



Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

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"IN THE TRADITION OF JANE JACOBS"

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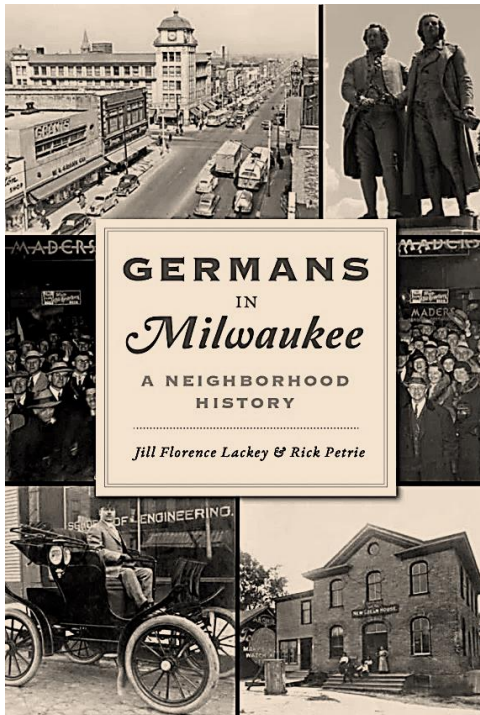
Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is a bimonthly newsletter that highlights assets, history, events, and resources for and about Milwaukee neighborhoods. Residents and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to submit press releases on their events and successful programs. See back page for details.



An in-depth chronicle of German footprints that remain in Milwaukee neighborhoods

By Jackie Freeman

For decades, Dr. Jill Florence Lackey, Rick Petrie, and over 100 anthropologists and anthropology interns at Urban Anthropology Inc. have been studying Milwaukee ethnic groups and neighborhoods. Now they have assembled a wealth of data into a reader-friendly volume that chronicles countless examples of material remains that the city's Germans left behind in neighborhoods. Throughout, the book contrasts the original function of the buildings, landscapes, and public art with the current use of these artifacts.



From the back cover:

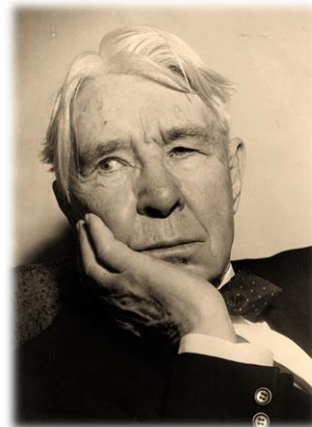
Germans dominated Milwaukee like no other large American city. Their presence inhabits the city's neighborhoods, from its buildings and place names to its parklands and statuary. Their influence also lives in the memories shared by local residents. A small Milwaukee neighborhood south of Miller Valley was

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Nationally recognized writers and poets that once lived in Milwaukee neighborhoods

Third of a ten-part series on celebrities

Pulitzer Prize winning poet in Marquette neighborhood



Carl August Sandburg (1878-1967) was a Swedish-American poet, journalist, and editor. Born in Illinois, he settled in Milwaukee at various locations including North 18th Street. Sketching as a hobby, Sandburg spent hours visiting the fishing village on Jones Island where he illustrated fishing scenes. He worked as a secretary and organizer for the Wisconsin Social Democratic Party.

Sandburg won three Pulitzer Prizes: two for his poetry and one for his biography of Abraham Lincoln. At his death in 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson stated that "Carl Sandburg was more than the voice of America, more than the poet of its strength and genius. He was America."

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NOTED WRITERS IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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Author of educational and historical books in North Division neighborhood

William George Bruce (1856-1949) was an author and publisher of educational, historical and religious books. He founded the *American School Board Journal*. A civic leader, he served on the Milwaukee School Board and was active in Milwaukee and state politics.



One-time editor of *Harper's Bazaar* in the Walker's Point neighborhood

Elizabeth Garver Jordan (1865-1947) was an American editor, journalist, author, and suffragist, who edited the first two novels of Sinclair Lewis. She was the editor of *Harper's Bazaar* from 1900 to 1913. As a suffragist, she organized a collaborative novel, *The Sturdy Oak*, with 14 other writers supporting the cause. Her family had lived on Reed Street in Milwaukee (today's South 2nd).

Children's writer in the St. Joseph's neighborhood

Ellen Raskin (1928-1984) was a children's writer and illustrator who grew up in the Sherman Park area and attended Washington High School. She won the 1979 Newbery Medal for a mystery novel, *The Westing Game*, and another children's mystery, *Figgs & Phantoms*, was a Newbery Honor Book in 1975. *The Westing Game* was ranked number nine among all-time children's novels in a recent survey published by *School Library Journal*.

