

Approximate boundaries:
N-N-Kinnickinnick River; S-E. Morgan Ave;
E-E-Lake Michigan, W-I-94

SOUTHEAST SIDE *Bay View*

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Bay View is a large and densely populated neighborhood. There are a variety of housing styles. The larger and more elaborate homes are found in the eastern section of the neighborhood near the lake and around South Shore Park. In other areas of Bay View, there are a number of one-story houses that were built in the 19th century.



Today's neighborhood-
Avalon Theater

Bay View has a plethora of parks. One is South Shore, which features a pavilion that was built in 1934 and a large ballroom for rent for receptions. The park is also home to the South Shore Yacht Club, one of the largest yacht clubs in Wisconsin. Another park is Humboldt, one of the city's first parks. The park covers 70 acres and has many concerts during the year as part of the "Chill on the Hill" series. A third park is the 20-acre Kinnickinnic, just east of Humboldt Park. A fourth park is Beulah Brinton, a large field adjacent to the Beulah Brinton Community Center. A fifth park is Zilman, a small open area on the corner of Kinnickinnic Avenue and Ward Street. A sixth park

is Bay View Park at 3120 S. Lake Drive that includes the Oak Leaf Trail.

Bay View has even more green space at Seminary Woods at the neighborhood's southeastern border. This is the remnant of the forest that once covered Milwaukee County. Bay View has many churches. It has over 10 times more religious organizations than the average for similar areas in Wisconsin.

HISTORY

According to John Gurda in *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods*, Bay View is one of the most complete neighborhoods in the city (p. 429).

Tucked into a quiet corner of the city, it has a full range of businesses, industries, housing types, parks, places of worship, and even sub-neighborhoods—all set on the shores of one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. Once legally autonomous, Bay View has preserved much of its original sense of independence. Once a village, it has kept the leisurely pace and strong sense of community more commonly found miles away from a major city.

And years before 1879 when Bay View was incorporated as a village it was--well--a company.

Early populations

Bay View was founded by Detroit capitalist, Eber Brock Ward. He created the Milwaukee Iron Company in 1868 on 30 acres of land that would later be part of Bay View. While Ward never lived in the area, he built modest houses and barracks for his workers that were within walking distance of the mill. Many of the first employees were imported by Ward from Great Britain because they possessed skills in iron production. These English, Scots, and Welsh immigrants brought an early British flavor to an area that was dominated by Germans, and later by Poles. As Poles began to settle in the neighborhoods just west of the mill, they also joined the mill workforce.

If the Milwaukee Iron Company was the source of income for most residents living nearby, it also became the source of conflict. In 1886, workers began demanding workforce

changes—in particular, an eight-hour day without reduction in pay, compared to the 10-to-12-hour days they were working. On May 5, nearly 1,500 workers—mostly Poles—went on strike and marched on the rolling mill. They were met by state militia who opened fire, killing an estimated seven strikers. This day became the bloodiest labor disturbance in Wisconsin’s history, and was a catalyst for Milwaukee’s emergent Socialist movement.

The year after the tragic strike, a majority of the residents of the growing village of Bay View voted to join the City of Milwaukee, and hence access the city’s services such as running water, and street lights. Within a few years other ethnic groups joined the Bay View population—many attracted to employment opportunities at the mill. Most notably were the Italians in the early 1900s. Unlike the Sicilians who were arriving around the same time and settled mainly in the Third Ward, these Italians were from the mainland of Italy. A “little Italy” grew around the mill, mostly north of Russell Avenue. One of the Italian grocery stores was Groppi’s Market, run by a family that would later beget Father James Groppi, a major civil rights leader in Milwaukee. See his resident profile on the following pages.

Business in Bay View

Kinnickinnic Avenue (“KK”) was once an Indian path and was named after the river to which it leads. Kinnickinnic quickly became a major commercial corridor for Bay View. Below is a list of businesses that operated on KK in 1933, at the height of the Great Depression. Like many Milwaukee neighborhoods, the merchants on this corridor were much more diverse than the residents they served. What is surprising is that not one of the shopkeepers whose records could be found was Polish, despite the dominance of Polish business on nearby Lincoln Avenue during these years. See the [Lincoln Village neighborhood](#). Also see the summary and notes below.

