

HIGHLIGHTER

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD MAGAZINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



WHNA.net

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The *Highlighter* is a biannual publication of the Washington Heights Neighborhood Association. The neighborhood is located within boundaries from Highway 175 to North 60th Street and from Vliet Street to North Avenue.

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- Reserve and pay for your ad online at www.whna.net/highlighter
- Email ad to advertising@whna.net



2025 NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

Unless noted, please visit whna.net, our Facebook or Instagram Pages for more details on each event.

April 19 • 10AM

WHNA Easter Egg Hunt

Mt. Olive & St. Sebastian Campuses

April 25-26

Annual Vliet Street Art Walk

www.meetontvliet.com

April 26 • 8AM-Noon

Neighborhood-Wide Clean-Up

Meet at the Community Garden (49th & Lloyd)

May 7 • 5PM-8PM

Party for the Park 2025 Fundraiser at Urban Ecology Center

(www.washingtonparkneighbors.com)

May 8 • 4PM-8PM

Washington Heights Night Market

Washington Blvd. between 53rd & 54th

May 15 • 6-8PM

Neighborhood-Wide Annual Meeting

Urban Ecology Center

May 17 • 10AM-NOON

Bloom & Groom Plant Sale

Community Garden (49th & Lloyd)

June 7

Neighborhood-Wide Rummage Sale

June 12 • 4PM-8PM

Washington Heights Night Market

Washington Blvd. between 53rd & 54th

June 27 • 4PM-7PM

Rooted & Rising Annual Community Block Party

@ Rooted and Rising Headquarters

www.rootedandrisingwp.org

July 1

Deadline for WHNA Block Party Grant Application

www.whna.com

July 9, 16, 23, 30 • 5PM-9PM

Washington Park Wednesday

www.washingtonparkneighbors.com

July 10 • 4PM-8PM

Washington Heights Night Market

Washington Blvd. between 53rd & 54th

July 11 • 4PM-10PM

Bastille Day West

Vliet Street from 57th to 60th (www.bastilledaywest.com)

August 5

National Night Out – Get Together with Your Neighbors

August 6 • 2PM-4PM

Rooted & Rising Back-to-School Fair at 34th & Lisbon

www.rootedandrisingwp.org

August 6, 13, 20, 27

Washington Park Wednesday

www.washingtonparkneighbors.com

August 14 • 4PM-8PM

Washington Heights Night Market

Washington Blvd. between 53rd & 54th

August 23 • 2PM-8PM

Boulevard Bash on Washington Blvd.

September 11 • 4PM-8PM

Washington Heights Night Market

Washington Blvd. between 53rd & 54th

October 25 • 6:30PM-8:30PM

Spooktacular Nighttime Trick-or-Treating

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SPOOKTACULAR

Vacant

From the President



Dear Residents,

The next few months are brimming with events and neighborhood traditions that bring us together. The Washington Heights Night Markets (now organized and hosted by Mt. Olive and Lyra O'Brien) are back after a brief hiatus, beginning in May. Our Neighborhood-Wide Annual Meeting on May 15 is an opportunity to learn about what WHNA's been up to, our plans for

2025 and how we are re-imagining our organization so it continues to survive and thrive for years to come. I hope you will attend and introduce yourself.

Summer kicks off with our neighborhood-wide rummage sale on the first Saturday in June – some consider that day a neighborhood holiday! July brings weekly opportunities to visit our beloved Washington Park on Wednesdays for the free summer concert series. Let's not forget that our corner of the city will host its own Bastille Day West on Vliet Street in July. Although I wish summer would never end, I'm already looking forward to our neighborhood's official end-of-summer street fair the Boulevard Bash.

All these events and happenings wouldn't be possible without our dedicated board members and many neighborhood volunteers. I am grateful for everyone who contributed their time and talent throughout 2024 and into this year. THANK YOU! WHNA couldn't have accomplished all we did in 2024 without you.

Spring is the perfect time to get more involved in the neighborhood. Whether it is helping for a few hours at the spring clean-up, joining the WHNA board of directors or volunteering at an upcoming event, we'd love to have you lend a hand. Reach out, I'd love to answer your questions and connect you with an event or project.

Thank you for being part of this incredible neighborhood. Together, we're making the Heights an amazing place to live, work and play. Here's to a wonderful spring and summer!

Heidi Steeno

President

Washington Heights Neighborhood Association

president@whna.net

Stay Connected with WHNA Everyday



Together, Let's
Keep Our
Neighborhood
Clean!



Washington Heights Neighborhood Clean-Up

Saturday • April 26

8AM-Noon

Community Garden • 2111 N 49th

Stop by anytime before noon for supplies and to claim an area of the neighborhood to clean. All ages welcome.

Hosted & Organized by



2025 Annual Meeting

Thursday • May 15

Social 6PM-6:30 • Meeting 6:30-8PM

Urban Ecology Center Washington Park

Join the WHNA Board of Directors

We are looking for enthusiastic neighbors to participate in the decision-making process, volunteer at WHNA initiatives and events, share professional skills and connections, collaborate and build positive relationships neighborhood wide.

Elections take place at the WHNA Annual Meeting on May 15. If elected, terms begin July 1, 2025 and end on June 30, 2027.

Scan for More
Information and to
Submit a Candidate
Profile



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

BLOOM & GROOM GARDEN PLANT SALE

SATURDAY • MAY 17, 2025 • 10AM-NOON

COMMUNITY GARDEN • 2111 N 49TH ST

Hosted & Organized by



ANNUAL RECAP

January 1 to December 31, 2024

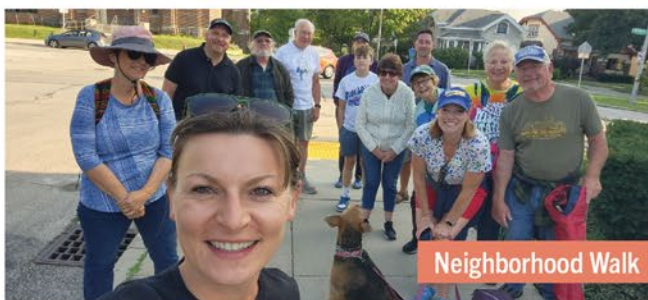
WHNA enjoyed a productive and engaging 2024 (and start of 2025), strengthening community bonds through a variety of events and initiatives.



BLVD Bash



Spooktacular



Neighborhood Walk

501(c)(3) Status Granted: WHNA is pleased to announce its designation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Annual Community Events: WHNA proudly hosted its established annual events:

- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Hundreds of children participated at our two locations. The event was supported by St. Sebastian Parish and Mount Olive Lutheran Church and Day School.
- **Annual Membership Meeting:** Our meeting was attended by our elected officials and over 60 community members. We treated attendees to Wy'East Pizza, Fred's Frozen Custard and Vennture Brew Co.
- **Bloom and Groom Plant Sale:** This spring event welcomed more than 60 shoppers!
- **Annual Neighborhood Rummage Sale:** More than 80 houses participated on the first Saturday in June.
- **WHNA Boulevard Bash:** This year's Bash featured food, beverage, art and craft and small business vendors, kids' activities (with 76 projects supported by Artists Working in Education), Mount Olive hosted kids' activities, balloon animals, yard games, a popular beer garden, and, new this year, a pickleball tournament! Our silent auction featured donations from neighborhood businesses, artists and individuals and raised over \$2,000.
- **Spooktacular:** A record 1,661 trick-or-treaters and over 90 volunteers made this year's Spooktacular a resounding success.
- **WHNA served as an event sponsor for:** Bastille Days West on Vliet Street in July and the Washington Park Wednesdays Concert Series.
- **Neighborhood Clean-Up:** Held in April to celebrate Earth Day. Over 50 volunteers lent a hand.

New & Notable Events: WHNA introduced several new events to the neighborhood:

- **Bike the Heights:** 50 participants enjoyed a neighborhood cruise with stops at four businesses.
- **Clothing Swap at Denizen**
- **June Jam at 56th & North Avenue Pocket Park**
- **Elected Official Walk from St. Sebastian to Washington Park in conjunction with the Washington Park Wednesdays "Heights Night."**

Community Support: WHNA awarded 8 Block Party Grants and provided funding to various causes, including McBob's Free Community Thanksgiving Meal, St. Sebastian and Mount Olive. Additionally, WHNA sponsored the appreciation event celebrating Alderman Michael Murphy's retirement.

Volunteers: WHNA is made up of an all-volunteer board of directors that meets monthly throughout the year. More than 150 volunteers contributed their time and talent to our events for a total of more than 1,000 volunteer hours.

Communication: WHNA publishes two magazines annually that are distributed by volunteers to 3,000 households and businesses throughout Washington Heights. WHNA maintains a database of over 1,500 contacts, including over 293 active WHNA members. WHNA maintains active Facebook and Instagram accounts.



Transformation in Washington Park

By Sabrina Eder



On February 1, 2025, the Urban Ecology Center (UEC) celebrated the grand reopening of its newly remodeled Washington Park branch with their annual Winterfest event. The festivities began with a ceremony featuring remarks from UEC leadership and local officials, marking the culmination of renovations that began in the fall of 2023. Through this project, the Urban Ecology Center updated and expanded the existing building creating a new community gathering and environmental education center, doubled their capacity for K12 school partnerships, and launched a new early childhood education program. The UEC was absolutely delighted at the turnout from the community with an estimated attendance of over 1,000 visitors throughout the day.

