

Issue # 81 October 2010

Table of Content

Construction.....	81-1	Pay Bills.....	81-5
Where's George	81-1	Trouble Printing	81-5
Clay Street Construction.....	81-2	What Happened	81-6
Missed Photo Op.....	81-2	Am I Loosing It.....	81-6
Birthday	81-2	I do need a keeper.....	81-7
Restaurants.....	81-2	Electric Bill.....	81-7
Horoscope	81-2	Camera	81-8
Paper Work	81-2	Lost Friend, Found	81-8
FROST.....	81-3	Newsletter Template.....	81-9
Flickering Light	81-3	Camera Update.....	81-9
Rumors & Gossip.....	81-3	Newest Camera	81-9
How to Stop Gossip.....	81-3	The Pilgrims	81-10
How to Stop a Rumor	81-4	Bus Service	81-10
Restaurants.....	81-4	Pace Bus.....	81-11
Heard on the Street.....	81-4	What is in that Stuff	81-11
Noisy Neighbors	81-4	Money in the Mail.....	81-12
Garden	81-5	Cartoon.....	81-12
Book	81-5	Index	81-12

1-Oct-10 12:13pm 68°

New Month! This is the month of fall harvest and Halloween.

Construction

This morning they were spreading oil on Clay Street. This mean they can't be too far behind to start asphaltting my street. I will be nice to be able to drive on a brand new street and wall the sidewalk without walking through people's lawn.

Where's George

My Where's George portal shows my George Score is: 719.04. Eighty-one of my Georges have been spotted and five of them have been spotted twice. Ten of them in other different states and that one I told you about a while back in Vietnam.

This Where's George adventure is still interesting so I am going to keep doing it for now.

If you find paper money that has www.WheresGeorge.com on it, you can go online and log where you found it without having an

account. You only need the account if you want to track where the George has traveled. Either way it free. If you don't want to do it yourself, I will!

Clay Street Construction

I just came in from watching them put down the first layer of asphalt. Maybe I will get to drive on a new street sooner than I thought.

3-Oct-10 10:34am 51°

When I went for breakfast it was a little cold, only 37° . I hope all of you are keeping warm.

Missed Photo Op

This morning Anila ordered a bagel with an over easy egg on it. I laughed at her because I do not like my eggs runny.

Violca was there talking on the phone to someone and turned to Anila and started to laugh. I wish I would replace my camera so I could take pictures faster.

She was eating her egg bagel and the whole egg yolk ran out of the hole in the bagel and all over the front of her shirt. On that white shirt it would have made a great picture for the newsletter.

When I left it was cleaned up and we were still laughing about it.

Another reason I don't like my eggs runny. ☺

A Little Later

So Anila is all dressed in white again without a yellow stain showing. ☺. Next topic!

Birthday

Happy Birthday Matt!

Restaurants

I drove near Starbucks this morning while dropping off my mail. I see those two walkup windows have been removed and they were closed. I saw you could see in the windows. I thought they may be opening up soon.

Anila said that someone told her they were going to be closed for a week. I drove by a little bit ago and saw many workmen but no sign. Maybe I will check again tomorrow.

I need them to get opened because I haven't read much of my book since they have been closed. You do know this is my reading room, don't you?

Maybe they will still be open before they get finished with the construction on Clay Street.

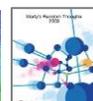
Horoscope

If you want to see October's horoscope, click the link at www.Americas-Best-Psychics.com

Paper Work

I see this pile of paper work sitting here by my keyboard that needs my attention. Do you think if I ignore it is will go away?

I will overlook it while I finish proofing the previous newsletter and see if the paper work evaporates then come back to it after lunch.



4-Oct-10 11:06am 52°

FROST

Yes, I saw frost in the empty lot across the street this morning. Can snow be very far behind?

I am sorry I used the "S" word. I know that it is a 4-letter word like rain, play, and work. Sometimes you just have to use those 4-letter words to get your point across.

