

# 95 and Still Going Strong – the Alma Vellam Story

by Mike Varney

Alma Vellam and her family—husband Andrew, son Tony, and daughter Louise—arrived in New York City via an immigrant troop ship in 1952. They didn't hang around.

Harnischfeger Corporation was there hiring, and with the help of a translator decided quickly that Andrew's seven years of service in the Italian Air Force would be an asset. After one week in Gotham, they were given bus fare to Milwaukee, and arrived in the Brady Street area just before Christmas. One of Alma's first memories here is attending Mass at St. Rita's, only to find that the priest was saying Mass in the same Italian dialect she had grown up with!

Arriving in her early 40's, Alma and her family left a lot behind when they departed from Trieste in the fall of 1952. Her father-in-law and husband ran a department store in Albona's piazza. What made them leave? In a word, Tito.

The part of Italy Alma grew up in was ceded to Tito's Yugoslavia after World War II. According to Louise Rohr, Alma's daughter, the family had two choices—stay in Yugoslavia or leave. They chose to leave. As displaced persons, the family was put at the front of Italy's emigration line. While the price to travel to America was little in cost (nothing), the price in family stability was steep—they had to leave everything behind. They were not alone. Economic insecurity, ethnic hatred, and the international political context that eventually led to the Iron Curtain resulted in approximately 350,000 Italians choosing to leave the region.

Arriving in New York, Alma spoke Italian, German, and French, but not English. It didn't take the Vellam's long to learn. Louise recalled how her father purchased two items almost immediately upon arrival in Milwaukee—a radio and a TV—for the sole purpose of learning English as quickly as possible. Louise learned English in six months, working every night with Alma and an Italian-English dictionary.

Education was stressed in the Vellam household, especially science and math. "Money is nothing," Alma said. "What you have here (pointing to her brain), no one can take away."

Alma quickly found work. She greeted customers at the Kohl's Department Store meat counter and retired at age 62, 33 years ago. While there, she befriended the elder Kohl, who himself had emigrated to Milwaukee from Russia.

Alma is a neighborhood inspiration to many people. At 95, she still gardens and takes daily walks. Perhaps you've seen her walking with friends in Lake Park. She attributes her health to daily activity—whether it be her daily walk (on a treadmill in bad weather) or going to church every week at St. Rita's.

Alma is glad she came to the United States 55 years ago. "I love it here," she said. "It reminds me of where I was born, the Italian Riviera. Newberry is beautiful."

## About MHNA

Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is about a group of diverse residents working together to keep Murray Hill a great place to live, work and study. Murray Hill is the 58 block area bounded by Hartford Avenue to the North, Bradford Avenue to the south, Downer Avenue to the East and Oakland Avenue to the West. Our goals are to develop an atmosphere of respect for the rights and lives of all residents in the neighborhood, build a safe and clean community that improves the quality of life for all residents, and maintain open communications with UWM students and representatives to effectively find positive solutions to problems. Benefits to the neighbors include information on safety and crime, regular updates from elected officials, business owners and UWM representatives on neighborhood issues, providing monthly speakers on relevant topics, provide quarterly newsletter, maintaining a cleaner neighborhood through adopt-a-block program and neighborhood-student clean-up events, and welcoming and informing neighbors of the workings of the city. Residents of the area, including students renting property off-campus in this area, property owners, landlords and owners of businesses within the area are encouraged to be members. Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is about making a wonderful neighborhood even better.

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Please mark all that apply:**
- Homeowner .....
  - Renter .....
  - Landlord .....

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

# Murray Hill Neighborhood Association MHNA

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# Murray Hill News

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## President's Message

by J. Gerard Capell

What a season of aches and fever! No, I'm not speaking of having the flu or working up achy muscles from shoveling my drive and walk for the second time in 24 hours and the third day in a row. Well, actually, it's hard to avoid NOT talking about the horrendous weather we have had for the past two months, but I'm speaking of election fever, not only the national arena, but also locally, with an open alderman's seat for the first time in twelve years.

