

Cream of the Cream City Awards



CITY OF MILWAUKEE, MILWAUKEE WATER WORKS, DONNA PUGLIANO,
BAY VIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION, BAY VIEW BASH, BAY VIEW COMPASS



PRYOR AVENUE IRON WELL IN FRONT OF 1710 EAST PRYOR AVENUE COMMUNITY EFFORT PRESERVES CHERISHED LANDMARK

The Pryor Avenue Iron Well is a much beloved fixture of the Bay View neighborhood. The site is visited not only by Bay View residents but by people from all over Milwaukee who carry their jugs and fill up on the water of this unique resource.

The well dates back to a time before Bay View was annexed to the City of Milwaukee and provided water to protect a nearby school, no longer extant. Work on drilling the well began in

October, 1882 and water was flowing by January, 1883. A hydrant was placed over the well in April, 1883 and a hose house erected to shelter the hose cart and enough hose to reach the schoolhouse on Wentworth Avenue. Once an artesian well, now mechanically pumped, the well head's original hydrant was replaced by its concrete cap with spouts sometime before the 1920s.

Over time the structure had been repaired but deterioration accelerated in recent years. The Pryor Avenue Iron Well was nominated for local historic designation, a status that it achieved in 1987. Over the last decade nearby residents grew increasingly alarmed by the wellhead's condition. The surface was riddled with cracks and chunks of concrete were falling off the structure. The situation was made tense by the knowledge that the Milwaukee Water Works could not fund an entire restoration project on its own.

Not wanting to see the wellhead taken down, private fundraising efforts spearheaded by Bay View residents and major contributor Donna Pogliano led to the current repair of the well head. Through her persistence, the community came together on this project. The Bay View Historical Society was the vehicle through which donations were collected. The Bay View Neighborhood Association contributed funding to the project and was able to secure a grant from the Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation's Healthy Neighborhood Initiatives Project (HNI) /Community Improvement Project as well. Other private donors kicked in as did the Bay View Bash. The Milwaukee Water Works contributed staff hours, "no fee" permits, the costs of curb and gutter replacement and upgrades to the electrical wiring.

Today, the repairs have been made and the well head is in fine form. In the words of Ms. Pogliano, this "truly [has been] a public/private partnership where the cooperation of all the entities and the contributions of many individuals and community organizations made possible a result which the community can be proud of for many years to come."



in rough shape



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