



May 2000

A Great Place to Live!

Martin Acres VOICE

A Bi-monthly Newsletter

MANA (Martin Acres Neighborhood Association)
P.O. Box 3514
Boulder, CO 80307
website — <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/mana>
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Vol. 20, No. 2

EASTER EGG HUNT

Neighborhood families will be gathering on **Easter Sunday, April 23rd**, for MANA's 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Martin Park. This is an event for the children, and activities are organized according to age group so there will be a safe and appropriate activity for every child, and lots of fun for everyone. This event is funded by MANA and is made possible by generous donations from area businesses—so bring your kids and meet at the park shelter at **2:00 PM**. Contact Camille Hook at 499-9020.

HELP WANTED

Contact **Jan Clason @ 494-8285 or clason@conen.net** if you're interested in helping out with any of these:

ADOPT-A-PARK VOLUNTEERS Willing neighbors have devoted hundreds of hours over the years helping to keep Martin Park maintained and Bear Creek clean. To continue that effort, MANA is soliciting volunteers to spend a day sweeping the walks and picking up trash. The Scharf and Holloway families volunteered for April, the Clason and Marshall families for May; call to signup if you would like to spend an hour or two keeping the park pretty and safe. MANA has all of the necessary equipment—all you need is your time.

SEEKING SECRETARY Can you spare 3 hours every other month? If so, and if you would like to help out the neighborhood, MANA needs a secretary to record minutes of the steering committee meetings. The meetings are from 7-9 PM, the first Monday of even numbered months; it takes about another hour to type up the notes and distribute them. And, since we're on the subject... **Thanks to June Kane** for taking notes at the April Steering Committee meeting.

WELCOME COMMITTEE...Landlord Outreach Wanting to make new arrivals in our neighborhood feel at home, MANA has, for a couple of years, been delivering welcome baskets to every new resident. New homeowners are easy to locate because property sales are posted in the newspaper, but there is no similar source of information for new renters. Since renters occupy well over half of the homes in Martin Acres, we seem to ignore (unless someone notices a moving van) a whole lot of new neighbors. To address that deficiency, MANA is sending a letter to neighborhood landlords asking them to contact us whenever their tenants change; we are asking also that you notify us when you notice someone new on your block. If you do know of a new arrival, or if you would like to see the letter we are mailing out, contact Jan.

...Donations Needed The welcome baskets MANA has been delivering to new residents were a collaborative effort with a now defunct company. That defunct company's part of the collaboration was to solicit advertising materials, in the form of gifts, from area businesses wanting to introduce themselves to new potential customers. So, we need to find a new source.

Those gifts—samples, gift certificates, "two-fers"—seem to be available just for the asking. MANA is looking for someone with the time to do that asking. If you can put in a few hours a month talking to local businesses on behalf of the neighborhood organization, please contact Jan.

Study Circles? Boulder Valley School District has invited MANA to host a Study Circle as part of the district's efforts to engage more fully with the community. The study circles are a structured method for deliberating issues pertinent to the future of education in the community and are intended to produce results in the form of recommendations made to the Board of Education.

Next MANA Steering Committee Meeting
Monday, June 5th from 7-9 PM in the library at Martin Park Elementary School....*All residents welcome!*

ECOPASS MEETING

Monday, May 1st, 7:00 to 8:30 PM at George Reynolds Library..... Working with the city, we have been investigating the idea of creating a neighborhood wide assessment district that would pay for EcoPasses for every resident of Martin Acres. We would attempt to include all 1300 homes in our neighborhood. An assessment for every house would be collected with the property tax bill to pay RTD for the passes. In the first year, the assessment per house would be about \$3.50/month (or \$42/year. After two years, the assessment would be about \$7 to \$8/month (\$84-96/year). If enough interest is shown in the neighborhood, petitions would be circulated later this spring to allow an election in November to form the district. Come to the meeting to find out more and to give your feedback, pro or con. Call Jerry Wyss for more information, 494-1971, evenings.

RON TUPA MEETING

Come meet with state representative Ron Tupa on Thursday, May 11th, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at George Reynolds Library, to discuss our options for mitigation of the noise on US 36. Some of the possible options include: 1) CDOT pays for and builds a sound wall along the highway; 2) the neighborhood forms a district to contribute 50% of the cost (15 year bond works out to about \$50 per house in Martin Acres); 3) lower the speed limit. There are other options that can also be discussed at the meeting. Come voice your views on this important neighborhood concern. For more info. call Jerry Wyss at 494-1971, evenings.

