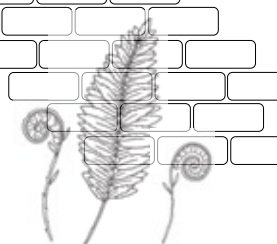


Third Ward Neighborhood Association

Fall 2021

www.thirdward.org



TWNA: Leading Cause of Friendship in the Third Ward!

Eau Claire's Third Ward, is an excellent place to live, and the TWNA works to keep it that way. We do that by communicating, collaborating, fundraising, meeting, and informing ourselves about actions, and events, that affect our community.

In 2020, the TWNA initially responded to the pandemic by canceling our April meeting. We then moved outdoors, with social distancing. As winter closed in on us, the TWNA utilized Zoom meetings, and continued to work on our mission. We have continued to meet using Zoom, but in August the TWNA will begin meeting in person, in the brand new UWEC Welcome Center. Thank you to Jake Wrasse, UWEC, Legislative and Community Relations Liaison, and UWEC for your kind hospitality!

The TWNA weighed in on Airbnb issues, and a proposed infill this past year. We were successful in advocating against an infill, but failed to stop the Airbnb, despite hiring an attorney. The TWNA hosted, and helped

launch, the Eau Claire Neighborhoods Association. The ECNA will help us coordinate with other neighborhoods, on issues that affect the entire Eau Claire community.

There are definitely challenges facing our neighborhood, in our near future. ACT 67 makes local control of zoning, more difficult. Opposition to "conditional use permits" is much harder because of this law. Additionally, there are those advocating for doing away with zoning altogether.

The recently completed Chippewa Valley Housing Recommendations document, which is supported by City Staff, speaks about overcoming objections from residents, and increasing density. It discusses the need to get around current zoning laws. The TWNA realizes the importance of local control, and will continue to advocate for it.

Please join us, make a new friendship, and help us protect our neighborhood.

Kevin Rosenberg, Chair TWNA



Putnam Park

If you love the Third Ward, you love Putnam Park. Our neighborhood is cradled to the east by this 231 acre state natural area that formed along the cut bank bluffs of the historic Chippewa River. Putnam Park is home to 400 species of plants, 100 species of birds in summer, and 23 mammal species. In 2019 Friends of Putnam Park formed. Their

mission: to sustain the continuing health of its plants, animals, waters, air and soils for today and the future. *To learn more about the park:* <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=134>

And to learn about the Friends of Putnam Park: <https://www.friendsofputnampark.org/home>

Who, What, Where, Why and When?

The Third Ward Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the integrity of places and the quality of life in the Third Ward of Eau Claire.

It is governed by a steering committee with public monthly meetings held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, and an annual meeting each September with an election of officers. For details go to: www.thirdward.org or facebook.com/ThirdWardNeighborhoodEauClaire

Stay in Touch...

To receive direct email communications on issues that arise in the Third Ward please contact Jackie Roelant at jroelant1583@gmail.com.

For Facebook or website updates contact Kevin Rosenberg (kgrose@adhesivernd.com) Jackie Roelant (jroelant1583@gmail.com) or Barb Gegg-Harrison (bgegharrison@gmail.com)

For issues regarding the City of Eau Claire contact Jeremy Gragert (Jeremy.Gragert@ec-citycouncil.com)

For issues, concerns and updates on Third Ward activity contact Kevin Rosenberg (kgrose@adhesivernd.com) that's adhesive rnd.com, not md.com

Neighborly Notes

Historic District Designation

Architectural diversity, unique old homes and established landscapes are one of the attractions of living in the Third Ward. Parts of the Third Ward have been designated a historic district and specific homes within the Third Ward are historic properties. But what does that mean if you own or want to own a historic home?

There are 3 levels of historic designation: national, state and local recognition.

- **The National Register of Historic Places** is part of the National Park Service program to coordinate and support public and private efforts that identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

- **The State of Wisconsin** administers a registry of historically significant areas called Historic Districts and identifies homes that contribute to the historic nature of the District. The state offers tax credits (25% of total costs!) for renovations if they align with the historic nature of a property. (Find information and forms at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS3942>).

- On the **local level** the City of Eau Claire has loan programs to assist with renovations of properties in historic areas to encourage purchasing and preserving these properties. Additionally you get to live in a house that is aesthetically pleasing with unmatched architecture. The City encourages sensitive development within a historic district while discouraging unsympathetic changes to occur. <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/planning/historic-preservation>

Several misconceptions surround historic properties. People believe that making changes to these homes is impossible. However interior changes can be done as desired...tasteful updates and technologies often improve historic homes while preserving the interior details that give it character. Changes to the exterior need to be approved by the City Landmarks Commission to assure it retains the architectural style of the home. Commission members include realtors, architects and developers who can offer FREE suggestions for your project. While a historic designation does not protect a home from being demolished, it does improve its chances of surviving.