Flickering Light

I am sitting here at the computer typing this newsletter and the light is flickering. Or maybe the power is flickering. Did I pay the electric bill? ☺

If the bulb is bad I wonder if I have a new one. The last one I had in here lasted eleven years. Yes, eleven! It was my first CF bulb... Well it just went out. I have to go find a new one. I'll be back...

...That's better. The burnt out bulb was hot. I replaced the 13 watt bulb with a 26 watt.

I know I am trying to save energy but I like to see too. I spend too much time in the dark computer room. It is much easier to see in here now.

Rumors & Gossip

Yes I hear rumors and gossip. It is fun to hear some of it and it is fun to spread some too. All in all isn't the best thing to do.

There are some things you can do to stop it. When someone starts telling the latest news, reply politely that you do not in gage in gossip.

And never repeat it if you hear rumors & gossip. NEVER! It may come back to bite you!

How to Stop Gossip

- 1 *State firmly that you are not interested. When someone starts telling you the latest news, reply politely that you don't engage in gossip.*
- 2 *Refuse to listen to gossip. If others are gossiping nearby and you can't help hearing them, get up and walk away.*
- 3 *Keep your opinion to yourself. Someone may ask your opinion only to repeat what you said to someone else. Unfortunately, your statement may not be repeated accurately. It's best to keep your opinion to yourself in order to avoid getting caught in the gossip trap.*
- 4 *Let others know how you feel about gossip right from the start. By doing so you can stop gossip before it even begins.*
- 5 *Turn a deaf ear if you hear someone gossiping about you. Make it clear that you have better things to do than worry about idle gossip. If you don't let it bother you, the person who started the gossip will lose her momentum. Gossip usually dies down quickly when there's no one to listen or contribute. That's why it is important to break the chain of gossip.*

Source: ehow.com/how_2310742_stop-gossip-.html

What do rumors and gossip have to do with the truth? What if the rumor or the gossip is based in truth? What if the rumor is true altogether? Is it then okay to continue gossiping or relaying the rumor?

How to Stop a Rumor

By an eHow Contributor
Rumors are painful. When you're the brunt of a nasty tale, just going to school or work can be traumatizing. You see acquaintances whispering in the corner, glancing your way; friends refuse to look you in the eye, and all because of a nasty rumor. You can't undo what is already done, but you can take steps to stop the gossip.

Instructions

1 Pinpoint the source and confront her. A person who gossips depends on secrecy to carry out her little plan. If you know she is the one who started trashing you, confront her and calmly ask for an explanation of her behavior. Then request that she stop immediately.

2 Wait it out. Unfortunately, sometimes you can't figure out who started it, and it's spreading like wildfire, burning everything in its path. Even though it's painful now, it will pass in time if you don't feed the flames.

3 Conduct yourself in a manner that proves the rumor wrong. If the gossip mill is saying that you are promiscuous, date only one person for awhile. If they claim you cheated on your test, ask the teacher to move you to the front of the classroom and make it a point to keep your eyes only on your papers.

4 Laugh along with the crowd if the rumor is embarrassing but won't cause any real damage. Diffuse the sting by showing amusement. If they can't get you upset, the fun of spreading gossip won't last long.

Source: ehow.com/how_2103541_stop-rumor.html

5-Oct-10 11:05am 56°

Restaurants

I see Starbucks has reopened. I drove by there around nine this morning and people were going in and out like mad. I would have stopped to check it out but there was nowhere to park. Tomorrow is another day

Heard on the Street

Before posting my message about gossip and rumors yesterday I heard some gossip. This has been going on and on for over a year and I am not going to talk about what it is about just the funny part.

It started out at a few hundred dollars then a few thousands. Then it got up to \$250,000 and today I heard it was down to \$25,000.

What is it all about? Rumors & Gossip! I wonder what I will hear next.

Gossip & Rumors, Be gone!

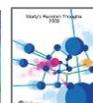
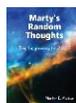
6-Oct-10 9:16am 48°

Noisy Neighbors

I think every morning since it got dry in the spring this guy across the street is out blowing the leaves and debris out of the parking lot. It seems like he is out there with his leaf blower for hours every morning. Well it seems like every day and for hours.