<i>Addresses on KK in the Bay View area in 1933</i>	<i>Names of businesses, apartments, offices, organizations from the Milwaukee City Directory</i>
2301	Bay View Tog Shop
2305	Vacant
2306	Prentice Drug Store
2307	Vacant
2309	Vacant
2311	Alma E. Balfanz Florist
2312	Independent Food Market
2313	Arthur G. Gates Dentist
2315	English Woolen Mills Tailors
2318	Vacant
2320	Grange Building
2321	Matzen Fuel Company Peacock Cleaners Inc.
2322	Radio Service Inc.
2325	Vacant
2327	Lindberg Inc. The Restaurant

<i>Addresses on KK in the Bay View area in 1933</i>	<i>Names of businesses, apartments, offices, organizations from the <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i>
2329	Samuel G. Keller Dentist
2331	Vacant
2335	Vacant
2343	Jewell P. Massaro Barber
2348	Vacant
2352-2354	Bay View Central Market Meats
2355	Max B. Margoles Restaurant
2358	Herman W. Wedemeyer Meats
2363	Martin DuMex Insurance
2365	Kay Beauty Shop
2366	Kaiser's Drug Store
2369	Milton Klopf Jeweler John A. Klopf Optometrist
2371	Vacant
2373	Bay View Key Shop
2375	Bay View Tire and Supply Company
2376	Gibbs Violin Studio
2383	Himmelfarb's Inc. Dry Goods Store Wisconsin College of Music
2391	Samuel Massruha Grocery
2394	Leslie Coulson Grocery
2398	Fred W. Kern Tavern
2401	Gerling Brothers Coal
2408	Charles Siegel Shoe Repair
2410	Vacant
2411	Peter's Tailor Shop
2412	George C. Gerhardt Dentist
2414-2416	Bay View Recreation Company Restaurant
2415	Thomas N. Schnetz Physician Percy E. Schnetz Dentist
2418	Wadham's Oil Company Filling Station
2421	South Shore Coal and Ice Inc.

Addresses on KK in the Bay View area in 1933	Names of businesses, apartments, offices, organizations from the <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u>
2425	Andrew Glavas Barber
2432	William J. Hertz Filling Station
2433	John T. Scheuerell Undertaker
2445	Earl X. Thompson Physician
2459	David J. Sutton Inc. Autos
2469	Joseph Zenker Florist
2473	Avalon Theater
2476	Rosalie Beauty Shoppe
2479	Morey P. Horwitz Furriers
2483	Avalon Pharmacy Goldwin Laboratories Medicines
2486	J.S. Neiman and Sons Undertakers
2510	Otjen E. Otjen Lawyers Theodor Otjen Company Real Estate Pioneer Building and Loan Association
2514	William Meredith Meats
2519	Marian Lewis Physician John P. Zentner Dentist
2526	Milwaukee Fire Department Company No. 11
2535	Masonic Hall
2549	Cook's Super Service Station
2557	Clifford Schneider Physician
2560	Charles J. Baumann Dentist
2570	Paul G. Hankwitz Physician
2571	Bay View Apartments
2605	St. Jucas Evan Lutheran Church
2626	John N. Weber Hat Cleaner Joseph F. Eisch Tailor
2627	Alvin C. Schroeder Drugs
2628	Bay View Cleaners Tailors and Furriers
2631	Fred H. Mierendorf Men's Furnishings

<i>Addresses on KK in the Bay View area in 1933</i>	<i>Names of businesses, apartments, offices, organizations from the <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i>
2631A	Melvin L. Meredith Real Estate Harold W. Hein Dentist
2632	Triangle Lunch
2633	Charles J. Petri and Sons Grocery
2635	Corner Sweet Shop Confectioners Gervais Evans Dentist
2637	Peter Wolfsen Furniture
2640	Louis Schneider Drugs
2641	Harold L. Stolzel Bakery
2642	James H. Biller Physician
2643	Michael Stanich Meats
2644	Mrs. Dell R. Biller Women's Furnishings
2645	Elliott E. Reichmann Tavern
2646	George H. Mussmann Confectioner
2647	Apartments
2648	A & P Tea Company
2649	Hass Food Market
2652	Mirth Food Shop
2654	Abraham Keller Shoes
2657	Peter Pan Soda Grill
2658	National Tea Company Grocery
2659	Michael Herro Tavern
2660	Bay View Hat and Beauty Shoppe
2662	Lorenz Hautz Barber
2663	Frank H. Lucas Barber and Real Estate
2664	Carl Von Hof Restaurant
2671	Bay View Building & Loan Association
2671A	Clarence J. Bullock Lawyer Tippecanoe Building & Loan Association Samuel O. Busse Dentist
2674	Radio Sales Company
2675	Arthur J. Strehlow Hardware