Academy Award winning screenwriter with ties to the Northpoint neighborhood

John Ridley IV (1965-) is an American screenwriter, television director, and novelist, known for *12 Years a Slave*, for which he won an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. His most recent work is the documentary, *Let It Fall: Los Angeles 1982-1992*. Ridley was born in Milwaukee and grew up in the suburb of Mequon. However, his ophthalmologist father, John Ridley II, maintained an office at St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee's Northpoint area throughout much of his professional career.



Photo by Frankie Fouganthin - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=39805586>

Another award-winning writer in the Northpoint neighborhood

Shauna Singh Baldwin (1962-) is a Canadian-American novelist of Indian descent. Her 2000 novel *What the Body Remembers* won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and her 2004 novel *The Tiger Claw* received a nomination for the Giller Prize. Her second short-story collection, *We Are Not in Pakistan*, was released in Canada in 2007. She settled permanently in Milwaukee after receiving an MBA from Marquette University, living on North Summit Avenue.

Yiddish poet in Hillside Neighborhood of original Bronzeville



Alter Esselin, (originally Orkeh Serebrenik, 1889-1974) was a Russian-born poet who wrote in the Yiddish language. He was born in the Chernigov Governorate of the Russian Empire (today's Ukraine) and died in Milwaukee, where he'd made his home as a young man. In the Hillside neighborhood, Esselin made his living as a carpenter. He published several hundred poems in publications, *The Zukunft or Di Tsukunft (The Future)*, *Di goldene keyt*, *Di veg*, *Kundus*, and others.

Science fiction author in the East Town neighborhood

Walter Braden "Jack" Finney (born John Finney; 1911-1995) was an American author of science fiction and thrillers. His major books include *The Body Snatchers* and *Time and Again*. The former work was the basis for the 1956 film *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. His father, also Walter Braden Finney,

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NOTED WRITERS IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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had an insurance office in Milwaukee's Mitchell Building on E. Michigan. He died when John was three years old and John was given his name.



Noted journalist in Town of Lake neighborhood

Elizabeth Baker Bohan (1849-1930) was a British-born author and journalist. Born in Birmingham, England, Elizabeth Claire Baker and her parents came to Wisconsin in 1854 and settled in the Town of Lake (today a Milwaukee neighborhood). Elizabeth went on to become a staff writer for the *West Coast Magazine* for at least five years, and occasionally for *Simons' Magazine*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Munsey's Magazine*, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, *The Youth's Companion*, *The Club Woman*, *National New Thought Monthly*, and others.

Milwaukee historian/author in the Fernwood neighborhood

John Gurda (1947-) is an author of over 10 books on Milwaukee history. His book, *The Making of Milwaukee*, was adapted into an Emmy Award-winning documentary series by Milwaukee PBS. Gurda has won Wisconsin Historical Society's Award of Merit eight times.

Science fiction writer on Upper East Side

Stanley Grauman Weinbaum (1902-1935) was a science fiction writer. His first story was published to great acclaim. Entitled, "A Martian Odyssey", the alien character Tweel may have been the first character to satisfy John W. Campbell's challenge: "Write me a creature who thinks as well as a man, or better than a man, but not like a man." Unfortunately, Weinbaum died young. Born in Kentucky, Weinbaum moved to Milwaukee where he lived on Shepherd Avenue in the Upper East Side area.



Newspaper editor and inventor of modern-day typewriter on Lower East Side

Christopher Latham Sholes (1819-1890) was a newspaper editor/publisher and an inventor of the QWERTY keyboard, and, with Samuel W. Soule, Carlos Glidden and John Pratt, has contended to be one of the inventors of the first typewriter in the U.S. Although born in Pennsylvania, he moved west and settled on East Pleasant Street in Milwaukee in the mid-19th century, where he worked as an editor.



Ten-part series continues on celebrities that lived in Milwaukee neighborhoods

Have you ever wondered who might have lived in your Milwaukee neighborhood? For ten issues, Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum will feature nationally recognized celebrities that once resided on our city's blocks.

Themes of Articles

The order follows:

- (1) Political/Activist leaders (December issue),
- (2) Military leaders (March issue),
- (3) Writers/Journalists (this issue),
- (4) Religious leaders,
- (5) Scientists,
- (6) Artists,
- (7) Musicians,
- (8) TV/Film stars,
- (9) Sports heroes, and
- (10) Corporate leaders.

