spongy injera bread, and a hearty cabbage, carrot and chickpea medley to the side. We naturally shared. Both meats were fork-tender, mine accompanied by a delicious red Algerian wine, and my husbands by Primator, a premium Czech beer. Also available are a delicious signature Somalian tea, Alterra coffee, and other beers and wines.

This must be African home cooking, the sort offering comfort and satisfaction at the end of the day. Omar's relaxed but cheerful neighborhood pride shows, as he explains the menu and his love for the area. He and his family have been East Siders since the 1970s, and they are members of the Oakland Avenue Merchants Association.

The neighborhood nature of Lula's was obvious upon walking in. All of the customers were MHNA residents, and we enjoyed speaking with them as we lounged over our drinks. It all fits so nicely -- great food and friendly people right here in our neighborhood!

Lula's is located at 2921 N. Oakland Avenue, and the phone number is 962-2283. Daily hours are from 11:00 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

by Dick Baldwin

MHNA has assembled a folder of brochures and information sheets designed to help tenants and homeowners become more informed about living in our neighborhood. Topics include daytime parking permit application procedures, city department telephone numbers, sanitation regulations, tenants' and landlords' rights and responsibilities, etc. Based on Block Watch examples, this packet is a handout that can be used by our members as they introduce themselves to others on their block. For more information call Shirley at 414-332-9869, or Dick at 414-332-8979.