

## Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association

# May 2009 Newsletter

### Message from the NDNA President

## *Green Spaces Abound in the Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Area*

By Sheilah Cradler, Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association President

The Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association (NDNA) area is bounded by several passive and active areas of green space which are open to the public. They offer healthful and aesthetic advantages to the residents who live, work and recreate in the area.



One of the largest active green areas is immediately to the east; namely the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay campus which offers 700 acres of vegetation, trees and

trails to the students and employees as well as nearby residents.

This unique area is part of the Cofrin Memorial Arboretum which forms a natural boundary of 290 acres encircling the campus. It was a gift from the Cofrin Family – to foster ecological research as well as enjoyment of nature for all.

Joggers and deer share the open spaces. Naturalists collect photographs of plant specimens. Cross-country skiers dot the trails in winter. Parents, children and student groups often picnic or rest under the gigantic trees in summer. Many of its trails are stroller-friendly. The main campus' large green space on the east also continues briefly to the west along the shoreline known as the "Old Sailing Club" where there is water access to the bay. This west area also provides lovely sunsets for photographers as captured in many wedding pictures.

To the far north at the City of Green Bay/Town of Scott line is a spit of rustic land known as Point Sable. Nearly two hundred of its acres are owned by the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. Most of its inhabitants are deer,

wild turkeys, woodchucks, badgers, water fowl and common birds. In summer, migrating pelicans become temporary residents and comic relief. An occasional wolf has been seen there in the winter. Foot access from Nicolet Drive is difficult. However, in summer boats and small water craft beach at the end of the point to offer

hiking or picnicking to their owners. Fishermen dot the area in season. Various university science classes conduct collections and research on the land and nearby water.

Mid-point on the main strip of Nicolet Drive is a passive area of park known as Joliet Park. Residents can park there in order to fish in season or take a short hike. The park is only about five acres large, but it holds some special tree and plant specimens with a little walking trail.

The tiniest of the passive parks is Hoops at about one third of an acre. It sits on a corner of Beach Lane, and it was donated to the city by a resident. It is a rustic triangle of space offering a good view of the bay through the various yards of the homes nearby. The NDNA is currently in a decision-making process with the Parks Department regarding assistance in enhancing this little area.



"Passive Parks", by definition, are plant restoration conservancy spaces. They offer a natural area for indigenous wildlife and plants. They are low maintenance areas for municipalities while offering educational opportunities for residents such as school children. The grassy areas are left natural for wildlife, so cutting and chemicals are not permitted. These passive parks help migrating birds to flourish.

Large and small parks and green space abound in the Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association area. If you reside in the area and have some ideas or interests in the spaces, please reach me or Board Members through the website for the association; namely,

[www.ci.green-bay.wi.us/geninfo/neighborhood](http://www.ci.green-bay.wi.us/geninfo/neighborhood)

May 2009

## What is a Neighborhood Association?

By Sheilah Cradler, NDNA President

By definition, "A neighborhood association is, quite simply, neighbors living within a designated area of the City who are concerned about issues affecting their neighborhood and, who have decided to work together to protect and ensure a better social, economic, and business climate in their neighborhood."



The purpose of Neighborhood Associations is to "... act as a voice for the neighborhood residents, a somewhat official link to local government and the larger community.

Many neighborhoods find that by banding together and forming a neighborhood association, they are better able to meet the collective needs of the neighborhood."

Typical projects for Neighborhood Associations are newsletters, picnics, clean-up projects, education on zoning, recreational activities and representation to the news media and Mayor's Council. The Nicolet Drive Association has always had high attendance at large meal-centered events such as buffets and barbecues, and the attendees say they especially like being able to connect with their neighbors socially. Elected officials attend these large events, as well as some monthly meetings, which make the events valuable for networking.

For more information contact Cheryl Renier-Wigg @ 448-3412 at the City of Green Bay Neighborhood Division.