GERMAN REMAINS IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS: NEWLY RELEASED BOOK

Continued from Page 1

christened after a farmer's pigs, and a busboy turned beer baron built the famous Pabst Brewery in West Town. A ghost is said to haunt the old Blatz Brewing compound. And the remains of the early tanning industry can still be seen in Walker's Point. Compiling more than 1,200 interviews, authors Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie share these ground-level perspectives of the lasting German influence on the Cream City.

Interviews with the authors

FREEMAN: Dr. Lackey, as main author, what were your goals in writing this work?

LACKEY: I think we saw that we had an opportunity to tell the story of Germans in Milwaukee from two perspectives. First, we could tell it from the top down through archival records, history sources, and the actual appearance of the physical remains Germans added to the landscape, or what they took from it. We could describe the current uses and conditions of these remains in today's neighborhoods, or conversely, the condition of areas where physical remains had been removed.

But second, we could tell the story from the bottom up and describe the effects that these additions or losses had on the actual residents of the city, through direct quotes. We could capture the value, the meanings, the pride, and in some cases, the wrath of residents.

FREEMAN: Mr. Petrie, what were your goals in writing this work?

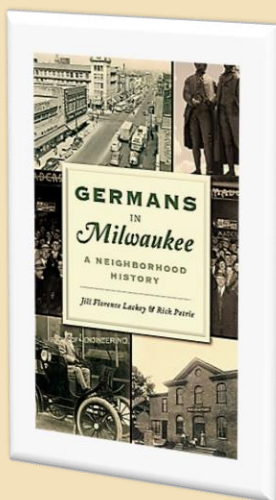
PETRIE: We wanted to tell the story of how the evidence of this city's German heritage is still around for all to see in many Milwaukee neighborhoods.

FREEMAN: Was it rewarding?

PETRIE: It was quite an enjoyable experience doing research and finding historic photos for this book. Not only did I have the opportunity to dig through archives and find some unique photographs, but I was able to visit the neighborhood sites and view the architectural treasures that make this city special.

To preorder, link to
www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286

*Book will be available April
26, 2021*



EXCERPT FROM *GERMANS IN MILWAUKEE: A NEIGHBORHOOD HIS- TORY*

Remains of Earliest German Settlements in Milwaukee Neighborhoods

Early Catholics from Cologne

In the early 1840s a group of mainly Catholic German immigrants from the rural areas around the Rhine River and Cologne (German *Köln*) acquired homesteads on heavily forested Wisconsin lands ceded by the Potawatomi Indians. Their original settlement became a farming hamlet on Howell near today's College Avenue. They called their hamlet New Coeln (or New Köln). The region where they settled had just been designated the Town of Lake by the Territory of Wisconsin, and would later be annexed to Milwaukee and become the neighborhood of New Coeln at the edge of Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport on the city's far south side. By 1847 the hamlet had approximately 50 settlers and a new Catholic parish.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church: An Incredible Survival



St. Stephen's Church in 1912, after the rebuilding following the 1908 fire. A later version of the church still stands in Milwaukee's southern suburb of Oak Creek. *Milwaukee Archdiocese.*

Situated among the farm acres of the German immigrants was a privately owned log cabin that was originally used for celebrating Mass once a month. Once settled, the landowners contributed logs for the construction of a formal church that was completed in 1847. By 1850 they added a rectory and school. The community named its parish St. Stephen's Catholic Church after St. Stephen, the first martyr of Christianity. In 1884 the parishioners rebuilt the church.

But St. Stephen's Catholic Church would experience a long chain of tragedies. It burned down on May 13, 1908, was reconstructed, and again burned down on January 1, 1926—this fire overcoming both church and rectory. Yet again the hardy German settlers voted to rebuild. The new church, with an altar and sanctuary carved from Slovenian white oak, survived another fire in 1979—this time due to arson.

Despite its great persistence, St. Stephen's Catholic Church eventually moved. Over the years, it had be-

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EXCERPT FROM *GERMANS IN MILWAUKEE*

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come a more diverse metropolitan parish and found itself engulfed in airport expansion and competition from nearby churches. Under pressure from the Archbishop to close, join another parish, or rebuild in Oak Creek (a suburb just south of Milwaukee), the parishioners chose the latter. No longer a pillar of its original New Coeln community, the Oak Creek church broke ground in 2008—but again not without misfortune. A month prior to its opening, lightning struck the bell tower. The church once again survived and was formally dedicated in November of 2009.

But returning to the early New Coeln neighborhood, the German settlers continued farming, and did so well into the late 20th century.

