



Third Ward Neighborhood News

Vol. 10 No. 1

A publication of the Third Ward Neighborhood Association

January, 2006

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Celebrate Winter at Demmler Park

By Bob Schwartz

Join your neighbors for skating parties at Demmler Park this winter. Skating parties are a special attraction for kids (and their parents). Hot chocolate will be available, along with sleds for ice rides. Everyone is invited, and not having skates is no excuse as there will be extra pairs in kids' sizes from 11-13 and 1-6 on loan from Lakeshore Elementary.

We will need a few adults to manage hot chocolate distribution and loaner skates, to ensure goon-free broom hockey, and perhaps to assist beginning skaters. Call Bob Schwartz at 839-8111 for further information or to volunteer.

Eau Claire's outdoor skating rinks are open weather permitting. They are closed if it is too warm and if the windchill is -10 degrees or lower. If it snows the rinks are closed until they are plowed and they're last to be plowed.

City Council Public Hearing on Third Ward Parking Proposal

Date: Monday, Jan. 9, 2006
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: City Hall, 203 S. Farwell St.

By Maria Henly

The parking changes proposed in the August Newsletter were unanimously approved at the TWNA Annual Meeting in September. (*See the web page at thirdward.org for the details of the proposal.*) Now in official "ordinance" format, the proposed changes are going to public hearing.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT BOTH BEFORE AND ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9
PLEASE DO AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO HELP THIS EFFORT**

- **ATTEND** the Public Hearing and **GIVE** a brief statement of support for the proposals. Our proposals emphasize (1) increased safety and visibility through increased setbacks and (2) decreased circulating traffic through elimination of 2 hour parking limits. (*See "Comments from the Chair," page 3 for more details on setbacks.*) **EVEN A STATEMENT AS SIMPLE AS "I SUPPORT MY NEIGHBORS" WOULD BE VALUABLE.**
 - **CALL OR EMAIL** the at-large members of the Council (Davis, Hughes, Kincaid, Vue, and President Adler) to support the proposals for all of the above reasons. Council members Biegel and Stanley already support our proposals.
 - **ASK** friends in other city council districts to call their representatives to support the proposals.
- Call or e-mail Maria Henly (831-8672 or tycobb@charter.net) if you have questions.

The season lasts until the ice is gone. (If this is a typical year there will be a few party cancellations due to Mother Nature.) Call the Parks & Rec. main office at 839-5032 for a recorded message about any rink closures. This recording is not updated over the weekend.

Eau Claire Parks & Recreation operates the skating rink at Demmler Park. There is a warming house with toilet, a large main rink and a snow banked hockey rink. Only soft pucks are allowed on the hockey rink, and brooms for broom hockey are available in the warming house.

Skating Party Schedule

- Sun., Jan. 15, 1-4 p.m.
- Thu., Jan. 26, 4-6 p.m.
(School early release day)
- Sun., Feb. 5, 1-4 p.m.
- Wed., Feb. 8, 4-6 p.m. (No school)
- Sun., Feb. 19, 1-4 p.m.



Regular Skating Schedule

- Monday-Friday 4-9 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday 1-6 p.m.

City Manager or Mayor

Supporters of a referendum to return Eau Claire to a mayoral system will soon begin collecting the 3,126 signatures needed to qualify for an April vote. We thank Third Ward neighbors John Hibbard and Brian Larson for sharing their views on the mayor vs. city manager issue.

Mayor

By John Hibbard

Eau Claire has tried them all, Mayor-Council, Commission (three commissioners, one of whom is Mayor), and Manager-Council, in that order. Each served the City well and then began to serve itself.

The time has come to return to a fully democratic system. The Manager system has given us a false technocracy, with unfortunate results. Managers have managed, some well and some not so well. But no Manager has governed with a vision. Crises have been managed, not anticipated. Growth has happened; it has not been planned. City Hall has grown like Topsy, while the Manager cuts street, park, utility and emergency workers.