There was a full slate of candidates vying for the position being vacated by Michael D'Amato. We are now down to two, Nik Kovac and Patrick Flaherty. I would like to think that Murray Hill had some impact on these two men getting to this point, due to the candidate forum we co-sponsored and helped organize with the other upper eastside neighborhood associations. The forum was a great success, with a standing-room only crowd and a short but comprehensive introduction to all eight candidates.

I would like to extend a public "Thank you" to Bruce Murphy, editor of Milwaukee Magazine, for being the moderator that night, and keeping things moving along so well; to Bill Stace for the use of the Miramar Theatre, and to all the volunteers from Murray Hill, Cambridge Woods, Mariners, Greenwich Village and Riverside neighborhood associations for making it such a great event.

But getting back to this incredible winter: it is events like these that draw a community together much like an election. Sharing aid and services when we have 12 to 18 inches of snow is not as bad as the devastation of hurricane Katrina, but clearing an elderly neighbor's sidewalk or loaning your shovel to a neighbor, or helping free a stranger's car from a snow berm and receiving the same help a few blocks away make us all recognize our interdependency.

That interdependency and pitching in is what has made Murray Hill Neighborhood Association effective. Currently, we need volunteers to help continue our success and effectiveness in a variety of roles. In some cases, all that is needed is to attend a community meeting once a month and report back to the board so we can pass information on to the members. We also need people who can help organize others, disseminate information, and be our

ears and eyes on the streets of Murray Hill. All in all, we don't ask much but we can help others and they can help us attain the quality of life we strive for. If you are asked to help with a project, please consider doing so - the reward of knowing that you are making a difference is far more than the cost.

### Have you renewed your membership?

*Are we keeping you posted on fun and informative events and important information about the neighborhood?*

*Are you able to find the resources to improve your quality of life, or an eager ear to hear your complaints?*

If you answer yes to the second set of questions then don't you think that you should respond positively to the first? Murray Hill is only as strong as its membership in having a voice that can be heard by elected officials and other powers that affect our community.

### Not a member?

**Fill out the application on the back page of this newsletter and send it in today!**

## MHNA 2008 General Membership Meeting Schedule

*MHNA Meetings are held at the Urban Ecology Center – 1500 E. Park Place at 7:00 pm. 414-964-8505 – urbanecologycenter.com*

### March 25

Representative Jon Richards

News from the State legislature. What issues of taxation and healthcare will be debated and passed or tabled in the upcoming year that will affect us.

### May 27

Vice-Chancellor Helen Mamarchev & Oscar Perez

How has Ms. Marmarchev fit into her new position as Vice Chancellor of Student Relations after one year.

### June 24

Spring Social

How has Ms. Marmarchev

The Spring Social will be held in lieu of a June meeting.

### Autumn

It is hoped that new Milwaukee Police Chief Flynn will speak in Sept. Oct. and Nov. are still unscheduled.

**Watch the web site for detailed information on upcoming meetings: [www.murrayhillna.org](http://www.murrayhillna.org)**

## Feed the Mind, Body and Soul

by Gerard Capell

How many suburban “neighborhoods” can sport the diversity of Murray Hill? Just one small corner of this East side neighborhood boasts a premier coffee shop with rotating art, a revived independent book seller, a Yoga and meditation center, and a Middle Eastern deli and smoke shop. Yes, the shops at Locust and Maryland offer multiple delights for mind, body and soul.

**People’s Books Co-op** is an independent bookshop with a small but diverse collection of current best sellers and highly-rated titles on everything from linguistics and art to eastern religions and food politics. Last fall, when owner and neighbor Chris Chiu decided to close his People’s Books store, loyal customers formed a Co-op to continue serving the neighborhood and students of UW-M. Jim Draeger is the store’s book buyer and can be found scanning the latest publisher’s quarterly for recommendations and reviews of new releases.



The Co-op is more than an independent bookstore; it also works with UW-M as a service learning site for students. Students from social justice, English or sociology departments work in the store, then write a report on what they learn and how the store supports and interacts with the community. The Co-op also takes an active role in helping form and support other Co-ops. It has held aldermanic candidate forums, and hosts the Peace Action Center Book Club., which is open to anyone who wishes to participate in lively discussion of current books on geo-politics and making the world a better place.