The Deusters, the New Coeln House, and Horses with Good Memories

The Deuster family played an important role in the New Coeln settlement. Emigrating from Blens, Rheinland, Preussen, Germany in 1844, they arrived in the United States and purchased acreage in the Town of Lake. Among their neighbors were the Bower, Klein, Platt, Eppenech, Kebler, and Lentz families. While most of the German settlers were Catholic, some, including the Kleins, were Lutherans. John Klein was an organizer of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1850. Like St. Stephen's, this parish later moved to Milwaukee's southern suburb of Oak Creek.

The patriarch of the Deuster family was John Hubert Deuster who was born in Germany in 1812. He married Anna Barbara Eppenech Deuster, and the couple had seven children. John Hubert Deuster was a key player in the founding of the first St. Stephen's Catholic Church. He not only contributed building logs, but he also donated a five-acre tract of his own land for its construction. Census records indicate that many of the Deusters worked as tailors as well as farmers.

The Deusters also played an important role in the development of another New Coeln institution. Originally called the New Cologne House, the Italianate-inspired saloon was built in the late 1840s. It originally functioned as a weighing station and inn for farmers traveling between Racine and Milwaukee counties. Stories circulated that many Racine farmers, who imbibed too much beer in the saloon after selling their produce in Milwaukee, fell sound asleep in their horse-drawn wagons on the way home to their farms. Fortunately, as the tales go, the horses knew the routes of their sleeping masters and were able to deliver them safely home. Other stories circulated over the years that the inn had become a brothel, was haunted, and served as a pharmacy for "quack medicine" on its second floor.

The Coeln House underwent many name changes over the years, including the New Cologne House, New Coeln House, New Coeln Housdance Hall, and Deuster's Saloon. Between the late 1860s and well into the 20th century, the Deuster family ran the inn. Joseph Deuster, son of John Hubert Deuster, maintained the establishment for decades. Born in Germany in 1835, he'd married Addie, had children, and owned a farmhouse on Clinton Street (today's South First Street). U.S. Census records show him still managing the saloon as a widow in 1900, with several of his grown children remaining at home. His oldest son Robert took over the bar from him. Joseph Deuster died in 1914 and is buried at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Today the original saloon is still in operation in the New Coeln neighborhood, at 5905 South Howell Avenue. Known as the Landmark 1850 Inn, it is Milwaukee's oldest functioning tavern.

Dogged but Doomed Perseverance

The New Coeln settlement was one of the most stable in Milwaukee's history. Among the German informants in Urban Anthropology's 12-year study of Milwaukee ethnic groups were several descendants of the original emigrants



The New Coeln House (ca 1912) on South Howell Avenue, today known as the Landmark 1850 Inn, is Milwaukee's oldest saloon. Landmark 1850 Inn.

from the Cologne area. They described the unwavering nature of their ancestors and their community.

"My great-grandmother spoke nothing but German. . . She was dead before I was born, but my mom said she was an old German woman, and she refused to speak any English. She was born German, and she came over here, and she was going to speak German until the day she died."

"They came from Cologne, although they were farmers so, I doubt if they actually came from the city. They must have come from the outlying areas. . . I believe it was my great, great, great-grandfather. He made the decision that everyone was going. So, there was no say in that with anybody else. He told everybody that was related to us that we're going to America. This is where we're going, and we're going to farm there. Essentially everybody that we knew packed up and came over here and settled. . . It had something to do with the lack of land [in Germany], and the rising prices, and that it was a lot cheaper over here."

"Well, up until my generation they were all farmers. And they also raised pigeons. [INTERVIEWER: Pigeons? Is there money in that?] No, they ate them. So, they raised a lot of pigeons for themselves and then they had like their own little garden plots where they'd get some of their stuff. But mostly it was just farming. Corn, basically."

However, change was inevitable for the German community. In marched Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport and a myriad of highways. The drive for 20th century transportation systems in New Coeln transformed the German farmlands into runways for planes and wide bands of concrete highways for vehicles. As late as the 1970s, some descendants of the original German community remained on their land, including members of the Deuster family. A *Milwaukee Journal* article in 1976 described their frustrations over exhaust fumes from the airport polluting their farm lands, brown rain, and vibrations from the planes and traffic interfering with their sleep. Ultimately most of the descendants of the original New Coeln community found new homes

Historic Mitchell: The more diverse neighborhood within old Polonia



The Historic Mitchell Street neighborhood once occupied a northern section of the Old South Side or Polonia, an area encompassing today's Kinnickinnic Avenue to 27th Street and Greenfield to Oklahoma. Polonia was originally developed by Polish immigrants.

