



GREAT WATERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Summer, 2017 NO. 2



Youthful enthusiasm was everywhere from planting to learning about the environment at GWG's Earth Day celebration at Washington Park in Milwaukee.

Earth Day celebration energized

*Dianne Dagen
Conservation Chair*

Perfect weather, 400 volunteers gardening at Washington Park, Congresswoman Gwen Moore speaking out on environmental justice and urging us to take care of Mother Earth in our homes, backyards and community. It all added up to an energized Earth Day of Service Celebration on April 22.

Partnering with Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park, Great Waters Group volunteers again joined with nearby residents to make their neighborhood greener by picking up litter, removing invasives and planting native nectar flowers for bees and butterflies. And what a gorgeous day! Sunshine warmed the workers on the park grounds.

Most encouraging was the diversity and enthusiasm of young people wanting to learn more about enjoying and caring for natural areas. Sierran Camile Faherty described passers-by out for a stroll who couldn't resist jumping in to help her group from Boys and Girls Club pull garlic mustard. Sierran Pat Cochran enjoyed the dozens of excited children fishing at Washington Park's pond, with UEC mentors providing the gear.

If you wanted a break and your green curiosity got the best of you, a dozen tablers awaited indoors to show and share

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Will of the people disregarded in County Grounds development

By Eddee Daniel

"Preserve the land first and then we can talk about development," said Alderman Michael Walsh in a Wauwatosa Community Affairs Committee meeting on April 11. It was one of several comments that appeared to signal a shift in tone by committee members when referring to Wauwatosa's controversial Life Sciences District (LSD) Master Plan.

The committee was discussing a motion based on the City's April 6 revised LSD proposal that alarmed members of the public in attendance. The proposal: In exchange for preserving a portion of "Sanctuary Woods,"

the adjacent County Grounds Park would be rezoned to allow new development.

Alderman John Dubinski introduced his motion by saying that he considered rezoning the existing parkland preserve for development the "only way to save the wooded area and wildlife habitats." Sacrificing County parkland was acceptable in his view because there are "no mature trees" in the park.

Many others in this debate have emphasized saving trees. As Milwaukee County Economic Development Director James Tarantino put it, "Everyone agrees the woods should be protected."

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Notes from the Chair

The motto of the Sierra Club is “Explore, enjoy and protect.” The recent elections and subsequent actions of both our national and state governments have made it necessary to increase our efforts and everyone’s efforts in the “protect” aspect of our work.

The prospect of successfully protecting all of our environmental laws and retaining the power of the departments that do the work of protecting appears daunting. We – and I mean everyone who cares about our environment – have our work cut out for us.

What methods of political actions are best to impact our representatives with a positive outcome? We are told that online petitions are the least effective while face-to-face contact is best, followed by phone calls to the office or personal letters. But how effective are other actions, like marches and rallies?

There are many options, with those that take the most time being the most effective. I’m sure you all feel that the gravity of the situation is so great that we need to put our all into the task of protecting. And so we must.

But since our job will last another three and a half years, giving our all can create burnout. This is where “explore and enjoy” can step in. If you are reading this, you know the opportunities the Sierra Club offers to get outside. We all need that break, away from the continuous effort to protect, especially when it seems like your target is not listening.

A friend of mine wrote a short essay a few years back that she titled “Missing Quetico” when a summer passed that couldn’t include canoeing in the Boundary Waters. My suggestion to you is to not miss exploring and enjoying. Take a break – a big one.

Work hard to right our ship of state and then know that to be most effective you need to be happy and to recall how to appreciate that which you want to protect. Paddle, hike, bike, stroll, run, take advantage of what nature has to offer while leaving no trace “out there,” but then make a big impact when you’re back home.

Bill Moore, Chair

Drum polluter gets light fine

*Dianne Dagelen
Conservation Chair*

On Earth Day 2017 many awoke to a Journal Sentinel report that an industrial drum refurbisher on Milwaukee’s north side, Mid-America Steel Drum, had been cited by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for 15 serious violations for exposing workers to chemical and heat-related burns, toxic gases, dangerous noise levels, the risk of falls and other hazards. The fines totaled \$108,000.

