

Neighborhood News

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

Spring 1996

PARKING PLAN READY

The final draft report of the Ad-Hoc Parking Study Committee will go before the **Outagamie County Property Committee and the County Board on Tuesday, May 28 in the County Board Room. Meeting times are 4pm for Property and 6:30pm for the County Board.** The report which recommends specific growth areas for Courthouse parking and building needs, represents the cooperative efforts of County, City and Neighborhood representatives. A key element to the report are the findings of a Parking Management Plan developed by Rich and Associates, Inc., a consulting firm hired by Outagamie County. That study recommends securing County lots for employee use only, purchasing the remaining home on Seventh court, moving Huber prisoner cars off site, and adding angle parking to Eighth Street south of the Police stations.

Additional recommendations covered in the draft report of the Ad-Hoc Committee include screening and buffering existing lots, use of the West Ramp for Huber Prisoners, with use of night court, parking shuttles and a drive up window to be explored. A central element of the Committee recommendations is city/county cooperation towards county

acquisition of the current Police station block for building expansion and maintaining the integrity of the North parking lot for a future parking ramp.

The above suggested actions, if approved by the Board will become County policy until the year 2010, with county/city Planning Departments coordinating the implementation.

Also attached to the Parking Committee recommendations is a minority report written by Linda Muldoon and supported by the neighborhood contingent. It calls for the preservation and restoration of the gray Victorian home on the NW corner of Walnut and Fifth streets. Although not supported by the full majority of the committee. The minority sentiments will be included in the report as it goes to the Property Committee. **All interested and affected neighbors should be sure to attend these upcoming meetings.**

**DON'T FORGET
TO RENEW
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

Old Third Ward

Notecards For Sale

Send a little bit of Appleton's history next time you correspond. Thanks to the generosity of Image Studios, Weidert Group, Inc., Image I. T. and Castle-Pierce Printing, a limited edition of notecards featuring four homes from the Old Third Ward are being offered for sale.

The cards, sold in packs of eight, feature homes built for Neil Duffy, 416 W. Prospect; Joseph Plank, 340 W. Prospect; Henry Shuetter, 330 W. Sixth Street; and John Hart Worton, 315 W. Prospect. Currently, they can be found at Coventry Glassworks, Conkey's Bookstore and the Outagamie Museum, Downtown Appleton, the Hearthstone Museum, 625 W. Prospect, or from Old Third Ward, Inc. by calling
Price is \$10.00 for the set of eight.

In particular, Old Third Ward wishes to thank John Luke, photographer, Ann Patros, layout and design, and Joe Weidert, copy. A special thank you goes to all Old Third Ward, Inc. members whose contributions helped to fund this project.

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Historical Houses

In The Old Third Ward

(On May 20th, the JP Buck Home, last used by Casa Clare, was demolished by the County for parking. In memoriam, Linda Muldoon has compiled this historical sketch from The Commemorative Biographical Record.)

In 1839, fifteen-year-old James P. Buck worked for his uncle at farming during the summer and lumbering in the winter at his home in upper New York State. By the time he was twenty-one, he saw "no opening for himself in the East" and thus headed west for Illinois in 1845. A storm on Lake Michigan forced him to land in Milwaukee. Striking out to find land for himself, he walked forty miles to Barton in Washington County where he cleared land and helped build the Salisbury Mill. In 1847, he married Susan Nichols, another New Yorker whose family had migrated to Barton. James farmed and helped run the mill until 1855 when he and Susan moved to Appleton. Here he went into the lumber business and ran a planing mill until 1860.

Exactly when the Bucks first built a house on Sixth and Walnut is unclear but they purchased the property in 1857. By 1867, however, a house did exist on the "Casa Clare" site and the Buck family lived in it. In 1867 the only houses on this block were the Bucks on this corner and Anton Karls who lived on the southeast corner at Elm and Fifth.

By 1881 the Bucks lived in a larger house next door on Walnut

Street and the older homestead on the corner was gone. This "new" house later became a two family dwelling and was eventually torn down to create the parking lot. But by 1893 the Bucks had built the home which had stood on this corner for over a hundred years until this month.

As an early Appleton pioneer, J. P. Buck worked for the Fox River & Wisconsin Improvement Company, traveling around the state "looking after its interests". By 1866 when this company folded, he joined the new Green Bay and Mississippi Canal Co. He continued in this line as a surveyor and real estate dealer to the end of his life with the exception of starting the Appleton Boot and Shoe Co. in 1880. To build this factory J. P. only had to look directly across Walnut Street to neighbor Thomas O'Keefe, architect of St. Mary's Church and the Atlas Mill. (The O'Keefe home stood where the county's southwest parking lot is today.)

