



A Great Place to Live!

Martin Acres VOICE

September 1999
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A Bi-monthly Newsletter
Next Issue: November 1999

MANA (Martin Acres Neighborhood Association)
P.O. Box 3514
Boulder, CO 80307



TURNPIKE NOISE

Despite a lot of publicity and repeated complaints, it appears that the Colorado Department of Transportation is unwilling to lower the speed limit on US 36 where it is adjacent to our neighborhood back down to 55 mph in order to reduce noise. The noise from the turnpike has been an issue in the neighborhood for as long as there has been a neighborhood here, according to long time residents. Despite considerable effort through the years and even a grant-funded noise mitigation feasibility study, nothing concrete has ever been accomplished.

MANA and representatives of Frasier Meadows (across the turnpike) have scheduled a meeting with CDOT to talk over the issue. Little is expected from the meeting, but we do want to keep reminding the DOT that the issue is alive. Please take every opportunity you see for applying whatever pressure you can; letter to state officials works well.

REALLY HIGH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!

Enough folks have come forward willing to chip in that we're assured of being able to rent a "cherry picker" for placing some high Christmas lights around the neighborhood. We'll be getting together for a little planning session before long, but you can still get in on it if you're interested. Contact Jan Clason at 494-8285 (clason@creek.net).

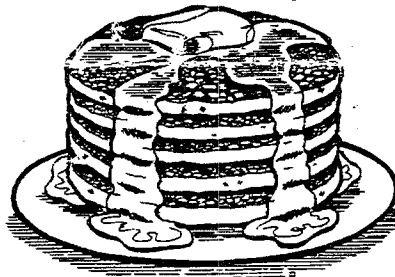
HEAD START HELP

The Boulder County Head Start facility in Martin Acres, just across Bear Creek from Martin Park Elementary, has asked for some help maintaining their playground. If you use the bike path around Martin Drive at all, you might agree that they could use a little help with the playground, and probably agree as well that it's better they apply their always limited funds to the kids rather than the facility. Some gardeners in the neighborhood are willing to help out with landscaping ideas, but there is a labor shortage. If you feel like breaking a sweat, or better yet, feel like organizing a medium scale effort, please call Maria Harper at the Head Start office, 303-441-3980, or contact a MANA steering committee member, who will put you in touch with the right people.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MANA's enormously popular pancake breakfast will be held this year on **Saturday, September 11th** from 7:30 - 11:30 AM, under the shelter at Martin Park. Always well attended, this is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, especially the ones from the other side of the neighborhood, the ones you never run into on your normal rounds. Advance tickets \$2.75 - adults, \$1.25 - kids/seniors (\$3.00 and \$1.50 "at the door") contact Cam Marshall or Jan Clason for early tickets.

We do need a couple of volunteers to help set up and serve; after years of doing it, this event runs like a well oiled machine, so it's hardly like work. If you'd like to help out, call Cam Marshall.



The Fire Dept. has been invited back so the kids can climb around on a fire engine, as can well-meaning adults, and we will again be awarding a beautification prize to an outstanding example of landscape improvement in Martin Acres.

New this year will be a bicycle safety program which Jenny Fowler will be putting on, so bring your kids and your bikes and join in.

WINTER'S ON THE WAY and so are plans for the third annual **Martin Acres WinterFest**. As has become customary, the event will include a House Decoration Contest (decorations must be up by the last weekend in November), a Holiday Party (gathering at the elementary school, potluck-caroling-hayride), and the Caring and Sharing Gift Drive (neighbors helping neighbors).

We are enlarging the effort to reach neighbors who might use a helping hand by enlisting the resources of Martin Park Elementary, Adopt-a-Family, Foster Family Program and Meals-on-Wheels, who will act as confidential liaison. "Wish Lists" will be gathered and published in the next issue of the **VOICE**, so you'll have plenty of time to get your holiday shopping done.

If you know someone in Martin Acres who might benefit from a little extra support during the holidays, please contact one of us: Barbara Connolly, 494-6673; Gloria Vigil, 499-2385; Jan Clason, 494-8285.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound! Call Jan Clason or sign up at the Pancake Breakfast September 11. The exact date and time have yet to be decided, but we're looking at the first weekend in December—that could change to avoid conflict with Boulder's "Parade of Lights."

—MOVING INTO MARTIN ACRES—

In July we welcomed Jim Harrington, Wade/Rhonda Lukianow, Larry Graham, Mike/Claudia/Eli Hendricks, Geri on 31st, Kenneth Cowan, Jim on 31st, and Stacey Mandel to Martin Acres. If you see a new neighbor moving in, call Jan Clason (494-8285). She has welcome packets and baskets for the new arrivals that contain information about the neighborhood and city services. She'll drop them off to you so you can deliver them and have an excuse to introduce yourself.

