

LINCOLN VILLAGE VOICE

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Lincoln Village's most interesting people

Ursula Borowiak

Her family fled Hitler



Ursula Borowiak, of 2543 S. 11th, has lived in Lincoln Village for 42 years. Her fascinating story represents challenges and experiences that connect the residents of this neighborhood. It inspires admiration for what families will do to give their children the best life they can.

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New neighbors

The return of the Sotos

The Sotos once rented in Lincoln Village. They liked the historic village, but decided to explore other Milwaukee neighborhoods. They described various problems they experienced with bad landlords, and decided it was time to become their own landlord. This Argentine and Puerto Rican family purchased a home in their favorite neighborhood, Lincoln Village. They now live at 719 W. Lincoln and describe being overjoyed with life across the street from Kosciuszko Park, and various summer activities for the kids.

Fascinating profile of Historic Lincoln Village seen in survey results

Urban Anthropology Inc. has been conducting a door-to-door survey of neighborhood residents. This survey will continue into 2010. Some of the preliminary results follow.

Ethnicity

Mexican Americans are the dominant cultural group in the neighborhood, but they are only one of over 100 nations in Lincoln Village. Many of the original Polish families are still here. Some examples of the 100 nations include Iran, Argentina, Blackfeet, Laos, Puerto Rico, the Czech Republic, and French Canada. North American Indians are among the more numerous groups.

Tenure in neighborhood

With approximately 200 surveys completed, one finding stands out. Families in Lincoln Village stay a long time. The average length of time in the neighborhood for homeowners is nearly 25 years. For renters it is over 10 years. Lincoln Villagers are a very stable population.

Art, art, art in Lincoln Village

The Old South Side Settlement Museum has a new exhibit of artists on the Old South Side. This includes some of the original Polish opera clubs, the photos of Roman Kwasniewski, the work of comic book artist Todd Gnacinski, and paintings from today's Juan Flores. Other art exhibits along Lincoln Avenue are at the Lincoln Village Business Association and Harris Bank.



First Gallery Night scheduled in Historic Lincoln Village

Our neighborhood artists will be featured on Gallery Night in July at the Old South Side Settlement Museum, 707 W. Lincoln. The public is invited to come and see the exhibits and enjoy appetizers, music, cool refreshments, and just hang out.

Schedule

The Gallery Night hours are Friday, July 24. 5 -9 pm, and Saturday, July 25, 10-4.

Ursula

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Ursula was born in northern Germany, in a Displaced Persons ("D.P.") camp outside of Hannover. Her father was Polish and her mother was German. The family was originally from Silesia, a region in western Poland.

Ursula speaks of how bravely her family, like many others, fled when Hitler sent his troops into Poland in 1939. After all, a Poland occupied by the Nazis wasn't the same Poland to her family. Fleeing alone, her mother made it to a train station, where a sympathetic conductor took her under his wing. Risking his job and maybe even his life, he helped her escape into Germany by hiding her in the coal cars of his train. The family was reunited at the D.P. camp soon after. The camp was not like a concentration camp, Ursula stresses; it was more like a refugee camp. People were free to come and go as they pleased.

Seeking a better life, the family moved to Wisconsin in 1951. Ursula faced prejudice as an outsider in school. She soon befriended a Mexican classmate, though, bonding over their shared experiences. Ursula and Leticia are still friends to this day. Lincoln Village has been Ursula's home for four decades and she has watched it grow and change. She has found her community in this neighborhood and loves it here.

Our sponsors

Lincoln Village has become a Healthy Neighborhood through these Urban Anthropology Inc. sponsors.



NIDA, in partnership with the City of Milwaukee



Lecture series begins with John Gurda



This summer Urban Anthropology is sponsoring a lecture series on the culture of the South Side. The lectures are held monthly in the backyard of the Old South Side Settlement Museum. John Gurda discussed the history of the neighborhood last month. The next lecture will be held July 22nd at 7pm and will feature Dr. Jill Florence Lackey discussing the

legacies of Lincoln and Kosciuszki on this neighborhood. The following lectures will be at 7pm on August 12th and Sept. 9. The lectures are free and there are wonderful appetizers, cold drinks, and sweets served during the lecture. It helps to call and reserve your seats, as every seat was filled for our opening lecture.

Program will help S. 8th and 9th Streets

Residents living between Lincoln and Arthur on 8th and 9th Streets will have an opportunity this summer to beautify their front yards, porches, or building facades. Through our sponsors (see left) Urban Anthropology Inc. will be able to match funds spent on these improvements, up to \$400. The owners of the property must approve all work, and original receipts must be presented for reimbursement. In addition, trees and flowers are available at no cost, through programs at Groundwork and the Cooperative Extension. Many homeowners will receive an idea book during the next two weeks. If you live on these blocks and have not yet been contacted about the opportunity, please contact us by email or phone (jflanthropologist@sbcglobal.net or 271-9417).

Old South Side Farmers Market opens July 26 at Kosciuszko Park



This year's farmers market will have more of a neighborhood flair, with over five vendors from Lincoln Village. Lincoln Village youth will provide produce from their salsa garden and market their own hand-made ethnic crafts. Expect the return of musician Lupita Behar Verbetom and her balloons, Polish musician Ray Krawszyk, and a puppet theater for children. If you have products you would like to sell at our market, contact us by email or phone (jflanthropologist@sbcglobal.net or 271-9417).