



Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

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"IN THE TRADITION OF JANE JACOBS"

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Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is a bimonthly newsletter that highlights assets, history, events, and resources for and about Milwaukee neighborhoods. Residents and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to submit press releases on their events and successful programs. See back page for details.



How the pandemic might permanently change neighborhoods

Over 1/3 of all workers currently work remotely

As early as the late 1980s urban scholars were predicting a trend of working at home. The advent of the Internet made that prediction more probable. And now, with the COVID-19 pandemic, and stay-at-home orders across the country, over a third of all workers are conducting business from their desk tops and phones.

Who benefits?

For the employers, the upswing of remote work usually means reduced overhead costs while gaining access to a global talent pool. It may also increase worker production. Employees who could feign work just by sitting at their desks in the past now have to show genuine signs of their production—often in the forms of piecework counts.

For the employees this could mean reduction in childcare, wardrobe, and transportation costs. In addition, it allows employees more time with their families.

The environment also benefits from remote work. With the reduction in commuter miles, greenhouse gas emissions decrease. And fewer employees in the office means utilizing fewer supplies such as printer paper and cutting down on office energy—both effective ways to combat climate change.

Milwaukee—a city with so many neighborhoods—but has so few

Jill Florence Lackey, PhD

As a representative of my field—urban cultural anthropology—I have the responsibility of keeping up with the latest literature and studies on both urban neighborhoods and ethnicity. Thus, I figured that given the COVID crisis where people are being confined to their own homes and blocks, it might be a good time to share a little about what has been learned about neighborhoods over the years and how all this applies to Milwaukee. Of course, this is not going to be an exhaustive account—but some of the basics can be eye-opening. Let's begin with the definition.



What defines a neighborhood?

Not every parcel of bounded and named land within cities is an actual neighborhood. Most scholars from sociology, urban anthropology, and urban affairs agree that true neighborhoods must have most of these features:

- *Physical characteristics:* It must be a subunit within a city with natural or manmade boundaries.
- *Symbolic characteristics:* Residents know the name of the neighborhood, feel they belong, and can point to a historical or demographic feature that unites them.

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MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

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- **Social characteristics:** Residents interact with each other, at times act collectively to improve the area, can identify something they have in common with other residents, and feel that most of their needs are being taken care of in the neighborhood.
- **Institutional characteristics:** Residents are linked by at least one faith community or school, neighborhood businesses, and space for leisure-time activity.

Beyond *physical* characteristics, very few of Milwaukee's nearly 200 neighborhoods meet any of the above criteria for *true* neighborhoods. Some city-delegated Milwaukee neighborhoods encompass too small an area to accommodate much more than a few houses; others have no residents at all. Most Milwaukee neighborhoods are only residential and lack the linking characteristics of businesses, faith communities, schools, or spaces for leisure-time activity. Almost all, however, have banners or signs designating the neighborhood name.



Above is the entirety of the Butchell Park neighborhood on Milwaukee's northwest side, comprising just one city block.

Some Milwaukee neighborhoods *do* meet most of the criteria defined by the urban scholars, but there are probably not more than two dozen. In terms of *symbolic* characteristics, a few examples stand out. Most residents of Walker's Point know the name of their neighborhood and can find their way to Walker's Square. Likewise, most residents of Lincoln Village know their neighborhood's name and can identify the Basilica of St. Josaphat.



Businesses in the vibrant Walker's Point neighborhood.

In terms of *social* characteristics, many residents of Riverwest act collectively and can identify activities they share in common such as art walks and exhibits. Likewise, many residents of Walnut Way act collectively to improve their area and share common activities such as neighborhood walks and community gardens.



Artists developed Snails Crossing park in Riverwest

In terms of *institutional* characteristics, most Brady Street residents are linked by local businesses and institutions such as old St. Hedwig's Parish. Likewise, most residents of Bay View are linked by businesses and ample park space for leisure-time activity.



South Shore park pavilion in Bay View

Why are true neighborhoods needed?

The urban scholars also tend to agree on the importance of authentic neighborhoods. The literature points out a number of reasons.

- **City underpinning:** Neighborhoods are the building blocks of the city. A city is only as strong as its foundation.

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MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

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- **Children:** Children spend most of their free time in the neighborhood and are influenced socially and culturally by neighborhood residents/peers and institutional features.
- **Elderly:** Older adults need close-knit support systems to remain in their homes, such as residents who will notice when mail is not picked up or will help with shopping.
- **Work environment:** Neighborhoods are no longer mere “bedroom communities.” Increasingly more and more adults are working out of their homes. Work breaks and lunch hours now take place in the neighborhood.
- **Informal surveillance:** Truly networked residents help ensure the safety of everyone.
- **Setting the forum:** Neighborhoods provide a ready-made forum for adding assets and addressing social needs and problems.

How do neighborhoods develop?

Generally speaking, neighborhoods can develop (a) organically, (b) through central planning, or (c) through a combination of both. Organic development refers to the social and economic activities of residents on the ground. In Milwaukee, as in other cities, many of the historic neighborhoods were developed organically by residents of a shared ethnic background. In these situations, local businesses, clubs, and religious institutions were organized in response to the needs of the particular group.



In memory of their once vibrant Italian neighborhood, Italians built their community center in their old home—the Historic Third Ward.

Some of the strongest organic examples of Milwaukee’s past included old Bronzeville developed by in-migrating African Americans from the South, Lincoln Village first organized by Polish immigrants, Merrill Park developed by Irish forced out of the Third Ward by the great fire, and the (post-fire) Third Ward settled by newly arriving Italians. Each of these organic neighborhoods had their own citizen networks, businesses, religious institutions, and social organizations.

The Jane’s Walk Milwaukee program offers the opportunity for Milwaukeeans to see current examples of organic development taking place in our city’s neighborhoods. These tours are usually conducted by the residents themselves.

Neighborhoods developed through government central planning alone are rare. In Milwaukee, one example is the Garden Homes neighborhood. The original fan-shaped Garden Homes housing project was built in the early 1920s under Milwaukee’s second socialist mayor, Daniel Hoan. The project had also been championed by the city’s first socialist mayor, Emil Seidel, who went on to purchase a home in the neighborhood. Garden Homes was the first municipally-sponsored cooperative housing project in America.