Third Ward Neighborhood Thrift Sale

Clean out your closets, basements and garages! We are pleased to announce the return of the Third Ward Neighborhood Thrift Sale on September 11, 2021.

We are asking thrift sale hosts to write up a brief description of what you are selling so shoppers looking for specific items can zero in on you! For example: 'tons of baby clothes and furniture,' or 'sofas, chairs, small antiques'. The sale will be advertised in the newspaper and your items posted on the Third Ward website and Facebook page to assist salers with shopping.

The cost for this service is \$5 which will go to the neighborhood association (to continue to bring great newsletters to your home).

Make checks payable to TWNA and send it or drop it off: Sharon Hildebrand, Treasurer 426 Summit Ave. Eau Claire WI 54701.

Happy Birthday, House!

Many of you have homes over 100 years old. Isn't it time they had a birthday celebration? If you'd like to celebrate your house birthday, let us know and give us your ideas. Maybe a walking tour? Historic Home tour? Featured on our website? Share a house story?

Please let us know your interest by sending a email to Jackie Roelant jroelant1583@gmail.com

TWNA Steering Committee 2021

Janet Bethke	janbethk@aol.com
Laura Buchholz (Secretary)	bucholz.l@gmail.com
Josh Clements	joshuarclements@gmail.com
Barb Gegg-Harrison (communications, website)	bgegharrison@gmail.com
Roger Gravrock	rjgphd@gmail.com
Sharon Hildebrand (Treasurer, fundraising, newsletter)	sahildebrand@gmail.com
Jack V. Karlis	jackkarlis@gmail.com
Susan Miller (planning, fundraising)	spmiller56@att.net
Steve Ronstrom (Vice Chair)	stephenronstrom@gmail.com
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Kevin Rosenberg (Chair)	kgrose@adhesivernd.com
Aaron Salmon	aaronusalmon@gmail.com
Ryan Pieske	rpieski@cpalct.com
Jim Erickson	wndnot@gmail.com

Chippewa Valley Task Force: A Threat to Neighborhoods?

In 2018 the City of Eau Claire assembled 66 regional planners, administrators, realtors, financiers, businesses, educators, elected officials, and employers to address the housing situation in the Chippewa Valley. No neighborhood associations were included. Their goal: to better understand housing market conditions, identify factors constraining housing affordability, and investigate potential solutions to supply and affordability. As stated in their summary document: 'Fair & equitable access to safe, quality, and stable housing for all individuals & families is critical for success in health, economic stability, education, & social mobility. www.eauclairewi.gov/home/showpublished-document/30413/637102926039270000

Sounds good. So far. Right?

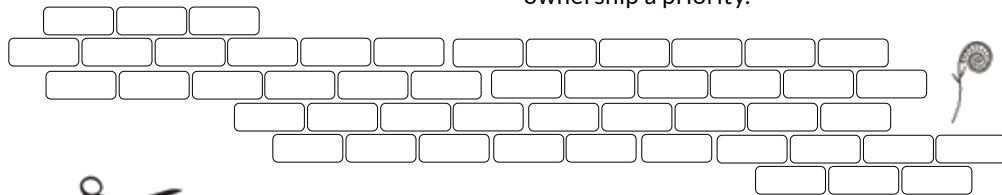
But summary recommendations and actions taken by the City may actually be threats to home ownership and to existing neighborhoods. Much of the document recommends revising zoning, increasing density, relaxing rules on set-backs, lot sizes, allowable uses, relax automobile parking, and increasing infill and redevelopment in existing neighborhoods and corridors. The document outlines city policies, funding, public-private partnerships and civic strategies that the City is considering.

Scott Allen, City Planner and architect of the Housing Task Force recently spoke at a TWNA meeting. He reassured listeners that the Task Force documents were just the initial stages. But if you have driven around Eau Claire and Altoona recently, it's clear that a building boom of MULTIPLE large apartment complexes is underway. Housing Task Force documents repeatedly state AFFORDABLE HOUSING as their goal and particularly, low income housing.

So we have some questions. Has the City achieved its goal of affordable housing through this plan? Do rental development projects meet that need? Have housing prices dropped? Are rental costs decreasing? What are the benchmarks for achieving affordable housing?

One does not build wealth by paying rent. But owning a home can do just that. Home ownership is the surest way to stabilize and improve neighborhoods. It builds communities and fires up the economy in ways renting does not--homeowners buy dishwashers, lawn mowers, fencing, they remodel kitchens and replace roofs.

