

Neighborhood News

from Appleton's Old Third Ward

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association, Inc.

August 1994

Yes We Have a New Name!

As of July 21, 1994, the "Courthouse Area Neighborhood Association" was officially incorporated as "Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association." Why the new name? During a lengthy meeting with preservationists and legal council at the Wisconsin State Historical Society, we were strongly urged to develop an independent identity for the neighborhood. "You are an entity separate from the courthouse" argued Jim Draeger, an Architectural Historian for the society.

After lengthy opinion gathering and discussion, your Steering Committee decided on "Old Third Ward" because the area was part of Appleton's original Third Ward and is known by long time residents as such. Our incorporating attorney, Kathleen Arthur of Milwaukee, also felt very strongly about establishing a unique identity and of the suggested names, was most fond of "Old Third Ward".

Memberships Are Now Available

The purpose of the "Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association, Inc." is to maintain a viable residential neighborhood in the area bounded by Memorial Drive, Prospect Avenue, Oneida Street, and Lawrence Street in the city of Appleton. The association was created to represent the common interests of its members to government, facilitate historic and residential preservation and to acquire properties, if necessary, which have fallen into disrepair, or are threatened with development, with the purpose of restoring their desirability on the private residential marketplace.

You are now encouraged to officially join this pro-active organization as we continue to lobby the county and city against further commercial encroachment into our neighborhood. As a dues paying member, you will demonstrate your continuing commitment to this cause and bolster the credibility of neighborhood representatives. Your contributions will help defray the costs of political mailings and correspondence, past and future legal fees, and public campaigns. You will also continue to receive quarterly issues of this newsletter, "Neighborhood News", and receive invitations to special meetings and events sponsored by Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association. Please fill out the membership form at the end of this letter and return it to the association address on the form. We look forward to your support and encouragement.

Special Contributions Already Received

We wish to thank the following individuals for their generous donations received thus far:

Roy Baumruk	Ann Sager	Jackie Dungar
Virginia Baumruk	Chris Sager	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Minney
Ken Sager	Meg Casey	Mr. and Mrs. Travis Copeland
Patricia Orcutt		

These individuals will receive complimentary memberships for their timely donations. Thank you all.

County Expansion Plans Update

After the public meeting, July 11th, the neighborhood Steering Committee met to discuss the next plan of action. It was decided that because block 16 remained a targeted area for expansion, Carol Leroy, 300 West Prospect Ave, should represent the residents of that block in future meetings with government officials.

The first such meeting was with the County Airport/Property Committee on July 19, where Leroy and Frank Council presented a three page position paper, critiquing the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Parking Study, and the 1979 Plan which was largely unknown to neighborhood residents. Sources from within the county board also provided information, used in the paper, which contradicted some of the growth figures used to base future county needs.

The Property Committee agreed that further investigation of the West Ramp was in order and promised to organize a dialogue between, county, city and neighborhood representatives. But before a formal meeting with all parties is held, the committee wants to review the position of each group individually. If county employee unions are included, then two or more sessions may be required before a final resolution is hammered out. In the meantime, the association is receiving Property Committee meeting agendas to enable us to attend meetings which pertain to this issue.

Preservation Ordinance Committee Formed

After a long wait, we are happy to report that Mayor De Broux has presented his appointees charged with formulating a Historic Preservation Ordinance for the city of Appleton. Neighborhood association members view this as an important step towards preserving the Old Third Ward. The Common Council unanimously approved the mayor's appointees, including association member Linda Muldoon who spearheaded the proposal for a preservation ordinance earlier this year.

National Register Nominations Begin

After the June "all day" session with preservation and legal officials at the State Historical Society in Madison, association historical committee members Ann Sager, Chris Sager, Sally Johnson and Frank Council concluded that neighborhood nominations to the National Register for Historic Places begin with the Shuetter/Baumruk House at 330 West Sixth Street. Considered by the society to be the most endangered house in the entire neighborhood, nomination procedures have been initiated to help secure the house and its surroundings. Architecturally, the Shuetter/Baumruk house is considered to be a noted example of the Queen Anne design, built for middle class Americans during the late nineteenth century.

At the Madison meeting, over 65 houses researched by the neighborhood historical committee were reviewed for local and national significance. Other society recommendations currently being undertaken or considered by the association are:

- * Keeping a visible campaign alive to alert the public of our concerns
- * Establishing a weekly "spot light" column in the local paper.
- * Posting the neighborhood name at strategic entrances to the area.
- * Developing a walking tour brochure.

Historic Tour of Homes Benefits Hearthstone and Neighborhood

July 22 and 23 were the dates for Hearthstone's Historic Tour of Homes and Tablescapes II Exhibit, which featured the Sager, Baumruk and Council homes in the Old Third Ward. As a last minute "bonus", the Leroy/Schmiedel house was opened in block 16 when it was learned that

block was still being targeted for county parking.

Prior to the event a 70 piece mailing was sent to city and county officials, inviting them to attend. Complimentary tickets went to the Mayor and County Executive along with their respective principal planners. A pleasant surprise greeted home owners Friday when county officials led by Ron Van De Hey, himself, came for a close-up look at the neighborhood so worthy of preservation. At one house he was asked to autograph a "Stop Van De Hey" sign, but declined.

Of the over 700 visitors, many were from other areas of the state and were extremely sympathetic to our preservation efforts. The event was not just a successful fund raiser for the Hearthstone Historic House Museum. In addition to added public awareness, a generous contribution to the neighborhood association was received from a Wisconsin Rapids visitor!

A special thank you to the aldermen and county supervisors who also attended or corresponded and to Hearthstone for choosing the Old Third Ward to conduct its first home tour.

County Parking Controversy Receives National Attention

The August/September issue of "Historic Preservation News", a publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, gives first attention to the courthouse/neighborhood parking debate in its "Cross Section - Midwest" feature. Included is a photo of the Gage & Schmidt homes on Fifth Street, along with quotes from association president, Frank Council, and Ken Thiene, director of ECWRPC. Although written prior to the release of the ECWRPC's Parking Study, the article quotes Thiene as saying, "(The county) will only need forty more (parking) spaces."

Become a Supporting Member of Old Third Ward Neighborhood Association, Incorporated

Voting memberships are open to residents, both home owner and tenant, and non-resident property owners. "Friends" are non-resident, non-voting members who wish to support the purpose of the association financially.

Membership Categories

Friend	\$10 or more	Sponsor	\$100 or more
Resident/Property Owner	\$15 "	Sustainer	\$250 "
Family	\$25 "	Benefactor	\$500 "
Patron	\$50 "		

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

A/C & Phone: _____

Address checks and correspondence to: Old Third Ward; 523 S. State St.; Appleton, Wisconsin; 54911