Yearly membership is \$20. Members have a vote on the Co-op’s direction and a 10% discount on purchases. The Co-op has been in the black since fall, thanks in part to neighborhood support. More information can be found at the Co-op’s website: [www.peoplesbookcoop.org](http://www.peoplesbookcoop.org).

After picking up a new book, walk over and treat yourself to a rosewater lemonade or fruit smoothie and a tasty shawarma, falafel, or grilled vegetable sandwich at **2 Sweet International Delights**. This eclectic eatery has a wide menu of appetizers, sandwiches, and desserts (including baklava) with both Middle Eastern and American cuisine.

Owner Michael Hemeid has made his small space unique by catering to the hookah smokers in the area. On a pleasant evening, people gather at the outdoor tables to share a hookah and the flavored and herbal tobaccos, conversing and relaxing. The hookah is a water pipe of Indian origin. A hot coal is set on an aluminum foil-sealed bowl where the tobacco is roasted, and the smoke is drawn down through the water reservoir, filtering it. Shop manager Greg Wadie says that because of the water filter, nicotine and tar is significantly reduced compared to a standard cigarette. However, research indicates this depends on type of coal, roasting temperatures, and amount of smoke inhaled. 2 Sweet also sells hookahs at prices ranging from \$30 or \$40 to over \$200.



Those looking for both a restful and health-oriented activity need look no further than the Mindfulness Center of Milwaukee. This independent yoga center has daily events Sunday through Wednesday. Paul Norton and the Center strive to contribute to the individual, neighborhood, and world, as reflected in its mission statement: The Mindfulness Community of Milwaukee is a spiritual community dedicated to the creation of a mindful culture fostering loving, kindness, compassion, joy, and equanimity. We study and practice teachings from Buddhism and other traditions in order to nurture individuals, families, society, and a healthy planet. More information can be found at [www.milwaukee mindfulness.com](http://www.milwaukee mindfulness.com).

Most Murray Hill neighbors are well aware of Roast Coffee Company, its rotating artwork, great coffee and Rishi teas; but how many have tried one of its hot bagel “sammies” for breakfast or a sandwich or salad for a mid-day meal? For the past year, owner Ryan Mason and his staff have been serving bistro-style sandwiches, wraps and salads in addition to morning pastries. Of course, you can always enjoy a rich-tasting chai or a frothy cappuccino while you check your email (free Wi-Fi is available with a purchase), chat with acquaintances and watch the world go by through the big picture windows.

Shops like these, offering services within walking distance, are what make a neighborhood special. By shopping at these small but critical businesses, neighbors can ensure the continued growth and financial stability of both the shops and our homes, while also feeding our own minds, bodies and souls.

## MHNA Committee of Landlords (COL) Update

by Jerry Siegmann

Over 20% of the 130 landlords in the Murray Hill area who received Survey #1 in December responded. The responses indicated that increased MPD and UWM surveillance and intervention, as well as applying the UW System Chapter 17 to residential areas surrounding UW campuses, are the top two solutions for tenant-related problems. Noisy parties, graffiti, litter and debris, and property damage are the most commonly experienced problems. Most landlords require contact information for their young tenants’ parents or guardians. Survey responses included comments, suggestions and reports of landlord experiences.

At the January meeting, seven purposes were established for the Committee of Landlords: 1) to increase communications with and among landlords, tenants, neighborhood residents, the City and the University; 2) to seek and provide solutions to problems of rental properties (with focus on 1-4 unit buildings); 3) to increase membership and participation of owner-occupants of rental properties; 4) to educate about the Department of Neighborhood Services, tenant-screening, and landlord-related issues; 5) to halt the exodus of home owners caused by rental property abuses of City Codes and by unruly and disrespectful tenants; 6) to help restore stability and a clean, safe, amicable environment to Murray Hill; and 7) to be pro-active.

Landlords need to be aware of the State of Wisconsin “Special Provisions” form which is now required when adding provisions to standard leases. Landlords and tenants are encouraged to activate their memberships in MHNA.

Committee members are Michael Broderick, Helen Ceci, Stacy Hegg, Pam Frautschi, Jayne Pelton, Jeffrey and Gaurie Rodman, Paul Stafford, Carole Wehner, and Chair-Jerry Siegmann.