Following the Winterfest ceremony, attendees engaged in a variety of outdoor winter activities like hiking the grounds and skating on the frozen lagoon. A cozy campfire provided warmth, complemented by hot drinks to enhance the festive atmosphere. Attendees also enjoyed exploring the beautiful new amenities this location has to offer indoors as well. Participants of all ages embraced the season's offerings as seen here with all the photos submitted by families from our neighborhood along with quotes we captured too! One neighbor, Anna Jarecki Cure, commented that "the building was absolutely beautiful and welcoming. It was really amazing to see such an awesome turnout from the community. My family is excited to become more involved in the coming months!" Another neighbor, Bill Schmidt, shared that his "favorite part of Winterfest was the community turning out to support the event and the excitement that folks had for this wonderful new facility and investment in our community."

The newly remodeled Washington Park branch, located at 1859 N. 40th St., features an observation tower offering panoramic views of the park and surrounding neighborhoods, an indoor slide connecting floors, and an Ecology Room with interactive exhibits and live animals. These additions aim to foster environmental education and community engagement.

Check out the UEC's website to stay up to date on their upcoming programs and events like Early Morning Bird Walks and Friends and Families Game Night. UEC's Summer Camps are now open for registration with options like Forest Camp, Outdoor Detectives and so much more! This year's Winterfest truly exemplified UEC's commitment to connecting urban residents with nature, providing accessible outdoor experiences and promoting environmental stewardship. A huge thank you to the UEC and all the volunteers and sponsors who came together to make this fantastic event possible!



UEC Washington Park Branch

www.urbanecologycenter.org
Tuesday – Thursday: Noon-6PM
Friday: Noon – 5PM
Saturday: 9AM – 3PM
Sunday & Monday Closed



Rooted & Rising: Building Community and Connections in Washington Park

By Bill Schmitt, Executive Director

Editor's Note: Longtime neighbors may remember this building as the United Methodist Children's Services.



Scan here to learn more!

Located on the bustling corner of 40th & Lisbon, just across the park from Washington Heights, Rooted & Rising is a neighborhood-based nonprofit that has proudly called Washington Park home since the early 1990s. Over the years, the agency's programs and services have evolved considerably, but one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to serving individuals and families in and around the beautiful Washington Park neighborhood.

We're both thrilled and grateful for this opportunity to share a bit of our story here in the Highlighter, but more than anything, we'd like to take this opportunity to encourage you to come check us out and see for yourself how you, your family and friends may want to get involved in our community-building efforts.



OUR WORK IN ACTION

Our programs span several key areas:

Housing: We provide safe, quality and affordable housing and wraparound supportive services for 72 resident families, several of whom had past experiences with homelessness. We're also building new single-family homes in the neighborhood that will be sold to first-time homeowners.

Food Security & Basic Needs: A proud partner of Hunger Task Force for more than 25 years, we operate one of the busiest community food centers in Milwaukee, and we rely on a strong volunteer base to make it all happen, both inside the pantry and outside in the garden.

Early Childhood Education: The onsite Growing Tree Children's Center provides nature-based early education and a warm, enriching environment for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years. We still have a few openings, so call us at 414-344-1818 to schedule a tour.

Neighborhood Engagement: As the lead community organizer for the Washington Park neighborhood, we are dedicated to elevating the voices of residents and collaborating with partners to enhance the quality of life in our community. Our work covers a wide range, with particular emphasis on housing, safety, health & wellness, and economic opportunity.

Like life in general, our work can often be quite serious and difficult. However, if you've attended any of our community-building events like the annual Community Block Party, Chili Fest or Back-to-School Fair, you know that we like to have fun and celebrate the good times with our friends and neighbors as well.

LET'S GROW TOGETHER!

At Rooted & Rising, we believe that how we go about our work is as important as the actual services we provide. That starts by welcoming all into our space and leading with dignity and respect. At a time when our world is rife with so much divisiveness and cynicism, we need bridge builders more than ever, and together we can do our part here in the greater Washington Park community.

We invite you to visit, volunteer and invest in Rooted & Rising's vision to help build a more connected, thriving community for all. To learn more, visit our website and follow us on social media. We can't wait to connect with you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 27, 2025: 5th Annual Community Block Party, 4PM-7PM at Rooted & Rising
- August 6: Back-to-School Fair, 2PM-4PM on 34th & Lisbon Ave.

We are looking for volunteers and partners to support each of these events. Send an email to william.schmitt@rootedandrisingwp.org to get involved.

CLASSES

learn something new!

Tool Box Make-over: \$50 Tuesday, March 18- 6:00-8:00

Needle Felting: \$45 Thursday, March 20- 6:00-8:00

Glass Flower Garden Stake: \$65 Thur, March 27 - 6:00-8:00

Pen & Ink Florals: \$70 Wednesday, April 2- 6:00-8:00

Jewelry Box Make-over: \$50 Tuesday, April 8- 6:00-8:00

Fused Glass Votive Candleholder: \$55 Thur, April 10 - 6:00-8:00

Alcohol Ink Easter Eggs: \$65 Saturday, April 12 - 12:00-2:00

Sugar Mold Votive Holder: \$50 Tuesday, April 15 - 6:00-8:00

Zentangle 101: \$50 Wednesday, April 16 - 6:00-8:00

Alcohol Ink Metallic Landscapes: \$70 Tuesday, May 13 - 6:00-8:00

Alcohol Ink Florals on Black: \$70 Wednesday, June 18 - 6:00-8:00



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Studio Play Time is also available to book for private parties or corporate team building. Please contact us to schedule your own play time.

Register online at www.studiobarcelonamke.com

So much life in Washington Park



**Come visit our
newly renovated
building!**

**URBAN
ECOLOGY CENTER**



Washington Park Branch
1859 N 40 St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Building Open Hours:
Tues - Thurs: Noon - 6pm
Fri: Noon - 5pm
Sat: 9am - 3pm
Sun & Mon: Closed



Recycle Your Electronics: A Simple Guide to Responsible Disposal

By Suzanne Grocholski, WHNA Green Committee

Are old electronics piling up in your home or garage? Instead of letting them collect dust, consider recycling them to conserve valuable resources and keep harmful materials out of landfills. Responsible disposal not only benefits the environment but also helps others in your community.

The first step is to figure out whether your electronics are still functional. If they are, donating or selling them can extend their usefulness and reduce electronic waste. Before handing off any device, be sure to erase personal data. This includes deleting photos, passwords, and documents, and for extra security, performing a factory reset or using data-wiping software.

If your device is in good working condition, consider donating it to local schools, nonprofit organizations, or thrift shops. Groups like Digital Bridge refurbish and distribute used devices to underserved communities, providing access to technology where it's needed most. Another option is the Buy Nothing Project, a local sharing network where neighbors give and receive items for free. Through the Buy Nothing app or Facebook groups, you can pass along your old electronics to someone who may need them.

If you'd rather sell your device, platforms like Facebook Marketplace and Nextdoor can help you find a buyer while keeping your electronics out of the landfill.

For non-working electronics, recycling is the best choice. Recycling e-waste keeps toxic materials out of the environment, reduces landfill waste, and conserves valuable materials like copper, gold, and aluminum. According to the U.S. EPA, recycling one million laptops saves enough energy to power 3,500 U.S. homes for a year. The economic benefits are also significant—e-waste has more gold per metric ton than 17 tons of mined gold ore, making responsible recycling a smart choice for sustainability.

Many retailers and manufacturers offer take-back programs. Best Buy and Office Depot, for example, have drop-off locations for small electronics, and some manufacturers offer recycling services when you purchase a new device. Certified e-cycling centers are another option, ensuring that computers, phones, and batteries are disposed of safely while recovering valuable materials and preventing toxins like lead and mercury from polluting the environment.

Stay tuned for details on our upcoming community e-cycling event! Whether you donate, sell, or recycle, every step toward responsible disposal benefits both the environment and our community. Keep an eye out for more information this summer and start clearing out your old electronics today!

Milwaukee Drop-Off



Find details on Milwaukee's drop-off centers, including accepted items and fees for electronics recycling.

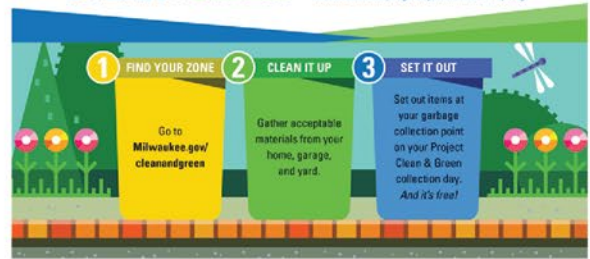
WI DNR E-Cycling



Learn more about Wisconsin's e-cycling programs, including regulations and certified recycling options.

Project CLEAN & GREEN

Let's get clean and green Milwaukee!
Refresh your home with Milwaukee's annual Project
Clean & Green program just in time for spring.



PROJECT CLEAN & GREEN is a city-wide program designed to foster neighborhood pride and ownership through coordinated clean up. Collection crews will target one zone each week from April 19-June 2, 2025 and collect up to six (6) cubic yards per property of unwanted furniture, mattresses or household items, and garden/yard debris in paper yard waste bags.

HOW IT WORKS

On **YOUR REGULAR GARBAGE COLLECTION DAY**, during your assigned Project Clean and Green zone week, residents should place their unwanted items at their regular garbage collection point – either the curb or alley line. In most cases, everything will be picked up on garbage collection day, but allow through the following business day for all items to be collected.

Residents must use brown paper yard waste bags available at area stores for their garden/yard waste.

