

# Third Ward News

A publication of the Third Ward Neighborhood Association

March, 2005

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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 run \$30 and larger ads are \$50 per issue. Multi-issue discounts available. Contact Ken Fulgione, 832-1016, kg-one@weyrkeep.com

## City Council Candidates' Forum

The Eastside Hill Neighborhood Association and the Third Ward Neighborhood Association (TWNA) are jointly sponsoring a forum for 3rd District candidates (Toby Biegel and Adrian Klenz) and council president candidates (David Adler and Al Smith).

Come and learn more about your city council candidates. Hope to see you there!

**Date:** Thursday, March 10

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Flynn School Gymnasium

## Candidates Respond to Issues of Interest to Third Ward

The April 5 election allows us an opportunity to help select some of the citizens who will represent our community on the Eau Claire School Board and the Eau Claire City Council. As a small part of coming to know our candidates, the TWNA Newsletter Committee asked the four school board candidates, the two city council candidates running in District 3, and the two candidates running at large for the office of city council president to respond in 100 words or less to questions of interest to our neighborhood.

City council candidates responded to the question: *What would you do to help revitalize inner city neighborhoods?* Read the four candidates' responses on page 2. School board candidates responded to the question: *How important is the neighborhood school concept?* Their responses are on page 3.

## Newsletter Help

Can you help deliver the newsletter to your neighbors two or three weekends a year? Contact Mary Mickel, 832-9705.

## Newsletter Committee

Ken Fulgione	Sue Miller
Jill Markgraf	Christine Shaw
Mary Mickel	Terri Stanley

## Demmler Garden Update

by **Mary Mickel**

Demmler Garden, our community garden on the north side of Demmler Park, consists of 21 garden spots, a water faucet, and a bench with brick-post pergola. Here Third Ward residents have been able to rent garden plots and produce everything from delicate green spring leaf lettuce to robust orange fall squash and pumpkins.

Viewing Demmler Garden at summer's end last year, however, was to be reminded that whoever said "work well done never needs doing over" never weeded a garden.

Over the last few years weeds have proliferated to the point where we are considering treating half the space, covering it with plastic, and allowing it to lie for a season. Then in 2006 the process would be repeated for the other side, enabling half of the spaces to be rented and gardened each year. Let us know if you have other ideas.

Many thanks to Beth Sherwood, who has served as the Demmler Garden contact person for the last two years. The new contact person is Cheryl Muller, 401 Lincoln, 839-8111, (email: mullercl@uwec.edu).

Decisions regarding Demmler Garden are made by the Parks Committee, Bob Schwartz, Chair. People interested in Demmler or other park issues may contact Bob, (email: bob.schwartz@sbcglobal.net).



## What Would You Do to Help Revitalize Inner City Neighborhoods?

### **Response from David Adler, Candidate Council President:**

The best thing we can do for inner city revitalization is to promote ownership. Currently, the city offers housing rehabilitation loans. Second, through funds from the Community Development Block Grant program, we are aggressively enforcing the health code in areas that are considered "blight." Through the CDBG program, we also offer "HOME," an ownership program for residents currently renting properties owned by the city. We need to continue utilizing the RDA to purchase blighted properties as we did in the north Barstow district and the Lakeshore school area. I believe we need to increase our community policing in areas considered "inner city" and we need to revisit the issue of landlord registration to help us identify absentee landlords and hold them accountable for the condition of their properties.

### **Response from Al Smith, Candidate Council President:**

First we have to understand the relationship between revitalizing downtown and healthy neighborhoods. I would seek to address the issues that make downtown neighborhoods less attractive to homebuyers, such as parking problems, party houses, fewer neighborhood amenities, and dilapidated housing stock. Enforcement, tightening existing ordinances, and increased fines would be a good start to address most of these issues. We also need to make certain our codes don't make it difficult for those seeking to improve their home or willing to buy a home only if improvements can be made. Our city will only prosper if inner city neighborhoods prosper.

### **Response from Toby Biegel, Candidate 3rd District:**

Let me start by saying that it has been an honor to have served you as your district representative and I look forward to the opportunity to do so in the future. As far as revitalization of inner city neighborhoods, I believe we need to continue to work on code and ordinance compliance, as this is a key component to keep those areas that are beginning to depreciate from falling further into non-compliance. It is also the way in which the city reassures property owners and potential property owners that there is protection for their investment. The next important thing is to be willing to work with those involved to come up with a solution that residents can live with.