Garden Homes neighborhood on Milwaukee’s far north side.

One of the best uses of government planning in neighborhood development is the enforcement of federal, state, and municipal civil rights laws—particularly to combat segregation.

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MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS _____

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Most neighborhoods develop through a combination of planning and organic means. Citing study findings, urban scholars stress that when this happens, leadership must be legitimately shared with the residents. They stress the failures of programs where government gripped the lead, such as urban renewal, Model Cities, War on Poverty, Neighborhood Strategy Areas, and federal housing programs.

A good example of a Milwaukee neighborhood in development that combines organic growth and government planning, but where the residents share the lead is the new Bronzeville project. A number of local African American activists have partnered with the City of Milwaukee to create a new commercial and entertainment district that will attempt to mirror the area's past.

Where Milwaukee went wrong

One of the reasons that Milwaukee has so few neighborhoods today that meet the authenticity criteria set out by the urban scholars is the city's long history of top-down neighborhood planning. While this practice continues today, the worst of it rolled out during the years of urban renewal and freeway building that began in the 1950s. Initiated and championed by the Zeidler administration and continued into the Maier administration, Milwaukee government set out to clear slum properties or build highways by razing entire neighborhoods or large sections of neighborhoods. Most of the neighborhoods affected were the ethnic enclaves that had developed organically. Those completely razed included old Bronzeville, the Italian Third Ward, and Little Puerto Rico. Those neighborhoods partially razed included Irish Merrill Park and Polish Lincoln Village.

While federal policy today requires genuine resident participation in most urban development projects, often that participation is bypassed by city planners. While city planners might invite residents to meetings where a neighborhood is being developed or redeveloped, the meetings are often nothing more than proclamations of the changes to come, followed by question-answer sessions.

Genuine resident participation in neighborhood development requires political leaders' willingness to share power. It happens on rare occasions. A high level of involvement is not only the logical and ethical direction for neighborhood planning—it also helps ensure the stability of any improvements. In *Planning with Neighborhoods*, authors Rohe and Gates maintain the following. (p. 193)

“Our experience has demonstrated time and time again that citizen involvement is a necessary ingredient of successful residential stabilization and revitalization projects. All the money and labor will go for naught if local residents are not involved in maintaining and protecting improvements once they are made. Citizen participation in the design and implementation of solutions raises the probability that their commitment will be strengthened and that residents will remain in this urban neighborhood.”

PANDEMIC COULD CHANGE NEIGHBORHOODS _____

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But what effects will remote work have on neighborhoods?

An obvious benefit of people working from their homes is neighborhood safety. Residents at home during working hours leads to more surveillance. Fewer cars commuting to and from work leads to fewer accidents and more walkable streets.



But as both employers and employees see that remote work is an actual possibility and the number of workers at home increases, it will also change what residents expect of their immediate environment. Whatever workers did on their breaks and lunch hours at or near their places of employment they may now want to replicate in the neighborhood. These new demands could draw any of the following businesses to their blocks:

- Coffee shops
- Lunch venues
- Fitness and yoga salons
- Delis
- Bodegas

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PANDEMIC COULD CHANGE NEIGHBORHOODS _____

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- Short-term, hourly day care facilities
- Concierge services
- Cooperative shuttles
- Happy hour venues
- Newsstands and snack stands
- Food trucks



A Bay View mother recalls her early years of working at home.

“My daughter was just three. She would watch those great PBS kids shows in the morning while I got four hours of work done. At lunch we’d walk to this restaurant about a block away—what a thrill it was for her—to eat out with mom. On the way home we’d take the long way back through the park and stop at this little store and get her a piece of licorice. All this was such an improvement over the years where she had to go to day care and I’d never see her until dark when it was nearly time for bed.”

And as residents and their children begin to spend more hours at home in their neighborhoods, they are more likely to want neighborhood infrastructural improvements. This could lead to any of the following:

- Organized block clubs
- Routine neighborhood clean-ups
- Collective demands for city street and curb improvements, better street lighting, security cameras, code enforcement of decaying properties, playgrounds, walkable paths and streets, park areas, and more

The benefits to neighborhoods with a large remote workforce could be far-reaching.

*Happening in Menomonee
River Hills neighborhood!*

*When the coronavirus pan-
demic has ended*



*Open indoor swim at
Noyes Park*

Year round
8235 W. Good Hope Road

*Indoor pool with diving
boards, locker rooms, vend-
ing machines*

Milwaukee Police Department's record of abuse of people of color



Not every accusation of abuse receives public attention. Here are a few involving Milwaukee's police department that did.

1958

Daniel Bell, a 22-year-old African American, was shot for fleeing a random-police stop for a broken tail light. One officer planted a knife on Bell, claiming he'd fled with the knife in hand. The truth later came to light when the other officer confessed.

1967

Clifford McKissick, an 18-year-old African American, was killed by police after they said he was fleeing a firebombed paint store during the 1967 Milwaukee racial unrest.

1981

Ernest Lacy, a 22-year-old African American, died of respiratory distress after being wrestled to the ground and held down by a knee by white police officers, while being accused of a rape he did not commit.

1983

Curtis Harris, an adult African American, was rendered a quadriplegic after an encounter with Officer Kevin Clark, who was never charged. (Harris later won a lawsuit.)

1984

Frank Jude Jr., a 26-year-old African American, was accused without evidence of stealing a wallet by a group of off-duty officers who beat him, stuck a pen in his ear, and cut off his pants with a knife.

2011

Derek Williams, a 22-year-old African American, suffered a medical crisis after being arrested and died in a squad car after officers ignored his pleas for an ambulance.

2014

Dontre Hamilton, a 31-year-old schizophrenic African American, was shot 14 times after he took hold of the officer's baton in a downtown park.

2017

Rafael Rosales, a Latino, after being handcuffed and placed on the ground for fleeing a traffic stop, was kicked in the head repeatedly, resulting in a broken nose and seizures. (He later won a settlement.)