<i>Addresses on KK in the Bay View area in 1933</i>	<i>Names of businesses, apartments, offices, organizations from the <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i>
2676	Myrtle's Food Shop Confectioners
2677	Otto Anderson Popcorn
2677A	Arthur J. Strehlow Tinner
2678	The Wedge Restaurant
2680	David Taxey Department Store
2681	Plaza Lunch
2685-2687	Bay View National Bank Building First Wisconsin National Bank, Bay View office
2686	Dr. Sidney M. Smith
2687	Edward J. Pinter Dentist Paul J. Niland Physician
2689	John J. O'Hara Physician Roman J. Stollenwerk Dentist
2690	Sidney M. Smith Physician Herbert H. Smith Lawyer
2691	Parker Cleaners and Dyers
2693	Fred A. Scheinert Baker
2695	Joseph Schandelmeier Barber
2697	Paul L. Grunau Plumber AAA Ace Sprinkler Company Fire Protection
2698	A.Gibson Real Estate
2699	Standard Oil Company Filling Station
2717	Joseph P. Daalman Grocery and Meats
2720	Peter Lesch Painter
2723	Milton Disch Grocery
2723A	Alvin F. Disch Auto Repair
2729	Theodore A. Kern Service Station
2737	Alvo Drug Company
2739	A & P Tea Company
2741	Edward B. Schley Meats
2745	Edward F. Zunk Furs
2780	Trinity M.E. Church
2797	Bay View Auto Repair/Bay View Auto Sales

Summary and notes from U.S. Census and other public records:

- The large number of times that businesses have “Bay View” in the title reflects the neighborhood’s history as a village.
- KK had far more store front vacancies than other Milwaukee business corridors in the early 1930s.
- As in most Milwaukee neighborhoods prior to 1970, few shopkeepers had attended high school. Most were also immigrants or children of immigrants. Most lived at the same addresses as their shops, or just blocks away.
- Also, as in most Milwaukee neighborhoods, few of the professionals on the street (e.g., physicians, dentists) were immigrants or children of immigrants.
- Compared to today, KK had about the same number of churches and restaurants, far more grocery stores, and far fewer bars in 1933. The street also had far fewer bars than other Milwaukee commercial corridors in the early 1930s.
- Alma Balfanz, the florist, was an anomaly on the street. Not only was she a woman in business, but neither she nor her parents were immigrants. Before he retired, her father Adolph had also run a flower store.
- Jewell P. Sassaro, the barber, was the son of Italian immigrants.
- Max B. Margoles, with the restaurant, was a Russian immigrant (some records have him born in Persia)—no doubt Jewish. In the 1920s he had operated a saloon. Prohibition may have altered the course of his business.
- Herman Wedemeyer, the butcher, was an immigrant from Germany.
- Martin DuMez, the insurance man, was the third of his generation in the insurance business. His grandfather, a Dutch immigrant, and his father had been also.
- Periodically, the Wisconsin College of Music consolidated with the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. In 1985 the college division was discontinued.
- Leslie Coulson, the grocer, was the son of an English immigrant.
- Andrew Glavas, the barber, was an immigrant from Yugoslavia. His precise ethnicity could not be found. The surname’s origin is Croatian and sometimes Serbian.
- John T. Scheverell, the undertaker, was the son of a French immigrant.
- David J. Sutton, the auto dealer, was the grandson of immigrants from England.
- The Avalon Theater has recently re-opened on Kinnickinnic Avenue, after a long dormant period.
- Morey P. Horwitz, the furrier, was a Jewish immigrant from Russia.
- William Meredith, the butcher, was the son of immigrants from England.
- Fred H. Mierendorf, with the men’s wear shop, was the son of German immigrants. He had a long tenure on the street.
- Charles J. Petri, the grocer, was the son of a German immigrant. He grew up in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.
- Peter Wolfsen, with the furniture store, was a German immigrant. He’d been an upholsterer before expanding into furniture sales.
- Harold L. Stolzel, the baker, was born in Indiana. He was the son of a German immigrant.
- Michael Stanich, the butcher, was a Slovakian immigrant from Austria.
- George H. Mussmann, the confectioner, was raised by a widowed mother who earned her living doing ironing. She was the daughter of German immigrants.

- Frank H. Lucas, with the barber and real estate company, was a German immigrant. He was one of the few merchants on the street that had not only completed high school, but had a year of college as well.
- David Taxey, with the department store, began with a dry goods store and expanded. He was the son of Russian immigrants—probably Jewish.
- Fred A. Scheinert, the baker, was the son of German immigrants. He had his bakery on KK since at least 1924.
- Joseph Schandelmeier, the barber, was from Iowa and was the grandson of a German immigrant.
- Paul J. Grunau, the plumber, was the son of German immigrants.
- Joseph P. Daalman, the grocer, was also the son of German immigrants.
- Peter Lesch, the painter, was born in Germany.
- Milton Disch, the grocer, shared his building with Alvin Disch, his younger brother. The siblings' mother Ida had been the product of German and French immigrant parents.
- Theodore A. Kern, with the filling station, was the son of German immigrants. He had owned a tire store in 1920.
- Edward B. Schley, the butcher, had owned a soft drink parlor before opening his butcher shop. He was the son of German immigrants.
- Edward F. Zunk, the furrier, was also the son of German immigrants.