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



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 Historic Mitchell.

The Polish language was preserved in the neighborhood well into the 1930s. 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.

Mitchell Street uniqueness

Yes, Mitchell Street was part of the Polonia. Churches and Polish culture were as important in the Mitchell Street area as they were in other Old South Side neighborhoods. Most notably was St. Stanislaus (see below), founded in 1866 as the first Polish church built in America (and erected on today's 5th and Mitchell in 1872). The Polish churches were more than places of worship; they were also centers of cultural life. While the area that is today's Historic Mitchell Street neighborhood was dominated by Poles, the neighborhood also hosted a fair number of other ethnicities in the early part of the 20th century, and many more in the latter half.



The early ethnic arrivals included Slovaks, Lithuanians, Slovenians, Bohemians, Dutch, Hungarians, and a sprinkling of Asians and Jews. There were enough Germans to justify the founding of two of their congregations on Mitchell—St. Anthony Catholic and St. Jacobi Lutheran.

The commercial corridor on Mitchell Street at one time was considered the neighborhood's "downtown" and tagged "the Polish Grand Avenue." However, the Milwaukee City Directory reveals a very diverse commercial corridor. Shops between 1930 and

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HISTORIC MITCHELL STREET

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1952 were owned by merchants of backgrounds including German Russians, Poles, Serbs, Taiwanese, Bohemians, Jews, Chinese, Canadians, Germans, Slovaks, Japanese, Italians, Lithuanians, and Hungarians.



Quotes from Urban Anthropology's oral history project:

"Mitchell Street was the big shopping store area. All the decorations were beautiful. Schusters was the big thing—it was where the wealthier shopped—and The Grand."

"When we first moved to Rogers, there were hardly any other Mexicans here. But everything I needed was on Mitchell—you had the Schuster's and the JC Penney and Goldmann's and the food places. But when everyone started driving to these places out on the highways and far from here, then these stores moved out of the neighborhood. And then I had to learn to drive."

"The different blends in the city changed the [Polish] language. Polish changed to reflect 'Mitchell St. Polish'—English words with Polish ends. On Mitchell Street there were so many Jewish vendors. They had Jewish backgrounds with Yiddish words, and they would twist those words and the Poles doing business with them would pick up those words too. When my dad went back to Poland, people didn't understand him."

Residents of note

Some of the residents in the Historic Mitchell neighborhood rose to greatness in their fields. Profiles follow.

Aloisius Szymanski (a.k.a. Al Simmons)

The son of Polish immigrants, Aloisius ("Al") Szymanski (see photo¹) grew up in the Historic Mitchell Street neighborhood. His family home throughout his life was at 1972 South 15th Place (previously American Avenue). Born in 1903, he was probably a fan of the sandlot darlings of the Old South Side, the Kosciuszko Reds. The Reds operated between 1909 and 1919 and drew thousands to their games. They won four championships during their decade in the City and Lake Shore Leagues. In the 4th grade, Al was spanked by his father because he insisted that he wanted to grow up to be a professional baseball player. His father eventually yielded, telling him he'd better become a great player. Aloisius Szymanski complied.

Al perfected his hitting skills and was signed to a contract in the minor leagues. When he found people having difficulty pronouncing his last name he modified it to Simmons. He was called up to the Philadelphia Athletics in 1954 and very quickly became a star. Simmons led the A's to the American League Pennant in 1929--followed by the World Series, where the A's defeated the Chicago Cubs.

Simmons married Doris Lynn Reader in 1934. The couple had one child.

Playing for the Athletics, White Sox, Braves Tigers, Reds, and the Senators throughout his career, Simmons remained a star. He completed his playing days with a phenomenal lifetime batting average of .334, became the American League batting champion twice, and was inducted into the Major League Hall of Fame in 1953.

Throughout his life Milwaukee remained Al's home. Working as a coach after his playing days ended, he returned to Milwaukee following a heart attack. Three years later, in 1956, he died in his hometown at age 53. He was interred at St. Adalbert's Cemetery.



Lorine Niedecker

Jonathan Williams, director of the Jargon Society, once wrote that "Lorine Niedecker is the most absolute poetess since Emily Dickinson." While she made her home on

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HISTORIC MITCHELL STREET

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Black Hawk Island in Wisconsin, in 1963 she met and married Albert Millen of the Historic Mitchell Street neighborhood, an industrial painter at Ladish Drop Forge. Lorine moved into the neighborhood. The couple first moved to a flat at 2042 South 6th Street and later to 539 West Maple. They stayed in the city during the week and headed for Black Hawk Island on weekends.