MARTIN ACRES HOME TOUR

Every year, a few neighbors who recently decorated or remodeled their homes let us poke around to see what they have done. We call that poking around the Martin Acres Home Tour and it is an excellent way to preview remodeling options you might be considering, or to get new ideas that may not have occurred to you. It also is a good way to rub shoulders with the neighbors, and the event also raises money, which we usually donate to the advisory team of Martin Park Elementary for school improvements.

Six homes will be on the tour Sunday, May 21st, from noon to 5 including the Martin Farmhouse at 35th/Moorhead. Cost is again \$5, and tickets can be purchased in advance from Steve Altermatt at Walnut Realty (442-3180), Pettyjohn's Liquor, Herb's Meats, Martin Park Elementary School or on the day of the tour. Volunteers are welcome and needed to help show the houses and to guide people around the neighborhood. If you would like to help out at the event, please contact Marcia Weins at 494-0401.

MANA COMMUNITY PICNIC

The consolidation of elementary schools in South Boulder will bring a lot of children from adjacent neighborhoods into Martin Acres next fall. Those children will be coming here because their own neighborhood schools, Aurora 7 or Majestic Heights, were closed or given over to another use. MANA is organizing a picnic this summer for the families in these neighborhoods, so that the students, parents and neighbors can get to know each other. This community gathering will give the new students the opportunity to scout out the park and the school grounds and maybe make their transition to a new school a little easier.

If the image of a summer picnic (sack races, balloon toss, watermelon, softball, volleyball) appeals to you, please give us a holler. Assistance planning the party or organizing the games would be appreciated, so if you would like to help, or if you have any ideas, questions or comments, please contact Jan Clason at 494-8285 (clason@conen.net). The picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 14th, Bastille Day.

BURGLARY REPORTS

A recent article in the Boulder *Daily Camera* reported a spate of residential burglaries in the city, with 4 in a period of a few days in Martin Acres. Concerned, MANA invited police investigators to the last steering committee meeting; the investigators corrected the report, saying that only one of the reported burglaries was in Martin Acres.

Despite that the events were misreported, the publicity raises awareness about crime, and presents an opportunity for us to pass along some actions that can be taken at a very local level. The following are suggestions from the Boulder Police Dept on how to reduce crime in the neighborhood.

Home Security Boulder Police provides this home security checklist. Any item to which you answer no is a potential security problem:

- Are all exterior doors strong enough to withstand excessive force?
 - Do all exterior doors have a deadbolt lock with at least 1 inch throw?
 - Can all strike plates and frames withstand excessive force?
 - Do doors fit their frames snugly?
 - Does basement door have extra protection?
 - Is there a wide angle viewer on the main entrance?
 - Are sliding glass doors secured?
 - Do double hung windows have pins or extra locks?
 - Do casement windows work properly?
 - Do basement windows have a metal screen or other protection?
 - Are trees and shrubs trimmed from doors and windows?
 - Are all entrances to your home lighted at night?
 - Are all openings to your home (skylights, crawl spaces) protected?
 - Is your address posted on the house and visible night and day?
- Boulder Police will survey your home for security problems; call the Community Services Unit at 441-3322, 8-5, M-F.

Neighborhood Crime Watch The program was fallen into disuse, as the few faded signs testify, but some people are reinvigorating the Neighborhood Crime Watch program once active in Martin Acres. Led by Officer Sue Barcklow of the Boulder P.D., groups are trying to organize blocks to learn about and watch after one another, and to pay attention and report odd or suspicious activities. If you are interested in organizing your block, or even a larger area, contact Officers Sue Barcklow or Dick Reznick, Community Services Unit, 441-3322, 8-5, M-F.

Citizens on Patrol (submitted by Mike Marsh) In the wake of recent burglaries, Boulder P.D. met with residents at two consecutive MANA meetings. They provided helpful information about how we can help to thwart thieves. One strategy that has proven successful is a citizen watch group to partner with local police to help spot thieves. Martin Acres sometimes seems like a thoroughfare for ne're-do-wells, strange vehicles that don't belong to residents, and various "sales" groups that may or may not be legitimate. If a sales group knocks on your door, Boulder P.D. said you have a right to ask to see a copy of their sellers permit. If they can't produce one, call the new dispatch number at 441-3333 immediately. In fact, police encouraged us to call any time we see strange activity in the neighborhood that could be crime-related. They'd rather respond to a false alarm than file a burglary report, they said.

