

Martin Acres VOICE

MANA (Martin Acres
Neighborhood Association)
P.O. Box 3514
Boulder, CO 80303
<http://martinacres.org>
email list: manalist@flatiron.com

January 2004

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 24, No. 1

Happy New Year, Martin Acres !



Looking for something to do with all your left over wrappings from the holidays?

Eco-Cycle is hosting two special collection events. Eco-Cycle and the City of Boulder will be hosting a ONE WEEK collection for block Styrofoam at the CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials) from Monday, January 12th through Saturday the 17th during our regular hours of 9am to 4pm at 5030 Pearl St.

For one month only, from December 26th through January 31st, wrapping paper will be accepted at the Longmont, Boulder, Louisville and Broomfield drop-off centers in the boxes marked "Paperboard." Do NOT put wrapping paper with your curbside materials!! This material will be accepted for this one month only.

NO: Metallic wrapping paper, bows, or paper covered with tape are non-recyclable.

Make a New Year's Resolution that will really make a difference in your community, and volunteer with your neighborhood association, MANA

This year's annual MANA meeting is coming up in March of 2004 with more than the usual openings. There are openings for block leaders, event coordinators, as well MANA officers, and VOICE editing. Please consider taking over one of these spots. You may contact Jan or Steve Clason at events@martinacres.org and steve@clason.org respectively, or Susan Holloway at VOICE@martinacres.org for more information about the specific duties related to each position.

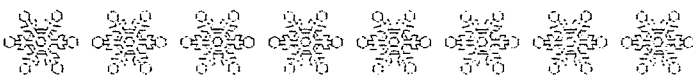
The next MANA meeting is January 5th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend with new ideas for the New Year.

Do you have new neighbors? Please call on our new contact person, Allison O'Neall at welcome@martinacres.org or 303-499-9933 for a Welcome Packet. This is an easy way to break the ice and help new neighbors feel welcome in our community.

VOICE Distribution—We still need people to deliver newsletters on four "routes" in the neighborhood. This is only a bi-monthly responsibility, and is a good way to get to know your neighbors.

- 1) 42nd Street from Moorehead to Martin
- 2) 41st Street from Martin to Table Mesa
- 3) Moorhead from 42nd to the apartments at Table Mesa
- 4) Moorhead from Nick's Auto to Martin

Please contact Maureen Maloney at 303-494-2580, or at maurnote@ix.netcom.com if you can help.



The **City of Boulder** is considering restricting the use of **Tantra Hill** so that sledding will be discouraged or forbidden. The hill is a fast, steep hill with very little run-out at the bottom (which incidentally makes it the best sledding hill in town). The city is concerned about safety and liability issues. However, the hill is also the site of a lot of joyful, cost free, outdoor winter activity for our neighborhood children and is a walk-able distance from much of Martin Acres. If you would like to weigh in on this issue, please contact Jeff Lakey, Superintendent of Planning and Development Division, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Boulder, (303) 413-7200, or email the entire city council at once at council@ci.boulder.co.us

Subscribing to the MANA email list — Send an email to majordomo@flatiron.com with the following in the body of the text: subscribe manalist.