The company located near 24th and W. Hampton Ave, recycles and reconditions industrial totes, and is operated by Container

Life Cycle Management or CLCM, which employs about 270 people with additional operations in St. Francis and Oak Creek, Wis., as well as other states.

CLCM is majority-owned by industrial packaging giant Greif Inc., headquartered in Ohio. With Greif’s reported profit of \$3.3 billion for 2016, the fines will not amount to much of a deterrent.

Workers say totes sometimes arrive at the plant with hazardous chemicals left sloshing in the bottom. Rather than being returned to the sender as law dictates, the various chemical residues are poured into a 275-gallon container with other chemicals, and workers have no way of knowing how they might react. Because used drum labels are usually illegible or not labeled at all, most workers have no idea what chemicals they are handling or mixing. So corrosives are not separated from flammables, nor acids from bases.

Danger of Toxic Fumes: Worker Eric Mateljan recalled once when he poured liquid from a drum into the collection container that a horrible smelling orange cloud filled the plant. The workers went outside for half an hour while the air cleared into the neighborhood.

Another time, he was using a shop vac to suck the contents out of a drum, a common practice at the plant. He stepped away to use the restroom and when he returned, the vacuum was smoking. The mixture inside was boiling. He said workers would regularly set smelly drums outside to let the chemicals evaporate into the air or

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This spectacular participatory art display will be illuminated at dusk for the third annual “We Are Water” celebration at Milwaukee’s Bradford Beach.

Water lovers to light up the beach

Hundreds of Milwaukeeans will join Milwaukee Water Commons on Sunday, Aug. 6, for its third annual “We Are Water” beachfront celebration of Milwaukee’s water. The gathering will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the north end of Bradford Beach.

Artist in Residence Melanie Ariens will lead attendees in a participatory art installation to be illuminated at dusk. The event honors our waters and will feature many artists and cultural offerings. The event is very family friendly, and all activities are free.

Last year’s event drew more than 250 people from all areas of the city. “It was a joyous thing, celebrating our city’s waters with folks from every corner of our city,” said Ariens. “Amazing things happen when Milwaukeeans break through race and class barriers and come together around our shared water future.”

Ann Brummitt, co-Executive Director, agreed. “Our vision is a simple one,” Brummitt said. “Milwaukee Water Commons believes Milwaukee has the needed ingenuity, creativity and expertise to become a model water city.

“We think everyone, in every part of our city, has a vital role to play in this effort, and we believe all of us should share in our water’s care and benefits. Celebrating our precious waters is an important part of building that vision, and “We Are Water” is an important step toward the types of conversations and actions that will make Milwaukee a true water city.”

For more information contact Ann Brummitt at 414-763-6199 or annbrummitt@gmail.com.

Endangered bee is creating a buzz

In a development that could have major implications for the Sanctuary Woods and the adjacent County Grounds park, the Rusty Patched Bumblebee became the first officially endangered bee species in the continental United States on Mar. 21, overcoming objections from some business interests and a last-minute delay ordered by the Trump administration.

The species has reportedly been spotted in those areas where development is currently under consideration. However, photographic proof would be needed before legal action could be taken to stop development. So have your cameras at the ready the next time you visit there.



Keep an eye out for the Rusty Patched bumblebee when you visit Sanctuary Woods.

The endangered species listing means the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will devise a plan for returning the imperiled bee to “a healthy and secure condition,” where the species is native, according to the U.S. Department of Interior.

Scientists say disease, pesticide exposure, habitat loss and climate change are among possible reasons for the bee’s decline. Most of the grasslands and tallgrass prairies where they once thrived have been converted to farms or urban areas.

Go to Xerces Society for invertebrate conservation (Xerces.org) for more information.



Thank you to everyone who contributed through workplace giving to the Sierra Club Foundation and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee.



The remaining unspoiled County Grounds offer scenic vistas like this one.

Photo by Eddee Daniel

Time to stop development schemes

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But not everyone agrees on what exactly is included in “the woods,” let alone what constitutes protection. If city planners and the Common Council consider destroying the open prairie to put urban, high-density developments on existing parkland in exchange for saving a section of woods, it indicates disregard for the significance of diverse types of habitat and wildlife ecology.