### Upcoming Lake Park Friends Events:

**April 5** Lake Park Pavilion 1-3 PM Kate Redmond will speak on Historic Use of Plants by Native Americans & Early Europeans.

**April 12** Program on Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 1-3 PM by author of Soldiers Of Poverty, a book on the CCC’s contribution to our County Parks during the Great Depression.

**May 11** 1 PM at Warming House. Our annual Mother’s Day Walk With Wildflowers. Find and identify wildflowers of Lake Park. A great event!

**Each Saturday (or Sunday) in April and May.** Warbler Walks. Meet at Warming House. 8:30 AM. See dozens of migrating & native species! Call 962-1680 for info.

All programs free & open to the public. Light refreshments served.

## Oakland/Locust Business District

by Cynthia Sommer

Snow has been a problem in the business district as well as in the neighborhood. After the December onslaught of snow, the University Square Business Improvement District (BID) spent several thousand dollars to have the snow hauled away. But as we all know too well, it has reappeared. Mother Nature, please give everyone a break!

The streetscape project is in negotiations with the City. More detailed drawings are being requested to coordinate with the proposed budget. UWM School of Architecture and Design faculty & students and a hired consultant will be pursued to keep the project moving forward. So far, no new tenants have contracted for the former Walgreen’s building. Graffiti tags are a recurrent problem; most recently the alley walls of Chin’s and Clark’s Graphics were marked by vandals and required cleaning. Neighbors are encouraged to report any suspicious individual.

A web site for the University Square businesses is being developed. It will provide information about all the businesses in the Oakland/Locust business district, activities, local news and photos. It will be a handy link for the neighborhood.



### 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, Cold Stone Creamery and Shiraz.**

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!

## UWM S.A.F.E. Program (Safety Awareness for Everyone)

*Cynthia Sommer's interview with UWM Assistant Chief of Police Michael Marzion*

You may have seen the new UWM security officers dressed in uniform and a vest with "SAFE" in large, bright letters. These security officers are part of the \$500,000 commitment by UWM to improve security on and near the campus. S.A.F.E. security officers will walk in pairs in the neighborhood to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the UWM Police.

Currently, 14 security officers are trained and assigned to walking patrol. As the program develops, 35 to 40 S.A.F.E. officers will be hired. This will provide scheduling flexibility and coverage. S.A.F.E. officers will walk the area evenings and nights, especially during the hours of 10 pm to 2 am. The borders of the patrol area are Cambridge Avenue on the west, Shepard Avenue on the east, Park Place on the south, and Kenwood on the north. Maryland Avenue and Menlo Boulevard will split the area into four sectors. The areas south of Kenwood will be staffed before the areas north of Kenwood, due to the needs of the neighborhood.

Both students and non-students hired for the S.A.F.E. program have an interest in keeping the campus and neighborhood safe. Each must pass a background check before being hired. S.A.F.E. officers receive 24 hours of training on interacting/interviewing techniques, radio procedures, basic first aid, self-defense, ethics, being an effective witness, professionalism and teamwork. They are equipped with reflective vests, police radio, pepper spray, and flashlights. The security officers take a proactive approach to crime prevention by being highly visible, constantly vigilant and easily approachable. They will call the UWM police for all enforcement actions. In addition to crime prevention, the security officers provide such basic services as directions, medical help, and escorts. The University would like to expand the program to include neighborhood volunteers who would walk along with the officers. Volunteers would be given a brief training and then would be paired with security officers for the walking patrols.

The success of the S.A.F.E program is already evident from the following two reports.

Additional reports can be read at the web site: [www.uwm.edu/Dept/police/crimealerts.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/police/crimealerts.htm)

On January 28<sup>th</sup> around 3 am, UWM S.A.F.E. officers observed someone looking into vehicles and acting suspiciously in the alley west of the 2800 block of N. Oakland Avenue. After entering a parked vehicle, the suspect saw the officers, exited the vehicle and began to run north. The S.A.F.E. officers provided UWM Police with a description and direction of travel that led to the arrest of the suspect. The suspect was turned over to the Milwaukee Police Department.