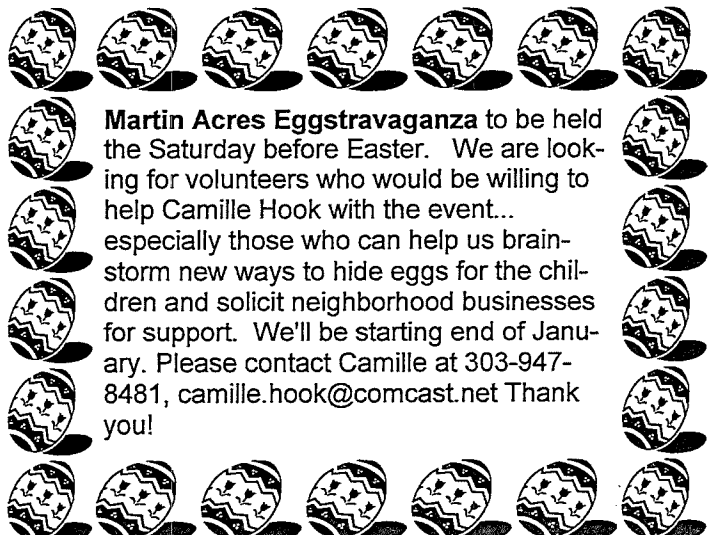


Boulder Parade of Lights, by Catherine Weldon

Thank you MANA and King Soopers for sponsoring a fantastic neighborhood event. The MANA Winterfest float decorating potluck was a smashing success, with great turn out. Over 50 people attended. The food was good, the root beer floats satisfied kids of all ages, and everyone joined in the decorating creativity.

Thank you everyone for pitching in. Special thanks to Dave Hoyt and Steve Clason for assisting my husband Michael by providing the battery and cables to make the lights work ;-). The parade was fantastic fun for all, and the weather was downright balmy!

Dave and Barb Hoyt have some great ideas for next year's float, which we'd better get started on in August!! The Sprit of Giving Gifts were distributed through the Creekside Elementary School Giving Tree program. Thank you to everyone who participated in the giving. Happy Holidays to all!



Martin Acres Eggstravaganza to be held the Saturday before Easter. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help Camille Hook with the event... especially those who can help us brainstorm new ways to hide eggs for the children and solicit neighborhood businesses for support. We'll be starting end of January. Please contact Camille at 303-947-8481, camille.hook@comcast.net Thank you!

Making Computer Games—Introducing Children to Computer Programming

Boulder county is filled with families connected to the computer industry. A recent study ranks the area tops in per capita numbers employed in technology fields. This creates an environment where children are raised in families familiar with computers. I'm sure I share many parents concerns with just how the computer is being used by my child.

Game playing seems to be the area of computers that most fascinates my son. Most of these games seem to have little redeeming value unless his future career choice is a fighter pilot. But there is a way we can turn our kids' interest in playing games into an educational activity that will help them attain computer literacy and important critical thinking skills they can use in any area they study.

I've found that teaching game creation as a doorway into programming is a natural fit. The kids come to class enthusiastic, don't want to take breaks and don't want to leave after 4 hours of learning and creating. Of course, what they are doing is programming software, an excellent skill for anybody in today's information society.

Developing games can also be a fun way for a parent to teach their child programming and have fun together. Personally, I don't like playing computer games—I get bored quickly with them. But my son wants me to play with him. We've now started developing a computer game together and that has been lots of fun for both of us. Developing a game together also means I get some control over the content of the game.

So how do you get into game creation? And what if you aren't a programmer? I've looked at a number of game development environments that might be suitable for children. The one I liked most is called Game Maker. It is available for download at www.gamemaker.nl. Game Maker is free although a donation of \$15 is suggested. It is a visual development environment, where kids click and drag out events and actions that they add to objects. Very little typing is needed. However, when kids are ready, there is a fairly complete programming language available within the development environment that will teach them basic programming syntax useful for any command line language (a programming language that is typed out). Since kids have varying typing skills, not having to type in order to create games is a great feature.

There are a number of example games, tutorials, and resources available with Game Maker that help you get started. There are thousands of games that have been developed with it that you can download and play for free so that kids can see what is possible. So next time the kids are bugging you to buy or play a computer game, why not start creating your own game with them instead. It's a lot of fun and a lot of learning.

Tom Marx is the co-owner with his brother, Rick, a teacher, of Bits, Bytes & Bots, LLC, which teaches a Game Creation class its Table Mesa Center location. He has developed software as an independent contractor and as lead developer for two other Denver area software companies. More information is available at www.bitsbytesbots.com or by calling (303) 494-2687

A Great Big Thank You to our local business supporters: Grease Monkey, Nick's Auto, and Pet Menders.

The Boulder Fire Department warns residents to be cautious this season, particularly with the fire hazards posed by candles and other holiday decorations.