2020

Joel Acevedo, a 25-year-old Latino, died after being held in a reverse chokehold by off-duty Police Officer Michael Mattioli.

In memory of George Floyd

UNDER THE KNEE

Let us always remember the voice
As we balance what's just with what's gentle
As we elect our makers of policy
As we create and enforce our laws
Let us always remember the voice
As we assess our governing bodies
As we reform the challenging limbs
As we deny the debasing knees of domination
Let us always remember the voice
Whose bearer lay under the lynching knee
As he recalled the love of his mother
And invoked humanity's most universal prayer

That last moment
That last moment
. . . when he uttered her name.

How to learn about your neighborhood while the family's shut in

STORIES FOR CHILDREN/YOUTH

The Kids Across Time and Space (KATS) program is a fulfilling way for families to spend a day learning about a number of Milwaukee neighborhoods. The website provides youth-friendly stories about select areas of the city, recipes that are indigenous to the cultural groups of these neighborhoods, and games and art projects to entertain while enhancing learning about the neighborhoods.

Go to http://teacheraidsforkidsmilwaukee.com/KaTS_main.html and click on any of the orange rows for the following stories.

Bronzeville to Sherman Park

RUBY'S LOST CHILDHOOD. A fictionalized account of an African American girl living in Milwaukee, the loss of her Bronzeville community, her migration to and from Milwaukee, her movement into the Civil Rights Movement and local fair housing marches, and her struggles to keep her new home in Sherman Park.



Lincoln Village

STEFAN'S GOOSE. A fictionalized account of a young Polish boy living on Milwaukee's south side in the early 1940s, his daily life in a Polish flat, his faith community at the Basilica of St. Josaphat, and what he learned one month about how his meals were prepared.

Downtown Area

BEVERLY, THE FIRST "MATERIAL GIRL." A story of a girl living in Milwaukee in the prosperous 1950s and how she and her age mates were influenced by the growing material culture of the day. A story about the influences of popular culture on gender roles.

Third Ward

PATRICK'S DREAM. A fictionalized account of a young Irish boy whose family settled in the Third Ward in the late 1800s, his aspirations to become a fireman, the scorn he faced from friends for setting his hopes too low, and his ultimate redemption when a fireman from the Ward saves the city of Milwaukee from burning down.



There are nearly 50 other stories about ethnic groups in historical settings on this site, all complete with recipes, notes, games, and art projects.

191 MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

For shut-ins to simply learn about specific neighborhoods, this is a very comprehensive site. <http://neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org/>

One-hundred and ninety-one Milwaukee neighborhoods are on this site. The project was created from the oral histories conducted by anthropologists at Urban Anthropology Inc., covering over 100 of these neighborhoods. The following details are provided about each of the 191:

- Brief, population-based history
- Quotes from oral history of this area

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LEARNING ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD _____

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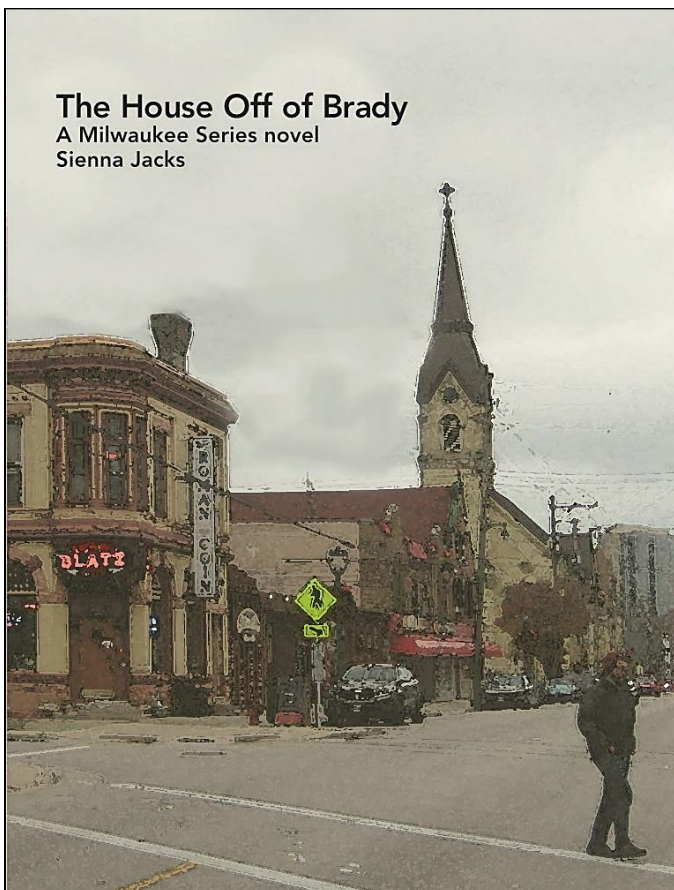
- Description of neighborhood
- Photos of neighborhood (and at times historical photos)
- List of important sites
- Recurring nearby outings
- Businesses in the history of the neighborhood
- Profiles of people who once lived there

MYSTERY NOVELS TAKING PLACE IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS _____

Milwaukee native and cultural anthropologist, Sienna Jacks, has written a series of novels that take place in Milwaukee neighborhoods.