## Beach Lane - a quiet place!

By Tom Neuser, NDNA member

A scenic view with nature's extreme elements constantly there to awe and excite the senses.

Once a part of the Town of Scott, annexed by the City of Green Bay in the 1970's.

Within the City yet able to look back and observe the metro area from afar.

The Air Force jets as they maneuver to fly over Lambeau Field in the fall.

Fireworks for the 4th of July celebration on the Fox River and along the shores of the Bay.

Cottages from the 1920's to new construction in 2009.

A new street with an up to date storm sewer system.

Away from the noise and high traffic of a county road.

A passive park - warblers, kestrels, eagles, owls, many shore and water birds.



Seasons:

The awakening of spring - the migration begins

The glory of summer - flowers, insects, birds.

The beauty of fall - another migration

The fierceness of winter - a white desert.

Being part of the community that is the Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association

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# UW – Green Bay’s Bayshore Center Opportunities

By Paul Pinkston, NDNA Board Member

As part of our Nicolet Drive neighborhood community and employee of the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, I have had the pleasure to witness the natural beauty and opportunities that this section of Green Bay has to offer for all that stop and explore.

The natural woodlands south of Communiversity Park have a diverse history that many in our community may already know about and others may find quite interesting. UW-Green Bay and the State of Wisconsin own the bay shore property from Communiversity Park south past Mahon Creek. This frontage encompasses nearly 52 acres, with 45 acres that can never be changed from its natural state. Ownership began in the late 1960’s when the university first began to build upon its academic mission. Originally there were 21 individual parcels, many having small summer cottages along the shoreline connected by a few rustic roads. By the mid-1970’s, all the parcels were jointly purchased with State of Wisconsin funds and federal land conservation funds. The roads were left to return to their natural state and can still be seen today if you’re out before the foliage takes over. Only two houses and a few garages were left to stand. They served as headquarters for the university’s sailing team and the public sailing organizations. The evenings down at the center were busy with people rigging their Flying J’s and loading them into the water with the only hoist built on a tired concrete pier.



By the early 90’s, only one structure remained and it was a cottage built for Curly Lambeau back in 1941 by a Green Bay architect, Harry Williams. The cottage was never formally named for Curly Lambeau until the university began to make repairs to the structure in

1997. For just a small fee, the cottage can be reserved by anyone, for any day of the year, by contacting the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay’s reservations office.

The bay shore also offers great views of the lower Green Bay, spectacular sunset watching, and a launching point for kayaks and canoeists whom don’t need a

formal boat launch. The gravel trail is slightly longer than one mile to the Mahon Creek bridge. It meanders through lowland seeps that are full of water in the spring and dry by the fall. The path traces the shoreline and offers glimpses of the bay before turning back towards Nicolet Drive and a connection to the asphalt path leading underneath the bridge and over Mahon Creek, which can be completely under water at certain periods of the year. Everyday of the year, a person can witness and interact with the diversity of birds, animals, and insects that either make their home here or are migrating through the area to their summer or winter range.

So as you drive past this woodland, take the time to stop in, park your car and walk along the shoreline, visit the Lambeau Cottage, and make this your starting point for hiking, biking, and cross county skiing around UW-Green Bay’s campus arboretum.

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# The Joy of Living on Pebble Beach Court

By Dan Drossart, Board Member

Pebble Beach Court is a quiet street off of Nicolet Drive located about four blocks north from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay. There are fifteen beautiful homes located on this street, ending with a cul de sac. Homes are occupied with people from all walks of life. It is always nice to talk to each other; people are friendly, no matter what they are doing, getting their paper, and walking their dog or just taking a walk. It is also safe for children.

If you love animals, you will enjoy looking out your window at any given time to possibly see deer crossing your lawn or coming and going from the adjacent corn field. Once in a while we will see our friend, Mr. red fox running down our street just to let us know he is doing just fine. There are also 3-4 wild turkeys that like to hang around our gardens, eating whatever they can find, letting us know they avoided Thanksgiving Day dinner.