Current populations (as of 2021)

Some of the ethnic groups that were key to the early development of Bay View are still present in the neighborhood. According to the latest census, there are over 1,300 residents of English, Scottish, and Welsh descent, in a neighborhood over 14,000. The Italians number over 1,000. Germans are the largest European ethnic group in Bay View, followed by the Poles. The Latino population is growing with over 1 in 7 residents with ancestry from Mexico and other Latin American and Caribbean areas.

Social class is also diverse in Bay View. Approximately one-quarter of residents fall into the lower middle income-stratum (with annual household incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000) and one-quarter fall into the upper middle stratum (with annual household incomes between \$75,001 and \$150,000), with the remaining residents in the middle-, upper-, and low-income strata. Nearly 4 in 10 residents over 25 have a bachelor's degree, which is significantly higher than Milwaukee and Milwaukee Metro averages. Homeownership is also high in Bay View compared to Milwaukee overall, with approximately 4 in 10 property units being owned.

There are ample employment opportunities available in Bay View with industries such as Klement Sausage, Milwaukee Forge, Wrought Washer, and in larger businesses such as Target and Pick 'n Save, as well as in the scores of smaller businesses along Howell, Chase, and Kinnickinnic Avenues. The leading occupations reported by Bay View residents are in the fields of administration, management, and sales.

Bay View residents have abundant opportunities to socialize. The neighborhood has nearly 3 times more bars, nearly 4 times more gyms, over 5 times more cafes, and nearly 14 times more yoga studios than the average for similar areas in Wisconsin.

INTERESTING NEIGHBORHOOD FEATURES

- **Avalon Theater**, at 2473 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., a newly restored theater (see photo).
- **South Shore Park Pavilion**, in South Shore Park, featuring a ballroom.
- **South Shore Yacht Club**, at 2300 E. Nock St. on the lakefront.

- **Beulah Brinton House** (and the Bay View Historical Society), at 2590 S. Superior St., the home of a woman most responsible for acclimating new immigrants to the town of Bay View in the late 19th century.
- **Pryor Ave iron well**, at S. Kinnickinnic and Pryor, an early artesian water well built in 1882 and named for its high iron content (see photo).
- **Groppi's Market**, at 1441 E. Russell Ave., today run by the Balistreri/Hehring family that also operates many Sendik's stores.
- **Bay View Community Center**, at 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.
- **Puddlers Hall**, at 2461 S. St. Clair St., built in 1873 by the Sons of Vulcan (later became the United Steel Workers) and named after the skilled workers of the Milwaukee Iron Company.

Bayview resident profile

Photos and additional information were found in public records in Ancestry.com.

James Groppi

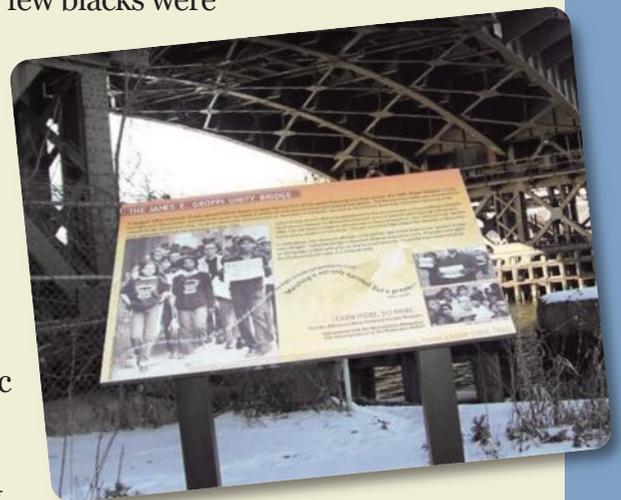
James Groppi grew up at 2507 S. Wentworth in Bay View. He was the son of Italian immigrants, Georondo and Georgina (nee Magri) Groppi, and the eleventh of their twelve children. His father owned a grocery store that stands today as Groppi's Market. Georondo and Georgina had arrived in the United States in 1917 and 1913 respectively.