THANKS...

...Steve Altermatt, Susan Holloway, and Sheila Malcolm for organizing another smashing success with the 1999 Martin Acres Home Tour. ...to all who volunteered and supported the August 21 park shelter painting (details in the next **VOICE**) ...to Robin Richeson, for handling the distribution of the Martin Acres **VOICE** in Area 2

...AND we need a volunteer to distribute the **VOICE** in Area 2 after Robin's retirement. Distribution means receiving a stack of newsletters from the coordinator, then making smaller stacks and delivering them to the block leaders. This takes only about an hour every other month, and is a good way to meet some of your neighbors. Area 2 consists of Moorhead Ave. and Courts from Martin Dr. to S 42nd, Martin Dr. from Moorhead Ave to S. 42nd. If you can help, please contact Cam Marshall at 499-2008.

NATIVE? If you are an original Martin Acres (or Highland Park) homeowner—that is, if you bought your house when it was new—Rosemary McBride would like to hear from you. She is compiling a history of the neighborhood and wants as much information as you are willing to share. Please give her a call at 494-9765 or look for her table at the Pancake Breakfast on September 11.

TABLE MESA UPGRADE

At the last MANA meeting Randall Rutsch from *GO Boulder* reported on plans for upgrading Table Mesa Drive next year. Though the public input portion of the planning phase is just now getting underway (that input could cause the plan to change), as of right now, the project is pretty well defined. First, the roadway will be completely reconstructed. Structural defects preclude a simple overlay of asphalt; the City is considering concrete for a surface. Second, on-street bike lanes will be added. The stretch of Table Mesa bordering Martin Acres is the only section from Louisville to Lehigh Rd. lacking bike lanes; Boulder's commitment to balanced transportation almost dictates their placement, though there will be discussion whether bike lanes or a center turn lane is a wiser use of the right-of-way.

There will almost certainly be some discussion about buying up houses to widen the right of way, and it is equally certain that discussion will result in the decision not to. That option is enormously expensive and has been investigated and rejected before.

The final part of the plan includes rebuilding all of the sidewalks, and adding access ramps at the intersections. Rebuilding the sidewalks is necessary, both because of their poor state, and because the room for the bike lanes (or the center turn-lane) will be gained by eliminating the wide planting strip adjacent to the current roadbed (which most of us feel would constitute a legitimate beautification project just by itself).

Public input on the plan will be solicited in meetings planned for this fall. The dates and locations for the meetings have not been published yet, but we will try to broadcast them as soon as we know about them, in the **VOICE**, on the MANA website and the Email list. You can also contact the *GO Boulder* office (or their website) for information and meeting dates.

BOOKFAIR

The Martin Park Advisory Team (MPAT) is hosting a Bookfair at *Barnes and Noble* in Boulder to benefit Martin Park Elementary School. On Wednesday, October 13 from 5:00 to 8:30 PM, if you clip the voucher and turn it in with your purchase (make your purchase at the register designated for the book fair), a portion of the sale will go to MPAT.

Barnes & Noble
Bookellers Since 1873
BOOKFAIR SUPPORT VOUCHER

STORE: Boulder

LOCATION: 2915 Pearl Street

I support the Bookfair for:
Martin Park Elementary (MPAT)
Organization

Wed., October 13 5:00 - 8:30 pm
Date/Time

Please give to cashier at designated register at the time of purchase and the organization will receive a percentage of the net sale.

For office use only: Reg# _____ Trans # _____
Amount of sale before tax: \$ _____

THE MARTIN PRAIRIE

The concept was so wonderfully elegant; the little triangle of land south of Martin Park Elementary and East of Bear Creek was going to be torn up anyway during the flood control work along Bear Creek, so, why not contour it a little, plant native grasses (which could later be augmented with grassland wildflowers) and create a self-sustaining little "pocket prairie"? Such a little area could be an educational resource for the school (after all, the land is owned by BVSD), would require very little maintenance, and would be an attractive addition to the neighborhood. And all of this at little cost.

It turned out to be anything but elegant; to most eyes, it is nothing but a botched shot. The first seeding this spring failed, and the grass mix selected by the contractor for the second try had to be augmented (by a neighborhood plant ecologist, at her own expense) with three native species in order to reflect local realities. The seeding was apparently never irrigated, there have been no visible attempts at weed control, and the contractor even drove vehicles over the area after seeding, leaving a swath that still is completely bare. The vigorously growing grass on the north and west is redtop, an aggressive exotic which probably was introduced to the site with the fill from the creek bed. This weed will probably soon colonize most of the site, from where it will propagate throughout the adjacent areas.