Looking up at the trees and the sky in the spring, you will see Mr. and Mrs. bald eagle looking for a nesting spot on one of the highest branches in the tallest tree right along the bay. They are so beautiful to watch as they soar back and forth in front of our street. Pelicans will fly along the shore of the bay, landing in the water to gobble up a fish with their big beaks. A flock of geese will fly by and land in the water.

Ducks of all types are with us all summer having a ball in the water. Then there is our friend, the hawk floating motionless in the air, only to dive down and to come up with its prey in its claws. Pebble Beach Court has very few mice, chipmunks or squirrels in the area. He is an excellent hunter and is fun to watch.

In the summer we see people enjoying the water in their beautiful yachts and young people on jet skis having fun. People in their fishing boats catching perch, walleyes, muskies and northern pike. If you look across the waters of Green Bay, you might be lucky to see a big freighter loaded with cement, coal, salt or limestone moving into the port of Green Bay.



Our winter is cold, with winds blowing across the bay, blowing snow and more snow causing 4-6 ft drifts in your driveway. But we, who live in the fifteen homes on Pebble Beach Court, know how nice it feels to be inside a nice, warm home having a drink of your choice. Just let it snow, let it snow, what a great and wonderful place to live.

Now I saved the best for last. In the early evening as the day is coming to an end, sitting on your porch or your deck, you can look to the west across the bay and you will see the most spectacular sunsets. No two sunsets are ever alike. The sky, the clouds and the setting sun are amazing. Many colors can be seen as the clouds change their formations as the sun goes down and sets. It's a wonderful ending to another great day. We are very lucky to live in the Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association, one of the most beautiful places along the shore of Green Bay.

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# Never Too Many Lights!

By Roger and June Gilsoul

We are the Gilsouls living at 3195 Nicolet Drive. We're the brightly lit yard with all the Christmas decorations. This transformation starts in late October. Using rope lighting and 50 candy canes, we outline our circle driveway. But the highlight is the lighted sixteen foot candy cane nestled in our three large evergreens. Icicle lights outline the house along with wreaths and prelit pine trees – all equaling over 16,000 lights.

Nineteen trees with six tall fully decorated are scattered throughout our house. Being boaters we have a nautical tree, also June's parent's tree over 50 years old is decorated with many of their ornaments. The Packers tree is the first up in late October. Hundreds of birds are on the bird tree, the poinsettia tree is nestled behind the couch and the main traditional tree has the most ornaments with over 2,000 lights and spotlights fourteen of the more glittery ornaments. Many lit garlands are in the archways, doorways and above cupboards. They are adorned with icicles, snowflakes, red ribbons, bows and ornaments. There are over 10,000 lights in the living room.

We have four villages, mostly Department 56 buildings and figurines. The "Up North" woody village, the recreational, sledding/skating theme, a city and the



largest is the complete Alpine Village located on two house levels connecting it to the ski lift. There are over ninety buildings and hundreds of figurines.

We host a few open houses after Christmas to those who enjoy the Christmas season. Most asked questions – Where do you store it all? How long does it take to get it all up?

Some people say we are crazy for decorating so extensively and we agree...but we also enjoy it.

## FOUND LADIES JACKET:

At Annual Meeting  
Sept. 11, 2008

Call Sheilah @920-469-8382

## Newsletter Committee Spring 2009

Rita Baril                      Tom Neuser  
Sheilah Cradler              William Acker  
Dan Drossart

*Special Thanks to Linda Glawe-Neuser  
for her help and expertise with this newsletter!*



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# Renard Island Closure

By William G. Acker, Environmental Committee

The Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association has been working on the safe closure of this facility which holds around 20,000 pounds of PCB's. Brown County the owner of this facility is responsible for the final closure of this property which holds dredged material taken from the harbor. The important dates for this closure are as follows:

1. Brown County Closure Plan Approved  
By DNR: June 2008
2. Construction Must Begin By: June 2011
3. Closure Completed By: June 2013



So far there has been little progress with this project due to money issues which includes the cost of a permanent bridge from Bay Beach property to Renard Island. Recently it came to our attention that Brown County received stimulus money to help pay for this work in addition to money from the Army Corp.