"It is extremely important to extinguish candles and unplug holiday lights before going to bed or leaving your home," said Fire Marshal Ron Mahan. "In Boulder, candles are one of the highest fire risks," said Sherry Kenyon, Boulder Fire Department's fire safety coordinator. "People leave the room or fall asleep while a candle is burning and decorations or table linens catch fire. These fires are very easy to prevent - simply blow out candles before you leave a room or fall asleep. In December, the number of candle fires doubles nationally, resulting in an average \$126 million property loss."

Sharing & Matching

Ads are \$10.00 for the first three lines, \$2.50 per line thereafter. Contact Susan at 499-8842 or VOICE@martinacres.org by **October 5th** to place your ad for the **November 2003 VOICE**.

A Touch of Wellness Charlene Thompson offers pet care services, including: doggie day care & boarding, home made, organic dog & cat food. She also represents healthcare products: Multipure, Nikken & Melaluca. Call 499-3660

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

Home Repair & Remodel - Kitchens and Baths a specialty. Carpentry, painting, tile, drywall, plumbing, electrical. All trades. 24 years in Martin Acres. 35 years in the building trades. Call 303-494-5100, ask for Dick or Josh.

Steve Yoder Construction Decks-Baths-Kitchens-Windows-Remodels-Home Repair. Remodeling in Boulder since 1987. Contact at 303-443-7513. Excellent references.

The Church of the Nazarene is a small Christian Community within walking distance of most of Martin Acres that would love to have more neighborhood families join us in worship. On Sundays, Sunday school begins at 9:15, service is at 10:30 am. For information, contact pastor Bob Franz at 303-494-8810.

Sunflower Preschool has been providing high quality care in the Martin Acres neighborhood since 1981. We are open Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am to 3:30 pm all year long including Summer Camp. Come visit us soon and see for yourself. We are accredited by NAEYC, are outdoor oriented and have a hands-on curriculum. **Now offering part time.** 3340 Dartmouth Ave. 303-494-2012. Also contact us at www.sunflowerpreschoolboulder.com

Join us for worship at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church. Traditional worship Sunday at 9:00 AM. 1345 S. Broadway, across from Fairview High. For more info phone 303-499-9800.

Hawaiian Handyman: Contractor since 1979. Quality, fast, fair work. Rapid and free estimates. All Trades; winterizing, honey-do's, repairs, remodel for rental. Jeff Kurtz 720-352-5684

Digital video productions of events. Commercials, web based streaming video, DVD disc & VHS tape mastering and conversion. Bennett Scharf @ Eye Candy Designs, 303-499-5119.

BITS, BYTES & BOTS, Computer Adventures For Kids 7-14 After School Groups, Vacation Day Programs, Parties, Fields Trips, & Summer Camps. Build Robots, Make Movies, Create Computer Games and More. Table Mesa Shopping Center, 303-494-2687, www.bitsbytesbots.com

Homemade Chocolate Chip Cookies: Dave's Bakery! Secret Recipe. Quality Ingredients. Student & Martin Acre Resident Discounts. Order Anytime: Call Dave @ (303) 808-1507.

MANA officers and their contact information:

Pres.: Steve Clason, 303-494-8285, steve@clason.org.

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Secretary: Christiane Audi-Sammoury, Secretary@MartinAcres.org

MANA Treasurer: Bennett Scharf, 303-499-5119, Treasurer@martinacres.org

Zoning/Code & MARS Chair: Camille Hook, 303-947-8481, MARS@martinacres.org

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Welcome Committee Chair: Allison O'Neill, Welcome@MartinAcres.org

VOICE Editor: S Holloway, 499-8842, VOICE@martinacres.org

VOICE Distribution Coordinator: Maureen Maloney, 494-2580, maurnote@ix.netcom.com

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Area 1B: Martin Dr.-Table Mesa-US 36-N&E side S. 42nd; Jim Petri; 494-1070, Area1B@martinacres.org

Area 2: Martin Dr.-US36-N&W side S. 42nd; Betty Schweikert, 499-6909, wbschweikert@hotmail.com

Area 3: Martin Dr.-Martin Park/School-S. Broadway-Ash; Mark Fearer; 543-0987, boulder@fullpower.org

Area 4: Martin Dr.-27th Way-Moorhead-Ash; Terry Snyder-494.9040, Area4@martinacres.org