An avid Democrat, Buck held several minor offices such as supervisor, alderman and Justice of the Peace. He and Susan belonged to the Baptist Church and were highly esteemed for their "piety and their liberality in all church and educational enterprises". He has been described as a "self-made man...honored and respected for his energy and usefulness as a citizen of Appleton".

Since the Bucks, other notable persons have lived here, including Elizabeth McGillan who, with her husband James, founded Mackville (1919-1921) and Dr. Earl McGrath (1921-1947), Doctor to the neighborhood for decades. The McGraths changed the front

entrance of the home from Walnut Street to Sixth Street.

We say good-bye to this fine old home which has faithfully stood guard on this corner for over 100 years. We apologize for not being able to save it and hope that the asphalt won't muffle all the memories

RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

No, it wasn't stolen, and the rest of the home isn't being demolished. We're talking about the missing front porch of the James Tomkins house, or more recently, the home of Frank Council at 523 S. State.

In reality the porch which was recently demolished was never seen by the Tomkins family which built the home in 1868. Of bungalow design, it was added to the home in the late 1920's or early 30's, when the home was converted into apartments. Found in a nest underneath the deck of porch #2 an old Salvation Army Flyer asks, "Will 1936 be the end of the world?"

The new/old porch #3 will be more faithful to the Italianate architecture of the home. It is based on an old photograph found by Council in Denver, Colorado, where a descendant of the home's third owner was discovered. The original porch was narrow with three columns and was only six feet deep. Ghost images of those columns are imprinted on the front walls of the house, providing much needed information.

Not wanting to lose the grander look of the bigger porch #2, the

new porch will also stretch across the entire front of the building but will have a hipped roof, like the original. Five reproduction columns are being fabricated by Laib Restoration of Oshkosh, which will build the final structure and fit 33 new storm windows to match the interior windows of the home.

When all this is finished a new paint scheme based on historical colors will complete this phase of improvements, but the house won't be finished. Council is still looking for a photograph of the missing cupola which used to cap off the top of the roof. Any ideas?

NEW COUNTY JUVENILE SHELTER TO BEGIN THIS SUMMER

If all goes according to plan, late June or July should be the ground breaking for the new 16,000 square foot Shelter Care Facility for Outagamie County. Contrary to neighborhood wishes, it is scheduled to replace the County's southwest parking lot at Sixth and Walnut Streets. But of even greater concern are the current plans to place the building backwards on the lot with the rear facing Sixth Street and the front facing a Fifth street parking lot created by the eventual demolition of the current Victorian Shelter Care home. This building was originally designed with a front facade to face the street when it was conceived to be built on the lot of the existing home. Having the back of the building exposed to passers by on Sixth Street will go down as one of the great design flaws of the 90's. *(cont. top of third column)*

Best Wishes

To Jackie (Dungar) Bertram and her husband, Tom, whose wedding on April 26th touched the hearts of many. We will miss you very much.

Congratulations

To Michael Whitman whose care and concern for the neighborhood led to an overwhelming victory in his bid to become the district's county supervisor.

Thank You

To Bruce Ladewig for buying the vacant lot on Fifth Street. Thank you to Outagamie County for selling it when the new parking plan was developed.

Good Bye

To Sue Ellen Martinson. The best gosh darn tenant a landlord ever had and a devoted worker and follower of the Old Third Ward Neighborhood cause. We'll never replace you. Best of luck with your new job and life in Madison.

Old Third Ward Board of Directors

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"Neighborhood News" was compiled and written by Frank Council and Linda Muldoon.

Unfortunately there seems to be very little that can be done about it now. The Shelter Care Construction Oversight Committee is weary of any last minute changes having spent considerable time on the project and has already been told once by the city that the building should be turned 90 degrees to allow for more landscaping.

The Committee did uphold one important decision at its April 26th meeting. Executive Van De Hey, during his last days in office, was pushing to add secure detention to the building immediately, thus making more prisoner rental space available in the Justice Center. Board and Committee Members Ken Boman, Judy Hibbe and Helen Nagler didn't budge on their position citing that the Justice Center was built to house Outagamie prisoners first. They preferred a "wait and see" attitude as changes in programming and laws which would waive some juveniles into adult court, may reduce the need for secure detention.

WALKING THE OLD THIRD WARD

As of this date, over 50 houses have been included in the OTW's Walking Tour Guide to be published by the Fox Cities Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The guide will be full of interesting tidbits about the area that have been long forgotten or were in danger of being lost. Did you know for instance that Jackman Street was part of an Indian portage around the Grand Chute rapids, or that the big tank to the east of the Water plant was
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