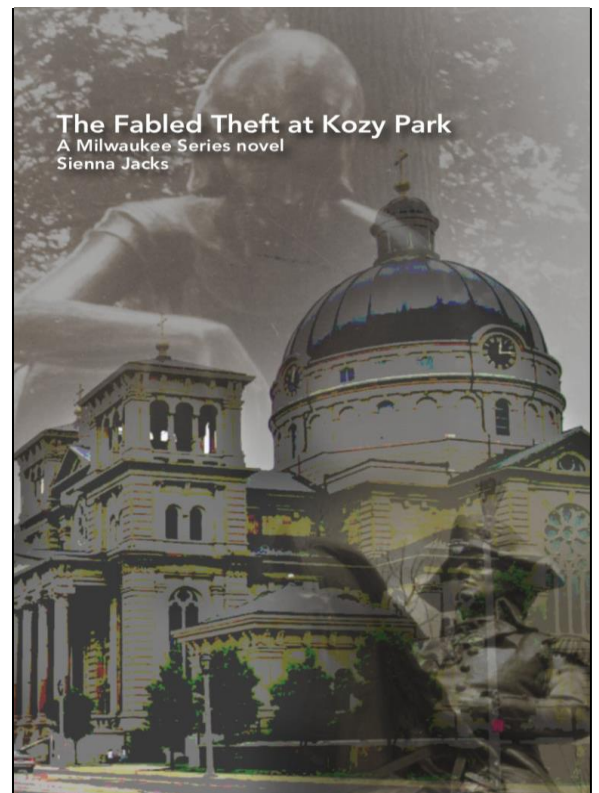
The House Off of Brady

Two young anthropologists, trying to convince a local nonprofit to sponsor a neighborhood house museum, must show that the historical occupants of the house were representative of Milwaukee's Brady Street, and that they project positive images for the neighborhood. Their efforts are boosted by a personal journal left behind by one of the home's occupants--Giuseppe Russo. But as the young anthropologists translate and transcribe the journal, they learn that Giuseppe had been banished from his former community in the Third Ward. Are they about to stumble on information that could kill the project—or something perhaps even worse? Access at <http://mecamilwaukee.com>



The Fabled Theft at Kozy Park

The anthropologists at City Anthropology were asked to use their research skills to look into a man's confession that might crack the longest unsolved mystery on Milwaukee's old South Side—the theft of the squirrel lady statue at Kozy Park. According to reports, the man Raf (now deceased) also implicated members of a local Polish club with an agenda of removing non-Polish influences from the neighborhood. Assigned to the project, Enid and Meyer are baffled by the information they are getting from those who witnessed the confession, little of which supports Raf's story. Further inquiry points to events surrounding Raf's stepson. Who really was he and why did he inexplicably appear on the scene all those years ago? Their quest for answers leads them to the club in question, but with unexpected results. The ultimate mystery they must solve is the true reason why Raf made this confession and steered them to a list of alleged conspirators. Access at <http://mecamilwaukee.com>



The Shop on King Drive

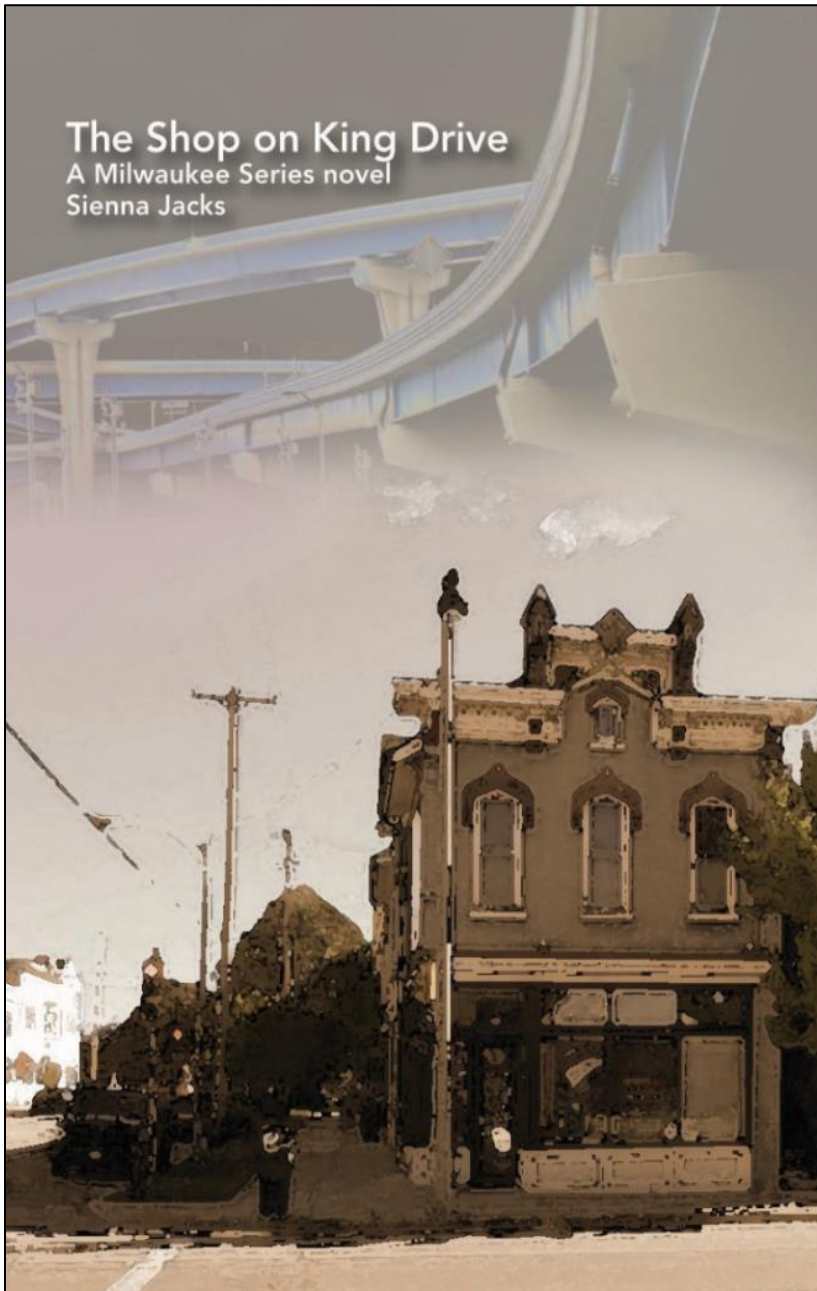
A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history,

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MYSTERY NOVELS

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confront painful but sometimes puzzling accounts. During the 1950s and 1960s, over 8,000 homes and an entire business district of the African American Bronzeville community were razed. While interviewing survivors, the anthropologists note that the name of a particular attorney kept entering the conversation. The lawyer claimed to be helping the black community fight the removal, but his efforts had the opposite effect. Suspicions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



*Happening in the
Walker's
Point neighborhood*

*When the coronavirus pandemic
has ended*

WPCA
WALKERS POINT
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Since 1987

**Walker's Point Center for
the Arts**

839 South 5th Street

*Ongoing exhibitions and pro-
grams in a neighborhood setting*

**Open Tuesday through Saturday,
noon to 5pm**

Milwaukee's Lincoln Village: An organically developed neighborhood



Lincoln Village, as it is now called, developed organically—not once, but twice. Both times its social and economic activities were organized around an in-migrating ethnic group.

