

## Update on 2005 & 2009 E. Kenwood & Hillel Project

As many of you are aware, due to the strong support of the many neighbors who appeared at the hearings for historic designation, on December 11, 2006, the City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission granted interim historic designation for the properties located at 2005, 2009, 2015, 2019, 2025, and 2029 East Kenwood Boulevard. The interim historic designation has prevented the Milwaukee Jewish Federation from moving forward on its plans to demolish 2005 and 2009 East Kenwood in order to build a modern student study center on the site. In January, Robin Van Harpen and the Milwaukee Jewish Federation agreed to postpone the proceedings on permanent designation so that the parties could work cooperatively with the City and UWM to locate an alternative site for the project. All involved parties are hopeful that another location will be feasible and that further contentious proceedings will be unnecessary. More information will be provided to the neighbors as soon as it becomes available.

## Milwaukee Public Library Workshop

**Title:** House History  
**Date:** Saturday, April 28, 2007  
**Time:** 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
**Location:** Central  
**Event Type:** History/Genealogy  
**Age Group:** Adults  
**Cost:** **FREE!**  
 Space is limited, and advance registration is required  
**Contact:** Central Library  
 Frank P. Zeidler  
 Humanities Room  
**Contact phone:** 414-286-3061  
**Description:** Learn how to use library resources to research the history of a house:  
 9:15-9:30 a.m. Sign-in  
 9:30-9:50 a.m. Introduction in first floor meeting room  
 9:50-11:25 a.m. Tour of Central Library highlighting house history resources.  
**Additional Information:** Presented by librarians Carolyn Colwell, Kristin Connell, George Wagner, Brian Williams-Van Klooster and architectural historian Traci Schnell from Historic Milwaukee, Inc.



### Murray Hill Membership Application

**NOW is the time to join** – Clip and mail with your payment to:  
 MHNA / PO Box 71133 / Milwaukee, WI 53211

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Murray Hill Neighborhood Assoc. has 187 members and is growing steadily

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 fourth Tuesday of the month at the Urban Ecology Center (1500 E. Park Pl.) from 7-8:30 pm. To find out more about the association, or to share your interests and concerns, please attend one of our upcoming meetings, or contact:

- Family .....  \$25
- Individual .....  \$15
- Business.....  \$30
- Senior (age 65+) .....  \$5
- Student.....  \$5
- Newsletter Only .....  \$5

Membership Chair, **Gregory James:** 414-962-5158 or gjames@gjd.com

## Susan Knows Murray Hill... Murray Hill knows Susan!



**Susan McCabe**

Have a real estate question? Selling, Buying or both?  
 Just like to know the value of your property?  
**Call Susan at 414-322-6526 [www.firstweber.com](http://www.firstweber.com)**



## Murray Hill Neighborhood Association MHNA

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# Murray Hill News

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### Are you an MHNA member yet?

If you are not yet a member of MHNA, join now! In addition to our quarterly newsletter, you will receive frequent e-mail broadcasts with news about the neighborhood. Be better informed about progress on the City's NorthEast Plan, issues related to the University, and business developments on Downer and Oakland Avenues. Receive membership meeting reports, crime and safety reports, and more.

**Become a member today!**

## President's Message

By J. Gerard Capell

As winter seems to be grabbing on to us with everything it has, we all know that at some point we will have clear days and weather warm enough to wear short sleeves. It is also the time to think about growth and the anticipation that it can foreshadow.

Foreshadow may be an appropriate term, since it seems that the proposed growth for Downer Avenue is proceeding faster than a weed with an IV of fertilizer. We are all aware that transformation and growth are needed for a commercial district to prosper, but we are also torn - is this the type of growth we want for the neighborhood? Is it too tall; too modern; not diverse enough? Does it produce too much traffic; the wrong type of traffic? These are the questions we are trying to resolve to make Downer Avenue a stable, vibrant and fun place to visit, and to spend our time and money. It seems that we will have to accept the change being thrust upon us, and hope that the concepts and ideals of those encouraging this growth will be beneficial to the neighborhood. Read about the Plein Aire Competition planned for Downer Avenue.