For curb pick-up, please ensure that all items are kept out of the street and instead placed along the area between the sidewalk and curb, on the lawn edge if there is no sidewalk, or at the end of the driveway. For alley collection, place items at the alley line.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

DPW will not pick up appliances, tires, TVs and other electronics (such as computers, printers, scanners, tablets, etc.), construction debris, paint and paint thinner, motor oil, and other hazardous waste. We encourage making use of DPW Drop Off Centers or MMSD to properly dispose of those items.

Please note: This program is only available for 1-4 dwelling unit residences serviced by the City of Milwaukee. DPW Sanitation does not collect from apartment complexes (5 or more units) or businesses.

Scan to find your Project Clean & Green Pick-Up week.





Washington Heights Night Markets Return in 2025

By Lyra O'Brien

The Washington Heights Night Markets are returning to the neighborhood after a brief one-year break. They originally began in 2021, as a fun way to bring the neighborhood together while supporting local businesses. Taking place outdoors on the 2nd Thursday of each month from May through September (May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14 and September 11) you will find a changing line-up of vendors and makers at each market. The markets begin at 4PM and run until 8PM. Talented local artists and makers, many who live in the neighborhood, will have items for sale at their booths. The Night Markets have you covered for dinner with a variety of delicious options and drink vendors. Local and live musical groups will help set the stage for a great night!

The free markets take place on Washington Boulevard between 53rd and 54th Streets, right in the heart of the Heights. These are rain or shine events, supported by Mount Olive Lutheran Church & Christian Day School and Draganchuk/O'Brien with Compass Real Estate.

New this year, the Family Fun Zone will be hosted by Mount Olive. A variety of activities and games will take place on the grounds offering families the chance to play with their kids or let them design their own craft creations to take home.

"I'm so glad these events are coming back. My family and I missed them last year," said neighbor Nick B. on 54th Street. "I mean, what is better than walking down the street with your family and strolling into a fun party with wine and delicious food. Plus, you get to see all sorts of cool creative works and listen to live music. It's a great time!"

Show off our fabulous neighborhood by bringing in loads of friends. The markets in previous years have drawn in thousands of people from communities all over southeast Wisconsin.

Free parking is available on the surrounding streets. Be green and bring your own reusable shopping bag to the markets. Pets are welcome but must be leashed. Please make sure that your pet plays well with others as the crowds in the evenings tend to be large. Bathroom facilities will be located in the parking lot of Mount Olive on N 54th Street.

Are you interested in being a vendor or a volunteer for the Night Markets? We welcome both. Please contact Lyra O'Brien at lyra.obrien@compass.com or at (414) 861-0387. We look forward to seeing you at the markets!

Lyra O'Brien coordinates the Night Markets. She and her family have lived in the neighborhood for almost 20 years. Lyra is a Realtor with Compass.



A Pop of Art in Washington Heights: Meet Local Artist Kelsey Rushing

By Charlie Bowen

On any given day you can find Kelsey Rushing hard at work in her Washington Heights studio creating pop culture homages to the great film and television stars throughout history. As she works diligently on her newest piece – a painting of actor Jeff Goldblum made in the style of one of Vincent Van Gogh's self-portraits – it's clear that her love for her work comes from a place close to her heart. "I often ground my work in pop culture because the impact of movies and television on larger culture norms inspires me. I have always incorporated nostalgic pop culture references into my pieces because it makes me feel connected to my family and my childhood."

Kelsey's award-winning work has built a strong following both online and on the pop culture convention circuit. Her art has taken her all over the country, selling her work at comic and entertainment conventions and building a devoted fan base. Kelsey enjoys meeting people and using the pop culture motifs in her work to create "a unique bond of shared experience through [her] art."

Originally from DeSoto, Texas, Kelsey has called Milwaukee home for the last seven years and Washington Heights home for the last five. When she, her partner Julie, and their three cats first moved to Milwaukee in the fall of 2017, Kelsey immediately began to get involved with the local art scene. She began creating and displaying works in her preferred medium of chalk pastels and pastel pencils. Within a few months she was selected to participate in a RAW Artists art show at the popular concert venue, The Rave. While there, she befriended another local artist, Beth Zwolski Tobias (who works under the name The Chalk Girl). The two immediately bonded over their use of pop culture in their work. With Beth's encouragement, Kelsey decided to start marketing her work at pop culture and comic conventions.

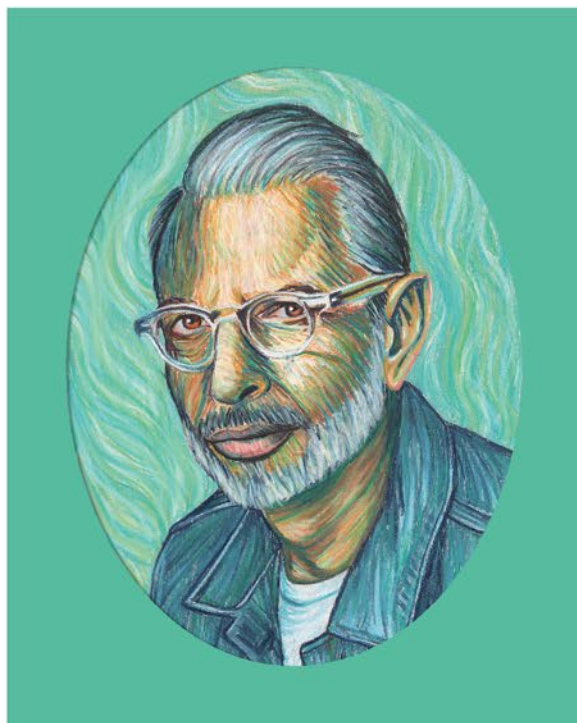
Kelsey has been doing exactly that since 2018. During that time, she's had the pleasure of meeting actors who have inspired some of her work, including Rosario Dawson (actress, Star Wars character Ahsoka Tano), Brendan Fraser (actor, The Whale), and Rainn Wilson (actor, The Office). In fact, Rosario Dawson purchased some artwork of Kelsey's that she saw online. The artwork was given by Rosario to her mother as a gift. Now Kelsey's work has a place of honor in Rosario Dawson's mom's house. How many people can say that?

While Kelsey enjoys creating portraits, she has more recently branched out into pop culture takes of famous works of art and experimenting with new mediums like pre-cut basswood slices. She has been finding new inspiration in the hand-drawn movie poster works of artists like Drew Struzan and Paul Mann, two artists whose work she associates with her childhood and family.

Kelsey's work can be found at www.kelseyflushingart.com
You can also find her on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook,
and YouTube @kelseyflushingart or visit her Etsy
at www.kelseyflushingart.etsy.com.



Kelsey (right) presenting Rosario Dawson with a basswood portrait of her Star Wars character Ahsoka.



Jeff – Jeff Van Goldblum by Kelsey Rushing



Scan this QR Code to go right to Kelsey's website
and see the rest of her amazing work.

Bob Uecker's Legacy Lives On: Wick Field Upgrades Include Baseball Tribute

By Barb Haig

As part of the improvements to Wick Field, a group is working to revitalize the Vliet Street Commons, a public art installation created by Jill Sebastian in 2001. The site-specific artwork is made of concrete and steel. It includes a large baseball bat-shaped walkway and a table with bench seating and an umbrella sunshade.

In partnership with Milwaukee Recreation, the project is being improved as a functional and inviting space for the community, blending sculpture and landscape design. The space will be available for artists and musicians to share their work with the community.

"As we discussed updating the installation, neighbor Andrew Martin informed us that Bob Uecker switched from pitching to catching at Wick Field," says Dan Schley, a Vliet Street business owner.

In a September, 1998 interview on PBS, Uecker told host Jim Peck,

I'll tell you the day I quit pitching. We were playing at Wick Field, up on 47th and Vliet Street, and I'm 16 or 17 years old now playing in the County Major League. That was a big league back then. And I'm getting killed. I'm throwing pitches all over. It was a bad day. And the catcher, a guy who has since passed, isn't doing much better. He isn't helping me out at all. So we get on the bench, and I jump all over him. I say, "If I couldn't catch any better than that, I'd quit." He says, "If you think you're so damn good, you put this crap on and do it." So I did. I put on the catcher's gear and I went back and I caught in that game. And I liked it.

Dan was on the original Vliet Street Commons committee, along with Sandy Foloran and Pat Mueller. Working again with Jill Sebastian, and with Sara Daleiden from Washington Park Media Center, they have applied to the Wisconsin Historical Society to have a historical marker created for the park with the Uecker quote.

"The Vliet Street Commons was designed to embrace the larger connection to baseball in the park and on Milwaukee's west side. This would be a wonderful place to honor Bob Uecker's life and his connection with Wick Field. The piece has much baseball symbolism, and American Family Field is clearly visible from this spot," says Dan.

NEW & IMPROVED WICK FIELD

The renovation of Wick Playfield will be unveiled later this spring, transforming it into a vibrant neighborhood destination. The project includes several exciting updates:

- New playground equipment (children aged 2-12)
- Splash pad
- Basketball hoops
- Plaza seating areas and pedestrian paths
- Improved lighting and updated restrooms
- Synthetic turf baseball and softball diamonds



Jill Sebastian, Vliet Street Commons artist, and Dan Schley, Appraisals By Schley, recently visited the installation to discuss updates.

MAY 6 • 5PM-6PM
Wick Play Field Re-Opening Ceremony

Exploring Washington Heights on Two Wheels

By Barb Haig

With its scenic routes, dedicated cycling community, and ongoing improvements in infrastructure, biking in Washington Heights is a delightful way to explore the area.

Kirsten Finn is a Heights resident and executive director of the Wisconsin Bike Federation, a nonprofit dedicated to making our state a better, safer place for bicycling. She says many Heights residents are Bike Fed members, with some even serving on the board.