Today it is irritating me. I know I will get over it. For now I am going to dwell on it.

I wonder sometimes if he knows he is only blowing this to the



side so the winds tomorrow will just blow it back for him to plow it off the parking lot another day.

Maybe it is a job secretly thing. Maybe he knows they will blow back and he will always have a job. Maybe he just likes to make noise. If that is the case why doesn't he remove the muffler?

Today while I was out at Town & Country I heard a leaf blower. That wasn't making much noise at all. I looked and he was less the fifty feet from me blowing up a storm and making very little noise.

This puzzled me a little so I looked closer. He had one of the backpack leaf blowers that made very little noise. I have to check that out!

For now I will just put up with the noise.

Garden

Egg Plant

Remember me telling you about putting the Egg Plants in the green house because of the cold?

Yesterday I checked to see if they need watering and I see I am starting to get more fruit.

I pollinated them with a small paint brush because it was too cold for the bees. Then I moved them inside out of the cold. Now I have at least one egg plant starting to fruit.

Gourds

I also checked out the Gourds and picked some of the off the ground. As best as I can tell you do not harvest them until they start to

ripen. That is when the stems start to twist and dry. There were only a few so far. I think I had 6 or 8 I put in the drying rack in the garage.

Book

Did I tell you what book I was reading for Number nine? I think not.

This book is called "The GIFT ESP, the Extraordinary Experiences of Ordinary People"

I am only about half way through and it is interesting. It is about people that knew about things before they happen. In the past I have experiences things that I could not explain that makes me wonder if there are more people just like me. My experiences have been fun things.

Like before caller ID. I used to guess who was on the phone before I would answer it. Or wait until I knew there would be a parking space right in front of the door before I would my driveway. Some time see how many green traffic lights I could hit in a row.

The only thing I have noticed is I never was able to pick winning lottery numbers. Not yet anyway! So this is book nine.

Pay Bills

I see along side of me is that paper work I need to take care of. So I will save this file and get to it.

Trouble Printing

Someone told me they had trouble printing the previous newsletter then it started working. I

tried and could not make it fail. If you are having trouble let me know so can try to fix it. ^

What Happened

Its 3:20 and I put on my jacket to go outside. It was 67° in the house and a little chilly. I opened the door and I felt heat. It was 76° outside! I came back in and opened some windows.

I don't ever remember opening windows to warm it up inside. I'll take it!

Am I Loosing It

Since it was a nice day and my cupboards were empty I decided to go get some food. I went up and down all the grocery aisles. I filled a cart half full with food. I even used a coupon this time. I got food I had to peel and cook. I even bought food just open and eat. I did have to do anything but eat. I looked for Mounds and could find them but I found Almond Joy but I didn't feel like a nut. I got things from Vitamins to Breyers ice cream.

So I am unloading the cart as fast as the cashier can ring me up and bag the groceries. Then I started stuffing the bags in to the cart as I could so I could get home to east some of that ice cream.

I brought in the food that needed to go in the freezer first then the things that had that just had to be kept cold and finally the dry goods.

While I was putting away the dry foods I thought about the ice cream. I didn't remember putting it in the freezer. I just figured I left it in the trunk of the car and went out to check. The trunk was empty so I finished putting things in the cupboard. No ice cream!

I looked at my receipt and the ice cream was on it so I figured I just forgot a bag of groceries and headed back to Wall Mart.

I went over to check out number 19 and someone else what the cashier. I looked and there was my bag sitting there and you could see the box of Brayers through the bag.

I asked the lady if that could be mine she asked me what about the other two bags. After checking out my receipt it was my groceries.

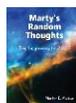
The value of those three bags was about half the cost of my shopping trip. How did I miss three bags?

I am beginning to think I should go shopping more often so I don't have so much to keep track of. Or maybe I just need a keeper! ☹

I think I need a keeper. ☺

Help Wanted: Keeper.

