

## Neighborhood studies will result in new programs for Park Neighborhoods' residents

Since June, 2013, staff and interns at Urban Anthropology Inc. have been conducting door-to-door surveys in the Park Neighborhoods. Over 240 people were interviewed between June and November. These include (1) surveys about favorite events and places in Bay View (2) surveys of neighborhood satisfaction in western Bay View, Baran Park, Lincoln Village, and Forest Home Hills neighborhoods; and (3) branding surveys in Baran Park, Lincoln Village, and Forest Home Hills.

### Lincoln Village/Baran Park choices

When asked to define the vision they wanted for Baran Park and Lincoln Village in the next five years, residents' clear choice (among 13 options) was "It's a beautiful neighborhood of parks and churches." In order to address neighborhood beauty, Urban Anthropology Inc. will be working with some elected official, the Lincoln Village Business Association, and the Basilica of St. Josaphat to enhance the beauty of this area. The coalition will begin with the area defined as the Kosciuszko Circle, which includes the blocks around the park and 6th Street between Lincoln and Becher. Once the Kosciuszko Circle has been beautified, the coalition will move outwards in concentric circles to include all the rest of the two neighborhoods.



*Kosciuszko Circle project*

Much has already been done to beautify this area, including the restoration of the Kosciuszko Monument and the development of the Kosciuszko Square around the monument, in the park. This was done by a Restore the Kosciuszko Monument committee that raised over \$300,000 for this effort during the past five years. Lincoln Village resident Judy Ramazini was the vice chair of this committee.

In the next five years, the following beautification projects will be implemented in the Kosciuszko Circle project.

- New art will replace the deteriorating art on the former Youth Art Pillars in the park at 7th and Lincoln Avenue. The art has been completed by the South Side Artist Guild and is awaiting installation by a contractor.

*(continued on back page)*

## Funding cuts lead to discontinued services

### *Skating on the pond at Kosciuszko Park ends*

In 2014 Urban Anthropology will begin to experiencing the effects of funding cuts in its neighborhood service component. This means less time to serve residents. The executive director, Rick Petrie, is down to 13 paid hours a week. Staff at UrbAn will continue to volunteer to try and make up services, but some loss is inevitable. This includes the following.

- Ice skating at Kosciuszko Park, that had been held when the ice froze completely through, will be discontinued, beginning 2014.
- Office hours to serve residents will be cut from 20 a week to 15.

Urban Anthropology is doing everything in its power to try and raise money so future service cuts can be avoided.



## Urban Anthropology Inc now has permanent Spanish-speaking staff

### *Sponsored by program at UCC*

Beginning in 2014, Urban Anthropology Inc. (UrbAn) will have permanent Spanish-speaking staff. UrbAn has never been without a Spanish-speaking intern, consultant, or volunteer that was available to serve residents who were only Spanish speaking, but now the staff member will be permanent. This is due to a wonderful program sponsored by the United Community Center that, through W-2 resources, is able to send out bilingual

individuals to help community-based organizations like UrbAn.

The need for a permanent staff member that could speak Spanish arose when Urban Anthropology Inc. made the decision to apply for a TIN designation for the Lincoln Village neighborhood (see above article). While few, if any, residents in the first concentric circle are Spanish speaking only, residents in concentric circles for the future are.

Stay tuned next month for an introduction to UrbAn's new staff addition.

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- Beginning spring of 2014, Urban Anthropology Inc., in collaboration with the University Extension Community Gardens program, will apply for funds to install lovely terra cotta planters along the sidewalks of the Kosciuszko Circle and fill the planters with plants and flowers.
- Also beginning spring of 2014, Urban Anthropology Inc. will apply for funds to install a series of "little libraries" on the blocks of the Circle where residents can borrow and return books. The libraries will be built to look like area architecture.
- Beginning summer of 2014, Urban Anthropology, in collaboration with the South Side Artist Guild and University Extension master gardeners, will personally design new landscapes for all properties (where desired) in the Kosciuszko Circle and help residents install the landscapes.
- In addition, Urban Anthropology has applied for a TIN (Targeted Investment Neighborhood) designation for the improvement of facades in the Circle. This program provides City loans to property owners where up to 50 percent can be forgivable.
- Urban Anthropology also continues to seek funding for additional trees to be added to the Park. Thus far, this effort has resulted in 25 new tree plantings.
- Through Jose Perez and the Department of Public Works, a number of torn up streets, sidewalks, and curbs will be repaired.

### Forest Home Hill choices

When asked to define the vision they wanted for Forest Home Hills in the next five years, residents' clear choice (among 13 options) was "It's a fun neighborhood for kids." In order to improve the neighborhood environment for kids, Urban Anthropology Inc. will be working with elected officials Jose Perez, Peggy Romo West, and Bob Donovan to add youth programs to the area. Beginning 2014, the following initiatives will be taken.

- Urban Anthropology will work with St. Adalbert's Church to bring in youth programming to this site, including the Boys and Girls Scouts.
- Urban Anthropology will apply for funds to bring our Cultural Connect program to an after school site in Forest Home Hills.
- Urban Anthropology will apply for funds to bring the anti-delinquency program, Youth in a Different Light, to an after school site in Forest Home Hills.

### Western Bay View choices



During the summer and fall of 2013, Urban Anthropology Inc. conducted an events and places survey. This survey posed open-ended questions to residents of Bay View who have lived in the neighborhood for at least 15 years. The purpose of the survey was to seek topics for future tours, museums or museum exhibits, and events. Questions were asked about the most valued places and events in Bay View. One question even asked if there are haunted places.

Among the more interesting findings were resident responses to questions on the major historical events in Bay View, haunted places, and activities/services residents would like to see in the future. Residents indicated that the major historical events (in this order) were the Rolling Mill massacre (no surprise here), the eviction of the Kashubes from Jones Island, July 4th activities of the past (including talent shows), opening the Hoan Bridge, and Groppi and the Civil Rights Movement. Places carrying the reputation of being haunted included the White House tavern, Palmer House, and Hide House. Services and activities that residents wish to see in the future include programs that emphasize Bay View's history, block parties, and more super markets. The survey results prompt the following new activities in the future.

- Urban Anthropology Inc. is working with Allison Jornlin of Milwaukee Haunted Tours to bring a haunted tour to Bay View. UrbAn has shared our findings with her.
- Urban Anthropology Inc. will collaborate with the Bay View Neighborhood Association in the future to produce an event that celebrates a new aspect of Bay View History, and, working with the Bay View Historical Society, may produce a museum exhibit on this topic as well.

Anyone wishing to see the full results of this survey or any other can email Jill at [JFLanthropologist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:JFLanthropologist@sbcglobal.net).

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