

President's Note



Is this a great neighborhood or what? The winter has been long and harsh (including the condition of our streets) but we have neighbors who have been helping their less able neighbors. I want to recognize and thank these OCNA "neighbors helping neighbors". You are encouraged to know the conditions of your neighbors' lives and offer to help with rides, errands, snow removal, and lawn care as you can.

Our annual neighborhood thrift sale is only a few months away on May 14-15. Please review the promo info in this newsletter and return the enclosed form if you plan to hold a personal thrift sale. Please deliver the sign up form to Treasurer Garnet Shong at 3338 Briarcrest Drive and volunteer to help us with the food tent and home-made bakery. In late April you can also help promote this very popular event by forwarding a viral email or by posting tear-off flyers where you work, worship or shop.

April 1st is 2010 Census Day. Be sure to send back your simple 10 question one page questionnaire by April 1st. Working at the local census office helps me understand how having the forms returned will save lots of effort and costs.

Composting is a great way to help the environment and improve our personal lives. Amy Polzin has written an excellent intro article on the topic. I know of a few neighbors who are composting - Amy Polzin, Eileen Berglund, and Ed McMahan. Email Amy if you are composting or interested in getting started.

Six homes and two lots remain for sale in our neighborhood at: 3420 East Meadows Place (\$157,900), 3344 Briarcrest Drive (\$187,900), 3515 Briarcrest Drive (\$171,900), Duplex 3505/07 East Meadows Pl (\$214,900), and Condos at 5316C Prill Road (\$124,900) and 5316D Prill Road (\$114,700). Updated details are available on the Google map on www.otter-creek.org. Twelve OCNA homes have sold in the last 6-9 months.

Our OCNA Business Directory has been updated to list businesses owned or managed by OCNA home owners; a copy is enclosed. If you have a business that is not listed, call or email me.

Please note that Monte Pederson is our new OCNA V. President. You will find a brief intro to the 2010 officers both in this newsletter and on the web site. The executive committee recently met and are working on several new projects:

- ✓ Neighborhood beautification starting with a bench and flower beds on the vacant lot on south end of Ridgeway where we have held our picnic.
- ✓ Master Gardener meeting with neighbors
- ✓ County Senior program (Dorothy Moen) and new updated handout
- ✓ Police meeting with neighbors

Spring is almost here; so let's enjoy our lovely neighborhood and city. Look forward to seeing you out in the neighborhood.

Duane Berglund – President/Editor

Our New OCNA Officers

Garnet Shong (Treasurer) and husband Wally moved into their Briarcrest location in August of 2008. It took some time to recover from a move from Augusta where they had resided for 51 years! That's a long time. Wally and Garnet owned and operated a drug store there and raised three children (2 girls and 1 boy). Both had been active in Augusta civic positions; Wally as Mayor of Augusta and as an alderman on the City Council for over 30 years; Garnet served eight years on the Eau Claire County Board.



They feel so blessed to have found this location in a wonderful neighborhood. She looks forward to being an officer for OCNA and hopes to fill Dan's shoes as Treasurer. Garnet says life is good!

Amy Polzin (Secretary) and husband (Chris) both retired from the Air Force in 2008 (the same year they married). Chris served 27 years and Amy was on active duty for 22. They both retired as Senior Master Sergeants (E-8) and are in no hurry looking for new careers. Chris is from Minneapolis and Amy from Oshkosh WI. (Yes, it makes for interesting conversation when the Packers and Vikings play each other.) They wanted to be as close to family as possible, and the obvious choice was Eau Claire. Chris has two sons, Jason (27) who lives in California, and Nic (20) who lives here with us. Amy has three children. Jonathon (19) is a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma, Michael (18) is a freshman at Chippewa Valley Technical College, and Erika (15) is a freshman at Memorial High School.



They truly love it here, and feel so blessed to live in this beautiful neighborhood in such a wonderful home.

Monte Pederson (Vice President) and wife Violet moved into this neighborhood in December 2002 and think it's a really great place to live. They have two grown children and four grandchildren that live in the Madison area. Monte is retired from Chippewa Valley Technical College as an auto body and refinishing instructor. Currently, he works 4-5 days a month as a field inventory rep for an information services company, doing inventory and collecting data on used vehicles. Monte's main hobby is fishing, both summer and ice fishing in winter.