UW-M is looking at continued growth, which nearly all of us agree is not good for the neighborhood, but at least they too are realizing that the growth they want cannot be accommodated within the traditional boundaries of the campus. So they are looking for classroom space at other locations across the city and county, which we hope will relieve some of the student density within our neighborhood. But will this be a case where an aggressive species is transplanted to a new corner of the garden to keep it away from the prize roses, only to create new trouble at the new location? We certainly hope not, but given a report (Journal Sentinel 2/28/07, page A6) that today's college students are more narcissistic and self-centered than any previous generation, there may need to be strong measures to keep them in check.

Speaking of strong measures, the UW Regents have finally agreed to look into expanding the UW Administrative Code Chapter 17 to student off-campus behavior and the student's academic standing. This has been a long-standing demand of many neighborhood associations around the state, and now a committee has been formed to see how the code can be shaped to address the needs of the communities, the university and the students.

Find out what you can do to help shape this important discussion by reading UNA's news.

On a very direct measure of growth, Murray Hill has just issued our yearly membership renewal letter, and a fantastic response brings our membership nearly up to the level we had at the end of last year. This is spectacular and very important because the strength of a community group is measured by the number of its members and the quality of those members. Murray Hill is blessed with an exceptional number of highly involved and exquisitely talented members which make us the envy of Milwaukee; and it is shown by our effectiveness in responding to issues affecting our lives and community.

I ask each of you to join if you are not already a member, and to get your neighbors to join if they are not. MHNA is here for each of us to grow physically, mentally, and spiritually by having a community that is safe, diverse, rewarding, and fun; and to help you grow we need your participation.

## MHNA Calendar of Events

MHNA Meetings are held at the Urban Ecology Center,  
 1500 E. Park Place at 7:00 pm. 414-964-8505  
[urbanecologycenter.com](http://urbanecologycenter.com)

**Mar 27th:** The Milwaukee River -  
 Our Neighbor to the West

Kim Gleffe, Exec. Dir. River Revitalization Fund  
*Discover what a treasure lies to our west and what is being done to make it more accessible and protect its natural beauty.*

**April 24:** City News – Alderman Michael D'Amato  
*Meet your alderman, find out what is being planned for the neighborhood, and have your questions answered directly by the Alderman*

**May 22:** The Historic Preservation of Murray Hill  
 Mr. Paul Jakubovich,  
 Chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee

*Learn how to protect and enhance the architectural heritage of Murray Hill*  
**Watch the web site for detailed information on upcoming meetings: [www.murrayhillna.org](http://www.murrayhillna.org)**

## Oakland / Locust Streetscape

Exciting changes on Oakland Avenue are occurring with the active pace of construction at the new Walgreen's site with hopes for completion in early summer. Also, The Oakland Ave./University Square B.I.D. board of directors continues its progress planning for a new streetscape project on N. Oakland Ave. from E. Geneva Street to Linwood.

MHNA congratulates the University Square BID and their commitment to pursue this pedestrian friendly and traffic-slowing upgrade of the business district with no burden on the taxpayer. The preliminary working budget for the project shows expenses of approximately \$500,000 with \$250,000 paid by the B.I.D. and an equal match of funds from the Department of City Development. The majority of the projects cost would be for 5 ft extension of the sidewalks on both sides of the street (\$300,000) and movement of the street lights (\$100,000).

The pros and cons of various traffic slowing approaches, such as bumpouts (not allowed at bus stops), pedestrian islands, signs etc. are being evaluated. The University Square Business District is currently working with UWM School of Architecture to generate ideas on possible designs to enhance the appearance of the street. Construction is currently planned for 2008. A presentation to the neighborhood is planned when a working design plan is available.