Never mind that County Grounds Park was created as part of the compromise that allowed for the development of the Innovation Campus. Never mind that the county has invested considerable time and resources to restoring the park’s habitats with native grasses, wildflowers and, yes, trees.

Never mind the will of the people.

Only days before the Community Affairs Committee meeting, more than 300 citizens attended the latest public hearing, at which the city had unveiled its revised Life Sciences District planning map. The hearing was wisely held at the Muellner Building in order to prevent a repeat of the Open House in February when half the crowd had to wait outside the meeting room in City Hall because it was filled to capacity.

The will of the people was acknowledged during the April 6 presentation. A slide reported that the “vast majority” of written comments from the February open house included these: “Let development happen where it already is; no more development.” Also: “No County Grounds development/Save County Grounds” and “No roads.”

A few moments later, however, these unequivocal sentiments were ignored when it came to unveiling the revised plan. Not only did the map show new roads and new development on undefined non-park county land, but it also revealed a shocking proposal for development east of Discovery Parkway in the actual county park.

The proposed new road (which may or may not still bear the name “Scenic Parkway”) extending east from the roundabout and turning north at 92nd Street would require the bulldozing of critical habitats — including the long-eared owls’ roosting site and Butler’s garter snake dens — and fragment the parkland.



Milwaukee County has invested a great deal of time and resources to restoring the native grasses and wildflowers that provide important habitat at the County Grounds.

Photo by Eddee Daniel

The will of the people, expressed during the public comment period following the presentation, was again unequivocal, clear and virtually unanimous in its condemnation of the proposed Life Sciences District Master Plan as revised.

In fact, although the issues of the woods, wildlife habitat, and open space were high on the list of concerns, many of the most vocal objections targeted other aspects of the plan. Critical comments about high-rise development, density, congestion, overbuilding in an already saturated market, unrepresented management and financial implications of the plan all received spirited applause.

Many in the crowd expressed dismay at the very notion that after 20 years of compromises, which have whittled away more and more of the natural land, they were all back again trying to “save the County Grounds.”

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People say no to development

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Wauwatosa resident John Pokrandt drew enormous applause and summed up the mood of the crowd when he said, “We are not asking for two stories instead of ten. We are not asking to move the road. We are not asking for a land swap. We are saying NO! No more compromises, no more development on the County Grounds.”

If the Community Affairs Committee meeting was an adequate barometer it seems at least some of the Wauwatosa Common Council members have been responsive to this overwhelming public pressure. Many who were present expressed their desire to protect “the woods.”

Fortunately, the county, which is and likely will continue to be the landowner, has weighed in recently on the vagueness of “the woods.” In a press release dated April 6, County Executive Chris Abele announced that the county is “surveying the site to establish what in addition to the woods should be protected.”

Such a survey and determination are long overdue. I am not alone in hoping that the county will enlist the aid of biologists and wildlife ecologists in their effort. “If (Wauwatosa) Mayor Ehley and County Executive Abele are sincere about their desire to protect the “woods” and natural areas, then they should work with environmentalists to identify those areas, create a parcel and rezone them first,” alderwoman Nancy Welch told me.

Bulldozing parts of County Grounds Park shouldn’t even be considered. Neither should new roads or any new compromises that diminish what’s left of the County Grounds.

“Protecting our natural spaces has long been a priority of mine,” said Abele in his press release. We’ve still got a few here that need protecting. I know a lot of folks who don’t want to be “saving the County Grounds” again in another 20 years.

The City of Wauwatosa has published the following schedule of meetings regarding the approval process for the Life Sciences District Master Plan. Dates are subject to change:

May 15 – A final draft master plan proposal will be submitted to the Plan Commission, with an opportunity for public comment at 7 p.m. at the Wauwatosa City Hall, 7600 W. North Ave. in Wauwatosa.

May 16 – The Milwaukee County Supervisors Committee on Parks, Energy and Environment will meet at 9 a.m. at Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St., Room 201.

May 22 – A second meeting of the Plan Commission will be held, with no public comment.

June 6 – The measure will be introduced at the Common Council with no public comment.

July 18 – A public hearing with public comment will held in front of the Common Council at 7:30 p.m.

Aug 1 – A Common Council meeting will be held where final adoption of the master plan will be considered

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The Schlitz Audubon raptor presentation was one of the most popular attractions at GWG’s Earth Day Celebration.