Upon graduating from Bay View High School, James enrolled at Mount Calvary Seminary (1950–1952) in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. During his seminary years he began developing empathy for poor African Americans. Ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1959, the now Father Groppi was assigned to St. Veronica's Church and later moved to St. Boniface, which had a predominantly black congregation. It was then that he began taking up civil rights causes, including participating in the 1963 March on Washington and the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march.

It was his later role as advisor to the NAACP Youth Council that got him active in the movement for fair housing in Milwaukee. At the time, the former African American community of Bronzeville in Milwaukee's central city had just lost over 8,000 homes to freeway building and urban renewal. And outside of the Near North Side, few blacks were successful in purchasing homes or renting flats.

African Americans were urgently in need of housing. While black Common Council member Vel Phillips had repeatedly proposed a fair housing bill before the body, the bill had consistently failed to attract votes.

During the spring and summer of 1967, Groppi and the NAACP Youth Council marched for 100 days, demanding fair housing. The ultimate march involved crossing the 16th Street Viaduct to the mainly Polish South Side—an area that had been particularly problematic for African Americans who were seeking housing. Ultimately the climate began to change locally and an open housing law was enacted in Milwaukee, following the passage of the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968.



Father Groppi remained active in many other efforts including the Welfare Mothers March to Madison in 1969. Often unable to coordinate his mission with that of the Roman Catholic Church, Groppi left the priesthood in 1976. Later he married longtime civil rights activist Margaret Rozga, who became an English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha, often writing about her civil rights experiences.

Groppi took other work after leaving the priesthood, including becoming a bus driver for the Milwaukee County Transit System—a job he held until his death of brain cancer in 1985. Groppi is buried at Mount Olive Cemetery. The 16th Street Viaduct is named in his honor (see photo¹).

RECURRING NEARBY OUTINGS (Health conditions permitting)

In the following section the website addresses have been eliminated due to technical problems with the various ways different web browsers display PDF files. Website information on these events is available through the book *Milwaukee Area Outings on the Cheap*. See below.

BASKETBALL

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Wed. 1-3pm	Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay St.	Basketball in community center. (414) 481-2494	Families, free

ROZGA FAMILY'S OLD SOUTH SIDE SETTLEMENT MUSEUM

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
2-4 pm with reservation, email JFLanthropologist@currently.com	707 W. Lincoln Ave.	Museum with exhibits of Old South Side history up to current date	Free with groups of 2 or more

SOUTH SHORE FARMERS MARKET

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mid Jun.-late Oct., Sat. 8am-12pm	South Shore Park, 2900 South Shore Dr.	Fresh produce from Wisconsin farmers, baked goods, art, crafts, music, demonstrations.	Free

BILLIARDS

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-3pm	Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay St.	Billiards in community center. (414) 481-2494	Families, free

BAY VIEW BASH

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mid Sep., Sat. 11am-10pm	Between Potter and Clement on Kinnick-innic Ave.	A Community Festival of Food, Art, Music, Crafts, Books, and Community Organizations.	Free

CARD PLAYING CLUB

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-3pm	Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay St.	Organized card playing in community center. (414) 481-2494	Families, singles, seniors, free

WALKING TOUR—BAY VIEW

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late May-mid Oct, Sun.'s 1pm	Meets by the Bublr bike station at Zillman Park, 2180 S Kinnickinnic Ave.	Opportunity to learn the story of how Bay View began with a patchwork of industry and diverse group of immigrants and grew to the charming neighborhood you see today.	\$10 adults, \$2 kids 7-17, free kids 6 and under

SOUTH SHORE FROLICS

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mid Jul., Fri. 4-10:30pm, Sat. 11am-10:30pm, Sun. 9am-10pm	2900 S. South Shore Dr.	A weekend long fest hosted by Bay View Lions Club.	Free

OUTDOOR ICE SKATING—BAY VIEW

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Winter, only when ice is 6 inches thick	Humboldt Park, 3000 S Howell Ave.	Ice skating for adults and children (heed "thin ice" signs).	Free

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
July 4, 9am-10pm	Humboldt Park, 3000 S. Howell Ave.	Parade, music, talent show, children's entertainment, fames, fireworks.	Free

BEULAH BRINTON HOUSE

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Every third Sat. of the month, 1-4pm	2590 S. Superior St.	Tour the home of a woman most responsible for acclimating new immigrants to the town of Bay View in the late 19th century.	Free

UMOS MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mid Sep., Sun. 12-8pm	UMOS Center, 2701 S. Chase Ave.	Festival of food vendors, beer, live music, craft vendors, everything Mexican.	Free

These outings are provided courtesy of MECAH Publishing. To access the book that provides nearly 600 outings—all priced under \$10—for the entire Greater Milwaukee area, go to <http://mecamilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

Quotes from the 2013 Bay View Reflection Study conducted by Urban Anthropology Inc.¹

How has Bay View changed since you or your ancestors first moved to Bay View?