Niedecker met Millen on Black Hawk Island when Millen knocked at her door inquiring about a nearby cottage. The couple found they shared interests in the natural environment and married that year. Neidecker didn't even tell him she was a poet (or a nationally acclaimed one) until they were married.

During her Milwaukee years she wrote poetry on the neighborhood that mentioned the various landmarks, including the Basilica of St. Josaphat. Her books published after her move to the Old South Side included *T & G: The Collected Poems, 1936–1966*, *North Central*, and *My Life By Water*.

Niedecker was the subject of a 2011 biography, *Lorine Niedecker: A Poet's Life*, by Margot Peters. While researching the book, Peters visited the home on South 6th where Niedecker had once lived in the Historic Mitchell Street neighborhood in order to capture the ambience of the poet's Milwaukee years.

Arrival of Latinos

Mexican Americans are today the largest cultural group on the Old South Side that had once been Milwaukee's Polish stronghold. They began to settle in the Walker's Point area in the 1920s and slowly migrated south into the neighborhoods 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 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.

"What made it so easy for the Mexicans to fit into the neighborhood was we had so much in common with the Poles. What I noticed right away was that the Poles took their kids to the dances and weddings just like we did. We kind of raised our kids alike—to be a real part of the family, not just to be kids that had to be taken care of."

"What I see today with the Hispanics is that they are like the Poles. They have the stores and the businesses. But if they do well, they have no desire to flaunt their wealth. They stay low key like the Poles did in this neighborhood."

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.



Los Potrillos Western Wear

"There has been the changing of Mitchell Street. The Old South Side is coming back with lots of new businesses. Sears and Gimbels left, and now the family-run ones are taking over."

"Today you see shops owned by people from Latin America, India, Arab countries, and even Australia."

Today's population in the Historic Mitchell Street neighborhood is just over three-quarters Latino, and slightly over half of the area population speaks Spanish as their first language in the home. The remaining population is fairly evenly divided between European- and African-Americans, with a scattering of Asians, Arabs, and North American Indians.

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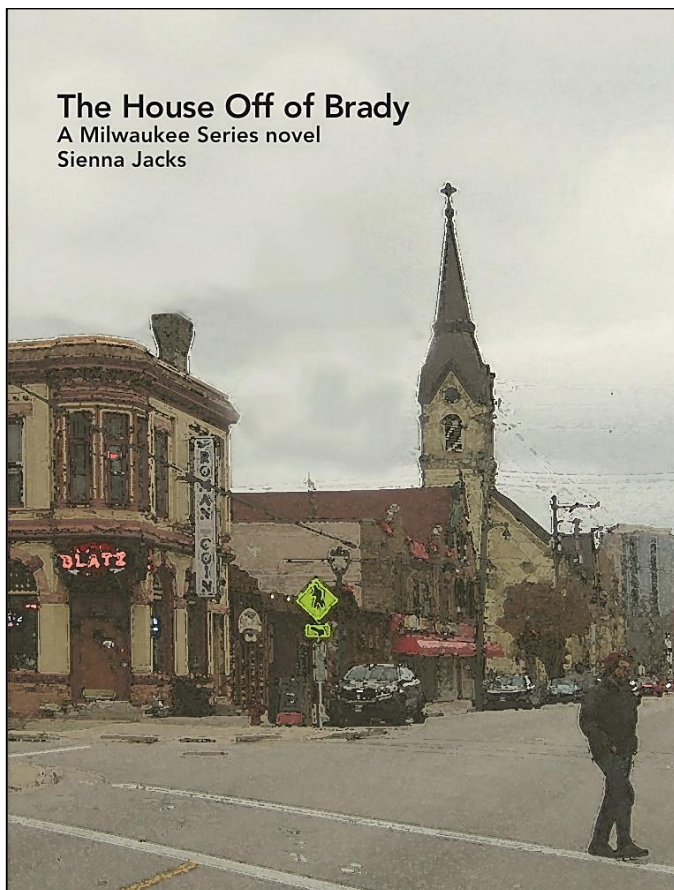
- Description of neighborhood
- Photos of neighborhood (and at times historical photos)
- List of important sites
- Recurring nearby outings
- Businesses in the history of the neighborhood
- Profiles of people who once lived there

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.