To organize a Citizens on Patrol, I'm gathering information and literature from the police and the Neighborhood Resource Center of Metro Denver. They can help us with training and organizing a network of neighbors to help watch the neighborhood. If you are interested in Citizens on Patrol for Martin Acres, contact me @ 499-3395 or mgmarsh@hotmail.com.

South Police Annex The Boulder Police will be opening a South Boulder Annex this summer, probably in June. The annex will be located in the office park at Tantra and Table Mesa, and should decrease response times to police calls from Martin Acres and surrounding neighborhoods. The proximity of the station should also deter some crime in the area.

SCHOOL NEWS....Name Change? The transition team at Martin Park Elementary School is considering changing the name of the school to reflect the larger community that will be served after three South Boulder elementary schools are consolidated next fall. If you would like to suggest a name, or if you would like to comment in general, contact Principal Karen Daly, 494-1069, dalyk@bvsd.k12.co.us.

....Kindergarten Literacy Martin Park Elementary (3740 Martin Dr.) will hold a literacy evening on May 4th in the school library. The evening is designed to improve how you read to and with your child, and will be taught by Martin Park teachers. Snacks/childcare provided. **RSVP to Diane Bortles, 441-4097.**

Sharing & Matching

Ads are free with a \$10 donation to MANA. Call VOICE editor Steve Clason, 494-8285 or clason@conen.net by MAY 15 to place your ad for the *June 2000 VOICE*.

A Touch of Wellness Charlene Thompson offers a variety of services: Customized Pet Caring Services. Mid-day walks, visits & in-home vacation care. Stress Reduction Workplace Massage. Multi-Pure Drinking Water Systems. Call 499-3660

Bestway Insulation, family-owned for 43 years stresses quality services including wall insulation, which can be done through outside brick as well as other types of walls, and soundproofing. The U.S. DOE recommends an R (insulation) rating of 38 for attics in Boulder, M.A. homes average ~R8. For a free estimate call Bestway Insulation day/night at 469-0808. 5% discount for Martin Acres residents through July 2000. All work guaranteed.

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

Handyman Service professional with 30 years experience; 20 years in M.A. 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 Ojar at 494-5100.

SUNFLOWER PRESCHOOL has been provided high quality care in the Martin Park neighborhood since 1981. Come take a look at our outdoor oriented, Montessori based, hands on, child directed center at 3340 Dartmouth, or call 494-2012 /494-0174, M-F 8:30-3:30. Ages 2^{1/2} to 6. Open all year.

Get the highest quality toys, games, books and software for your kids of all ages without even leaving the neighborhood! 20% off all books & software in April. I am your neighborhood toy store. Claire Cherington, **DISCOVERY TOYS, 499-6457.**

FAIRVIEW ELECTRIC

For your electrical needs at home or business call us for a free estimate. Family operated and owned by Ron Shull, Master Electrician and M.A. resident of 28 years, we are best suited for your next electrical project. If you're planning an electrical project and looking for excellence without outrageous prices, contact us today. We look forward to earning your business. **Call 543-1446.**

Gentle Massage, Soothing Body and Spirit Dharce Greenwald is a certified Massage Therapist, and combines a variety of massage techniques to promote a state of deep relaxation. She offers Hot Rocks Therapy & Herbal Consultations for Wellness. Available for housecalls, and has a private practice out of her home in M.A. Call 499-6059

Samuel Austin and Company Architects specializing in custom residential design, remodels and additions. Come visit us on this year's Martin Acres Home Tour, or call any time to see what we've done in the neighborhood over the years. 499-2099

New Doctor in the Neighborhood! Dr. Marcy Foley, author of 5 books (one of which covers her 20+ years of study with the late Rev. Hanna Kroeger) works out of her home doing natural wellness consulting. She has 15 years or experience working with homeopaths, herbs, flower essences, and mostly essential oils. Call 494-9345, or e-mail drmarcy@quik.com.

Mrs. Smith's Affordable Housecleaning Martin Acres-based home cleaning service. Reliable and Thorough. Scott 554-9842.

Better Beepers, Better Phones, Better Service. We offer pager service, voicemail, and cell phones from AT&T and VoiceStream. We come to you. Call Mike and experience the difference a local provider makes over those other guys. Check out acspaging.com, or call 494-2988.

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