Can I go eat some of that Brayers ice cream now?



7-Oct-10 10:40am 60°**I do need a keeper**

Maybe! I just finished putting 2 days of this news letter back in. I had cut the newsletter at four pages and printed it out to check out before printing. When I opened the file and two pages were missing.

I retyped most of it because it was on paper in front of me. Parts of it were copied from the internet so I left it out.

I always say; "Save early and often and backup, Backup, BACKUP!" Maybe I should start talking to myself. Maybe I need to get up to Starbucks and check out the coffee and the remodeling. Maybe I should check out my Biorhythms.

Yup, that's it the biorhythms my. Some of my cycles are changing from plus to minus today. That usually means I have to take it easy.

I got the mail and I have an electric and water bill here. I thought you should keep water bills away from electric bills. Maybe I should just pay them so I can take shower and use my computer another day.

Electric Bill

The electric bill is only \$61.00. I guess the A/C isn't eating a lot.

I just looked a little closer at my electric bill. I used 382 kWh that cost me \$11.95. That is 3.1¢ per kWh. On the other hand the whole bill is \$61.05 that covers delivery, taxes

and other stuff. That comes out to 16¢ per kWh.

Now to be fare the total Electric Supply Service was \$35.13. That means that the electric cost me 9.2¢ per kWh and the rest of the \$61.02 was deliver, taxes, and other.

My goal is still to get the total bill to be about \$50.00 a month. For the last 12 month it has averaged about eight-one dollars. I still can cut more usage.

Well it is lunch time now!

8-Oct-10 9:32am 53°

This morning I went up to Starbucks to check it out. I like what they did inside. You will have to check it out. I think you will like it too. Now I have to get earlier enough to get one of the cushy spots to sit. They were all taken at 7:30 today.

9-Oct-10 11:28am 72°

Maybe I am loosing it a little. I lost some of the newsletter's entries and found in another file. It was all there. It looks like I had two copies of the same newsletter. I will delete the old one right now so this doesn't happen to this issue.

That's fixed. Now I can go to Hancock Fabric with Aunt Annie. Then we can go out and see Violca for lunch. Well maybe Cork, Diane, Chelli, and others will be there too.

10-Oct-10 10:48am 70°

We have another famous person who made the Tribune. Yes out only Anila has her picture the

front section of today's Sunday's Chicago Tribune



Anila walks off with a generous haul of apples.

Picture Source: Source: Sunday Chicago Tribune October 10th, 2010, Section 1 (front), page 3

11-Oct-10 4:19am 79°

Camera

After lunch went down to Best-Buy and bought that new camera I have been talking about all summer. I checked it out and it seems to be working just fine.

It is a Sony DSC-W310. It seems to be faster and it takes a two and half time higher quality pictures that my old one. It cost 25% less than I paid for the old one about 5 years ago. And it is just a little smaller.

Now you might see me taking more pictures for the newsletter. After tomorrow the battery should have a good charge I will start practicing.

12-Oct-10 8:31am 51°

It was a nice morning to walk up to the Square for coffee. That is as far as the weather goes. It was still a little dark and nervous wearing dark clothes. I wore that blue jean jacket and it has to be hard for drivers to see in the dark.

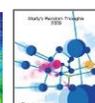
While I was still working and walking I stopped walking in the early dark mornings because of the dark jacket.

I like my jacket but would like a much lighter one for walking in the dark. My winter coat is mostly white but it is way too warm for that.

Maybe I should just make one or get another jacket and dye it white. I wonder if it could be bleached white. Does anyone know how to make that dark blue turn white.

Lost Friend, Found

Do you remember me talking about Lucy once in a while a long time ago? Well she is working a McDonald's. After I heard this I find out that she works there most of the time when I am having coffee elsewhere. If you get there before me say "Hi!" I have to break a habit and go there and have my coffee at McDonald's in the morning.



Newsletter Template

I might have to recreate my newsletter's template from scratch. Some how it got corrupted 2 or 3 times and I had to redo the layout. I just fixed what I could by coping in an old newsletter and replacing the text from the new one.