“In addition to advocating statewide for bike-friendly laws and infrastructure improvements that make our roads safer for people who bike and walk, the Bike Fed directly serves Washington Heights, and surrounding neighborhoods, in a number of ways,” Kirsten said.

- The Safe Routes to School program serves MPS students (K-12) with programs that help them navigate their community safely by bike and on foot. These programs include Bicycle Drivers Ed and Walking Wisdom in schools around our neighborhood. In 2024, Bike Fed programs at French Immersion also included painting a beautiful pavement mural around the school with students and faculty.
- The Bike Fed facilitates a program called MilWALKee Walks, designed to combat reckless driving. You may have noticed staff and Walk Ambassadors helping neighbors to cross Vliet Street and the dangerous slip lane on 47th Street and Washington Boulevard to get to Washington Park Wednesdays.
- The Bike Fed also runs a Mobile Bike Repair program throughout the summer to train youth mechanics to fix bicycles for free at neighborhood gathering spaces. In 2024, Milwaukee Public Library's Washington Park Branch hosted a hands-on clinic where patrons learned to diagnose common issues and fix their own flat tires.

Alderwoman Sharlen Moore says, “Working for the city, I have found so many great benefits of incorporating micromobility, such as biking, into my transportation routine. With the network of newly developed bike lanes throughout the city, biking to school and work is a sustainable and healthy alternative to driving, which assists in reducing traffic congestion and lowering carbon emissions. Cycling also promotes physical fitness, enhances your mental well-being, as well as fosters a sense of independence. Biking in Washington Heights is more than just a mode of transportation; it's a way to connect with the community, enjoy the outdoors, and stay active.”



Even though it's cold outside, several neighborhood enthusiasts recently shared their love of two-tire travel.

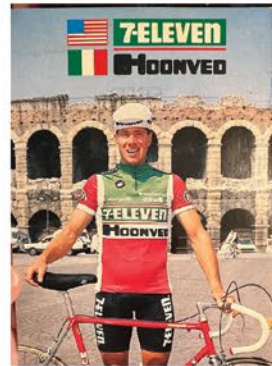
Sarah Drilias: My cycling has ebbed and flowed over the past few years based on injuries and life events. During the typical riding season, I ride about 50 miles per week between both road cycling and mountain biking. I belong to the Velo Femmes, a female-only cycling group. The Spokesmen is a male-only cycling group. Both can be found on Facebook. The cycling culture could be improved if city officials (and lawmakers) truly did something about reckless driving, rather than just talking about something needing to be done.

Erin Nimmer: During the warmer weather, I typically ride about 100 miles a week across 3-5 days primarily on the road – I'm also a member of the Velo Femmes. I also like to hit gravel roads, though they require a bit of travel to find. I'm looking forward to two annual gravel events in the spring: the Barry Roubaix in Hastings, Michigan and the Dairy Roubaix in Viroqua, Wisconsin. I am considering picking cyclocross back up this fall.

Sabrina Eder: I typically ride from May-October and will ride 2-3x per week. Biking brings people together and bridges gaps across generations and fitness levels. I enjoy getting to know my neighbors while riding with them across the city – it's an opportunity to get away from the daily distractions and really listen to people and enjoy nature. We have a great group that trains for the Door County Century ride each year, and many folks in our group are from the Heights.



Tom Schuler: Global Cycling Legend and Advocate for Better Biking Infrastructure



Tom Schuler in 1985 racing as a professional in Verona, Italy at the start of the Giro d'Italia

BIKING RESOURCES

Wisconsin Bicycle Federation

A nonprofit that works to inspire, motivate and unite a strong community of civic, business and political leaders, as well as motorists and bicyclists, to move bicycling forward in Wisconsin.
wisconsinbikefed.org

Getting a Milwaukee Bicycle License

A city bike license is a free and easy way to secure your bike. Not only is a licensed bike easier to track and recover if stolen, but the sticker may act as a deterrent to thieves. Just ask at a nearby library or police station. Or request a sticker from the License Division by calling 414-286-2238 or via email license@milwaukee.gov.

Milwaukee Recreation

Community Bike Rides are held all year long, including Polar Pedalers.
www.milwaukeekeerecreation.net

BublR Bikes

Nonprofit bikeshare program with more than 100 stations in the area.
www.BublRBikes.org

Among the notable Heights cyclers is Tom Schuler, a retired professional road bicycle racer and founder of Team Sports Inc. Schuler's career includes being one of the original seven members of the 7-Eleven Cycling Team, the 1987 USPRO national road champion and the 1981 US professional criterium champion. He represented the United States at the 1976 and 1980 Summer Olympics and was inducted into the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame in 2007. A 10-year Heights resident, he continues to bike every day in the summer, and twice a week in the winter.

"People in the Heights love biking because we're close to everything. With lots of residential side streets and parkways – and Washington Park – it's a great starting point," he says. Although he's seen the cycling accommodations on Hawley Road and North Avenue, he'd also like to see Washington Boulevard repaved and with better signage.



More recently, Tom enjoys the Hank Aaron trail.



Local Women United By Their Passion for Cycling Meet the Velo Femmes

by Erin Ninmer



Who we are (on paper):

Celebrating its tenth year in 2025, the Wauwatosa WI-based Velo Femmes started as an all-women team of advanced cyclists united by a passion for riding. Co-founders (and Washington Heights residents) Eileen Seeger, Sarah Drilias and Erin Ninmer, along with Julie Mainwood and Pam Christopherson, set out to create a space for women to challenge themselves and each other in the sport, to hone their skills to become stronger and safer riders, and to be the best stewards of cycling in Milwaukee. While group rides consist primarily of road rides, team members have enjoyed riding and racing across disciplines, from road to mountain to cyclocross and gravel. The team LIVES and LOVES to RIDE. And to share that passion with others.

Who we actually are:

We are a small, tightly knit, inclusive group of strong, active women. Today, while we may not collectively ride quite as far, or as fast, or as often as we once did as a team – our passion still unites us and is stronger than ever. Fueled by that passion, we challenge one another to be better humans both on and off the bike. We lift up one another as we take on the daunting hills and explore the meandering roads of life. We leverage our experience and visibility in the community to mentor and advocate for youth, young adults and other women in the sport, and support the charitable missions close to our hearts.

“Even though I’ve retired from outdoor riding due to health issues, I still feel an incredible bond to members of the team,” says Seeger. “I’ve seen members journey through large life circumstances. I’ve learned so many things about my fellow teammates while turning our pedals over the course of hundreds of miles and thousands of memories.”

Since our founding, we have raised over \$15,000 in cash prizes (prizes) for women competing in the multi-day road race series known as ToAD (Tour of America’s Dairyland). Team members are active and engaged members of the Wisconsin Bike Federation. The team has ridden in, promoted, fundraised for, and donated time to innumerable charity rides including the Scenic Shore 150, MS 150, Trek 100, Ride Across Wisconsin, UPAF Ride for the Arts, Rock the Green and the Chris Kegel Foundation’s Slow Roll.

Around town, you may spot us out on our Thursday night team ride or rehydrating on the patio of a local watering hole afterwards. Wednesday mornings we convene for our weekly TMTOT (ten-mile tour of Tosa) hill ride; truth be told, most of us show up to earn the post-ride caffeine at Valentine Coffee. We love to be out on our bikes as much as possible, whether it’s riding for pure pleasure, training or tackling a formidable adventure like conquering The Divide or exploring Michigan gravel.

Our team has grown mostly through word of mouth and invitation. We welcome experienced group riders to check us out. You should be comfortable riding in a pace line with 2-riders across, always prioritize safety, clearly cue turns, point out safety hazards, and most importantly, believe in supporting each other and having FUN! Reach out to me if you’d like to learn more.

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A Wee Bit of Ireland on Vliet Street

By Colleen DuVall



Colleen and Gerard in their shop.

O'Malley's European Foods has brought a breath of fresh air to our Washington Heights neighborhood. They carry Irish and British imported foods, beverages and the perfect gift items for anyone on your list! Be sure to pop in and say "hello" at their fun and friendly store at 5423 West Vliet Street (hours are Wednesday – Friday 11AM-6PM, Saturday 10AM-4PM and Sunday 10AM-2PM).

I recently chatted with co-owner Gerard Campbell, to find out more about their backstory.

DuVall: I understand that you're a family-run business. Please tell us a little more about your personal backstory and how you decided that you wanted to open O'Malley's in Milwaukee?

Campbell: There was an import store there until March 2023. We were regular customers of the shop and were saddened when the prior owners decided to close. My wife works at Froedtert Hospital and I have worked in nonprofits for 25 years. We purchased the business and re-opened the establishment as O'Malley's European Foods in May of 2023. My wife Colleen is the person named O'Malley in our household, and we liked the name better than Campbell's, my surname.

If you come into the shop, you will be warmly greeted by Colleen, our daughter Orla or myself. I love chatting about Ireland, football (European kind) or anything in general.

DuVall: What were some of your biggest challenges and/or happy surprises, about making this a reality?

Campbell: Not really knowing the inner workings of a retail establishment was a challenge. Figuring out the IRS, Wisconsin retail taxes, business licensing etc. was a little intensive. We had some help from former Alderman Murphy to get us through the loopholes. We welcomed Alderwoman Moore for a tour of the store and a chat before the holidays and we look forward to any collaborations with her office. Dealing with financing was also a hurdle we had to overcome. It's hard to get business money from a bank when you have not run a business prior. We made some personal sacrifices to make it work. There are slow weeks when we think it's not working and then there are crazy busy times. We get many requests for donations and it's hard to say no sometimes, but as a small business we cannot financially fulfill all the requests. The biggest thrill for me is hearing feedback from new customers and repeat visitors.