## ••• Easter Egg Hunt •••

The Third Annual MHNA Easter Eggs•travaganza for neighborhood kids will take place on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>, in Riverside Park.

### We need volunteers to help:

- Boil and decorate eggs •
- Fill plastic eggs with candy •
- Distribute eggs on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> •
- Watch the kids have fun •

If you can lend a hand for this year's event, please contact GERALYN FLICK at Murray Hill Pottery 2458 N. Murray Ave 332-8828



## North East Side Comprehensive Plan Update

Interested members of the MHNA attended a North East side image preference survey on February 18, presented by Janet Grau of the Milwaukee Department of City Development. This community feedback session on the future of the NE side focused on generating ideas on housing, public/open space, transportation and ecological sustainability for our area. The image survey was a visual presentation of various types of housing, streetscape, recreational and industrial photos coordinated with written input. Informal discussion followed

on issues important to the future of our neighborhood. This image survey complements the internet survey and other activities designed to get feedback from the community. February to June 2007, DCD will focus on interviews, data collection, research and idea gathering. From June to December, the focus will be on comparable national projects and consensus building. January to June 2008 has been designated as the time for implementation of the NE plan. Citizens can post their opinions on the NE Plan at the website: [www.mkedcd.org/planning/plans/northeast/index.html](http://www.mkedcd.org/planning/plans/northeast/index.html).

## UWM Sessions with MHNA

MHNA Secretary Cate Deicher has been meeting with Oscar Perez, UWM's Neighborhood and Local Government Relations Liaison, to design and present sessions for university groups. The sessions will focus on communicating the specific concerns of neighborhood residents about student behaviors, and will be made to BOSS drivers, the University Neighborhood Housing Association, Dorm RA's and the

Satellite U-Park drivers. A major goal is to enlist student leaders in the effort to establish respectful behavior. Presentations are planned for early spring.

Perez noted that student contact information is available online. Go to [uwm.edu](http://uwm.edu) and click on "directories" (upper right of screen). Student information including name, address, phone, e-mail, and sometimes parental information is included.



### **The University Square/Oakland Ave. Business Improvement District**

*The East Side's most eclectic two-block business district featuring food from around the world, services for your daily life, and vibrant entertainment venues.*

*The B.I.D. is actively engaged in making your shopping and entertainment visit to our neighborhood the best it can be! We salute the efforts of our neighborhood partners at MHNA.*

*Enjoy delectables from **Oakland Trattoria, Lisa's, Bella's Fat Cat, George Webb's, Oakland Gyros, Subway, Shaharazad, Thai Kitchen, Cousin's Subs, Chin's Fresh Asian, and Cold Stone Creamery.***

*Don't forget your service and daily shopping needs can be fulfilled on your next visit to Oakland Ave. From **Clark Graphics, Atomic Records, Gilbert's Liquor, The Washing Well, Walgreen's, Sal's Barber Shop, and Cloud Nine!***

*And don't forget the eclectic mix of entertainment at our beloved **Miramar Theater** or grab a game of pool and a cold one at **Axel's**. On **Oakland Ave.**, we have it all!*

## A Word From UNA

At the February University Neighborhood Association meeting several key issues were discussed concerning action and growth of the organization.

One key item was discovering that the UW Regents have formed a committee to discuss the need and proposed direction of any changes made with regard to Chapter 17 – Student Nonacademic and Disciplinary Procedures. Wisconsin is one of the few states that does not make a student's off-campus behavior subject to their academic standing, and we hope that changes in Ch. 17 will allow the university to hold students to greater responsibility as they interact with their surroundings. Unfortunately, the committee is entirely UW members with no community representatives, and one of the two student representatives has openly stated that he will fight expanding UW control of students to his last breath. MHNA will be posting regent member contact lists via email so you can make your views heard.