The School District, the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, and of course the contractor, all seem satisfied with the project. From the point of view of the residents, though, what we have been handed is, instead of a pleasant little prairie park, an eye sore and a new source of weeds for our yards.

MARTIN ACRES ON-LINE

Visit the Martin Acres Website at

<http://www.bcn.boulder.co.us/community/mana>

to get meeting minutes, an electronic version of this newsletter, and links to other community sites. Our thanks to Boulder Community Network for hosting the site, and to Frank Hage for putting it together.

Sharing & Matching

Ads are free with a \$10 donation to MANA. Call **VOICE** editor/writer Steve Clason, 494-8285 or email clason@creek.net by **OCTOBER 1** to place your ad for the *November VOICE*.

VOICE/PIANO LESSONS—all ages. Studio directly across from Martin Park Elementary. Call Mary Wallace for details, 494-3812.

Martin Acres Resident and **Real Estate Broker** Phillip Berley would like to offer his services to his Martin Acres neighbors. Please call 448-8832 to find out about our low listing rates.

A TOUCH OF WELLNESS Charlene Thompson offers a variety of services, including: Customized Pet Caring Services. Mid-day walks and visits and in-home vacation care. Stress Reduction Workplace Massage. Relax in a special on-site massage chair. Multi-Pure Drinking Water Systems. Clean, clear, delicious. Call 499-3660

Handyman Service professional with 30 years experience; 20 years in Martin Acres. I do carpentry, drywall, electrical, plumbing, paint, tile, and most maintenance, repair and small remodel services. I also act as a consultant when you are designing your remodel. Call Dick Ollar at 494-5100.

Carter Painting

Paul Carter, Martin Acres Resident, 494-5362
Interior/Exterior—Neighborhood references available!

Bestway Insulation, family-owned in Colorado for 43 years stresses quality workmanship in your home. Services include wall insulation, which can be done through outside brick as well as other types of walls, and soundproofing in your home. The U.S. Dept. of Energy recommends an R (insulation) rating of 38 for attics in Boulder; Martin Acres homes average about R8. For a free estimate by phone or in your home, call 469-0808 day/night. All work guaranteed.

Interior Remodeling Experience and references in Martin Acres. I hang doors and cabinets, do trim carpentry, wall patching, and install light fixtures and ceiling fans. Reasonable rates. Call Mike for estimates at 774-8119.

McGregor's Garden Preschool (Ages 2-5)

3535 Eastman Avenue
Husband and wife team, both former teachers. Licensed preschool in our happy home near Martin Park. Lots of outings, science, art, cooking, dancing, swimming, singing, drama, sports, stories and playtime. Hot lunch provided. Our focus is fun. Barbara and Don 499-9341

MANA CALENDAR	MANA OFFICERS (ALL PHONE #S ARE 303 PREFIXES)		VOICE DISTRIBUTION
AUGUST 21 Park Shelter Painting 24 School Watermelon Social	PRESIDENT Thomas Doerr 554.5541 thomas@doerr.org	SECRETARY POSITION VACANT	Coordinator: Cam Marshall-499.2008 cmarshall@marshallinfo.com
SEPTEMBER 5 Park Cleanup, 1 PM 11 Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 - 11:30 AM	VICE-PRESIDENT Jan Clason 494.8285 clason@creek.net	TREASURER Cam Marshall 499.2008 cmarshall@marshallinfo.com	Area 1A: Martin Dr.-Table Mesa-Martin Park & School S. 44 th ; Megan Leben-499.2324
OCTOBER 4 MANA Meeting, 7PM, MPES	STEERING COMMITTEE		Area 1B: Martin Dr.-Table Mesa-US 36-N&E side S. 42 nd ; Jen Rodehaver-554.8893
DECEMBER ? WinterFest (4 th or 5 th) 6 MANA Meeting, 7PM, MPES	Newsletter Editor/Writer Publisher & Social Director Zoning/Code Beautification Transportation	Steve Clason 494.8285 clason@creek.net Jan Clason 494.8285 clason@creek.net POSITION VACANT Billie Gutsell 494.6672 lrucker@earthlink.net Frank Hage 494.0491 fhage@rap.ucar.edu	Area 2: Martin Dr.-US36-N&W side S. 42 nd ***POSITION VACANT*** Area 3: Martin Dr.-Martin Park/School-S. Broadway-Ash; Don McGregor-499.9341 Area 4: Martin Dr.-27 th Way-Moorhead-Ash; Terry Snyder-494.9040 To send a message to the entire MANA email List: manalist@marshallinfo.com To add/remove your address from mana@marshallinfo.com
MEETING MINUTES Minutes of the 1999 MANA Steering committee meetings, including the annual meeting held last March, are available from Steve Clason (494-8285, clason@creek.net).			