I am not sure what is happening. If I just create a new template from scratch then what ever is causing it to get corrupt may go away.

I could do that now and not use it until the next issue. That way I may not copy any of the corruptness from this issue to the next. I think I will create a real template and just copy the current issue and remove the text and put in new.

Now do I remember how to do that? Well there is one way to fine out. Just do it!

13-Oct-10 1:18pm 81°

After doing my morning stuff I headed to Crystal Lake to Best-Buy to take back my new camera

Camera Update

I got that new camera on Monday and spent two days to see how I liked it. Well they all look nice and shinny when you take them out of the box. They should do a lot of neat things, shouldn't they?

Review

I had a Sony W-310 camera. I thought it was too slow for me. I sometimes like to take pictures one after another. The lag time was too

long. It may be because it took a long time to focus. That was the first drawback for me.

Another thing I had not considered was how long after you turned it on before you could take a picture. For me "on" means "on" now wait while I boot up.

The last thing I didn't like was the lens. It has one of those lenses that stick out of the front of the camera and moves in and out all the time. When you turn it off it retracts back flush with the front. That part is ok. In my case it makes me have to remember to turn it off and wait before I put it into my pocket. That means I will most likely jam in to my pocket some day and break the lens. And have to buy another camera before long.

So I took back the W310 before I got it all scratched up. I had to pay a 15% return fee. No Mater it wasn't what I wanted.

Newest Camera

While at Best-Buy I found a person than under stood me and what I thought I wanted. After looking at other Sony models I gave in and looked at some other brands. I thought since I am Sony person I may not be seeing other good product.

I looked at Kodak and another brand that I did not like at all. So I went back and looked at Sony's again. I looked at three models who had features I liked.

I ended up buying a very nice Sony Cyber-Shot, Model DSC-TX9. And here is the first picture:



This is my first picture off my front porch. It is a panoramic shot.

The camera takes panoramic pictures almost by itself. It is as easy as pushing a button, hit the shutter, and pan your view. On my old camera you would have to take many pictures and stitch them together.

It says it takes 3-D pictures too. I have to read the manual on that. I have to read the manual! It has many features that I may want to try.

It is the same size as the old camera and uses the same memory. It uses a different size battery and if I want to use for HD movies I should get some of the new faster memory.

Oh, did I tell you it will take full HD movies too? Yes I have to read the manual!

The Pilgrims

I haven't reported on Mike and Petra lately. Mike said in an email "We made it to the Med this afternoon at Frejus."

For you that are not sure that is in the south of France.

Bus Service

Do you know we have a Dial-A-Ride service in Woodstock? I am sure

you know about it but here is what I found out about it.

Hours of Bus Operation

Bus service is provided, with advance scheduling, from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday and 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday. Bus service is not provided on City observed holidays.

Current Fees

Adults	\$2.00 per trip
Seniors	\$1.00 per trip
Disabled	\$1.00 per trip
Students	\$1.50 per trip

How to Request Service

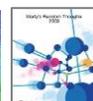
Requests for bus service can be made by calling the Dial-A-Ride office at 815-338-5240 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. There is no dispatch service available on Saturday or Sunday and bus rides must be scheduled during the normal work week for weekend trips.

Please Call in Advance

In order to better serve our customers, passengers are asked to call 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride. While it may be possible to provide service on shorter notice, there will be occasions when passenger requests will have to be denied due to demand during certain peak periods of the day if a request is made with short notice.

Service Area Limited to City Limits

The local Dial-A-Ride service is supported by the City of Woodstock as a service to our residents using taxpayers' dollars. Therefore, service is limited to the City Limits. The service will not provide any transportation to/from any destination not within the City



Limits. Due to safety concerns, the drivers will generally not be permitted to pickup any rider who has walked to the City Limits or to drop off any passenger who asks to be left at the City Limits and then will walk to a destination beyond the City. Requests for service shall generally be restricted to a location that has a street address or a building/facility.