Oscar Perez, UWM's Community Liaison, wishes to start now to prepare for spring student activity. He has arranged with Scott Peak, Director of Student Housing, for representatives from the neighborhood associations to prepare and give a presentation on "good neighborhood relations" to the Resident Assistants at the dorms. The director of the B.O.S.S. van program asked that a group made up of representatives from each neighborhood association talk to the B.O.S.S. drivers about past problems and solutions. Oscar will provide UNA with contact phone numbers to report problems with vans. In addition, UWM will again pay for two MPD beat officers to work overtime in the campus area from April 5-May 19<sup>th</sup>.

UNA has chosen to focus on two issues for the next year. The first is to start research on a neighborhood overlay district for student housing vs. landlord licensing, and second is to work with UWM to develop a Walk-to-Work program to bring staff and faculty back to live in the community. MHNA will keep the membership posted on goals and objectives as these two critical issues are brought to fruition.

Community Liaison officer Ray Robakowski stressed that we all need to be the "eyes and ears" of the neighborhoods, AND that everyone needs to report any suspicious behavior or person. People who call in complaints must give their names. You can say that you do NOT want an officer to come to the door, and provide a phone number so

the officers can call you. As part of the Block Watch Council, MHNA needs a volunteer to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> District MPD Block Watch Council committee. The committee discusses and works on solutions to common problems, such as the "lock it" door hangers, the garage number door hangers, organizing a 5<sup>th</sup> District National Night Out celebration, and more. The committee meets once a month, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the 5<sup>th</sup> District Station. If you want to get involved, please call Gerard Capell at 414-962-4638.

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## The Artists Touch on the East Side

From May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup> the East Side Left Bank of Paris. Artists from all over Wisconsin (and beyond) will use the sights and landmarks of our beautiful area as their inspiration while they participate in the Premier Downer Avenue Plein Aire Competition.

Plein Aire is derived from a French term, and is a type of art competition in which participants agree that all the work they exhibit will not only have been created during the competition, but that all work will be painted in the outdoors.

Maps will be available at any of the Downer Avenue Merchants so that you can grab your parasol and your beret, stroll our streets and avenues, and watch the artists as they work. If you fall in love with one of the creations be sure to head for the Downer Merchant's district for the end of the competition on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. On Saturday (June 2<sup>nd</sup>), the best two pieces from each artist will be judged, followed on Sunday by a silent auction.

The Premier Plein Aire Competition is sponsored by the Downer Avenue Merchants Association and the League of Milwaukee Artists with the generous support of MHNA.

A portion of all proceeds will go to benefit the League and Children's art programs in Milwaukee Public Schools.

### **Check the Many Happenings in the Area!!**

Urban Ecology Center  
[www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)  
UWM Arts Scene  
[www3.uwm.edu/arts/calendar/index.cfm](http://www3.uwm.edu/arts/calendar/index.cfm)  
Community Recreation Programs (Riverside)  
[www.milwaukee recreation.net/](http://www.milwaukee recreation.net/)

## Entertainment in Our Neighborhood

Did you know that UWM's Peck School of the Arts has 350 or more exhibits, performances and activities each school year, and YOU are invited?

Their annual fundraiser, the Grand Viennese Ball on March 31<sup>st</sup>, is \$175 per person, but their "Passport to the Arts", at \$30, will let you into that event at 9pm to tour the new Kenilworth building and have coffee and dessert. Call Peck School of the Arts box office at 414-229-4308 for tickets or information about exhibits and performances.

Contact Polly at [pmorris@uwm.edu](mailto:pmorris@uwm.edu) for other information on the School of the Arts. And let her know if you'd like to usher for some upcoming performance.

Bill Stace of Miramar Theatre on Oakland Avenue says they regularly schedule music concerts, dance concerts, and jam bands. You can also book your own event in the 300-seat capacity theatre. Check out their website at [www.themiramatheatre.com](http://www.themiramatheatre.com).