On February 8th, S.A.F.E. officers heard the faint cries of an elderly man who had fallen on his porch in the 2900 block of N. Frederick Ave. The man declined medical attention, but requested assistance to get up and to help him walk back to his second floor home. After helping the man, the UWM S.A.F.E officers cleared the man's porch to prevent future falls.

MHNA welcomes the addition of UWM S.A.F.E. officers to the neighborhood. Neighbors interested in volunteering to be trained to patrol with the UWM S.A.F.E. officers should contact Detective Sergeant Art Koch at (414) 229-4627. He will be scheduling training programs in the next few months.

## UWM Starts Master Plan

*by Gerard Capell*

After much talk of preparing for the future, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has finally started the process of developing its own master plan, not unlike that being done for the entire Northeast side by the City.

Quoting Chancellor Santiago, "To fully achieve our fundamental missions of access and research, we must stop and ask where we envision our institution to be intellectually and spatially as we move forward in the 21st century."

It is clear that UWM cannot serve the people of Wisconsin, create tomorrow's work force and be the catalyst for regional economic growth if we continue to be confined to our existing 93-acre campus. This space is inadequate in quantity and quality to meet current and future demands for research, instruction and student services. The increased density has also at times exacerbated our relations with the residential neighborhoods surrounding our campus. We are too many people, doing too much, in too little space.

The process will critically examine UWM's current and future needs, while at the same time recognize past strategic planning efforts that have steered the university in a positive growth direction. The master planning effort is expected to take approximately two years and will be comprehensive and inclusive. We will seek input from stakeholders far and wide, including UWM faculty, staff, students and alumni; neighbors of the current east side campus and potential satellite locations; and the people of the city and county of Milwaukee, and state of Wisconsin."

More can be found at [www4.uwm.edu/master\\_plan/](http://www4.uwm.edu/master_plan/) including information about the nationally known consultants, HGA Architect and Sasaki Associates who will conduct the process and develop the plan.

## UNA Update

*by Jerry Siegmann*

**Chapter 17:** The year-old process leading to amendment of Chapter 17 of the Wis Administrative Code has come to the point of having actual recommendations. The intent is to allow the universities to have some authority over off-campus student behavior which negatively affects campus neighborhoods. The recommendations are at [www.wisconsin.edu/admincode](http://www.wisconsin.edu/admincode) <[www.wisconsin.edu/admincode](http://www.wisconsin.edu/admincode)>, but the brief period for public comments has expired.

**UWM's Walk-to-Work program** is intended to assist faculty and staff in purchasing homes near campus. This can reduce parking problems on campus and stabilize neighborhoods near campus. UWM has published a new promotional map of our diverse neighborhoods around campus, with information about each area. Google "UWM Walk to Work" for more information (it's a LONG URL!).

**UWM's Master Plan** will soon start to take shape. Consultants Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. (HGA), of Milwaukee, and Sasaki Associates of Watertown, MA were selected, and will take input from a long list of stakeholders, including neighbors, over the next two years. Their schedule will be posted when it is available; neighbors should have adequate time to prepare their input. This is a lengthy process--area residents may not be consulted for quite a while. Check it out: [www4.uwm.edu/master\\_plan/](http://www4.uwm.edu/master_plan/)

## Downer Avenue Merchant's News

*by Gerard Capell*

At the February Downer Avenue Merchants' Association meeting, news and events which affect the merchants and the surrounding neighborhoods were discussed.

At the top of the agenda were the existing and proposed construction along Downer. The second floor remodeling above Schwartz's is nearly complete; the future home to Associated Bank, with 8,000 square feet of retail space and parking is progressing; and construction will soon begin on the 2600 block, with demolition of the bank's current drive-thru and renovation of the second floor for a surgery center, and a four-story building filing-in the corner of Park and Downer. Construction on the northern portion of Downer is expected to be complete by December of 2008.

The proposed streetscape work was also discussed, with a "democratic process" being used to elicit opinions from all the merchants as ideas for landscaping, furniture, textures and materials, and signage are developed.

The boutique hotel slated for the space where Einstein's and The Chancery were has been reduced from a 100-room facility with banquet facilities to 68 rooms. This may make use by UW-M or Columbia St. Mary's on a regular basis less likely. This room reduction was due to the loss of parking spaces in the lower level of the parking structure, currently being built.

