



## Viewaukee

### Brady Street's Polish Immigrant Residents

### Elementary Students

St. Hedwig's Church



Some of the earliest immigrants that settled in this location were the Polish men and women who wanted to escape injustices in Poland. They were determined to own land here in Milwaukee, and with their meager savings, began building what is now called Polish Flats. They built one floor of their house, and later, when they saved a little from their hard labor jobs, they would add another floor, by “jacking” up the first level, and adding a story at the bottom. They did this for a couple reasons; to help their Polish relatives when they arrived in Milwaukee or to earn more money from their tenants. Notice the two doors and a steep staircase to go to the upper flat. There are many legacies of the Polish immigrants still around on Brady Street: from the Polish Flats, to the homing pigeon sheds, to the names of the prominent businesses that used to be there: Suminski Funeral Home, St. Hedwig Church and School with its iconic Cream City brick, Kunitzky Building, Wolski's Pub on Pulaski Street, and many more. Why did the Polish settle here near Brady Street? Jobs were the magnet that drew lots of immigrants to this east side neighborhood. The area was bordered by the north and the west by the Milwaukee River. Along the Milwaukee River, you could see some of the most successful breweries and tanneries in the city. Pabst and Schlitz Breweries, Gallun Tannery and Western Leather companies were some of the businesses that hired many immigrants for the hard labor that was required.

As you walk around Brady Street today, try to find these buildings. On the next page there is an outline of a Polish flat for you to color.

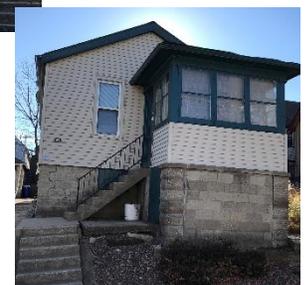
How many Polish Flats can you find?



Suminski Funeral Home



Kunitzky Building





## Viewaukee

### Brady Street- Pride of Place Green Tiles Elementary Students

The best urban designs reminisce with our past, relish the present, and reveal our future.

From Prospect Avenue on the east to the Milwaukee River on the west, Brady Street Commercial District has a unique public art sidewalk that not only pays respect to the water cycle in Milwaukee with its Lake Michigan and its Milwaukee River, but it also reflects on the importance of Brady Street as a center of commerce and community. We may step over sidewalks and not even think about their importance, but walkable communities make Milwaukee an attractive place to live, visit, and work. As we walk along sidewalks, we visit with neighbors, shop at businesses, and get from one destination to the next. It gives us the “pride of place” meaning it shares with us the pride and appreciation for our hometown and neighborhoods. What makes your neighborhood special?

As you walk along Brady Street, you will find green water-like tiles created by artist Pamela Scesniak. The tiles are to represent how water connects our city, especially the Brady Street neighborhood, with Lake Michigan on our eastern border and Milwaukee River to Brady Street’s north and western borders. Dotted along the tiles as you walk, you will see several pictographs. Several of them are reminiscent of the past and respect the current businesses.

Here are a few of the tiles you may see. What do the pictures mean? What kind of businesses were they representing? After your visit today, what would you highlight about Brady Street Neighborhood? Please draw or write your reflections down on the space provided.





## Brady Street Tiles

Make your own!



Cobbler (shoemaker)

