

# The Greendale Original

*The newsletter of the Greendale Originals Neighborhood Association*  
An organization of residents of Greendale Original Homes for the purpose of education, representation,  
service, promotion, and preservation of our historic neighborhood.

March 2007

## Both Sides of the School Referendum

See back side for Meeting Information

### Greendale Board of Education's Plan

Dear Members of the Greendale Original Organization

The Greendale Board of Education is pleased to share a plan to solve current and future needs at Greendale High School. The Greendale Board of Education in late 2005 asked a team of Greendale residents led by John Lynn to review and make recommendations concerning a plan to repair and improve Greendale High School.

The team met from late January 2006 throughout the summer. The meetings were open to the public and attended by citizens who observed, and in some cases, contributed to the discussions. The committee considered cost, building infrastructure integrity and efficiency, safety, security, and the impact on the educational process when making their recommendation. The Board unanimously approved the total plan cost of \$15.9 million.

This amount was recently reduced to \$14.6 million due to the generous donation of \$1.3 million from the Reiman Foundation to pay for the renovation of the auditorium and music rooms. The resolution to renovate Greendale High School at a cost of \$14.6 million will appear on the April 3, 2007 ballot.

Our top priority, the educational program, will be delivered in the renovated school. The school will maintain a small, secure school atmosphere while operating with cost efficiency. ~

There will be additional informational meetings about the district's plan for Greendale High School during the month of March. Participants will gather at the School Library.

March 7	6:30p.m.	March 27 @ 6:30 p.m.
March 15	6:00p.m.	March 29 @ 6:30 p.m.

and after the Candidate Forum

The District will also sponsor informational tours of Greendale High School every Tuesday at 11 a.m. and Thursday at 1:00 p.m. throughout February and March.

The complete report of the Citizen Facilities Committee as well as other information about the project is available on the District's website at <http://www.greendale.k12.wi.us>. Paper copies are available and may be picked up at any School Office, the Village Hall or the Public Library. Plans are also on display and available for consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,  
Judy Fons  
President Greendale  
Board of Education

William H. Hughes, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### No Apology Required if School Referendum is Voted Down

Since the \$19.5 million referendum defeat in 2005, the school district has spent over \$ 4 million at the high school repairing the roof, upgrading lighting and security, replacing windows and so on. This maintenance had largely been ignored over the years. The Reiman Foundation, whose generosity is unparalleled in our community, recently donated \$1.29 million for new student lockers and the renovation of the music room and auditorium. It is obvious that progress on renovating the high school has been made without the passage of a referendum.

If the current referendum passes, home owners, retailers, and landlords will pay \$14.66 million over 20 years to retire the bonds that will be issued, along with \$7.6 million of interest. A total of \$22.2 million! The property tax bill for the average Greendale home will increase \$200 a year for the next 20 years. No problem? The problem lies with Greendale currently having the 7th highest equalized property taxes in southeastern Wisconsin, a \$4,459 total property tax bill for a \$200,000 home. Adding the "extra" \$200 a year with passage of the referendum, and Greendale will rank as having the 2nd highest property taxes in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Local real estate agents cite in order, low crime, low property taxes, and good schools as primary reasons why families decide to live in certain communities. If Greendale moves from 7th to 2nd in the highest property tax rankings, stagnant home values could result with fewer families choosing to live here. So the question becomes how can we make additional repairs to the high school without a referendum? The teachers health care plan could be switched from the WEA Trust to United Health Care, which was adopted by non-teaching staff last year. This change would generate over \$1 million in annual savings which could be used to make needed repairs for years to come. Another option is to use some of the \$5 million of school district cash reserves for high priority repairs. Or how about modifying the current "severance bonus plan" which has cost taxpayers over \$4 million over the past five years, as we pay school district employees up to one year of salary when "they" decide to quit.

Saying no to the referendum does not mean you are against education or the Greendale community. It says you are against extravagant and wasteful government spending, and a tax burden that is impairing property values and discouraging families from moving to Greendale. You need to send a message to the School Board that they do a better job controlling expenses, and to further develop a business plan that achieves all operational needs of the school district without placing further hardship on their constituent taxpayers.

Sincerely,  
Rick Kopatich, Greendale Taxpayers Group

## Next meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

### Agenda for March 7 Meeting

The agenda for the March 7th meeting of GONA is a short business meeting to elect officers followed by an informational session addressing the proposed renovation of the High School.

Following GONA's goal of providing our members with an opportunity to learn about current issues, School Board President Judy Fons and Greendale Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William Hughes will be present to answer questions concerning the proposed renovations.

[www.originalgreendale.org](http://www.originalgreendale.org)

### GONA Officers and Directors

**President:** Bob Thierfelder

Thierfelder@aol.com

**Vice-President:** Open

**Treasurer:** Cheryl Koc - 421-4821

**Secretary:** Kathleen Hart - 384-1000, ext. 32

**Board Member:** Al Emmons - 423-1133

**Board Member:** Ginny Emmons - 423-1133

**Board Member:** Mike Turck

**Editor:** Joe Russ - jruss@execpc.com

## Upcoming Meeting News

by Al Emmons

Our May meeting will be an exciting opportunity for Greendale residents to ask questions of one of our own young 'originals', John (Weir) Przyblla, experienced with 8 and a half years in the Marine Corps and three tours of duty in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq. Join us for "what do the guys in it think?"

## Village Event Calendar

- March 15 Greendale Candidate Forum**  
Greendale Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County  
Greendale High School Multipurpose Room  
6:30-8:30 P.M.
- April 3 General Election**
- May 19 Spring Into Greendale**  
Village Center,  
Greendale Business Association
- May 19 Folk Art Show**  
Trimborn Farm
- July 7 Treasures of Trimborn: Rummage, Antiques & Collectibles.**  
Trimborn Farm
- July 14 13th Annual Annual Walking Garden Tour**  
Starts at the Gazebo  
Greendale Garden Gazing

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Longtime Greendale Resident  
GHS Graduate ... Class of '70

Al Emmons of Creative Construction wishes to thank the over one-half of all the Greendale Original owners who allowed us to work on their Tile Roofs and Chimneys

Al Emmons

423-1133

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