Each edition of *Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* will feature a story on one Milwaukee neighborhood



Lincoln Village has a long history. It began to develop with the arrival of a large wave of Polish immigrants in the late 19th century.

Early population

Polish immigration to America resulted from a combination of 'push-pull' factors. Between 1795 and 1918, Poland was partitioned by Austria, Russia and Prussia. In the 1870s Prussian leader Bismarck initiated a Germanization policy in the western section of Poland designed to bar speaking of languages

other than German, impose a draft for the German army, weaken the Catholic Church, and replace Polish landowners with German citizens. This policy, coupled with the sharp drop in grain prices in the 1880s, led to massive emigrations of people from Poland in the late 19th century.

Many economically-devastated Poles came to urban areas in America's Midwest where they could access entry-level jobs in industry. The settlement areas became known as Polonias, or Polish-American communities. Polonias tended to be self-sustaining neighborhoods with intricate parish systems and a wealth of Polish institutions. One of these Polonias developed on Milwaukee's South Side, a part of which is now known as Lincoln Village.

Often called "cozy" by early residents, Lincoln Village became a place where people lived nurtured lives, surrounded by extended families and neighbors they knew well. The Polish language was spoken by most, well into the 1930s. Some of the early residents went on to achieve greatness in their respective fields. See examples below.

Lincoln Village resident (early 20th century)

(Information from U.S. Census, other public records)

Marianna Michalska (Gilda Gray)

Born in Krakow, Poland to parents Max and Wanda Michalska in 1901, Marianna immigrated to the United States in 1907 with her family. The in-migrating Michalskas found a home on Third Avenue (today's South 8th Street) in Milwaukee's

old 14th Ward (which today encompasses Lincoln Village). At a young age, Marianna married her neighbor, John Gorecki, son of Socialist and union leader, Martin Gorecki. Although John worked as a pattern maker while in the neighborhood, he was also becoming an accomplished musician and became a concert violinist. The couple had one child, Martin. When Marianna and John moved to New York to pursue John's career, young Martin stayed behind with her parents.

Although Marianna and John eventually divorced, Marianna may have been influenced by her performer husband. She became a dancer and is said to have introduced the shimmy to American audiences in 1919.

While her marriage was breaking up, Marianna moved to Chicago, where she was discovered by talent agent Frank Westphal, the husband of Sophie Tucker. It was Tucker who convinced Marianna to change her name—which eventually became Gilda Gray. She succeeded as a vaudeville performer and married a second time to Gil Boag.



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LINCOLN VILLAGE

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The couple moved to Hollywood where Gilda Gray's vaudeville act gained additional recognition. By the mid-1920s she made several movies—all of which included her famous shimmy.

After the stock market crash of 1929, Gilda lost most of her assets, and returned to New York. There she worked as a dancer at the Palace Theater. During World War Two she raised money for Poland and brought six Polish citizens to America during the Cold War era. Recognizing her great contributions, Ralph Edwards dedicated a *This is Your Life* show to Gilda in 1953.

Son Marin Gorecki, who had remained in Milwaukee on South 8th Street during his childhood, was greatly influenced by his musical parents. He went on to become a big band maestro as an adult, under the name of Martin Gray.



Architecture featuring parapets brought over by the immigrant Poles from northern Poland

Another neighborhood resident who went on to achieve greatness is Robert J. Modrzejewski. In addition to earning the Medal of Honor, a local park now bears his name.

Old South Side resident (1940s)

(Information from U.S. Census and other records)

Robert J. Modrzejewski

In the 1940s, Robert J. Modrzejewski grew up in the Lincoln Village neighborhood, at 2431 South 9th Street, possibly just around the corner from Gilda Gray's childhood home. Like most children on his block, if weather permitted, he walked the few blocks to Cleveland Park between 10th and 11th Streets in today's Polonia neighborhood to play softball or baseball—both sports being extremely popular on the Old South Side.

Robert was the fifth child of parents Joseph J. and Rose S. Modrzejewski (nee Tarkowski), both immigrants from Poland. Among Roberts' siblings were sisters Dolores, Esther, and Adeline, and brother Arthur. As a child, Robert's



maternal grandfather, Ignatz Tarkowski, and uncle Frank Tarkowski lived in his household. The father Joseph worked as a machinist for the U.S., Chicago and North Western Railroad. Like virtually all families in this Polish neighborhood, Robert's was Roman Catholic.

In 1953, Robert graduated from Casimir Pulaski High School. He later attended Wisconsin State Teachers College and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

While at UW-M, Robert became a member of the Platoon Leaders Class that led to his being commissioned as a Marine Corps Reserve second lieutenant upon graduation in 1957. By 1960 he had been integrated into the Regular Marine Corps.

Robert was ordered to the West Coast and then to the Republic of Vietnam. In Vietnam, he assumed duty as Commanding Officer of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. During these years Robert J. Modrzejewski distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty—for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He and another Marine, John J. McGinty III, were presented the Medals of Honor on March 12, 1968 by President Lyndon Johnson.

Modrzejewski retired from the military in 1986. In an official ceremony in July 2004, the City of Milwaukee renamed Robert's old haunt, Cleveland Park, to Modrzejewski Playground. Today with fewer than 20 percent of the Lincoln Village residents still being Polish, many have trouble with the pronunciation and affectionately refer to the playground as "Mod Park."

Old South Side institutions

Some of the strongest assets in the mainly Polish neighborhood were the self-help institutions—the fraternal, relief organizations for the homeland, and arts and cultural organizations.

