

Approximate boundaries:
N-W. Galena St; **S**-W. Vliet St;
E-N. 17th, **W**-N. 20th St

NORTH SIDE *Park View*

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Park View is roughly a four-block area encompassed by the King Park neighborhood, with Midtown to the west. There are fewer than 200 buildings in the tree-lined neighborhood. Most of the ranch-style homes were built in the late 20th century. The neighborhood has the appearance of a subdivision.

HISTORY

The area that is today's Park View is a neighborhood of just over 400 people.

Early populations

The original area comprising Park View was developed after 1850. The early population was mostly German and they lived within walking distance of jobs at tanneries, the Schlitz Brewery, shoe factories, and mills.

By 1900, some of the Germans in the area were moving to other locations north and west of their original settlement, and new populations were arriving. These included African Americans, Eastern European Jews, Slovaks, Austrians, American Indians, and Hungarians. See the following list of businesses that operated on Galena between 17th and 20th Streets in 1930 and in 1950.

1930s businesses



<i>Address on W. Galena</i>	<i>Name of business from <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i>
1701	Mich Lehur Groceries
"	Joseph Lehur Soft Drinks
1712	Nicholas Lauer Carpenter Contractor
1713	Angeline Cortelli, Midwife
1730	Adam Wirth Meats
1829	Ziegelbauer Auto Sales Co. Used Cars
1916	George Schumann Co.
1919	Jacob Merget News Director
1929	John V. Fersch Baker
1930	Specialty Signs Systems Inc.

1950s businesses

Address on W. Galena	Name of business from <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u>
1715	Cortell's Tree and Shrub Services
1801	Clifford J. Murphy Tavern
1901	Leo Schweiger's Recreation
1902	Edward P. Osten & Son Grocery

Census records* reveal some interesting details about these businessmen and businesswomen.

- Mich [Mathias] Lehur, Joseph Lehur, and Nicholas Lauer were actually all brothers, sons of Jacob and Ann Lauer. Jacob was a German immigrant and a lithographer. Note that the "soft drink" establishment that Joseph operated was during the years of Prohibition and it may have been a "speakeasy."
- The full name of the midwife that operated on Galena in 1930 was Angela Cortelletty. She was Austrian-born and married to Louis Cortelletty. Among her children was an Albert Cortelletty. Over the years the family continued to drop letters in their surname, and by 1950, Albert became Albert M. Cortell, who in 1950 operated Cortell's Tree and Shrub Service one door west of his family's home, where his mother had practiced midwifery some years' earlier.
- Adam Wirth was a German-speaking Hungarian.
- John Ziegelbauer of Ziegelbauer Auto Sales grew up in Campbellsport Wisconsin, the son of immigrant German parents.
- Jacob Merget, listed as a News Director in the Milwaukee City Directory, was a German immigrant who actually owned a magazine store at that address.
- Leo Schweiger was an Austrian immigrant.
- Edward P. Osten began as a shoe maker before he went into the grocery business. He was the son of German immigrant parents and his sons were Clarence and Harold.

*Note that the 1950 census records were not yet released at the time of this compilation, so some information could not be found.

By the middle of the 1950s the dominant population in the area that comprised Park View was African American, and that population would continue to grow in the next 15 years. Two government programs displaced most in the Bronzeville community to the northeast of Park View. One program was urban renewal, which had been designed to improve central city housing. Block after block was slated for revitalization, and residents were forced to sell their homes or were offered alternative housing in other areas of the city. During the same time period, the Milwaukee County Expressway Commission was building two major freeway corridors in the heart of the City. One cut directly across neighboring Bronzeville, discarding Walnut Street as the center of the community. African Americans were forced into other neighborhoods.

Current populations (as of 2021)

Park View is almost entirely African American today. Approximately one-third of the residents are under the age of 20. Slightly over half of the population is low income, with annual household incomes under \$25,000. In terms of occupations, over one-fifth of the adult residents work in administrative jobs and nearly as many work in production.

Homes are an excellent buy in the Park View mini-neighborhood. Approximately half of the properties are owner-occupied, and about 4 in 10 home owners spend between \$501 and \$1,000 on selected home-owner costs (such as mortgages, contracts to buy, insurance, taxes, etc.) per month.

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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Martin Luther King Day, 2:30 pm	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 1531 W. Vliet St.	An afternoon in honor of Dr. King involving music, spoken work, and praise dance.	Free

BRONZEVILLE WEEK

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Aug., 2nd week	MLK Dr., between Garfield Ave. and Center St.	Cultural and arts festival, with a run/walk run, health screenings, trolley rides, arts night, poetry readings.	Free

BRONZEVILLE JAZZ IN THE HOOD

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Early Jul., Fri. 4-9pm	4th St. between North and Garfield	Celebration of African-American culture that focuses on local creative entrepreneurial talent with art performances.	Free

WALK THROUGH OLD BRONZEVILLE

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Daily, by appt., 1:30-4	Lapham Park Apartments and Senior Center 1901 N. 6th St.	Visit to replica of the once thriving Walnut Street, the heart of Bronzeville, in lower level of Lapham Center. To reserve time, call (414) 286-8859	Free

Most of 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://mecahmilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

If you are a resident of Park View and have an uplifting comment to make about this neighborhood, send your quote to JFLanthropologist@currently.com

PHOTOS

Today's neighborhood-Park View Houses



Today's neighborhood-Machek House

For more information on Milwaukee neighborhoods, refer to John Gurda's *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods* and Jill Florence Lackey's and Rick Petrie's *Germans in Milwaukee: A neighborhood history*.

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:

JFLanthropologist@currently.com