Surely some Mayors will help their cronies. If it offends the people, that person won't be Mayor long. Now, the Manager and the professional staff that he, and only he, hires can develop long term crony relationships with some developers, engineering companies, and businesses which never involve elected persons and never come under public scrutiny.

But the best reason to readopt the Mayor-Council system is to put ONE elected person in City Hall: one person who campaigned on vision and ability; one person who represents the people. Every two years, a period shorter than the tenure of our least successful Manager, we can make a change if we want.

City Manager

By Brian Larson

The City Manager System consists of two leaders in city governance:

1. Political leadership from an elected City Council, and
2. Administrative leadership from an appointed City Manager.

We elect a City Council to make decisions about community goals, policies, and critical issues facing the City. The elected Council appoints a professional manager.

The City Manager is charged with carrying out the elected Council's policies and directives, and reporting to them. The City Manager administers the daily operations of the City, ensures the effective provision of municipal services, and enforces the directives of the Council. Our Council-Manager government balances diverse interests, responds quickly to challenges, and helps bring our community together.

Under our Council-City Manager system, Eau Claire has seen a strengthened role for neighborhoods, a reduced power for special interests, merit based decisions rather than partisan based decisions, hiring and firing of staff freed from political influence, and a responsible and responsive city government.

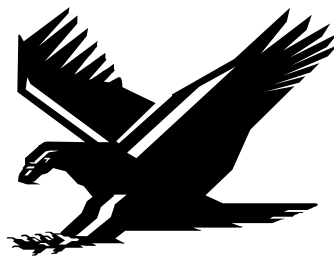
Today, 63% of cities with a population of 25,000 or more operate under the Council-City Manager system. It has served us well since 1948 and, with increasingly complex government operations, today there are stronger arguments for the Council-City Manager system.

Eagle Update

By Bob Schwartz

Last newsletter we discovered our neighbors the eagles, with an eyrie in Putnam Park. It is unusual for nesting eagles to produce more than two eggs in a season, but our pair had three. This is a hazardous situation for the runt as it is very, very rare for all three juvenile eagles to fledge.

But that is exactly what happened this year! The two larger juveniles left the nest on schedule, leaving their smaller sibling behind for a couple of weeks. Then it too flew off to start a life of its own.



It just goes to show that the Third Ward is an exceptional place to raise your young. Watch for the adults to return next spring. Eggs will hatch in May.

*For more on the eagles
please see*

thirdward.org/about/eaglesnest/index.htm

Comments from the Chair

By Curtis Goodson

I had hoped to report on the City Council's passage of the parking proposal that was unanimously approved at the annual neighborhood meeting. Instead I am asking for your help. It is time for you to let the Council know how you feel. Please see front page lead article for more information on what you can do.

Everyone seems to favor lifting the 2 hour parking restriction. Disagreement this time might be about the length of the setbacks from corners and driveways. Both the University and the Student Senate are concerned about the loss of parking spaces. The Student Senate does recognize the need for increased setbacks, but they are unsure of the optimum distance.

We proposed doubling (from 15 feet to 30 feet) the setbacks at intersections, based on precedent in other parts of the city, and with the twin goals of greater safety and easier enforcement. We want to eliminate the "Blind Intersections" caused by legally parked SUVs. We also want to be able to get in and out of our driveways safely.

Therefore, we are asking that the 4 foot setbacks at driveways become 6 foot setbacks.

As mentioned earlier, the University and the Student Senate both support most of our proposal. The Student Senate has passed a resolution in support of our proposal (with the exception above) and has sent it on to the City Council. I very much appreciate their thoughtfulness and support.

I am also excited about the skating parties. Weather permitting, what a wonderful reason to get outside. Everyone is welcome, including non-skaters like myself. We have a beautiful neighborhood that only gets better when it is shared by individuals and families having fun.

Newsletter Help

Can you help deliver the newsletter to your neighbors two or three weekends a year? Contact Carlyn Conway, 835-4863

Kappus Park – Jungle or Jewel?