Youngsters enthused

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about exploring nature from bees to bicycles. Sierran Chris Zapf was happy to talk with a fellow named Diego, who wanted to know how to get involved with Sierra Club hikes.

Schlitz Audubon’s raptor presentation attracted a lot of people. The little saw-whet owl intrigued folks with his head rotating as if in an exorcist movie. Sierran Paul Vanderveld said, “Seeing the bald eagle flapping his wings and hearing his screeches from just a few feet away was special. And his handler was so knowledgeable.”

Children seemed particularly attentive to the tablers, listening and asking questions. A young one inquired if the eagle’s agitation could be calmed by bringing back the small owl. The handler explained why it wouldn’t be a good idea at this time.

Looking at live bees through glass was fascinating. Learning how to change a flat tire hands-on was helpful.

Other tablers focused on recycling, avoiding lead in water, getting involved with Girl Scouts, enjoying our natural resources, realizing how climate change affects our forests, exploring wilderness and learning air-friendly house cleaning methods.

Plenty of samples were provided by R.E.I., the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, as well as our Great Waters Group. More than 300 people were counted who visited the tabling auditorium.

Our keynote speaker and most important draw for the day was Congresswoman Gwen Moore. As Sierran Dusty Biggers recalled, “After her talk I thanked Gwen Moore for doing what she is doing in Washington as our representative to preserve our planet.

Her response was, “You are the wind beneath my wings. Keep speaking up in public, take action to make sure us politicians hear what we need to hear.”

Good words for all of us concerned about the Earth.

Energy fair draws 200 exhibitors

More than 200 exhibitors and 250 workshops related to renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainability will be featured at the annual Energy Fair in Custer, Wis., June 16-18.

There will also be a Clean Transportation Show where fair goers can view electric cars, bikes and motorcycles while enjoying great food and local beer. Go to theenergyfair.org for more information.

The fair, which started in 1990, is still free to attend, and there is free bus

Victory Garden plots help build community

The Victory Garden Initiative builds communities that grow their own food, creating a socially just, environmentally sustainable, nutritious food system, and it's not too late to register for a VGI raised bed garden.

Although similar to World War I and World War II home gardens, today's VGI is fighting a different kind of battle – for food security and the health of our ecosystems.

Beds consist of four-foot by eight-foot untreated pine wood, filled with amazing compost-based soil from Blue Ribbon Organics, and they're delivered right to your garden site.

Want to be involved but aren't able to purchase a garden? Last year 555 gardens were built. This year, the goal is to build another 500. Your participation would be appreciated. Help is especially needed on May 22, 23, 26, and 27. Go to victorygardeninitiative.org for more information.

Caps, bags, clothes and lights: be sure to recycle them right

A recent visit to the Milwaukee / Waukesha Material Recovery Facility brought to light some interesting recycling tips.

Container Caps: Leave them on for paper cartons (milk for example) and plastic bottles (milk, water, shampoo, laundry). But remove tops from all glass containers. If jar covers remain on, metal or plastic, they will mix with the crushed glass and degrade the quality of re-purposed glass.

Plastic Bags: Don't put them in your recycling bin. They tend to jam the recycle machinery. Better to deposit them at your grocery store bin for used plastic bags. Best to shop with re-usable bags whenever possible.

Decorative Lights: Bring your unusable holiday lights to the parish office of St. Joseph Church, 2750 N. 122nd St. in Wauwatosa, for copper wire recycling. Open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. Friday from 8 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. Deductible as a donation. Don't put them in a landfill. Their mercury will leach into the earth. Wash your hands after handling or wear gloves.

Raggedy Clothing: Don't assume that no one wants your ripped or stained clothing or towels. Put them in a bag/box marked "recycle" – separate from your better, wearable items – and take them to Goodwill Industries, which will turn them into rags or re-useable fibers.

service on Saturday, June 17, from Milwaukee and Madison, in addition to a free shuttle from Stevens Point. The bus is limited to 55 people.

The keynote speaker will be J.B. Straubel, chief technical officer and co-founder of Tesla. Musical guests are singer-song writer Cory Chisel and Adriel Denae from Nashville, Tenn. A screening of the documentary "Between Energy and the Sky" will be followed by a talk back with director Paul Allen Hunton.