### **Response from Adrian Klenz, Candidate 3rd District:**

Healthy downtown neighborhoods are developed through strong business growth. As a small downtown business owner, I am proud to be a part of the downtown revitalization efforts. It is also important to have a City Council representative who recognizes and supports that growth. That person must show up all the time, not just at election time. My opponent missed 40% of City Council meetings in 2003, 53% of DECI meetings, and has minimal neighborhood association meeting attendance. When I am elected to City Council, I will do more than the bare minimum. I will show up everyday and represent ALL residents in the 3rd District.



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## Comments from the Chair

### by Curtis Goodson

What a difference a year makes! Two years ago I moved to our neighborhood and, in an attempt to meet people, I attended the annual neighborhood association meeting. Now I'm writing to you as chairperson of the association to encourage your active involvement in neighborhood projects. Together we can help ourselves and have some fun while doing so. Let me explain.

The TWNA is recognized by the city council as an advisory organization. While headlines in recent years have focused on parking, we have accomplished a lot of other things. "We" refers to groups of your neighbors working together on projects of interest to them. Think about the improved crosswalks and the reduced party noise. These improvements are the results of your neighbors' efforts—sharing ideas, developing plans, and taking action.

I contend that many neighborhood quality of life issues are easy to resolve when people get together to address them, and resolving issues is fun.

A parent recently told me that there are not enough places to sit while supervising children in Demmler Park. Our Parks Committee discussed this issue and is exploring how to get additional seating. The parent is now part of this committee, so I'm pretty sure this issue will be resolved.

Currently we have committees working on the following projects: code enforcement; home ownership; newsletter; parks; traffic, parking, & pedestrian safety; and the website. If there is an issue you wish to pursue, contact me or a Steering Committee member, and come bring it up at our next meeting. You might end up working on your issue with neighbors who have similar concerns. And, together we can help ourselves.

## How Important Is the Neighborhood School Concept?

### Response from Carol Craig, School Board Candidate:

Educational research tells us that quality relationships among students-teachers-parents contribute most to ensuring student growth in academic, social and emotional dimensions. That is, when a teacher really knows the student— his/her parents, the student's friends (in and out of school), the local recreational spots, past academic experiences. . . . the teacher is able to adapt learning activities that are compatible with the student's personal situation. The Neighborhood School Concept is the bedrock to create and maintain this learning environment and it should not be compromised. As a Board member, I will insist that we have meaningful community-wide debates on such critical issues and then we must develop predictable long range plans so all community members, sharing common concerns, will have stability and predictability in future planning.

### Lloyd Joyal, School Board Candidate:

Mr. Joyal was unavailable during the ten day window of opportunity in which he had to respond. We hope third ward residents will avail themselves of other opportunities to learn Mr. Joyal's positions.

### Response from Michael O'Brien, School Board Candidate:

The Neighborhood School Concept is very important, and something our school district strives to uphold. However, budgetary constraints and declining enrollments require that our definition of a neighborhood must be fluid. Although our area population has increased, school enrollments continue to decline. Consequently, we must look at available schools, student location, and try to maintain reasonable continuity and financial stewardship. Recent boundary changes demonstrate that parents and children are very pleased with the education provided by our schools. Change is difficult, but often necessary. Emerging trends of west side growth, could mean enrollment change issues in the near future. We have tried to maintain an open process and the neighborhood concept. Many communities have gone to building K-12 central campuses. I would oppose any such effort in Eau Claire.

### Response from Jane Tappen, School Board Candidate:

I'm very supportive of creating and maintaining neighborhood schools—they make for healthier communities. Children can walk to and from school and attend classes with their neighbors, which reduces transportation costs and fosters friendships. Teachers can take advantage of neighborhood resources to enhance classroom learning. The school can also serve as a neighborhood community center, giving the taxpayers more use of their investment. Parents are more likely to know each other and be involved in school events. Over the past several years, Eau Claire has not shown a commitment to maintaining neighborhood schools and the overall system is weaker as a result.



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A photograph of Ken Fulgione, a man in a suit and tie, is positioned on the right side of the advertisement.

## Check Out www.thirdward.org

A new Third Ward website provides a window to our neighborhood for current and prospective residents, as well as anyone else interested in the Third Ward.