On the Polish South Side, faith communities were built on a grand scale. One of the Poles' outstanding achievements was the Basilica of St. Josaphat, which they built with their own hands. The majestic building is one of the most beautiful churches in the world, and continually attracts tourists from all over the globe.



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LINCOLN VILLAGE

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Baseball on the Old South Side

Early on the area that is today's Lincoln Village and Baran Park neighborhoods, became entrenched with baseball fanaticism. This began early and spread quickly.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, baseball had become so popular in the United States that some Polish leaders worried it was Americanizing youth too quickly. In fact, leaders in Chicago's Polonia organized its own baseball league in 1913 to keep young people from assimilating into the Anglo-American world through the sport.

Soon Milwaukee followed suit. Within a few years the Kosciuszko Reds had established themselves as the sandlot darlings of the Old South Side. The Polish semi-professional team operated between 1909 and 1919, a time of great upheaval due to World War One. The Reds, often called the "Koskys," began competition in the City League and then shifted to the Lake Shore League. They won four championships during the decade, and were so legendary that they became the topic of several publications, including Neal Pease's "The Kosciuszko Reds 1909-1919: Kings of the Milwaukee Sandlots" in *Polish American Studies*, and George Reimann's *Sandlot Baseball in Milwaukee's South Side*. Photos still exist that depict thousands of resident fans flooding South 5th Place after a Kosciuszko Reds' victory.

Baseball's legacy in Lincoln Village

Perhaps not surprisingly, baseball had an enduring presence in the area. On the same street that fans flooded during a Kosky victory, a young man grew up to become a major league star (see resident profile on the following page).

And just two blocks east of his home, a new park was being built that would ensure the presence of baseball for generations to come. Baran Park was named after Father Theodore Baran, the priest who led the effort that paid off the parish debt in 1929 for the construction of the Basilica of St. Josaphat. The park opened in 1950. With ample baseball fields and bleachers, the park soon became a major Milwaukee host to little league play.

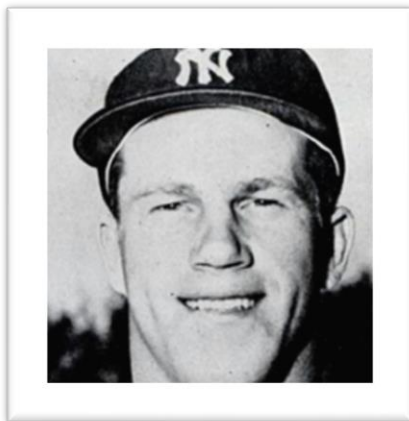
Old South Side resident (1940s)

(Information from census records, Wikipedia photo)

Tony Kubek

Anthony Christopher Kubek Jr. was born in 1936 and grew up in a rented house at the corner of 5th Place and Harrison Avenue, in today's Lincoln Village neighborhood, one block west of Baran Park. He was the grand son of Polish immigrants and the son of Anthony Kubek Sr., a laborer, and Jennie Kubek (nee Oleniczak), a homemaker. Both Tony Sr. and Jennie had also grown up within blocks of their 5th Place address.

Like most other Polish kids in the area, Tony Jr. grew up playing baseball, probably at Kosciuszko Park in his early years, and no doubt at Baran Park when this was completed in Tony's teens. Like his neighborhood peers, Tony became an avid fan of the Milwaukee Braves when they arrived in town in the early 1950s.



Tony was a particularly talented shortstop. He caught the attention of the New York Yankee organization and was signed to a major league contract. He was brought up to the majors in 1957--curiously, the same year the Milwaukee Braves won the pennant and went on to compete in the World Series, against none other than the New York Yankees. And how did Tony Kubek do against his beloved hometown team? He had one of the best World Series games a rookie ever had, going 3 for 5 with 2 home runs, 3 runs scored, and 4 RBI. Fortunately for Milwaukee, the Braves did win the Series in 7 games.

Kubek took Rookie of the Year honors that year, and went on to play for the Yankees through the 1965 season. He became an All-Star four times.

When Kubek's playing days were over, he advanced to a career in broadcasting. Between 1968 and 1989, he broadcast 12 World Series and 14 League Championships for NBC television. He is a recipient of the Ford C. Frick Award of the Baseball Broadcasters' Hall of Fame.



Newly developed Kosciuszko Square in Kosciuszko Park

Arrival of Latinos

For a century, the Poles dominated Lincoln Village. This all changed in the 1970s. And the transition of the area from a Polish to a Latinx neighborhood occurred in all the same organic ways with the development of ethnic businesses, organizations, and symbols as had originally transpired with the Poles.

Latinos (mainly Mexicans) began to settle on the near South Side in the 1920s and slowly migrated

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LINCOLN VILLAGE

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south into the area developed by Polish immigrants. Since the 1970s, the Mexican community has grown dramatically, and other Latinos have arrived from the Caribbean and Central and South America. They have been joined more recently by significant numbers of Southeast Asians—especially Hmong, Burmese and Vietnamese refugees—and African Americans, Arabs, and North American Indians.

A number of push-pull factors influenced the population changes. During the early 1900s Mexican immigration to the United States expanded because of worsening economic conditions in Mexico. A large wave of Mexicans also left the country during the political and economic turmoil created by the Mexican Revolution of 1910. Beginning in 1917, the US government implemented a series of immigration restriction policies to curb the influx of Mexicans, mainly in response to local claims that Mexicans (who often worked for low wages) were taking jobs away from 'true' Americans.

Although most Mexicans found jobs in local tanneries and foundries, some came to Milwaukee as strikebreakers—often unknowingly. They were hired by companies that were intent on breaking their own labor unions, and the Mexicans earned the enmity of the European workers they replaced. This situation led to early discrimination against Mexican Americans in Milwaukee.

But they found a place to fit in. Latinos were able to settle successfully alongside the Poles because they shared so many traits in common. These included the Catholic faith, the focus on the Madonna figure, polka music traditions, similarities in childrearing and eldercare practices, and an entrepreneurial spirit. And judging by their presence in the Felix Mantilla (Little) League at Baran Park, they also share an avid interest in baseball.