This could put this project on a fast track to completion but we still have some major issues to get through. The most important issue of concern is to get a clay cap to cover the surface of Renard which would eliminate rainwater penetration down into Renard thus reducing the amount of PCB leakage out the sides.

The County has clearly indicated that they have no interest in developing Renard Island into a park, but the City of Green Bay would like to develop into part of Bay Beach. The NDRA has been working with the City of Green Bay on this potential development in an effort to make it safe. If we convince the County to cap Renard with a clay cap instead of the sandy material that Brown County wants to use we then can significantly reduce the leakage of PCB's into the surrounding waters which one day may become a new city swimming beach.

We need your help to get a clay cap for Renard Island. You can help us by contacting important political people and telling them what you want. I would recommend that you contact any of the following people and tell them you want a clay cap:

- Congressman Steve Kagen
- Senator David Hansen
- Representative James Soletski
- County Executive Tom Hinz
- Mayor James Schmitt
- Alderman Jerry Wiezbiskie
- Brown County Supervisor Adam Warpinski

If you have any concerns or issues please feel free to contact me anytime at 465-3548.

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# NICOLET DRIVE NICOLET DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS (2008-2009)

Sheilah Cradler, Tom Neuser,  
President Treasurer

Rita Baril

Dan Drossart,  
Vice-President



William Acker

Ganga Nair

Connie Brownell,  
Secretary

Tom Parins

*Bob Tripp Su Boehm Paul Pinkston-Not shown in above picture*

## Phone Numbers

GB Parks Department	448-3365
Brown County Parks	448-4466
Brown Cty Extension	391-4615
Dept of Natural Resources	662-5100
Bay Area Humane Society	469-3110
Wildlife Sanctuary- Animal Rehabilitation	391-3685
UWGB	

## Web Sites

[ci.green-bay.wi.us](http://ci.green-bay.wi.us)  
[co.brown.wi.us](http://co.brown.wi.us)  
[co.brown.wi.us](http://co.brown.wi.us)  
[dnr.state.wi.us](http://dnr.state.wi.us)  
[bayareahumanesociety.org](http://bayareahumanesociety.org)  
[baybeachwildlife.com](http://baybeachwildlife.com)  
  
[uwgb.edu](http://uwgb.edu)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**First Monday each month. Board of Directors Meeting.** 7:00 p.m. at Mary Ann Cofrin Building-UWGB, Room 201. All neighborhood residents are welcome to attend. Note: Board meetings are not held in September or December.

**Mayor's Neighborhood "Walk And Talk".** Thursday, June 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Hoops Park, Beach Lane. All are welcome.

## Summer BBQ

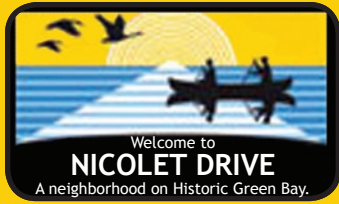
Monday, June 22 at The Bluff Pub & Grill,  
2638 Bay Settlement Road.  
5:00 p.m. Cocktails; 6:30 p.m.

Dinner Tickets purchased before June 1 are **\$12.00**  
or **\$14.00** at the door. Child menu available.

**Contact Tom Neuser, 468-4105 or William Acker,  
465-3548 to purchase advance tickets.**

## Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election

**Location and date to be announced.**  
Look for information in next newsletter.



Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association  
*May 2009 Newsletter*

3110 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311-7212

*Neighborhood Barbeque June 22nd!  
at the Bluff (see inside article)*