Special events filled out DAMA's meeting with the return of Plein-Aire Artist outdoor painting and show planned for the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. An auction of the artwork brought in \$15,000 in sales last year.

The Downer Avenue Bicycle Races will be held on July 26. The Association is looking for ways to make a day-long, or even a weekend-long event, with amateur races during the day, and a street dance or live entertainment on the night(s) before.

## COAST is Underway

*by Cate Deicher*

As of January, UWM has in place a pilot program designed to establish and strengthen relationships among all residents in the university area. COAST (Community Outreach and Assistance to Student Tenants) is being directed by the UWM Neighborhood Housing Office.

The COAST program has hired six students who will be trained, supported and supervised by the Neighborhood Housing Office to serve as peer educators and resources for specific student neighborhoods. As such, they will meet with all the residents of their assigned areas – student tenants, landlords, and long-term residents – communicating with them about issues and concerns.

While specific practices are still being developed, an important goal is to connect students to their respective neighborhood associations.

Murray Hill has two representatives, Austin Baade and Michael Balkman. Both plan to attend future membership meetings to learn about MHNA and start developing relationships with the organization. Baade and Balkman are particularly interested to learn how UWM students might be able to contribute effectively to the organization.

The six COAST representatives have been assigned to the following blocks:

3100-3200 N. Bartlett  
3000-3100 N. Cramer  
2900-3000 N. Murray  
2900-3000 N. Maryland  
2800-3000 N. Farwell  
3300-3500 N. Downer

The program is being directed by Keri Duce, the Interim Neighborhood Housing Office Coordinator. Duce has a keen interest in student development and is passionate about helping people grow and learn; she also understands the concerns of UWM neighbors. She can be contacted for further information about the program at [duce@aux.uwm.edu](mailto:duce@aux.uwm.edu) or 229 5320.

## 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The 3rd annual Murray Hill Easter Egg Hunt is rapidly approaching. This is a wonderful event for the neighborhood kids. Can you help out?

The hunt itself will be held on Saturday, March 22nd. We need people to help boil and dye eggs and to help prepare plastic eggs with treats. Eggs will be ready to pick up for dyeing on March 12th.

If you can help out please contact  
Geraldyn Flick at  
Murray Hill Pottery Works  
2458 N. Murray Ave. (in back)  
by e-mail: [geraldynflick@Mac.com](mailto:geraldynflick@Mac.com)  
or by phone: 332-8828



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# January 16th Candidate Forum

by Gregory James



Candidates seeking to be the next Alderman for Milwaukee's 3rd District answered questions at the MHNA-sponsored Candidate Forum on January 16th. Residents packed into the Miramar Theatre on Oakland Avenue to hear the candidates address issues of concern to Murray Hill residents.

**Patrick Flaherty** and **Nic Kovac** will face off in the April 1 general election.



# North East Side Comprehensive Plan Update

by Gerard Capell

## One More Step Taken

The last of the Open Houses where the draft Northeast Side Comprehensive Plan could be viewed and commented upon has occurred. Many of you have had an opportunity to review the plan, which can be seen at [www.mkedcd.org/planning/plans/Northeast/plan.html](http://www.mkedcd.org/planning/plans/Northeast/plan.html), and provided feedback on how others see the future of the Northeast side, and especially the upper eastside.

Maybe you agree that Downer Woods should be turned into campus dorms and classrooms, or maybe you believe that changing Prospect and Farwell Avenues into two-way streets will

be better for the businesses and residents along those arteries. These are the types of issues being discussed, and now that further public comments have been received, the consultants will compile the final document and present it to the City committees and Common Council later in March. Final approval is scheduled for April 9th.

Murray Hill and the other neighborhood associations in the upper eastside are still trying to make sure that issues important to our members and residents are not forgotten or drowned out. We will report on the final document, which will be used to guide development and resources in the upper eastside for many years to come.

## Murray Hill History Did you know?

submitted by Cynthia Sommer

### Bellevue Place

The French word "bellevue" means "beautiful view". If you were standing at the top of the hill at Bellevue Place and Maryland Avenue in the 1880's, you, like Frederick Johnson and Moses Brand who named the street, would have been impressed by the beautiful vista. Several people in the city were disturbed by the English version of the French name for the street, to the point of asking the mayor to change the name. They were unsuccessful, and to this day, the street is named Bellevue Place.