Comparison of businesses on Lincoln

To illustrate the gradual movement from Polish to Latino, consider the comparison of the businesses on Lincoln Avenue between 14th and 16th Streets in 1940 and then again in 2010. In 1940 there were 46 businesses on these two blocks. Of these, 12 were owned by proprietors of unknown ethnic background, 5 were owned by proprietors of non-Polish background, and 29 were owned by proprietors of Polish background.

Compare this to 2010. In 2010 there were 20 businesses on these two blocks. Of these, 4 were owned by proprietors of unknown ethnic background, 1 was owned by a proprietor of non-Latinx background, and 15 were owned by proprietors of Latinx background.

Lincoln Village Mexican Business Family: The Orozcos

In 1991, Ramon Orozco, and brothers Luis and Alphonso, opened Tres Hermanos restaurant at 1332 West Lincoln Avenue. (See the brothers to the right with former Wisconsin Governor, Tommy Thompson).

The restaurant soon became a neighborhood hub in Lincoln Village, attracting formal and informal diners from all ethnic backgrounds. Current single owner, Ramon Orozco, hosts karaoke every Thursday through Sunday and offers live entertainment on a weekly basis.

Between 2007 and 2010, the restaurant expanded. Ramon Orozco purchased land next to his restaurant and added a large patio on a raised deck



surrounded by elaborate planters and ornate banisters. Months later this was followed by public art next to the patio designed by Celine Farrell. The art depicts the cultural mix of the neighborhood. (Photo courtesy of Ramon Orozco.)

Today

Lincoln Village is the most densely populated neighborhood in Milwaukee with nearly 13,000 residents in an area less than a square mile in size. Some of this population has been recently lost due to the widening of the Kinnickinnic River that razed over 100 homes. Mexican Americans are today the largest cultural group in the neighborhood that had once been Milwaukee's Polish stronghold. Other ethnic communities have also found a home in Lincoln Village. A survey conducted by Urban Anthropology Inc. in 2009 found that the neighborhood hosted descendants from 110 national groups, and the largest are those from Mexico, Poland, and American Indian nations.

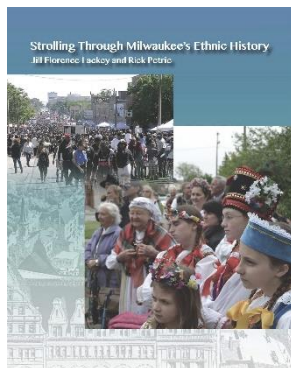


Above, Latinos, American Indians, and Poles celebrate their roots in Lincoln Village

Lincoln Village today is a young neighborhood, with nearly 4 in 10 residents aged 19 and younger. Faith communities dominate the neighborhood. Per square mile, Lincoln Village has over 10 times more religious organizations than the average for Wisconsin and the United States as a whole.



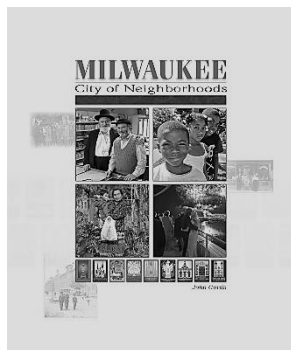
Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods



Strolling through Milwaukee's Ethnic History

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

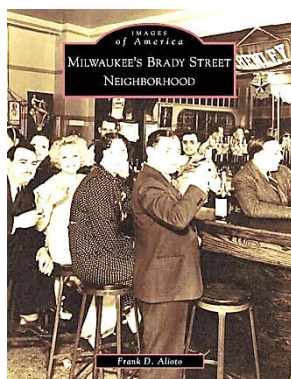
This latest work provides an "up close and personal" look at local ethnic life by directing readers to the neighborhoods and venues where the groups left their marks. It brings readers directly into their experiences, whether it involves strolling through the neighborhoods they built or participating in contemporary ethnic activities. "Strolling . . . is an intriguing guide to the ethnic history in our midst and a colorful reminder that Milwaukee has always been a city of newcomers." - John Gurda. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods

By John Gurda

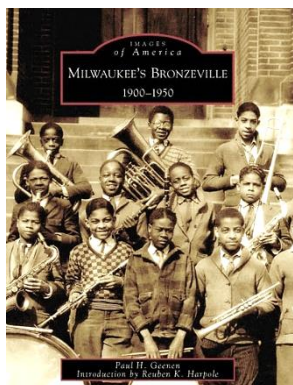
Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods is the most comprehensive account of grassroots Milwaukee ever published. Richly illustrated, engagingly written, and organized for maximum ease of use, the book is a fine-grained introduction to the Milwaukee community, and its communities, that will endure as a standard work for years to come. <https://historicmilwaukee.org/milwaukee-city-of-neighborhoods/>.



Milwaukee's Brady Street Neighborhood

By Frank D. Alioto

Milwaukee's Brady Street neighborhood began in the mid-19th century as a crossroads between middle-class Yankees from the east and early German settlers. Polish and Italian immigrants soon followed, working the mills, tanneries, and brewers that lined the riverbank. The hippies arrived in the 1960s. By the 1980s the area fell into blight, neglect and decay. Now, a true model for new urbanism, the Brady Street neighborhood is the midst of a renaissance. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738551746>



Milwaukee's Bronzeville: 1900-1950

By Paul H. Geenen, Introduction by Rueben Harpole

With the migration of African American sharecroppers to northern cities in the first half of the 20th century, the African American population of Milwaukee grew from fewer than 1,000 in 1900 to nearly 22,000 by 1950. Most settled along Walnut Street, an area that came to be known as Milwaukee's Bronzeville, a thriving residential, business, and entertainment community. Bronzeville is remembered by African American elders as a good place to grow up. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738540610>

The dramatic gift of one author

Mystery writer and Milwaukee native, Sienna Jacks, is creating a series of novels that take place in Milwaukee neighborhoods called "The Milwaukee Series." She is donating all of her royalties to Urban Anthropology's neighborhood exhibits' program.