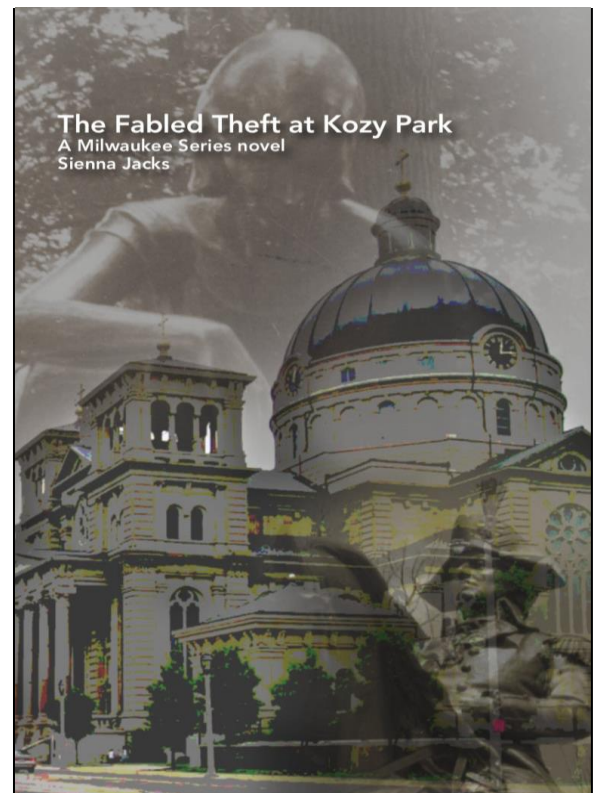
The House Off of Brady

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

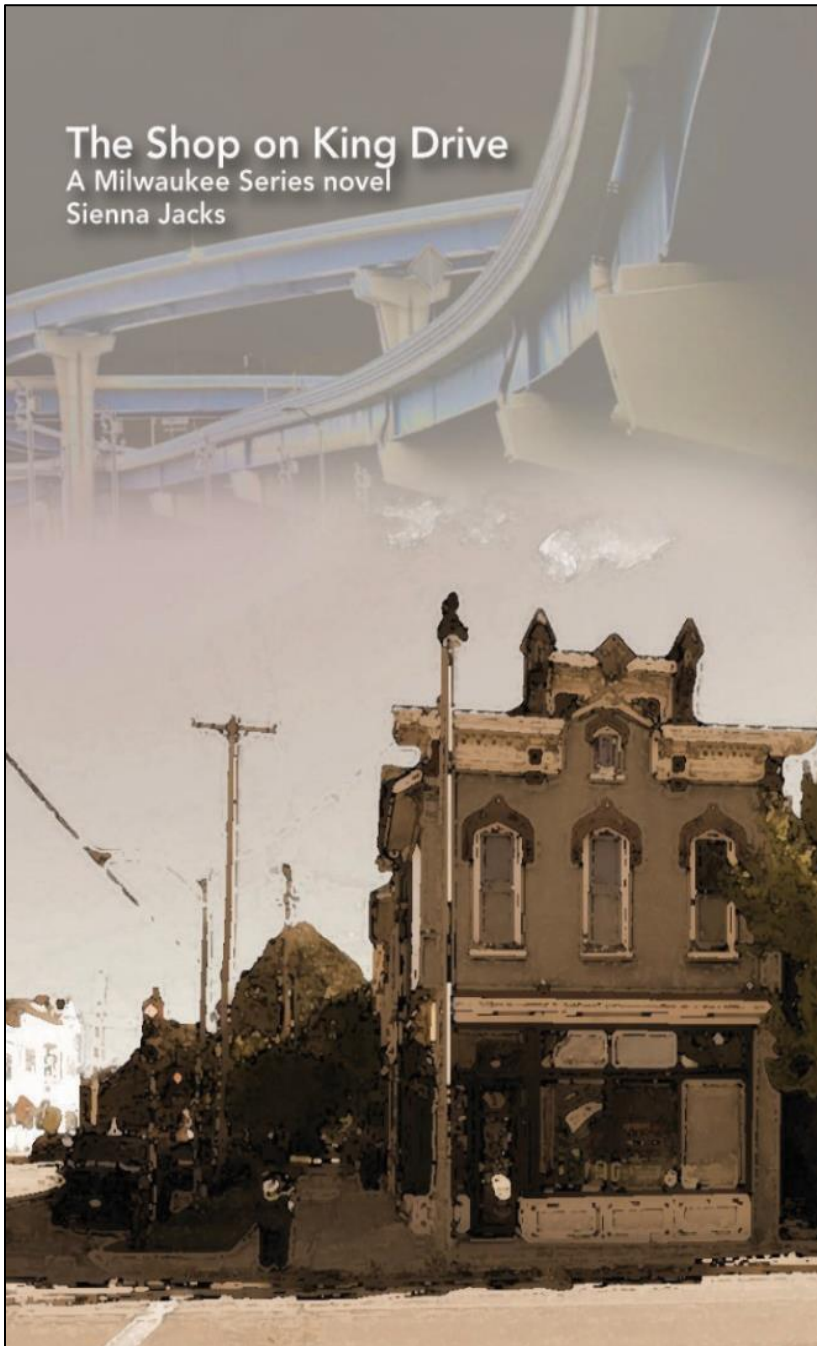
A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history,