### Hampshire Street

Hampshire Street was originally named Concord Avenue. The name was changed in 1926 to minimize the potential of being mistaken for nearby Concordia Street. Hampshire Street and Hartford Avenue were named by John Stowell in 1887 for east coast cities.

### Bradford Avenue

James Murray, who owned much of the land north of North Avenue, named Bradford Avenue for John and Joseph Bradford. The two brothers operated a dry goods store in Milwaukee in the 1840's. They were later joined in the business by a third brother, James. John Bradford was involved in banking and insurance companies, and served as president of the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce. James Bradford established a piano and organ store that closed in 2006 after 125 years of business in Milwaukee.

# DPW Web Site is Designed for a Cleaner, Safer Neighborhood

by Gary Halvorsen

When you're out and about in Murray Hill, you might observe violations of ordinances, or infrastructure that has fallen into disrepair. The City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW) wants to know about these problems, so they've created a website that makes it easy for residents to report them. In upcoming issues of the MHNA Newsletter, this column will concentrate on the hot-button issues that come up every season, and show how you can use the DPW website to improve our neighborhood.

Log on to: [dpwworks.mpw.net](http://dpwworks.mpw.net). This website lists all of the divisions in Public Works. It is easy to navigate, and doesn't require you to remember a password. You can ask to be notified after the problem has been addressed, even if you are requesting service for a property other than your own. Or, you can request services anonymously by leaving the top part of the form blank. With a little help from this column, and a little deciphering of DPW jargon, you can easily request DPW services.

## POTHoles

Potholes are a problem every year due to freezing and thawing of pavement. Click on Street Maintenance Services, and fill in the form. From the "select a service" pull-down menu, choose the "Pothole/Patch" option. Enter an address close to the location of the pothole. In the Comments section, give specifics, such as the nearest corner, or side of the street.

## SKID REFERRALS (formerly "Special Pick-Ups")

We're talking about those unsightly piles of debris left at the curb or the alley after someone has moved out.

What used to be called a "Special Pick-Up" is now a "Skid Referral", reflecting the new procedure of removing them with a bobcat-type machine known as a skid loader. There are two ways to request this service, depending on the size of the pile: if it is larger than 4 cubic yards (about the size of two sofas), or smaller.

Click on Sanitation Services, and fill in the form. If the pile is larger than 4 cubic yards, choose "Skid Referrals >4 c.y. (\$50 charge)" from the "select a service" pull-down menu. There is a \$50 charge for those large piles, added to the property owner's tax bill. If the load is smaller than 4 cubic yards, no action is required, and no fee is assessed. The regular sanitation crew will pick it up on the assigned garbage collection day, at the regular collection point (curb or alley).

## NUISANCE PROPERTIES

You can report properties where garbage is collecting in the yard (not at the normal garbage pickup site) or where piles larger than 4 cubic yards may not have been removed for a long time. In these cases, a Sanitation Inspector must visit the property. If there is a violation, the inspector will post a warning that gives the owner 3 days to respond. If there is no response, a sanitation crew will remove the refuse, and the charge will appear on the owner's tax bill. Click on Sanitation Services, and fill in the form. From the "select a service" pull-down menu, choose the "San Inspector Call Back" option, and be as specific as possible in the Comments section. There is no need to fill in the top of the form unless you want the Inspector to call you back.

Many other seasonal situations and problems can be reported by checking the DPW website [dpwworks.mpw.net](http://dpwworks.mpw.net). I'll be writing about them in future Murray Hill newsletters. Issues like the new rules for tree brush pick up, reporting high grass and weeds, carts always left at the curb, etc. Check out the site yourself to get familiar with the options, and use it as another tool to keep our neighborhood and the eastside in tip-top shape.

If you have any trouble or questions, call the DPW Call Center at 286-8282 with your questions. Good Luck and Happy Cleaner Neighborhood!

## 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 [smccabe@firstweber.com](mailto:smccabe@firstweber.com)



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