Annual OCNA Neighborhood Thrift Sale

Scheduled for Fri-Sat May 14 - 15

Participating neighbors will pay \$5 and will receive seller packets including mailbox flags, locations/items, Q/As, and contact numbers. Newspaper ads will be placed in the Leader Telegram and Tradin' Post. Promotional flyers with tear-off reminders will be printed that you can take to work, your doctor, your church, or retailers with bulletin boards. A Google map on our www.otter-creek.org will locate the homes that are participating and what is being sold at each site. A viral email with the Google map link will be sent to each neighbor so all can promote the sale aggressively to friends and families. Large signs will be placed again at the entrances to our neighborhood and at the major intersections on Golf/Gateway & Hamilton & Prill. The very popular food tent featuring hot coffee, hot chocolate and home-made bakeries in the AM and hot dogs, chips and soda/water starting at 10:30am. It will be located at the Pedersons on Briarcrest Drive. A neighborhood-only preview is scheduled for Thursday May 13th 5-7pm.

Composting 101

Are you doing your part in saving our environment and conserving natural resources? Not sure?

Check this website www.myfootprint.org/en/visitor_information/ and complete a free 10-minute survey documenting your natural resource usage. The results may be shocking. I am rather ashamed to admit that two years ago my family had some very wasteful practices and habits. If all families lived as we did in 2008, we would need 8.5 Earths to sustain life! This eye-opening survey spurred us into action; one of the new habits we embraced was composting.

Composting is a fantastic way to turn yard waste and table scraps into a soil enhancer rather than unnecessarily adding useless filler to our landfills. Choosing a suitable compost system is the first step. Compost bins are much more affordable than barrels or tumblers. However, the additional investment in an enclosed barrel or tumbler may prove to save time, headaches, and money in the end. Through personal experience, I found a compost bin to be rather cumbersome and difficult to stir its contents. It also became a smorgasbord for creepy crawly things, mice, and dogs. Sometimes it got a little scary opening the lid. Never knew what might poke its little head up at me. That is why composting barrels and tumblers quickly rose to the top of my preferred list. The best ones are easy to turn and stir up the future black gold. They are also sealed enough to dissuade pests and varmints from stealing the fuel (kitchen scraps) or setting up a rodent hotel, yet vented enough to provide vital airflow. In addition, they can turn out a batch of compost ready for the garden in about four weeks during the summer months, whereas bins could take up to a year or more to produce usable compost. Check out these websites for more information on composting options and tips www.compostbins.com, or www.composttumbler.com.

Once the composting method is in place, it is time to fill it. Mike McGrath, author of "Book of Compost" and host of public radio's "You Bet Your Garden," is a huge proponent of saving large amounts of shredded leaves each fall to ensure one has enough "dry brown" or carbon-rich material to work with throughout the following year. (If leaves are not available, straw bales may be used as a substitute, but leaves are the real deal.) He recommends four parts of shredded leaves to one part of "wet green" nitrogen-rich material to make the best compost. Nitrogen materials include things like vegetables, fruits, peels, rinsed eggshells, grass clippings (with no herbicides), non-diseased plant clippings, coffee and tea grounds, as well as coffee filters and tea bags. Mr. McGrath emphatically recommends not adding fat, meat, bones, bread, eggs, or dairy products to the mixture in order to reduce the chance of foul smelling concoctions and not attracting the attention of unwanted visitors.

Finally, a good composter must keep an eye and nose to the brewing heap. It should turn a dark brown or black, and have an "earthy" smell. If it has a sulfur (rotten egg) smell, add more dry brown (carbon) because it is too wet. If there is an ammonia smell, the pile contains too much wet green (nitrogen). More leaves should do the trick here too.

Composting is not an exact science, and I am not an expert, merely an enthusiast. I truly enjoy turning garbage into something useful for my friends and family to feed plants, lawns, and gardens. I am also happy to report our family's current earth score has dropped from an ugly 8.5 to an improving 4.69. (It is still nothing to brag about, but at least we are going in the right direction.) We will continue to work toward a greener home while implementing smarter practices. Composting is just one way to improve our environment and conserve resources. If composting is not for you, you may consider teaming with a neighbor and collaborating or contributing to their efforts. In any case, whether you compost or not, I hope you and your family will continually look for ways to improve our environment and lowering your earth score to a new personal best.

By Amy Polzin - 2/19/2010

Calendar

March 10th Wed – Brunch & Bunco Demo – Sherry Mohr - 271-9370
 March 14th Sun – Daylight Savings Starts
 March 17th Wed – St. Patrick's Day
 March 20th Sat – 1st Day of Spring

April 1st Thu – 2010 US Census Day - return 2010 Census form
 April 4th Sun – Easter
 April 6th - Spring Election for City Council, County Board, School Board
 April 21st Wed – Ladies Brunch – hostess Peggy Hakala - 839-9507
 April 22nd Thu – Earth Day

May 9th Sun – Mother's Day
 May 19th Wed – Ladies Brunch – hostess Sheri McMahon - 835-8728
 May 17th Wed – St. Patrick's Day
 May 31st Sun – Memorial Day

June 14th Mon – Flag Day
 June 17th Thu – Ladies Brunch at Garnet Shong's with Eileen Berglund
 June 20th Sun – Father's Day
 June 21st Mon – 1st Day of Summer

July 5th Mon – 4th of July Holiday

Sept 6th Mon – Labor Day
 Sept 18th Sat – OCNA Picnic
 Sept 14th Tue – Fall Primary

Oct 31st Sun - Halloween

Nov 2nd Tue – Fall General Election
 Nov 7th Sun – Daylight Savings Time ends
 Nov 25th Thu - Thanksgiving

Tent for Rent – the association has a 10x20 foot tent that neighbors can rent for \$25 per event use. Call Duane at 839-8599 if you are interested.