1. Changes in the population			
Movement away from working class families toward younger, single professionals		Population has become more diverse/less diverse	
“There’s more noise from people out at night at the bars. There’s more <u>hipsters</u> around. Before it was mostly a working-class community.”	“There’s lots of young people are around now—a lot of <u>singles and child-less couples</u> , with fewer families. It’s not better or worse because of them. It’s just different.”	“It was not so diverse when I moved here. It was mostly working-class white families. It has become <u>more diverse</u> racially and with more members of the gay community.”	“It is actually <u>less diverse</u> . With the Bay View Rolling Mill, signs had to be posted in at least seven languages. . . I remember the presence of many European groups.”
2. Changes in the commercial district			
“When I was growing up, we were not allowed to be on this corner (Lincoln & KK) because it <u>was considered a dangerous</u> neighborhood. Looking back on it now, even back then it was ridiculous to think that and it just shows how perception can become a reality for decades. What’s nice about the new families and the new blood that has come in is they see it through a different lens and they saw it worthy of investment.”		“[There’s] <u>more choices</u> locally to buy locally grown, quality groceries, a diversity of locally owned dining establishments and a wealth of social gathering spaces/activities like the South Shore Farmer’s Market.”	
3. Changes in public events			
“We’ve had more events recently and more things that bring the community together.”		“Today, you’ve got Chill on the Hill, Bay View Bash, and Bike Races. There’s been improvements in the lakefront bike/ running paths. There’s the South Shore Farmers market.”	

¹ Urban Anthropology Inc. complies with human subjects’ requirements of formal research and asks informants to sign informed consent forms that stipulate anonymity, hence names are not provided with the quotes.

What do you miss the most about Bay View's past?

1. Neighbors knowing neighbors

"I don't know, maybe that we don't know all our neighbors as well as we used to. Cause I can remember when I was little that we knew everybody on this block everybody across the street and everybody down the alley which means we knew the names of everybody on the block. I think since everybody went off to work the mothers weren't home anymore, and I miss that. It's nice if you know your neighbors."

"So many families whose kids have grown up here have purchased properties in the neighborhood. They continue to believe that this is the right place to raise their families now. Social media, has been a great way to connect with neighbors, but also has stirred up in many of us this feeling of insecurity. While it is great to stay informed, so often lately there are more and more reports of crime – and I miss that sense of safety that I had when we moved into Bay View."

2. The Avalon Theater [before it re-opened]

"The Avalon had the Mighty Wurlitzer, the last of its kind of organ. It was made up of numerous other theatre organs dating back to the early 1900's. It is now located at Pipe Organ Pizza."

"One [film] was like the headliner, they called them the A and B movies—that was the terminology. Because the A was like the headliner and the B was one they just threw in there. And between movies there'd be some cartoons."

3. Corner grocers

"There used to be a lot of little stores and mom/pop restaurants. I remember a little grocery place on, I think, Burrell. Two old men would wait on you and carve up ham and turkey for you. They had a candy store counter. It was cute."

"The Triangle Store on Delaware and Oklahoma. Little grocers that were really grocers—not beer depots."

Are there historical events that seem to define Bay View?

1. The Rolling Mill massacre

"It would be impossible not to answer the Rolling Mill because we commemorate this every year. John Gurda comes out. Mayor Zeidler used to come out. And this is the way it should be."

"You'd never find anyone that has lived more than a year in Bay View that is not familiar with at least most of the main facts of the Rolling Mill massacre."

2. The fishing village and its eviction from Jones Island

"Well, this was earlier, but when they evicted all the Kashubes from Jones Island in the 20s and onward and they came to Bay View to live. I think many of them still live there."

"We have the Kaszube Park picnic every year. The Kaszubs came from surrounding areas of Poland and . . . they lived on Jones Island which was an island and they were fishermen and their descendants still have a picnic there every year and now the park is on Jones Island. I don't think Kaszube Park is much bigger than our back yard and every year they have picnic there."

3. July 4th activities

"Definitely the frolics, the Fourth of July festivities, the Old-fashioned cheesy talent shows at the parks that were very family oriented, the big band music we were forced to listen to as kids. Things like that."

"The one thing that was really, really great was the Fourth of July parade. It was blocks long and all the kids would decorate their bikes, decorate their wagons. I have pictures of my brothers, sisters, cousins and I, aunts and uncles too."

4. Opening the Hoan Bridge

"There were lots of divided opinions on the Bridge to Nowhere and whether it should ever be opened and it said something about people of Bay View. It took five years for it to be opened."