Continued on Page 11

MYSTERY NOVELS

Continued from Page 10

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

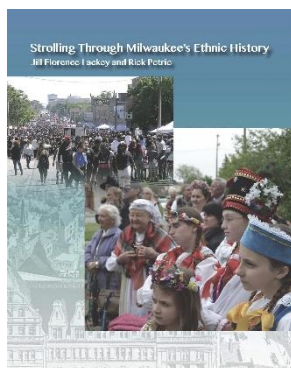
839 South 5th Street

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

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

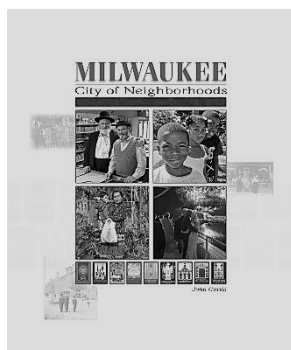


Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods



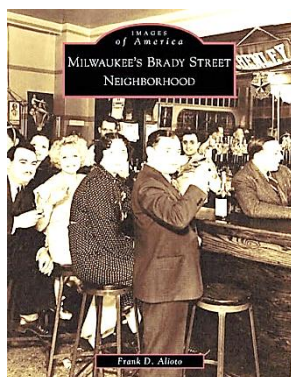
Strolling through Milwaukee's Ethnic History By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

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>



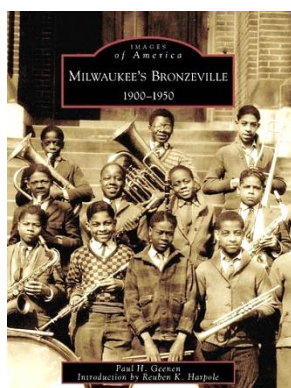
Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods By John Gurda

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

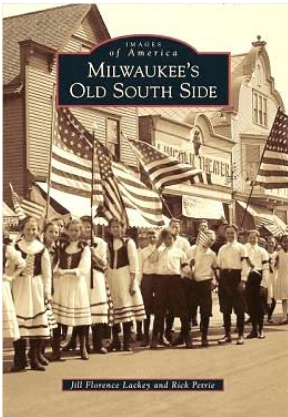
Currently, all of Sienna Jacks' novels have perfect five-star ratings from readers at Amazon.com

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>



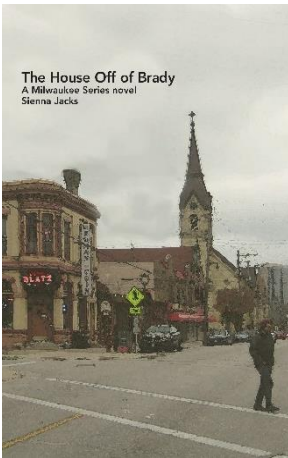
Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods (Cont.)



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

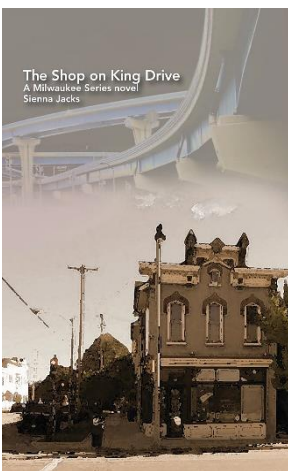
In the late 1800s, the Old South Side was developed by immigrant Poles, who became the dominant population for over 100 years. While other Milwaukee ethnic neighborhoods gradually dissipated in the mid-20th century because of assimilation pressures, freeway building, or urban renewal programs, the Old 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://mecahmilwaukee.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. Suspicions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>

Just released:

A new Sienna Jacks novel in the Milwaukee Series, entitled *The Fabled Theft 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://mecahmilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>

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.

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@currently.com and indicate the name of this publication.

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.

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@currently.com



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/>