Once plentiful Monarchs like this one are being threatened at the County Grounds. You can help to protect them.

Photo by Eddee Daniel

Monarch volunteers welcome

Friends of the Monarch Trail are offering a number of ways that you can help in their mission to restore Monarch habitat and migration on the County Grounds. The summer schedule includes a June 4 milkweed plant sale, a June 25 planting party, an Aug. 29 Migration Celebration. Milkweed pod collection and processing will take place at a date to be determined.

All events are at the County Grounds, off of Innovation Dr., near the Eschweiler Buildings. Enter from Watertown Plank Rd or Swan Blvd. Go to themonarchtrail.org for more information. Sign up on-line to be on their email list or to look at trail maps.

Discover Ozaukee's treasures

Celebrate Ozaukee County's natural gems at its annual Treasures of Oz event, Saturday, June 17. Discover the 2017 Treasure Sites, open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At each site, explore nature with scientists and docents. Learn about green civics planning, bug hotels, birds, critters, fish, prairies and healthy soil. Raptors at 10:30 a.m. This year's focus is our "Watershed" and how we can protect it.

Treasure Sites include: Spirit Lake, Cedarburg Bog Field Station Boardwalk, Ehlers Park, Tendick Park, Harrington Beach State Park. Go to treasuresofoz.org for more information.

Help us plan our program schedule

Is there an environmental issue or happening that you'd like to hear more about at our monthly Programs? Do you have a future Program speaker in mind?

Come join us at our annual GWG Program brainstorming session for 2017-'18. Meet at Colectivo Coffee at 68th and Wells St. in Wauwatosa on Wednesday, May 24 at 7 p.m.

Hikers tackle Bruno's Run

If you like untouched forests, pristine lakes and impressive scenery then we have the trip for you. Join us at the Pete's Lake Campground near Munising, Mich., to hike Bruno's Run and the Chapel Falls-Mosquito River trail.

Fortunately, our campsite is on the Hiawatha National Forest trail that takes us through towering forests and past nine untouched lakes. We'll hike past two crystal clear lakes for a break to swim, so bring your suit.

If you have seen photos of the stunning cliffs of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore but want to see them up front for yourself, then join us Saturday for our 10-mile Chapel Falls hike. Learn how the topography of mineral-colored rocks and sea caves were formed beneath Lake Superior's ridge trail. Then experience hiking behind as well as around the Chapel Falls that feeds into the Great Lakes.

Bring a dish to pass for both Friday and Saturday night potluck dinners. Despite a moderate pace both day's hikes will be approximately 10 miles so make sure you are equipped for two very full days of hiking.

Date: August 4-6.

Location: Munising, Mich.

Leader: Ed Anderson. RSVP at 414-520-2751 or to Crystal Hoecherl 414 614-3034.



The Vilas County Trail system offers bikers one of the most beautiful areas in Wisconsin.

Summer begins with biking

Summer Solstice Bike Weekend

Come join us on the woody bike trails of the extensive Vilas County Trail system in the Boulder Junction - Manitowish Waters area to celebrate the longest days of the year and the official beginning of summer. We'll stop often along the way to learn firsthand about the effects of the last glacier that created one of the most densely packed areas of fresh water lakes in the world, and one of the most beautiful areas of Wisconsin.

On Saturday we will offer rides of 20, 35 and 50 miles depending on your ability. Coinciding with our outing, the community of Manitowish Waters is offering a Friday night ride through the woods as part of their Summer Solstice Bike Weekend, sharing the trail with fire flies.

Camping will be available near Manitowish Waters at the Northern Highland State Forest campground on Big Lake. Bring your swimsuit for a dip after the ride and bring a dish to pass for our evening potluck dinner on Saturday night.

Date: June 17-18

Location: Boulder Junction - Manitowish Waters area

Leader: Ed Anderson. RSVP at 414-520-2751, or to Crystal Hoecherl 414-614-3034.

Campers to explore Apostles

You can learn a lot about the natural and cultural history of the Apostle Islands on a three- to six-day camping trip, depending on your preference, beginning on July 2.