- TWNA information, including Steering Committee members, special interest committees, meeting minutes, and by-laws
- Neighborhood regulations
- A neighborhood map, including boundaries of neighborhood zones
- A list of and links to those features that make our neighborhood so special
- Lots of neighborhood pictures

And much more... check back to see what's new.

## Steering Committee

### Zone 1

Paula Stolp, 32 Newton St., 552-4527  
DeWayne Severson, 1325 State St., 834-2137

### Zone 2

Garry Sherwood, 1235 Graham, 834-1133  
Rick Kayser, 1219 Graham Ave., 835-1165

### Zone 3

John Hibbard, 1814 State St., 832-1019  
Traci Messner, 337 Jefferson St., 833-7057

### Zone 4

Curtis Goodson (Chair),  
1532 Drummond, 456-1731  
Ken Fulgione, 330 Lincoln Ave., 832-1016,  
557-4197 (cell)

### Zone 5

Jill Markgraf, 525 Summit Ave., 831-9038  
Sue Kayser, 1219 Graham Ave., 835-1165

### Zone 6

Sue Miller, 340 Lincoln Ave., 839-9491  
Anne Risen, 1329 Wilson St., 832-9858

### Zone 7

Bob Schwartz, 401 Lincoln Ave., 839-8111  
Mary Mickel, 330 Bartlett Ct., 832-9705

### Zone 8

Laurie Forcier, 207 Garfield, 835-6024  
Maria Henley, 121 Park Place, 831-8672

Go to [www.thirdward.org](http://www.thirdward.org) for email addresses and a map of the zone boundaries.

## Join a Third Ward Neighborhood Committee

by Sue Miller

The Department of Community Development in cooperation with the Third Ward neighborhood prepared a neighborhood plan for the Third Ward in 2001. This document, the Third Ward Neighborhood Plan, has been used by the TWNA to identify issues affecting the quality of life in the neighborhood. The TWNA has formed committees of neighborhood residents to discuss, research, and develop means to resolve these issues.

We hope that a broad cross section of neighborhood residents will participate in these committees. It is not necessary to be a member of the TWNA Steering Committee or attend the monthly meetings of the TWNA to be involved in any of the committees. If you are interested in any of the following subjects, please give the committee contact person a call.

- Housing Code Enforcement: Garry Sherwood, 834-1133
- Traffic, Parking, & Pedestrian Safety: Maria Henley, 831-8672
- Home Ownership: Anne Risen, 832-9705
- Parks: Bob Schwartz, 839-8111
- Website: Jill Markgraf, 831-9038
- Newsletter: Mary Mickel, 832-9705

## Home Ownership Committee Pursues New Ideas

by Anne Risen

The Home Ownership Committee is searching for ways to increase single family home ownership in our neighborhood. Members of this committee include Anne Risen, Rick Kayser, and Terri Stanley.

Currently, we are working on two projects. The first is a trifold pamphlet about the Third Ward, to be distributed to area realtors and the visitor's bureau. This pamphlet has been completed, and will be printed and distributed by spring. (Yes, Spring WILL get here!) The second project is researching employer assisted housing programs, and more specifically, walk to work programs.

There are several programs around the country which encourage home ownership in areas where residents are able to walk to work. Typically, these programs are in partnership with a bank, business, or university. Businesses providing such housing assistance have reported improved recruitment, decreased employee absenteeism, and increased employee productivity and retention. The Harley-Davidson Company offers a Walk to Work Program. Full-time Harley-Davidson employees are eligible for forgivable loans of up to \$2,500 if they purchase a home in certain communities within a 40-square-block radius of the company's Milwaukee headquarters. Loans are forgiven over a three-year period. During that time, employees must remain with Harley-Davidson, maintain ownership of the home, and continuously occupy the property as their principle residence. Colgate Palmolive offers closing cost assistance and group mortgage origination. The University of Pennsylvania offers mortgage guarantees which lower or eliminate down payment requirements for employees.

Anyone interested in helping out on this committee, please contact Anne Risen at [arisen@charter.net](mailto:arisen@charter.net) or 832-9858. The Home Ownership Committee would especially benefit from the addition of people with experience in home finance, business, or real estate. More information about employer assisted housing programs can be found at:

<http://www.policy.rutgers.edu/eah/new-motivations.htm>.

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