By Sue Miller

Located at the end of Gilbert Avenue, Kappus Park is bordered by Putnam Park and trees. At one time this was a neighborhood recreational area with playground equipment and a skating rink in winter. When the Third Ward took possession of the Demmler playground, the Kappus property continued to be mowed, but it was unimproved for passive neighborhood use.

The City of Eau Claire is considering donating Kappus to the University as a cost saving measure in the 2006 city budget. At its December meeting, the TWNA Steering Committee voted that the Third Ward would want the Kappus property if the city were to relinquish ownership.

Specifically, the TWNA needs information from neighborhood residents on how Kappus is currently being used, how it could be used, and how feasible it is to ask the city to donate the property to the TWNA.

Please contact Bob Schwartz (839-8111 or bob.schwartz@sbcglobal.net) or Rick Kayser (835-1165 or praedld@aol.com), TWNA Parks Committee, with your ideas on the future of Kappus Park by February 10, 2006.

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Neighborhood Brochure

By Mary Mickel

Special thanks and kudos to Anne Risen for the creation of a beautiful Third Ward brochure, commissioned by the TWNA Steering Committee to promote our neighborhood and ultimately single-family ownership in the Third Ward.

The glossy single sheet is a three fold with five color pictures capturing the beauty of our neighborhood. A brief text directs attention to the Third Ward's parks, historic homes, and prime location.

The brochure is being distributed to the Eau Claire Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, real estate offices, and other places where prospective residents might look for information on Eau Claire neighborhoods.



View the brochure at the public library or on our neighborhood web site at www.thirdward.org (under Publications).

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Support the Third Ward Newsletter

This newsletter is distributed to over 900 homes in the Third Ward neighborhood. If you would like to place a small ad and support your neighborhood newsletter at the same time, your advertisement would be greatly appreciated.

- Business card ads: \$30
- Larger ads: \$50 per issue

Multi-issue discounts available.

Contact Ken Fulgione, 832-1016, kg-one@weyrkeep.com

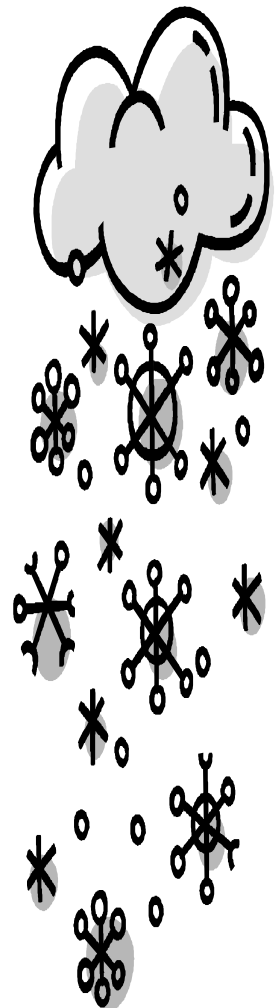
Snow Removal

By Mary Mickel

At a recent meeting between the TWNA Code Enforcement Committee and John Guettinger at City Hall, John asked us to remind neighbors about city codes and snow removal. Here is the information he provided:

“The city ordinance requires that the public sidewalk be cleared within 24 hours of the cessation of the snow event. If public sidewalks are not cleared, the city will clean them and the owners will be billed all costs and administrative fees. Sidewalk violations should be reported to the streets division at 839-4963.”

When the city does snow removal, cost and fees can reach \$200 or more. To protect ourselves, we need to take special care to arrange with responsible neighbors or snow removal services when we are away or otherwise unable to do snow removal ourselves. And, of course, we have here one more opportunity for neighbors to help neighbors.