If you choose the full six-day trip, it will include two nights on Stockton Island and three nights on Oak Island. Both have dense hiking trails. The US National Park rangers will also provide an interpretive tour of the lighthouses at Michigan and Raspberry Islands. All inter-island travel will be provided by public cruise service.

We return on Friday, camp on the mainland and then do a one-day guided exploratory kayak trip in and around the Apostle Island Sea Caves on Saturday. Kayaks are provided by the outfitter.

Anyone interested in participating should email trip leaders.

In celebration of the 2016 Centennial of the National Park Service, The John Muir Chapter sponsored this very successful outing in the Apostle Islands and is looking forward to doing it again in 2017. There is a limit of 16 participants.

July 2-8, 2017 (3-6 nights; island camp; optional sea-kayaking)

Leaders: David Thomas - 414-344-1044, thomasdp@thomerwald.net, Tom Ryan - 608-807-8245 - thryan1@gmail.com

Summer Programs

*Mayfair Mall lower level Community Room G110,
Garden Suites East. Enter east side of Mall under AMC theater.
Free and open to the public*

The Making and Adventure of a Climate Warrior Activist

Monday, May 15, 7 p.m.

Miriam Kasha writes: "How did it happen that I'm spending my 'golden years' braving wind and weather, walking across America, sleeping on the ground, being handcuffed and taken off to jail . . . to stand as a 'climate warrior' for justice and a livable future?" Come share her journey and learn the whys and hows of stepping outside our proverbial comfort zone and making a difference. Her motto: "Activism is the Antidote to Despair."

No Programs for June, July, August. See you the third Monday in September.

Quetico adventures await paddlers

Paddle Quetico Provincial Park on the Canadian side of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and learn firsthand about the beauty and importance of the largest expanse of wild, public access lands in the region.

This trip luckily coincides with the Perseid meteor shower. The outing departure point is Gunflint Trail, Minn. Go to greatwatersgroup.org for more details.

Aug. 11-20 (8 days, 7 nights; paddle/portage/camp; two layover days.

Trip co-leaders: Peter Brands (262-888-3516 pbrands@gmail.com) and Tim Karaskiewicz (414-397-8768 tkaraskiewicz@mitchellairport.com)

Summer 2017



**Protect America's Environment
for Our Families, For Our Future**

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Toxic fumes endanger workers, neighbors

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simmer down before pouring them into a collection container. The plant manager called those containers "stinkers."

The practice of mixing chemicals results in drums catching fire, exploding and releasing toxic gases and vapors in the air. Workers such as John McClure in St. Francis, have suffered severe chemical burns, as well as respiratory illness with chronic coughing and difficulty breathing. In 1984 a chemical explosion in Oak Creek resulted in an employee's death.

Container Chemicals Not Contained: These toxic fumes are not restricted to within the plant. They are also released into the air of the surrounding residential neighborhood, including a day care center across the street on Hampton Ave. In addition to air pollution, there are serious clean water violations, including repeated mercury discharges. At times chemical solutions are poured down the drain to the public water supply, and into Lake Michigan.

Greif has until May 30 to resolve its OSHA violations. It is not its first pollution fine. The federal agency investigates only 1% of the industry each year. There is a history of fines being negotiated downward, as well as industries continuing to violate environmental laws, such as Greif has, after resolving a fine.

Current Situation and What To Do Next: Often times there is a strong odor in the neighborhood of 24th and Hampton. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are conducting air and water monitoring tests, as well as testing engineering controls at the plants.

Reportedly, the Milwaukee plant never had an air or water permit. EPA and DNR did not know that this Mid-America industrial plant handling toxic waste existed until stories appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. It's important to know what kind of chemicals workers and neighbors are being exposed to, and how they can better protect themselves.

It's also important to be informed and to take action, individually and collectively. To learn more, follow the reporting of Raquel Rutledge and Rick Barrett at jsonline.com/burned. To do more, inquire of your local and federal representatives as to the status of the EPA and DNR testing, and ask what can be done to control and protect ourselves from toxic air and water from these industrial plants.

You can also contact me about joining a city-wide coalition, Cleaner Milwaukee Coalition (CMC), for those concerned about environmental justice and the protection of all people from toxic pollution. CMC was successful in encouraging WE Energies to convert its coal plant in the Valley to natural gas.