If you believe home ownership builds communities, we encourage you to get involved. Let the City know you'd like money spent on programs that revitalize neighborhoods and ask them to make home ownership a priority.



We Need You. You Need Us.

The pressure on the Third Ward continues: whether it's a round-about, parking congestion, space station lighting out your window, or zoning changes. The Third Ward Neighborhood Association exists to keep the neighborhood a fine place to live. In the last year we have faced serious development challenges...businesses locating in residential homes, conditional use permits, and degraded rental properties. Steering committee members listen, we coordinate responses, contact officials, and fight the good fight. For you. But we can't do it alone. Printing, mailing, legal registration, supplies, events, advertising and an occasional professional fee all take money.

Please donate to Third Ward Neighborhood Association. Your \$5 annual household donation (more if you can swing it) helps us keep your neighborhood a stable, safe and clean place you can proudly call home. To those of you who support the TWNA Association, we thank you. And if you haven't, who'll have your back when you have a neighborhood issue?

Yes! I support the TWNA
(\$ _____) amount enclosed
Make checks out to 'TWNA'

Add me to direct email for urgent pop-up issues.
e-mail address here: _____

mail to:
Sharon Hildebrand, Treasurer
426 Summit Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701

City Updates

Hello Third Ward neighbors! Here are some quick updates for you to stay connected to City of Eau Claire happenings:

Dr. Roderick Jones is the newest member of the Eau Claire City Council, appointed in June to fill the remainder of an at-large seat vacated by Mai Xiong in April. The Spring Election for all five at-large seats on the City Council will be held April 5, 2022, with the filing deadline for candidates on January 4, 2022. Contact the City Clerk with any questions, at 715-839-4912.

The L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library has opened a temporary location on the city's south side, while the downtown library is being renovated and expanded over the next year. The address is 2725 Mall Drive, Eau Claire. Visit the website for updated hours: www.ecpubliclibrary.info

Engineering Director Dave Solberg has been serving as the Interim City Manager for almost a year, following the retirement of Dale Peters in October 2020. The city council will restart our city manager search later this summer with the hopes of hiring by the end of 2021, and having the city manager begin their duties in early 2022. To follow the search process, visit: www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/city-manager/city-manager-search

The Plan Commission is conducting a 5-Year Review of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan, a

process a bit delayed due to the pandemic. More information and public input are available on the city's Comprehensive Plan website under the tab "5-Year Review": www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/planning/comprehensive-plan

Construction on a new bus transit center for Eau Claire Transit will break ground this fall at the current site at Farwell & Main Streets. It includes the bus station on the first floor, two levels of parking above, and three levels of housing above that. The transit portion will be completed by the end of 2022. To follow this project, visit the transit website and under the tab "Transfer Center Project": www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/transit/transit-administration

The Wilson Park fountain replacement project has been postponed again, to 2023, due to more pressing needs.

Please be in touch with your questions, opinions or ideas as we work together to strengthen our neighborhood and our city.

Jeremy Gragert
Eau Claire City Council Member - District 3
jeremy.gragert@ec-citycouncil.com
715-255-0269
451 Lincoln Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701

(Jeremy represents District 3, which includes the Third Ward as well as UWEC, parts of the Eastside Hill, and the Southwest side.)

Eau Claire County Update

When I was chosen to represent District 22, I knew where the County building was and paid taxes there. I'd served as a citizen member of the Aging and Disability Resource Center, so I knew what that department did. But I really hadn't thought much about the County's responsibilities for lands, parks and roads, health and human services, public safety and courts, records, and the airport.

Serving on a board of 29 supervisors, who work with a staff of 600 employees, to serve 102,000 residents has been fascinating! I've learned about mask mandates, changes to the landfill, and borrowing money to build a new highway department building. Meetings are tedious and sometimes contentious, but that's how democracy works.

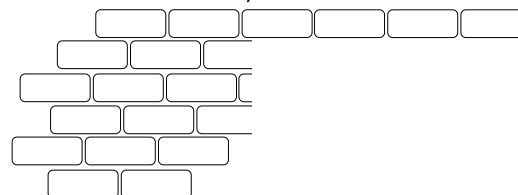
Which brings me to your part in county government. Beyond voting, (which I surely hope you do!) please consider the following:

- Sign up to serve on a county board in an area you're passionate about; citizen input is vital and I guarantee you'll learn a lot
- Fill out the county's community engagement survey here: www.co.eau-claire.wi.us to help your county officials know your priorities.
- Frequent the county website for information like the next Clean Sweep, the opportunity to sign up locally for TSA precheck, or to find a vaccine clinic.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve!

Katherine Schneider, District 22.

katherine.schneider@co.eau-claire.wi.us



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