DuVall: How have you enjoyed being a part of the Vliet Street neighborhood so far? What are some of your favorite things about the community?

Campbell: This is a fantastic, diverse, welcoming community. The street is filled with some great assets and some of our favorite establishments in Milwaukee. There is a good flow back and forth with some vendors as we frequent each other's locations! We got our signage from Larry Gietl, our Christmas tree from Urban Sense, I eat (too much) pizza from Wy'east and our daughter loves shopping at Swoon. We have folks down the block that stop in weekly and staff from the radio station come in for their sweet treats.



DuVall: What are some of the most popular products that you carry at your store?

Campbell: Our biggest seller category are the meat products that are typically a part of the Irish/British breakfast scene: sausage (bangers), bacon rashers, black and white pudding, soda farls and potato bread. We also have scones with butter, jam and/or clotted cream. If you like chocolate, my favorite is the Cadbury's milk chocolate bar. Crunchie is similar, but much better than U.S. Fairy Food. Tayto crisps, as we call them, are a fantastic salty snack, that comes in all sorts of wonderful flavors; Wuster Sauce, Smoky Bacon, Roast Chicken and Cheese, and Onion, to name a few. They are delicious on their own or even better made up as a crisp sandwich!

DuVall: Any highly recommended items, for people buying gifts? (You really should try--this!)

Campbell: Of course, I recommend most items in the store. We can direct people to what they may like. We put together hampers throughout the year for birthdays, anniversaries or holidays. We have a great array of artwork, scents, woodcarvings and literature available year-round. These are all from local vendors.



DuVall: Do you get back to visit Ireland regularly or hope to again soon?

Campbell: Yes, my family and I get back regularly, and I try to get there at least once a year. I am one of eight siblings and the only one who emigrated. Every couple of years we will spend a few weeks over there, but when I was growing up I never explored and took it for granted. Now, I find new and exciting foods to try and places to visit, to learn about more aspects of my culture.

DuVall: What are you most looking forward to this year in Milwaukee?

Campbell: We have many events spread throughout the year, some smaller than others. We have a big presence at Milwaukee Irish Fest, Wisconsin Highland Games, Ancient Order of Hibernians' Taste of Ireland and Bastille Day West. In addition, Milwaukee will be hosting the North American Irish Dance competition (Oireachtas "O-ROCK-TUS") in November.

In September we will be taking a culinary tour from Dublin to Belfast with G&W Irish Tours. We will be eating and drinking our way up the Ancient East Coast of Ireland. Find details on O'Malley's Facebook page.

DuVall: Anything else you'd like people to know about your shop or yourself?

Campbell: We love meeting new people from the neighborhood because we are a part of its fabric. We love sharing stories about Ireland and Irish culture. We think of ourselves as keeping the sense of community alive for those folks living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Illinois who hail from Ireland and Britain. Thanks for supporting us in our endeavor and we look forward to being a part of the neighborhood for years to come.

Colleen DuVall is a writer, podcaster, and teacher. She earned both her master's in digital communication and her bachelor's in journalism at Marquette University. Locally, Colleen has written for Municipality Magazine, Taste of Home Magazine, Milwaukee Magazine, The Shepherd Express, Wisconsin Natural Resources, The Exchange (Outpost Natural Foods), and Wisconsin Public Radio. Most recently, the musical she co-wrote, "Shining in Misery: A King-Size Parody," debuted with Capital City Theatre in the World Premiere Wisconsin theatre festival at the Overture Center in Madison and also enjoyed a highly successful concert performance at 54 Below in NYC.

Home at Last: Ruby's Bagels

By Kate Niemer



Ruby's Bagels, the much-loved food truck, is putting down roots and opening a brick-and-mortar store right here in Washington Heights. This exciting development marks the culmination of years of hard work and dedication for owner Daniela, affectionately known as Ruby.

Ruby's journey began with a simple visit to a bagel shop in Cleveland. Inspired by the experience, and recognizing a gap in the market, Ruby embarked on a mission to perfect the art of bagel-making. Balancing a full-time course load with various jobs, Ruby still dedicated her spare time to honing her craft. Through countless experiments, down to the precise gram and temperature, she persevered. With encouragement from loved ones, she established her LLC in 2018. After navigating the challenges of securing a commercial kitchen, Ruby's Bagels served its first customer, City Year Milwaukee, in January of 2019.

Operating initially as a catering business, Ruby's Bagels quickly gained a following through pop-ups at local markets. Selling out of 80 bagels in minutes became a regular occurrence, prompting Ruby to navigate the complexities of scaling her business. With the suggestion and support of local entrepreneur Jesus Gonzalez, she

transitioned to a food truck model, renting a truck and refining her team and business operations at Zocolo Food Park in Walker's Point. In 2022, Ruby realized her dream of purchasing her own food truck, only to face a devastating setback with a kitchen fire that destroyed her prized mixer stored at a commercial kitchen. Despite these challenges, Ruby persisted.

After searching for the perfect location since 2022, Ruby has found a home at 5513 W. North Avenue in Washington Heights. The need for a larger kitchen for bagel production led her to sign a lease this past spring. While transitioning from a food truck to a storefront has presented its own set of challenges, including the costs of equipment and contractor work (with help from her brother), Ruby is thrilled to finally settle into her new space.

Ruby's Bagels offers a simple yet fantastic menu, similar to what patrons have come to love from the food truck. Enjoy hot sandwiches, the popular Veggie Deluxe, the "Guilty Guava," lox, bacon and exciting new specials. A variety of drinks, including cold brew, drip coffee, matcha and chais, are also available. The bagels themselves are a testament to her dedication, undergoing a 24-hour proof, boil and bake process, and are entirely vegan. The shop offers walk-up service, with the possibility of online ordering in the future.

Ruby is excited to engage with the Washington Heights neighborhood and is grateful for the support already shown by the many residents who have visited her at Zocolo. She hopes to collaborate with and support other small businesses in the area.

This venture is a dream six years in the making, and Ruby is eager to share her passion for bagels with our neighborhood. Come experience the warm, welcoming atmosphere of Ruby's Bagels—a truly local, woman-owned business with a real story behind it.

HOURS

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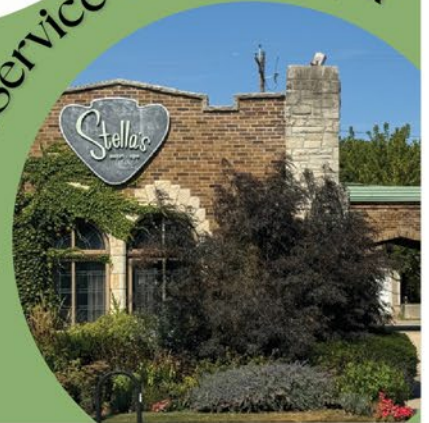
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Is Now the Right Time to Sell Your Home?

By Amy Berger

Determining whether it's the right moment to sell your home is a deeply personal decision influenced by various factors, many of which may be out of your control. If you are worried only about profit, it is still a seller's market and a great time to sell. Major economic shifts aside, there are ways you can manipulate your home's sale to best benefit you and your family as you move into a bigger place or downsize to better fit your lifestyle. When you're trying to target the most opportune time to put your home on the market, it helps to consider all of the factors involved and control what you can to maximize your price and profit.

The Peak Selling Season

Springtime is commonly considered one of the best times of the year to sell a home. Buyers are interested in making a fresh start, yards look lush and green, and days are starting to get longer. So does that mean you should sell in the springtime? Maybe ... but be aware that other sellers are going to have the same idea. There will be competition in the form of more homes available on the market. With the shortage of inventory, anytime has become the Peak selling season.



Does the Day of the Week Matter?

Surprisingly, yes. Various studies suggest that homes listed on Thursdays or Fridays tend to sell more quickly and often at slightly higher prices. This timing allows buyers to tour homes over the weekend when they have more free time, which can lead to increased interest and potentially multiple offers. If you miss Thursday or Friday, a Wednesday listing can still be effective. However, listing on weekends is typically less advantageous, as fewer buyers are available to tour homes early in the week.

Timing Isn't Everything

If you own a home already, you may be tempted to wait because you don't want to sell and take on a higher mortgage rate on your next house. But your move may be a lot more feasible than you think, because of how much your house has likely grown in value. Think about it. With how much home values have gone up in recent years, the selling price may surprise you. When you sell, you may have what you need to fund your next move.

Are Buyers Still Buying?

And last, if you're worried no one's buying with rates and prices where they are right now, here's some perspective that can help. While there weren't as many home sales last year as there'd be in a normal market, 80 homes (single and 2-family) still sold in Washington Heights in the last 12 months. 1.5 homes sold every week. Let this reassure you – the market isn't at a standstill. Every day, people buy, and they're looking for homes like yours.