Source: City of Woodstock's web site

I just thought you might like to see this because I am looking into all those Pace bus stop signs I have been seeing. I was wondering what the routes were.

Any way to use Dial-a-Ride you call 24 hours before you want to go somewhere. And it is \$2.00 to get there and \$2.00 to get back and you must stay in town.

So I wonder about our taxi service. Well I looked on the internet and there four listed but no real information on any of them. I guess you need to read the number from the sides of the cab when it goes by you.

Pace Bus

I looked three Pace bus routes that were around here.

- 806 Crystal Lake – s Lake
- 870 Woodstock- McHenry
- 808 Crystal Lake - Harvard

The prices are \$1.75 per ride and 25¢ for a transfer. So you could get to McHenry, Harvard, or Crystal Lake for a buck seventy-five and another \$1.75 to get back to town.

If you are luck a bus stop is near you. For me it looks line Route

808 stops at Throop and Washington and Route 807 stops at the train stations. That only a few blocks from home.

Maybe I will just get on the bus and go for a ride. Each one of the two routes is about an hour from end to end. Anyone want to go along for a ride?

I found this information at www.passbus.com.

What is in that Stuff

Tonight I was going to make some macaroni & cheese so I started cooking the macaroni and decided to use cheddar cheese soup for the cheese.

After I opened the soup and poured it in the macaroni I noticed there was an all full lot of an ingredient in the cheddar cheese soup. Look at this.



Cheddar Cheese Soup, Yah right!

It is hard to read this. the ingredient list first have more volume or weight. You may like to know the first on the list is water then cheddar flavor base.

What are we eating anyway! Why does it taste so good?

Money in the Mail

I like it when I get money in the mail, don't you? I expected the refund from my auto insurance company after donating the pickup. I didn't expect a second check. It was only a small amount but it is still nice to get money in the mail.

Cartoon



Source: Heart to Heart Newsletter October 2010

From time to time I see cartoons that remind me of myself. I never went to anger management classes but I do not get angry at much of anything anymore.

15-Oct-10 5:43pm 56°

It looks like the cool weather has set in on us and is here to stay for a while. It is not really that cold just cool. This gives our bodies some time to adjust for what may be coming in a couple of month.

I see yesterday is missing. I am not sure if it got lost or I just never put anything in the newsletter. In any cast this is enough for this issue. Aunt Annie In the Newspaper

I found out today is was in the newspaper. It was last Wednesday's Northwest Herald. Check next issue for details....

Index

Anila 81-2, 81-9
Aunt Annie 81-8, 81-13
Bill..... 81-1, 81-8
Birthdays
 Matt..... 81-2
Chelli..... 81-9
Corky 81-8
Diane 81-9
Location
 Fox Lake, IL 81-12
Locations
 Crystal Lake, IL 81-10, 81-12
 Frejus, France 81-11
 Harvard, IL 81-12
 McHenry, IL..... 81-12

Woodstock, IL..... 81-11, 81-12
Lucy..... 81-9
Mike 81-11
Pilgrims
 Mike & Petra..... 81-11
Restaurants
 McDonalds..... 81-9
 Starbucks 81-2, 81-5, 81-8
 Town & Country..... 81-6
Store
 Best-Buy..... 81-9, 81-10
 Hancock Fabric 81-8
Violca..... 81-2, 81-8
Where's George 81-1

I have a collection of newsletters I wrote for my amusement and gave to my friends and family for their enjoyment. I put them all in books.



You can preview these and other books at my store at www.LuLu.com/meiras3



Marty's Random Thoughts
(C) 2007 MEM

11th Year

Woodstock, IL

Marty Metras

Written and edited by Marty Metras
Sponsors: Mary, Jack, Bill, Cork

Web site
www.MartysRandomThoughts.com

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Note from Marty. You never know where my random thoughts might take me. If I am thinking it or see it I might write it. If you have ideas for my newsletters go to www.MartysRandomThoughts.com and click on "Contact Marty" or just tell and make sure I write it down.