The proceeds from *The House Off of Brady* (see previous page) are currently being used to create all new exhibits at the Rozga Family's Old South Side Settlement Museum.

Mystery novels that are currently available or shall eventually be included in this series will take place in these Milwaukee neighborhoods:

- Brady Street
- Bronzeville/Brewer's Hill
- Lincoln Village
- Walker's Point
- Riverwest
- Granville

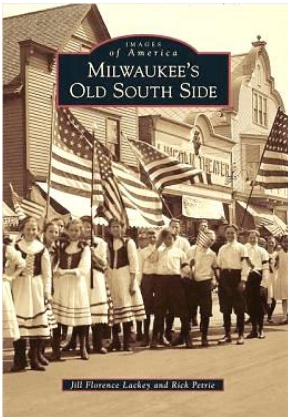
Currently, all of Sienna Jacks' novels have perfect five-star ratings from readers at Amazon.com

To enjoy wonderful reading and to contribute to neighborhood museums and exhibits, purchase the Jacks' books from the publisher at

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>



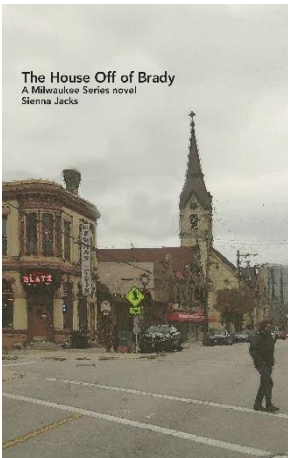
Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods (Cont.)



Milwaukee's Old South Side
By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

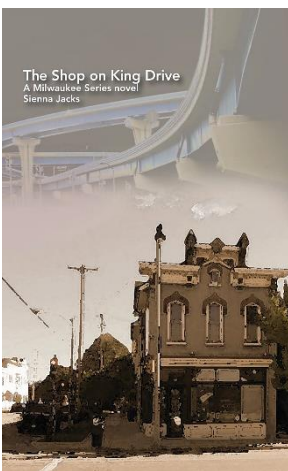
In the late 1800s, the Old South Side was developed by immigrant Poles, who became the dominant population for over 100 years. While other Milwaukee ethnic neighborhoods gradually dissipated in the mid-20th century because of assimilation pressures, freeway building, or urban renewal programs, the Old South Side remained solidly Polish. A survey nearly a half century later revealed that people of 110 national backgrounds now lived in the Old South Side, with the three largest groups being Mexicans, Poles, and American Indians. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738590691>

Fiction



The House Off of Brady A Milwaukee Series novel
By Sienna Jacks

Two young anthropologists, trying to convince a local nonprofit to sponsor a neighborhood house museum, must show that the historical occupants of the house were representative of Milwaukee's Brady Street, and that they project positive images for the neighborhood. Their efforts are boosted by a personal journal left behind by one of the home's occupants--Giuseppe Russo. But as the young anthropologists translate and transcribe the journal, they learn that Giuseppe had been banished from his former community in the Third Ward. Are they about to stumble on information that could kill the project—or something perhaps even worse? <http://mecamilwaukee.com>



The Shop on King Drive A Milwaukee Series novel
By Sienna Jacks

A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history, confront painful but sometimes puzzling accounts. During the 1950s and 1960s, over 8,000 homes and an entire business district of the African American Bronzeville community were razed. While interviewing survivors, the anthropologists note that the name of a particular attorney kept entering the conversation. The lawyer claimed to be helping the black community fight the removal, but his efforts had the opposite effect. Suspensions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. <http://mecamilwaukee.com>

Just released:

A new Sienna Jacks novel in the Milwaukee Series, entitled *The Fabled Caper at Kozy Park*, a mystery that takes place in Milwaukee's Lincoln Village neighborhood.

Currently, all of Sienna Jacks' novels have perfect five-star ratings from readers at Amazon.com

To enjoy wonderful reading and to contribute to neighborhood museums, purchase the Jacks' books from the publisher at:

<http://mecamilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is published bimonthly by Urban Anthropology Inc. and is managed by volunteer anthropologists. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer neighborhood groups and individuals opportunities to share news and information about their neighborhoods. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Jill Florence Lackey.

Subscriptions

The newsletter is emailed to anyone wishing to receive it. If you wish your email or that of a friend to be added to the subscriber list, send the email addresses to JFLanthropologist@sbcglobal.net and indicate the name of this publication (as UrbAn publishes more than one newsletter).

Submitting events

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is interested in events from individuals, businesses, and organizations that have a neighborhood appeal. These can include block parties, church picnics, local music festivals, sports on the block, get-moving activities that take place outdoors, and art and theatre events involving neighborhoods. All event submissions should include a one-sentence description, date and time, location, and website or phone number for additional information. Photos may also be submitted.

Submitting stories/press releases on neighborhoods

In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, stories should always focus on assets of neighborhoods. They must be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints. We will write the stories for you if you simply send us a list of the information that you want included. A photo is always required for a story to be published. Please do not refer us to websites to collect information or photos. If we write your story from the general information you send, we do not send proofs for approval.

If you are someone who has created a successful neighborhood project and wish to be featured in the Forum, please also contact Dr. Jill.

Submission deadlines

Submit events or stories by the 25th of the month preceding publication. Publication dates are on the 1st day of June, August, October, December, February, and April. Please send your stories to Dr. Jill at JFLanthropologist@sbcglobal.net.



www.urban-anthropology.org

Email RickPetrie@gmail.com

Now live . . .

Website on 191 Milwaukee neighborhoods

Links on each neighborhood include:

- *6 to 35 pages of information*
- *Brief neighborhood description*
- *Population-focused history (including ethnic roots)*
- *Snapshots of commercial districts of the past*
- *Quotes from residents*
- *Quotes from oral histories (where available)*
- *Low cost nearby outings for families*
- *Demographics of current neighborhood*
- *Photos of neighborhood*

The website currently includes ALL 191 of the neighborhoods, courtesy of Urban Anthropology Inc.

<http://neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org/>