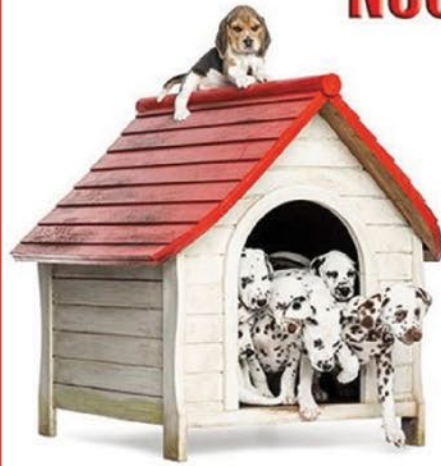
Washington Heights Sold Homes Value Increase *				
Ownership Years	Value Increase	Sold Date	Sold Price	Street #
3	23%	2/29/2024	\$331,000	2113 N 55th
11	159%	3/15/2024	\$200,000	1421 N Hawley
8	74%	3/29/2024	\$315,000	1505 N 48th
4	60%	4/29/2024	\$261,000	2146 N 58th
3	26%	5/24/2024	\$335,000	1718 N 51ST
20	135%	6/14/2024	\$460,000	1751 N 49th
11	66%	6/24/2024	\$500,000	2049 Hi Mount
7	42%	7/16/2024	\$348,000	2162 N 53rd
4	58%	8/1/2024	\$270,000	2124 N 55th
3	17%	7/31/2024	\$404,700	1908 N 49th
3	55%	8/15/2024	\$225,000	5422 W Lloyd
10	117%	8/30/2024	\$271,000	2192 N 58th
7	36%	9/5/2024	\$270,000	1433 N 54th
11	73%	12/23/2024	\$249,900	2119 N 55th
3	7%	9/24/2024	\$310,000	2200 N 58th
4	26%	11/7/2024	\$270,000	5822 W Elliot
8	236%	11/8/2024	\$365,000	2179 N 56th
2	10%	12/6/2024	\$525,000	5603 W Wash Blvd
27	125%	12/5/2024	\$350,000	5717 W Wash Blvd
25	315%	12/12/2024	\$235,000	5901 W Lloyd
3	19%	12/20/2024	\$340,000	1928N 55th
7	38%	2/7/2025	\$299,900	1925 N 54th

* single family homes with MLS history, sold 2/24 - 2/25, > \$200,000, owned >1 year

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Interior Restoration Project at Mount Olive Lutheran Church

By Stephen Rosebrock



After more than a century, it was time for Mount Olive Lutheran Church to restore the interior plaster ceilings of the sanctuary. Over the years small cracks had appeared, a few missteps on the attic catwalk had caused holes, and one large crack appeared in the main section of the church, significant enough that a large section of seating had been roped off for months as a precaution.

Preparation for this project included protecting the pipe organ during construction. This involved removing and crating organ pipes as well as building protective walls around the organ chambers. Next, floor-to-ceiling scaffolding was erected throughout the entire space.

Once the scaffolding was installed, the project began in earnest. Each ceiling panel was inspected and restored as needed. Thankfully, most of the panels remained in sufficiently stable condition, allowing the project to move along ahead of schedule. After the plasterwork was finished, the interior was repainted. The interior of the church has always been on the dim side unless it's a sunny day, so a bright white was chosen for the ceiling and walls. All the original light fixtures were retrofitted with LED lighting which drastically improved the lighting in the space. The entire project spanned about five months.

To improve the music space, the tiered risers and pews were removed from the choir loft and replaced with a flat floor. The space can now comfortably accommodate a choir and chamber orchestra or both of our choirs at the same time. This modification also improved the acoustics, improving the intelligibility of both spoken and sung text.

Local craftsmen worked on this project, including John J. Miller Mechanical Organ & Clock Works of West Allis; Milwaukee Plastering, a local father and son company specializing in historic restorations for churches, theaters, and heritage homes and buildings; and Colorwheel Painting of Brookfield. Scaffolding was provided by Badger Scaffolding of Green Bay. Next steps include restoring the large stained glass windows in the east and west balconies as well as the choir loft, replacing the flooring on the main level, and refurbishing the pipe organ that was installed in 1987.

Stephen Rosebrock is the Director of Music for Mount Lutheran Church and Christian Day School; he serves on its Restoration Committee overseeing this ongoing project.

The City's Dept of City Development is Updating the West Side Area Plan

By Monica Wauck Smith, Senior Planner
and Amy Oeth, Senior Planner

The City of Milwaukee's Department of City Development is updating the West Side Area Plan for the first time since 2009. The West Side Area Plan sets the vision for land use and development. The Plan will also help set priorities for infrastructure investments, such as improvements to roads. The West Side Area Plan covers a large area, stretching from just south of I-94 north to Silver Spring Drive along the western edge of the City. It covers many attractive and well-established neighborhoods and commercial corridors. The Plan will include recommendations for supporting the continued vitality of the area.

We've heard from residents about the types of businesses and housing options they would like to see, what streets are challenging for people walking or biking, and the need to preserve parks and other green space. Public engagement is a very important part of the process. Two meetings were recently held to learn more about what people value in their neighborhoods and where they see opportunities. There was an in-person meeting in December at Wellpoint Care Network on Capitol Drive and a virtual meeting in January. If you missed this set of meetings, you can view the meeting materials on the project website at engage.milwaukee.gov/westside. There will be future meetings, so please sign up for emails on the project website or scan the QR code. We look forward to hearing from you!

In other city planning news

Are you interested in housing and zoning in Milwaukee? The Department of City Development has been working on a planning project over the last 18+ months to update the Housing and Neighborhoods Element of the Citywide Policy Plan. This project looks at housing citywide and makes recommendations to update the City's Zoning Code. Check out the website to learn more and review the updated draft plan

engage.milwaukee.gov/GrowingMKE



First Community Meeting held in Dec. 2024

Maximize Your Enjoyment at the New Wick Playfield with Help from MKE Physical Therapy

By Rebecca Nault

Spring is the perfect time to start a healthy habit, and Washington Heights offers an ideal setting. Just across Vliet Street from the MKE Physical Therapy clinic, the newly revitalized Wick Playfield provides countless opportunities to stay active and healthy. We're excited to see our community come together this summer at this incredible recreational facility!

While humans are designed for movement and recreation, we often approach activity inefficiently, leading to injury and pain. At MKE Physical Therapy, our mission is to help people stay active and achieve their goals through a holistic approach that identifies the root causes of pain.

What Makes MKE Physical Therapy Different?

Our approach is simple: one-on-one, personalized care. After spending over 16 years in traditional healthcare—where patient time keeps shrinking and care is often handed off to aides and assistants—I knew there had to be a better way. That's why, at MKE Physical Therapy, every session is a full hour of dedicated, hands-on treatment.



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Still unsure if MKE Physical Therapy is right for you? Scan the QR code to schedule a free discovery call and enjoy \$100 off your initial evaluation!

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE

RUMMAGE SALE

**JUNE 7
2025**

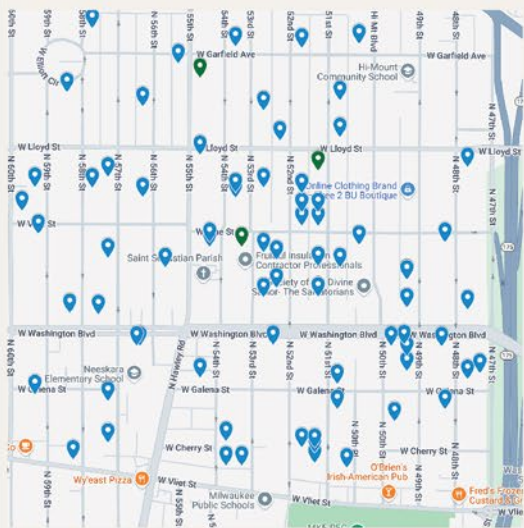
Have you started spring cleaning yet? If not, are you looking for motivation to start? Are you trying get rid of some treasures from your house? Are you in the market to procure new treasures?

Accomplish all by participating in the annual Washington Heights Rummage sale on Saturday June 7, 2025!

Rummage sellers are encouraged to add their address to the Rummage Sale Interactive Map (sellers can also identify what kinds of things they'll be selling – clothes, electronics, toys, etc.). Sellers can add their address now and until the day of the rummage sale. There is no cost to add your rummage sale to the map and the map will be updated as addresses are added. Please add your address only if you plan on participating.

Rummagers can use the map to plan out their rummage route and put together a strategy for their day for the things they're looking for.

Help kick off summer in Washington Heights with a great day of rummaging, selling, or both – you never know what you'll find!



SIGN UP



HERE



MAP

Hosting a BLOCK PARTY? WHNA to Offer Grants Again!

By Erin Nimmer

We are excited to announce that our Washington Heights Block Party Grant Program is back for 2025. Learn more by scanning the Grant Application QR code, then submit your application by July 1, 2025.

Connected neighbors help to make our neighborhood stronger. Block parties can be a fun way to bring a street or block together and create the opportunity to get to know your neighbors. We look forward to awarding up to 10 block party grants for gatherings that take place throughout the summer and fall of 2025.

In 2024, the WHNA funded eight block parties. Each received a \$200 grant to use towards a variety of party enhancements, including bounce houses (very popular!), food and beverages, prizes for games, live music, porta potties, and kids' activities. The party on the 1400 block of 52nd street celebrated its tenth anniversary and over 40 neighbors joined the fun!

GRANT



APPLICATION

2024 BLOCK PARTY GRANT RECIPIENTS

1600 block of 48th	2100 block of 57th
1600 block of 49th	1700-1800 block of 58th
1400-1699 blocks of 51st	1700-2000 blocks of Hi Mount
1400-1600 block of 52nd	2100-2190 block of Hi Mount



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www.MilwaukeeMakersMarket.com

Clogged Sewer Grates Pay Attention

By Diane Roeder

Beginning in late March, the City of Milwaukee does a post winter "heavy sweeping" program to clear curb lanes and alleys of winter's accumulation of debris. This heavy sweeping continues throughout April but, unfortunately, this does not always happen before heavy rains arrive.

If sewer grates are clogged with leaves and debris, water will pool and cause flooding around these areas. To keep our neighborhood clean and help out the city, please consider taking 5-10 minutes to clear out the sewer grates near your home and sweep up the debris along the curb. A few minutes of work will prevent hours of clean-up due to flooding and other damage.