City Report

By Terri Stanley

1. The City is considering giving Kappus Park to the University because of a dwindling workforce and an ever expanding city to mow. Since the City accepts maintenance of all drainage ponds, the Phoenix Park design is labor intensive, and athletic fields require many man hours, the City is proposing to leave unmowed areas in neighborhood parks and to give away Kappus. It is unknown whether the University will accept this proposed gift.
2. Next year's budget was managed through additional borrowing and cuts in services. Inner city neighborhoods will start seeing a reduction or delay in services.
3. Ever more housing stock is being converted to rental property. Yet the City will pursue Housing, Zoning, and Health violations only on a complaint basis.
4. Long-time City Manager, Don Norrell, is leaving. This year, he asked for additional funds to be placed in his retirement account as incentive to stay in the job three more years. The council gave him the additional funds, but he found a job in Texas more appealing. This vacancy creates a natural opening to discuss any changes needed in our form of government. Please read the City Manager v. Mayor articles and participate in the public discussion.

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Our government is only as good as those who participate in it.
Please consider serving a term on the city council.

More Water Pressure in the Third Ward?

By Susan Miller

Southside expansion has generated concerns about increased pressure in the Third Ward, which could cause plumbing problems for residents. When asked about these concerns, Layne Berg, city water treatment plant supervisor, stated that there has been no recent increase in water pressure in the Third Ward. The only area in the city that has had an increase in water pressure is the northeast side.

Mr. Berg further explained that water pressure is determined by the difference in the vertical elevation of the water tower and your home. The higher the water source, the greater the pressure. Mt. Tom water tower and Damon Street reservoir are the storage areas for water to the Third Ward. Because we are in a valley, downhill from these reservoirs, the difference in vertical elevation is greater than in many areas of the city.

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The water pressure in the Third Ward continues to be 90-100 PSI. New state and city building codes, however, require placement of a pressure reducing valve if water pressure into a house is greater than 80 PSI. This typically applies to new construction, but any questions regarding this code and upgrades to old plumbing should be directed to Bill Nemitz, city plumbing inspector, at 839-4947.

This issue was recently covered by "Ask This Old House" and can be researched on their website, askthisoldhouse.com.

Steering Committee

Zone 1

Garry Sherwood
1235 Graham Ave., 834-1133
Dewayne Severson
1325 State St., 834-2137

Zone 2

Sue Kayser
1219 Graham Ave., 835-1165
Rick Kayser
1219 Graham Ave., 835-1165

Zone 3

Laurie Forcier
207 Garfield Ave., 835-6024
John Hibbard
1814 State St., 832-1019

Zone 4

Curtis Goodson (Chair)
1532 Drummond, 456-1731
Terri Stanley
1814 State St., 832-1019

Zone 5

Stan Carpenter
409 Summit Ave., 839-0373
Carlyn Conway
340 Garfield Ave., 835-4863

Zone 6

Ken Fulgione
330 Lincoln Ave., 832-1016, 557-4197 (cell)
Bob Schwartz
401 Lincoln Ave., 839-8111

Zone 7

Kathy Buchholz
422 Roosevelt Ave., 832-3545
Mary Mickel
330 Bartlett Ct., 832-9705

Zone 8

Maria Henly
121 Park Place, 831-8672
Jim Massey
124 Park Place, 831-6350

Go to <http://www.thirdward.org> for email addresses and a map of the zone boundaries.

Top 10 Reasons to Love the Third Ward

By Anne Risen

10. HOMES with character and personality
9. Beautiful flower gardens
8. Putnam Park
7. WE VOTE!
6. Beautiful UWEC campus and campus events
5. Walking or biking to Kerm's, the Library, and the Farmer's Market
4. Front porches
3. Mature trees
2. Chippewa River
1. NEIGHBORS with character and personality!

If you enjoyed Anne Risen's "TOP TEN" list, perhaps you would like to send us one of your own—the top 10 amusing reasons to love the Third Ward, or the top ten reasons retirees love the Third Ward, or....



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Newsletter Committee

Kathy Buchholz
Carlyn Conway
Ken Fulgione
Curtis Goodson
John Hibbard
Rick Kayser
Sue Kayser
Jill Markgraf
Mary Mickel
Sue Miller
Christine Shaw
Beth Sherwood
Garry Sherwood
Terri Stanley