

# LINCOLN VILLAGE VOICE

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*Lincoln Village's most interesting people*

## Long history may come to a sad ending



If you drive past Annette and Ann Kuligowski's home on 13<sup>th</sup> and Harrison you might think, "that's a nice red and white home by the river." But it is far more than that.

Three generations have lived there for over 50 years. The home has grown and changed with this mother and daughter, and is home base for the world renowned Krakow Polish Dancers. Annette founded the dance company in 1967 as a way to celebrate Polish culture. It was aptly

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## *New neighbors*

### Foreclosed property sold



The property at 2435 S. 8<sup>th</sup> was recently sold to a resident of Waukesha. The property is a duplex.

## 84 homes to be lost in KK flood management project

On Thursday evening, August 13, Dave Fowler from the MMSD announced the addresses of the 84 Lincoln Village homes that would be lost in the development of the Kinnickinnic River, to those owning the homes. Many Lincoln Village residents came to the meeting at the Kosciuszko Community Center to protest a planning process that has excluded residents. Over 30 people displayed chest signs that read, "Being told is not the same as helping decide."

For over 14 months the staff at Urban Anthropology Inc. has protested the development of the Lincoln Village neighborhood by those that do not reside here, and the refusal of the planning committee to invite residents to serve on this committee.

### New meeting scheduled

Staff at Urban Anthropology Inc. have requested a community meeting where residents will actually have input into the KK final plan. The Director of the MMSD, Kevin Shafer, will bring back consultants Hey & Assoc. to present alternatives to the community, and the community can vote on the alternatives. UrbAn will handle the voting process. However, UrbAn does not know if this meeting will offer alternatives (that the MMSD considers feasible) that will lead to fewer homes lost or whether the input that UrbAn staff will gather from residents at the meeting will actually be used by the MMSD in their final decision.

The meeting is Thursday, September 17, 5:30-7pm at the Kosciuszko Park gym.

## Youth Art Pillar unveiled at Park

Youth from Ace Boxing Club, Josaphat School, and Riley Elementary created the art pillar that was unveiled on August 31 at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to Kosciuszko Park. One side of the pillar depicted the Native history and prehistory in the area, another the early settlement of the Poles, and the third the migration of the Mexican Americans to the Lincoln Village area. Another art pillar will be developed depicting three other groups.



## Lincoln Village has large Native population

*Well, relatively large.* In modern times, the American Indian population in Milwaukee has never exceeded 2% of the city population. However, over 9% of Lincoln Village residents claimed some Native ancestry in UrbAn's recent survey. Among the nations named were Apache, Creek, Cherokee, Navaho, Cree, Ojibwe, Menominee, Stockbridge, Oneida, Ho Chunk, Blackfoot, MicMac, Choctaw, Zapotec, Ottawa, Lakota, Potawatomi, Teton, Taino, Kiowa, Aztec, and Mixtec

## Sad ending?

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located in the heart of Milwaukee's Polish community at the time.

In March 2009 Annette and Ann read in the newspaper that their home might be taken from them as part of the Kinnickinnic River development project.

Shocked, disbelieving, and heartbroken, they started attending every meeting and were still offered no opportunity for involvement except the chance to ask questions. 50 years of life, love, work, pride, and identity were to be erased just like that.

"Before they added the cement slabs we had a beautiful natural river AND a house," explains Annette. "So why do they need to remove our house to simply take out that same cement?" She understands the need to make repairs, but does not believe that homes should need to be removed for simple river maintenance. "And they aren't even taking care of the green space we DO have!" Annette exclaims.

Ann and Annette plan on attending the KK meeting on September 17, 5:30 at the Kosciuszko Park gym.

## Our sponsors

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



NIDA, in partnership with the City of Milwaukee



Lecture this Wednesday, September 9, 7pm on the paleo-Indian prehistory on the old south side. Backyard museum at 707 W. Lincoln

## Ace Boxing is more than a sports club

For three generations the Ojibwe Porter family has run Ace Boxing. Frank Porter continues this tradition by also working without a salary. Frank has also taken the girls and boys in a new direction. If residents wonder why the streets around Kosciuszko Park look so tidy, it is because these youth go out every month and pick up the litter.



## Summary of Lincoln Village survey results

For the past five months, the staff at Urban Anthropology Inc. have been conducting a scientific survey of Lincoln Village. They have gone door-to-door to residents on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and/or Saturdays, asking them for their input on a variety of topics. For several months, the Lincoln Village Voice will be publishing results. Here are a few.

- When asked their ethnic origins (they could report more than one), residents reported 106 nations (to date). Of the backgrounds reported, 50% were Latin American, 36% were European, 9% were Native American, 4% African/African American, 1% Middle Eastern, and 1% Asian or South Sea Island.
- 70% of the properties in the clustered survey area were owner occupied. Of the absentee landlords, the largest group lived in the southwest suburbs or southwest Milwaukee (where the Poles and, more recently, Mexicans have been migrating)
- When asked what they would like to see on the KK River banks, the top choices were picnic areas, a bike path, and community gardens. Of the choices selected, only 4% were condos or apartment buildings.

## Want to own a home in Lincoln Village?



Come to a home buying workshop at the Kosciuszko Park Center gym on Thursday, September 10, 6-8pm. Learn how to access special loan products, grant assistance, home improvement matches, and the benefits of buying a foreclosed home. Pre-register for this workshop at HRI at 461-6330