"[A big event was] getting the bridge and any of that freeway construction that came in."

5. Groppi and the Civil Rights Movement

"Not so much events, but people, like James Groppi and his work with the civil rights in Milwaukee."

"Father Groppi was always marching around and teenagers, you know, they didn't understand, understand the damage they were doing. They would say things like oh I wanna go throw bricks at him and laugh."

Are there places that define Bay View?

1. Humboldt Park

"When people say 'I'm going to the park' in Bay View, no one asks which one. 'The park' has always been Humboldt. That's where so many of the defining activities take place."

"A big memory for the park is tobogganing in the winter and ice skating every Friday. And that was so much fun because you knew all the kids there, and you were ice skating and renting the skates, it was just a really fun family night."

2. Groppi's Deli

"Groppi's market is an institution in Bay View. Not just the market, but that family, and all that James Groppi did for the city."

"Defines Bay View? I think like Groppi's for instance. It's still a corner grocery—and very trendy now of course"

3. Historic bars

"Bay View has always been known as a place to go bar-hopping. We have some historic places like the Newport Lounge, White House, Puddler's, but also some really trendy new places."

"Garibaldi, the Cactus Club, the Blackbird, and a lot of bars have been renovated or revamped."

4. South Shore Park

"Events and parties at South Shore Pavilion . . . The South Shore Yacht Club is a gem and creates a sense of community."

"Go the South Shore Farmers Market in summer. You will see what the true Bay View is like."

5. Kinnickinnic Avenue

"All the old and new places on KK. The Comic Store, tire store, the bowling alley. The boutiques and trendy restaurants."

"As goes KK, goes Bay View. When it was a place for slum bars, the whole neighborhood was crap. Today it's hip, popular, and so is Bay View."

6. Beulah Brinton House

"Beulah Brinton House that today houses the Bay View Historical Society. That's a landmark."

"They have lectures and parties at the Historical Society. That house is a great place for our village."

Have any places in Bay View carried a reputation of being “haunted”?

1. The White House tavern

“The White House bar. I was tagged by a ghost there—behind the bar.”

“The White House is the usual one. Some former owner is haunting that place. I’m not sure if it’s true.”

2. The Palmer House

“That Palmer House was supposed to be haunted. It was once a rooming house for people that worked at the Rolling Mill. Businesses came in and they all said it was haunted by those people. Or so I heard.”

“The Palmer House on St Clair. There was a rumor that men were buried in the basement during a prohibition explosion in the basement .”

3. The Hide House

“The Hide House—you hear lots of creepy stories from that place.”

“The Hide House. It was once the Greenebaum Tannery, so I hear. People that rent there tell some interesting stories. Some think something bad happened once at that Tannery.”

4. Individual residences

“I don’t know if any public establishments are haunted, but my mom actually just moved out of a house on Herman between Oklahoma and Idaho that she lived in the upstairs, and she had a ghost in her house. She had moved there and we had seen weird stuff happen and heard lots of crazy things happening. A person that used to live in that house came to a block party and introduced themselves and asked her: ‘So have you had any weird things happen?’ And my dad was like yeah! She said that he had learned it was an old man that had died in the house and primarily hung out in the basement, and that’s where most of the stuff would happen but then he would come upstairs and things like drawers opening and closing, footsteps when somebody was home alone, the lights flickering in rooms that nobody was in.”

“Right up the road here on Howell is Deer Place and between Howell and Austin there was this really creepy brick house. We never saw any people and there were all these vines growing from it and it was really spooky. We would go to my grandmas who lived on Austin, and we’d go to the other side of the street to walk past it. I really don’t know if there was anyone living there but the brick was kind of blackened, then with all the vines, there were windows but you really couldn’t see in them because they were so small, it was just creepy.”

What activities or services would you like to see added (or increased) in Bay View?

1. Nothing

“I don’t know, I think in a way we’re pretty well set. We still have the frolics every year we have the Kaszube Park picnic every year.”

“None at the moment. I think we have a lot.”

2. Programs emphasizing the history of Bay View

“Maybe some more events with the Historical Society. I feel like I don’t know as much as I should.”

“More emphasis on the history of Bay View, I think. Maybe more programs on its history or maybe a museum like they have in other neighborhoods.”

3. Block parties

“I’d like more block parties and events for particular neighborhoods.”

“More block parties would be nice, to get to know people on your street.”