Website and Email - the website content is updated by Duane B and periodic email broadcasts are used to communicate. Postcards are used in lieu of email.

Thanks to **Great Harvest** for loafs of fresh bread delivered to new homeowners by Eileen Berglund.

www.otter-creek.org
 Hosted on GoDaddy.com

- Google maps of homes/lots for sale
- Useful Internet links have been updated
- Photo slideshows on PhotoBucket
- Restrictive covenants & Governances

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 "Chippewa Valley's #1 Home Seller Since 1999"

This issue of the **OCNA newsletter** was edited by Duane Berglund and printed and folded at Office Max.

NEIGHBORHOOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baby Sitter Services - Melanie Meyers age 13 at 3611 Ridgeway Drive has completed the American Red Cross training course, helps in her church nursery caring for babies & toddlers and has babysat for a 2 year old. Call her on her cell 563-2022.

Sherrie Mohr is a certified car seat consultant. Call 271-9370 for free service.

Reuse & Recycle - Eileen Berglund is accepting donated fabric to make woven rugs. Blue jeans, cotton/flannel sheets, nylon hosiery, and more.

Ladies Brunches – have been a well-attended and happy event each month. Call the hostess for the month indicating what you will bring to share. Join the fun and meet your neighbors.



January 2010 neighborhood brunch group at Amy Polzin's home

OCNA Executive Notes

Treasurer Garnet Shong reports that the bank balance for the end of February is \$1,250.

Our operating funds are in the neighborhood United Bank branch and newsletter advertiser.

OCNA Officers

Duane Berglund, President	839-8599	dberg581@aol.com
Monte Pederson, Vice President	832-0418	violetpederson@sbcglobal.net
Garnet Shong, Treasurer	514-4402	garnet05@charter.net
Amy Polzin, Secretary	514-1335	Amypb7777@hotmail.com

Auto Value Parts Stores
Eau Claire Auto Parts, Inc
 Two convenient locations
 3211 London Rd 2122 Cameron St.
 715-836-0121 715-832-5560
 Domestic and Import Parts
 Hard-to-Find Parts
 Machine Shop
 Hydraulic Hose Service

New OCNA Neighbors

Jarred & Amanda Gearing 5318 Glenbrooke 896-9455
jarred_gearing@hotmail.com
 Nan, Nancy (20), Lucy (12) Wang 3606 Briarcrest Dr 237-1606
gin_yas@yahoo.com job brought them to Eau Claire
 Jerry, Mary & Kaitline Barton 3344 Briarcrest Drive

Mark & Mo Matisse 3516 Ridgeway Drive

Cory & Tracy Krogman 3415 Briarcrest Drive 829-1977

Newsletter Advertising

Please support our advertisers for supporting our association. Cost for a business card ad is \$75/year or \$35/issue. To place an ad, call Duane at 539-8599 or dberg581@aol.com. Also call to refer a business which may want to advertise in this newsletter

District 2 - City Council Rep
 David Klinkhammer - 833-8954

District 20 - County Supervisor
 Ardyth Krause - 713-0038

emShear
 Emily Grabarczyk
 Owner/Cosmetologist
 Mon. - Fri. 8am - 6pm & Sat. by appointment
 3428 Ridgeway Drive · Eau Claire, WI 54701
 715-552-5816

Email Addresses - If we don't have your email address, please consider emailing dberg581@aol.com; this will help reduce the cost of OCNA communications.

Restrictive Covenants for each neighborhood are available on our web site. These are the guidelines by which we protect our home values.

Block Captains

Call or email your block captain with any updates– new babies, moves:

S. Briarcrest Dr Lalaine Gunem 831-0034	N. Briarcrest Dr Catherine Keys 831-9079	E. Hamilton Ave Jim Dickerson 834-1789
East Meadows Pl Linda Nortman 830-9921	S. East Meadows Open	Prill Rd SubDiv Carol Blades 855-9031
N. Ridgeway Dr Mandi Yeast 514-0349	S. Ridgeway Dr Cheryl Meyers 832-4644	

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