If you are not able or willing to clear debris, the MKE Mobile Action App can be used to report clogged sewer drains, potholes, broken branches, fallen trees and other hazards. The city will send out a crew to clear debris or make repairs.

MKE Mobile Action

Request services, file reports, and follow up from your mobile device.

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Brush Collection Ended Nov. 30
Brush collection is over for 2020. Take brush to a Drop-Off Center - info here.

Drop-Off Centers Winter Hours Start Nov. 29
Nov. 29, 2020-Apr. 10, 2021, Drop-Off



MKE Mobile Action App

Residents can use MKE Mobile Action to locate, photograph and provide supporting information to ensure speedy resolution of issues. Issues that can be reported include Abandoned Vehicles, Graffiti, Litter, Potholes or other issues.

Washington Park Wednesdays: Building on Success for 2025

By Melissa Muller, Producer & Executive Director,
Washington Park Neighbors • www.washingtonparkneighbors.com

Washington Park Wednesdays, Milwaukee's beloved summer concert series, is gearing up for an epic season in 2025. While we're still finalizing details, the momentum from 2024's outstanding success is fueling our work as we prepare to deliver even more dynamic programming and community engagement.

This year, we're thrilled to announce new collaborations with exciting programming partners and committee leads who bring fresh perspectives and energy to our team. We are always welcoming new Season Sponsors and Nightly Sponsors, as well as team members who are passionate about community, creativity and making Washington Park a vibrant destination for all.

Our upcoming fundraiser at the Urban Ecology Center on May 7 from 5-8PM will kick off an exciting season of engagement and collaboration. But the real magic happens during the eight concerts of Washington Park Wednesdays. These concerts not only entertain but also draw the community together, increase patronage to the park, and create a space that is safe, clean and actively used. By fostering connections between attendees and local businesses, these events amplify the cultural and economic vitality of the area, turning Washington Park into a dynamic hub for arts and community life. Together, we're ensuring the park remains a safe, clean, and thriving space for all, fostering pride and stewardship among neighbors and visitors alike. Our 2025 concert season begins on July 9, with concerts every Wednesday through August 27. We can't wait to see you in the park this summer!

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Introducing Your New Representative in the Wisconsin State Assembly District 18 *By Rep. Margaret Arney*

Hello, my name is Margaret Arney, and I am your newly elected Wisconsin state representative of the 18th Assembly district. I am honored to succeed Rep. Evan Goyke, who served the district with integrity and effectiveness for many years. The district covers Washington Park, Sherman Park, Martin Drive, Story Hill, the Concordia neighborhood and the Wauwatosa Village. The Washington Park Library, the Washington High School Purgolders, Sherman Phoenix, Cafe Hollander and Daddy's Soul Food Restaurant are all in the district!

I am excited to tackle issues facing the residents of our district and Wisconsinites as a whole. Born and raised in Milwaukee, I bring more than 30 years of experience as a community leader, non-profit professional and college instructor. In 2022 I was the first woman of color elected to the Wauwatosa City Council, where I will continue to serve through April 2026. Affordable housing, education, health care and caring for elders are particularly close to my heart.

For the 2025-27 session, I have been appointed to the Assembly Committee on Transportation and the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules. I will continue the work of Near Westside Partners, Wisconsin Bike Federation and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to transform the 30th Street Corridor. I will focus on making sure the I-94 expansion project and the re-imagining of 175 provide maximum benefit for residents.



Since taking office in January, I have co-sponsored Senate Bill 23 that extends postpartum Medicaid coverage for a full year after birth. I am also proud to stand with legislative Democrats to introduce the Lowering Costs, Improving Lives package, a series of three bills to help make everyday costs like groceries and prescriptions more affordable for families across Wisconsin.

February was Black History Month, and, as a member of the Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus (WLBC), we were busy! WLBC hosted many events, including Black Advocacy Day on February 27th. We also introduced a resolution honoring the contributions of Black people to the state of Wisconsin and a bill to honor Vel Phillips' birthday every year.

I am delighted to be your voice in the State Assembly. Please share your thoughts and let me know how I can be of service by emailing my office at rep.arney@legis.wisconsin.gov. I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you!
Margaret



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(888) 534-0018
Fax: (608) 282-3618

Email:
Rep.Arney@legis.wisconsin.gov

Update from County Supervisor Sky Capriolo

Hello!

A year ago, when I wrote my first article for this publication, I hadn't even taken office yet and was brand new to everything government-related. Now, I've got nearly a year of experience and have met so many active and caring residents in District 15, including many in the Washington Heights area!

I've learned so much in the last year. One thing I realized almost immediately was that there are worthy causes around every corner that deserve attention. Obviously, that can be very overwhelming, so I'm trying to focus on a few big projects. One of them is getting a pool, or even an aquatic center, opened in Washington Park. This is an enormous undertaking, to say the least.

The pool in its current condition will take a large chunk of money to be ready to open. I'm working with a small group of big thinkers to see how we can transform that section of Washington Park into a must-see destination for nearby residents and visitors alike. Stay tuned for more information as we start down this path...it will not be a quick journey, but I'm dedicated to seeing it through during my time in office.



If you'd like a car cellphone holder, connect with me and I can let you know where I'll be handing them out this spring and summer."



I enjoyed my walk to Washington Park Wednesdays last summer with a nice group of Washington Heights neighbors.

Another big area of focus for me is safer driving in Milwaukee County. Last fall, I used some of my County funds to buy car cellphone holders. The Brewers Foundation also pitched in \$1,000 and I was able to order 800. I paired up with the Harley-Davidson Foundation to host a drive-through event to give them away in January. It wasn't as well attended as I had hoped, but that means I've got quite a few holders left to give out at events in 2025. Let me know if you have something coming up where I can distribute them.

My big message here is that we can ALL be safer and more conscientious drivers and one small step to doing that is to keep both hands on the wheel. As a follow-up to the car cellphone holder giveaway, I wrote a resolution urging our state legislators to pass a law in Wisconsin that makes using a hands-free device for cellphones mandatory. Currently, 30 states have "hands-free cellphone" laws, but WI does not.

As I wrap this up, I want to let you all know that the biggest highlight of this role has been meeting the dedicated people in our district. Another highlight is being able to help connect residents with the appropriate people at the County to solve issues or celebrate successes. Speaking of celebrating, please reach out to me if you know someone who is deserving of a special recognition from the County Board. I'd be happy to write a congratulatory citation!

Looking forward to seeing people out and about soon in nicer weather,

Sky Z. Capriolo
Milwaukee County Supervisor for District 15

Please connect with me:

Email: sky.capriolo@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Office phone: 414-278-4255

Office cellphone: 414-897-2036

Facebook: search Milwaukee County Supervisor Sky Z. Capriolo



Strategically Solving Big Problems on the Milwaukee County Board

By Milwaukee County Supervisor Shawn Rolland (shawn.rolland@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

Happy Spring, Washington Heights! My name is Shawn Rolland, and I'm honored to represent neighborhoods in Wauwatosa and Washington Heights on the County Board. My goal is to be a data-driven, socially progressive and fiscally responsible supervisor working to accelerate our county's strategic plan to become the healthiest county in Wisconsin.

Our goal has been to reduce homelessness, minimize evictions and enhance health outcomes. Here's the good news about homelessness and evictions: Homelessness in Milwaukee County trended down at a time when homelessness across the U.S. trended up. The number of unsheltered people in our county decreased by 36.4% - while homelessness ticked up 18% across America and rose 11% across Wisconsin. These amazing local results reflect the hard work of many, including our Milwaukee County Board.

Here's the sobering news: Housing costs continue to rise locally and nationally, and many of the federal funds we used to create change are drying up. Milwaukee County's Housing Division, part of our Dept. of Health & Human Services, is continuing to coordinate with community partners to end people's cycle of homelessness. As a supervisor, and new Milwaukee Continuum of Care voting member, I will continue to do what I can to support their essential work.

Housing is just one point of pride. Our Milwaukee County Board also protected our bus routes from cuts, made improvements to paratransit for seniors and people with disabilities, improved public safety in our community and inside our jail, approved a go-forward plan to Save the Domes, built reckless-driving-prevention infrastructure, and invested in our parks and parkways – all while keeping our tax levy lower than 2020 levels!

In 2025, we celebrated the outstanding improvements inside and outside the Urban Ecology Center. We also will fix aging HVAC and fire protection systems at Washington Park.

As we look toward 2026 budget discussions, I will continue advocating for our strategic plan and our area's fair share of funding. I'll be speaking out for high-priority locals projects like redesigning and repairing Olmsted Way, Washington Park Lagoon dredging and remediation, and rebuilding the entrance of our beloved Milwaukee County Zoo. The Zoo improvements will eliminate dangerous safety issues, enhance the visitor experience and grow zoo revenue.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if we can be of service to you. I hope you have a safe and happy Spring!





Erika Siemsen

Greetings From Your School Board Director

Dear Neighbors,

With so much in the news locally and nationally, I am reminded of the incredible importance of community, learning and connection. I believe in the power of good people doing good work, and I see that around me every day, both in MPS and our beautiful neighborhood. Thank you for being a part of a community where we care for and value one another. It is something we can all cherish.

One of Milwaukee Public Schools' strengths is its diverse population. It is crucial for all students to feel welcome, safe and secure at school. I remain committed to supporting students and families from every background and ability during their time at MPS. As a safe haven district, Milwaukee Public Schools will continue to follow our policies and take steps to protect the rights of our students, staff and their families. We do not inquire about the immigration status of our students or their families, and our administrators receive training on handling potential ICE visits and interactions with federal immigration officials. All are welcome in our community of learners, and we want to ensure our students have that experience.