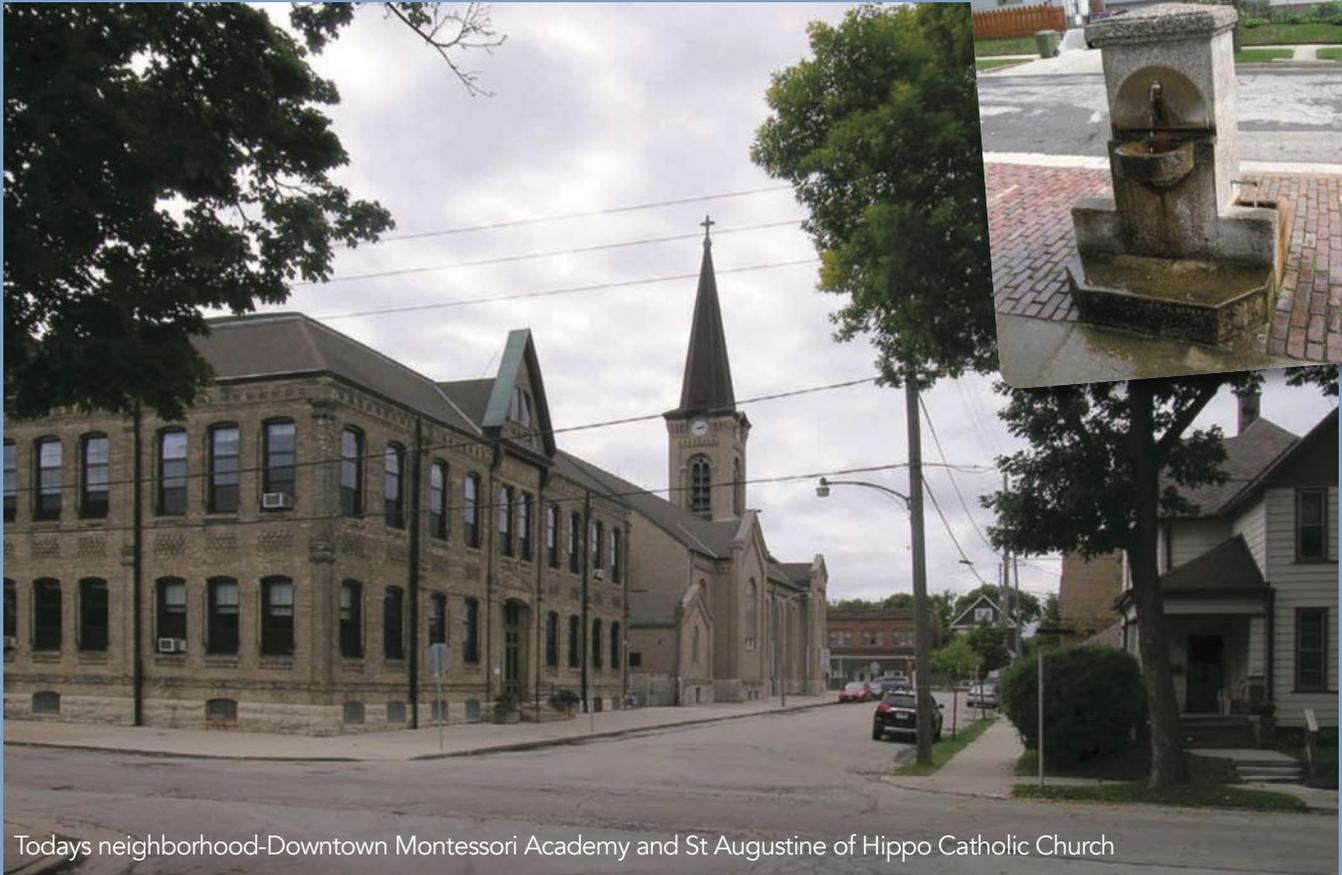
4. More super markets

"Something for the east side with a small supermarket. More accessibility to grocery stores."

"A grocery store—more than what we have."

PHOTOS

Today's neighborhood-Pryor Ave iron well



Today's neighborhood-Downtown Montessori Academy and St Augustine of Hippo Catholic Church



Today's neighborhood-The view from Shore Drive

Today's neighborhood-
Businesses on Kinnickinnic Ave.



Today's neighborhood-South Shore Park Pavilion



Today's neighborhood-Bay View Rolling Mills monument

For more information on Milwaukee neighborhoods, refer to John Gurda's *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods*.

Do you have great photos of this neighborhood? Are you a resident with an interesting quote about this neighborhood? Do you have recurring outings, additions, corrections, or general comments about this neighborhood? Please email your input to Dr. Jill Florence Lackey at: jflanthropologist@currently.com

¹ Photo attribution: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/b/b6/James_E._Groppi_Unity_Bridge.jpg