The health and well-being of our students is another important focus of the district. The recent findings of lead in some of our schools is very concerning. I want to assure you that I take this matter seriously and that MPS is working closely with the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) to take every necessary step to ensure student and staff safety. This is a good reminder for all of us, especially because many of our homes are older, to be mindful of steps we can take at home to reduce and eliminate lead exposure. These have been provided to us by the MHD:

- Use wet wipes to clean surfaces like floors, windows, and furniture to remove lead dust.
- Remove shoes at the door to prevent tracking in dirt with lead dust.
- Wash toys frequently, especially for very young children.
- Provide foods rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C to help prevent lead absorption.
- Run tap water cold for three minutes before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Use a water filter certified to remove lead (NSF/ANSI 53).

As you know, Milwaukee Public Schools has been in the process of selecting a new superintendent. I am brimming with excitement and optimism as we take steps toward new leadership in the district. The board has selected Dr. Brenda Casselius as our next superintendent. I was excited to hear her highlight the importance of Early Childhood programming, student voice and improving the meals served in our schools. I know she sees amazing opportunities for MPS, and I am confident she has the experience and dedication needed to do the good work to make the necessary changes and improvements.

The weather is warming up, and soon we will all be outside enjoying our yards and taking advantage of nicer walking weather. I'm sure we are ready for more sunshine and the energy boost that comes with spring! Take good care.

Erika Siemsen is a retired MPS teacher serving as the School Board Representative for Milwaukee Public Schools in District 2.

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The City of Milwaukee has launched its MKE Alert emergency notification system! Receive alerts for missing persons, special events/road closures, extreme weather, public health warnings, and more.

Milwaukee Public Schools Needs Your Input on Long-Range Facilities Plan

By Kevin Driscoll

Did you know that 85% of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) school buildings are 55+ years old and the average age of an MPS-owned school building is 82 years? In order to meet both current demands and future needs, the school district has launched a long-range study to ensure high quality learning environments as the population and educational needs evolve into the future.

Currently, about 67,000 students are enrolled at over 140 campuses throughout the Milwaukee district. The last plan was completed in 2011. At that time enrollment was more than 80,000, with student capacity at approximately 105,000. Given declining enrollment trends, including a decline in birthrates, MPS continues to experience more capacity for students than is needed, and is projected to see this trend continuing into the future.

As part of the planning process, every school has been preliminarily sorted into different strategic candidate groups. These groups are based on building utilization, enrollment trends, proximity to other schools, program offerings, and building condition. These categories include:

Enhancement: potential candidate schools for building and/or programmatic investments to improve the existing school.

Optimization: potential candidate schools for closure or merger to improve overall resource allocation.

Expansion: potential candidate schools for a building addition.

Continuation: schools with generally sustainable operations and without major interventions.

The planning work to this point has included extensive community outreach. In 2024, MPS held community engagement that included over 11,000 survey responses from students, staff, families/community members; eight in-person town halls and four virtual meetings; school-based engagement with middle and high school students; and community event engagement, like the MPS Run Back to School at Wick Park.

This preliminary sorting is a midpoint in the overall planning process and does not represent any final decisions.

Get involved today!

Our Washington Heights residents are caretakers of buildings and houses with good bones in our neighborhood that will get passed on to future generations of caretakers. Similarly, MPS provides stewardship of these school buildings now and for generations to come. Please participate in the facilities planning process and find ways make a positive difference in our community.

MPS Long-Range Facilities
Master Plan Exploration Tool



Community Survey



MPS Long-Range
Facilities Master Plan

Schools Reimagined for the Greater Community

MPS has reduced total building square footage over the past 14 years from 17 million square feet to 15 million square feet. They did this by reimagining and converting school buildings for dynamic new uses. Many MPS facilities were built in an era with high quality architecture and structural longevity.

Examples of these historic buildings adaptations include:

- Fifth Street School/Isaac Coggs, built in 1888, renovated to senior living in 2018.
- Garfield Avenue School, built in 1887, renovated to mixed use development in 2018.
- 37th Street School, built in 1903, renovated to senior housing in 2021.
- 20th Street/Phyllis Wheatley School built in 1902, renovated to apartments in 2022.
- McKinley Street School built in 1880, renovated into Veteran's preference apartments in 2023.



Create Your Own Mini “Cloud 9 Tinker Bar” at Home!

Looking for a fun and creative way to inspire your family? Try setting up a Cloud 9 Tinker Bar at home! A Cloud 9 Tinker Bar is a dedicated space filled with open-ended materials that encourage hands-on creativity, problem-solving, and imaginative play. Whether you have little makers or crafty teens, a well-stocked Cloud 9 Tinker Bar can spark endless ideas and projects. Bonus: that feeling of being “on cloud nine” while creating!



GETTING STARTED

1. **Gather Materials** – Collect everyday household items like cardboard tubes, fabric scraps, buttons, wood pieces and wire. Repurposing materials is a great way to encourage sustainability while fostering creativity. Before throwing things away, start asking, “What can we make with this?”
2. **Organize Smartly** – Use bins or jars to sort supplies, making it easy for kids (and adults!) to grab what they need. In the studio we use clear plastic apple juice containers (we cut the tops off and smooth out the sharp edges with sandpaper). You might use plastic peanut butter jars or clear snack containers.
3. **Provide Basic Tools** – Include age-appropriate tools like scissors, glue, tape, hole punchers and even hand drills for older kids. At the studio, kids LOVE the hot glue gun. We recommend a low-temp, mini glue gun for kids, with a protective table surface such as cardboard. Be sure to talk with your kids about tool safety and tinker-guidelines
4. **Encourage Open-Ended Exploration** – There’s no right or wrong way to tinker! Let curiosity and imagination lead the way. You might even tinker together, just to demonstrate the process. Or stop by the studio for a full Cloud 9 Tinker Bar experience!



Visit us at Cloud 9 Workshop!
5205 W North Ave, Milwaukee
www.cloud9workshop.com

Want to take creativity even further? Visit Cloud 9 Workshop, your neighborhood eco-art studio, where families can explore hands-on projects, creative reuse and inspiring workshops. Whether you’re looking to learn a new art or sewing skill or to tinker, we have the space and resources to make your ideas come to life!

Join us in fostering creativity at home and in the community—one tinker, one creation and one inspired mind at a time!



“Tinker Bar

I think you would be happy to know that we have now essentially assembled a tinker bar on a cabinet at home because Rose just loves being able to make things like she does when she comes to Cloud 9! It’s pretty adorable if you ask me, lol!

-Theresa, Milwaukee



SPRING PASTA WITH PEAS

SERVES 2-4

By Lisa Malmarowski,
Washington Heights neighbor since 1999

When the calendar says winter is over, but the evenings are still cool, this is the perfect week-night dinner - quick, simple and full of fresh green flavors. The texture of this meal is between a soup and a pasta, both brothy and a little creamy at the same time. Each single flavor shines, so choose great quality ingredients because you'll taste each one. I went with a Wisconsin favorite for the cheese, Sartori's SarVecchio Parmesan for a creamier texture and nutty/sweet big taste. A classic Pecorino Romano would work great. If you can't find ditalini or tubetti pasta, choose a small elbow macaroni instead.

Ingredients

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra for drizzling

1 yellow or white onion, chopped fine

2 ounces pancetta, chopped fine

3/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

2 1/2 cups chicken broth

2 1/2 cups water

7 1/2 ounces ditalini or tubetti pasta

1 1/2 cup frozen peas, regular or petit (do not thaw)

1/3 cup minced fresh parsley

2 tablespoons minced fresh mint

1/4 cup freshly grated Sartori SarVecchio Parmesan Cheese, plus extra for serving

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

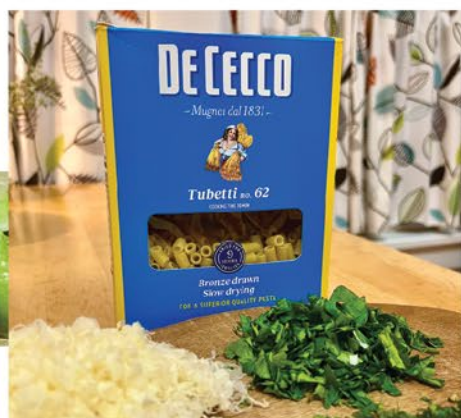


Directions

1. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in large saucepan over medium heat until shimmering. Add onion, pancetta, salt and pepper and cook, stirring frequently, until onion is softened, 7 to 10 minutes.
2. Add broth and water and bring to boil over high heat. Stir in pasta and cook, stirring frequently, until liquid returns to boil. Reduce heat to maintain simmer; cover; and cook until pasta is al dente, about 8 to 10 minutes.
3. Stir in frozen peas and remove saucepan from heat. Stir in parsley, mint and grated cheese. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

To serve, drizzle with extra oil and add grated cheese on top.

Notes: Make this vegetarian by using vegetable broth, and skipping the pancetta and adding an extra 2 tablespoons of cheese. Using Pecorino Romano will add more flavor.



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Shawn Nemitz

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Shawn Nemitz

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Left to right:

Andy Wizarde, CFP®, Senior Vice President/Investments

Bill Morse, CFP®, Senior Vice President/Investments, Branch Manager

for being named to

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Bill Morse: (262) 240-3901 | wmorse@stifel.com

Andy Wizarde: (262) 240-3902 | awizarde@stifel.com

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