



Dane County Proposes Messner Site for Homeless Day Resource Center



More than four years ago, the Dane County Board of Supervisors took the rare step of amending the county budget in the middle of the year to address needs facing the homeless in our community. This measure, authored by Dane County Board Supervisor Heidi Weigleitner, created a new capital budget account in the county's finances, directing Dane County to purchase a site and develop a new homeless day resource center.

After trying but being unable to develop such a facility on a couple of occasions, Supervisor Weigleitner and the County Board acted this summer to add more money to the capital budget to help the county afford the added expense of acquiring a day resource center closer to the downtown.

That history led to the current conversation involving the former Messner property along East Washington Avenue. While the county has closed on the purchase of this property, there are many steps, including approval from the City of Madison that must occur before the day resource center envisioned in that county budget amendment years ago becomes reality.

The work to get there will be done in consult with the neighborhood. Through

open lines of communication and a shared approach that focuses on how together we can meet a growing need in our community while being respectful of neighborhood concerns.

A successful day resource center can offer critical housing, employment, and health services and also be a good neighbor.

The county has invited representatives of the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood to assist us selecting which entity will best coordinate an eventual day resource center operation. A number of very capable, well-known local service providers will be integral to this project succeeding. Once selected, the prospective operator will help interested neighbors get questions answered and learn more about how such a facility will work.

Homelessness is a community challenge that must be addressed through collaboration. Working together, Dane County, the City of Madison, service organizations, homeless advocates, and the neighborhood can accomplish a great thing for our community in the coming year.

I think it is both rational and reasonable for community members to have and express concerns when a facility such as this is proposed. Please know that Dane County is committed to work-

ing with you to address your concerns and develop a homeless day resource center that helps those who are less fortunate get back on their feet and of which we can all be proud.

- Joe Parisi, County Executive



Just off the corner of State & Gorham Streets
Mon.-Sat. 10-8, Sun. 12-5

(608) 257-7888 ■ www.roomofonesown.com

Madison's indie bookstore since 1975

Joseph Weinberg & Associates



Fine Carpentry

**Have an old House?
Hire an old carpenter!**

I know old homes.
I have the artistic eye to envision;
the experience, patience and
technical skills to marshal the
process from design to finish; and
the drive and energy to heal your
old house woes.

Proud to offer a full range of:
Residential Restoration,
Remodeling, and Repair
at Competitive prices

Featuring
"Sexy Bathrooms"™

(608) 251-2821

josephweinbergfinecarpentry.com

Inspired Answers to Your Vexing
Design Problems

Olbrich Bungalow!

Dreamy details & close to sledding hill!

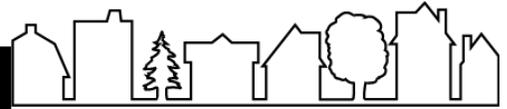
3738 Johns St, Madison

2 beds | 1 bath | 1,199 SqFt | \$179,900



www.LauerRealtyGroup.com

608.444.5725



TNPC Board Does Not Support the County's Proposal

It was an especially eventful fall semester at Tenney Nursery & Parent Center this year. During this past summer, many of our member families kept up with news of Dane County's ongoing efforts to establish a Day Resource Center to serve homeless citizens, including the decision in July to borrow an additional \$2 million to better afford a downtown site. But we were all surprised by the announcement in the news media on September 23rd that the County Executive had negotiated an agreement to purchase the Messner's building adjacent to Tenney Nursery as the proposed location. Tenney Nursery's Board of Directors was disappointed not to be included in the discussions among County staff and officials about possibly acquiring the Messner building, which we learned began sometime before the beginning of August. We nevertheless did our best to keep our member families informed about the County's proposal and to gather as much feedback as we could. The Dane County Board authorized the purchase of the Messner's property on November 5th and the County officially

acquired it November 30th. The County intends to apply to the City of Madison for a Conditional Use Permit this spring, renovate the building over the summer, and open the facility in the fall of 2016.

Just like the larger neighborhood, Tenney Nursery's member families have a range of views regarding Dane County's proposal for locating the Day Resource Center adjacent to the nursery school and nearly everyone is eager to know more about it. The nursery's Board of Directors understands that many earnest people continue to weigh the Day Resource Center's potential benefits for our community along with the potential complications for the nursery. And just like other parents before us, it is the responsibility of the current Board to ensure a thriving neighborhood nursery school for our children and for those that will come after them. As Board members, we are concerned about maintaining the healthy enrollment needed to sustain Tenney Nursery's business and we chose not to support the County's proposal.

At our initial meeting with Dane

County representatives in early October, the Board shared our concerns with the County's Director of Human Services and she agreed that some families in the community, at least initially, will choose not to enroll their children in Tenney Nursery if the Day Resource Center is located on the adjacent property. We are doing our best to address this issue going forward and we continue to listen to our member families and the larger community as we do so.

When the Dane County Board of Supervisors deliberated approving the negotiated purchase agreement, Tenney Nursery requested the Board include an amendment to their authorizing resolution. That amendment would have called for the County to begin negotiating an agreement with Tenney Nursery to address our concerns and to advise the County Board, prior to applying for a Conditional Use Permit with the City of Madison, whether such an agreement could be reached. The County Board declined to include that amendment in the purchase authorization, but two weeks later passed Dane County Resolution 316, which recognized Tenney Nursery & Parent Center's concerns with future operations and enrollment levels and committed Dane County to work to come to an agreement with Tenney Nursery that will address business concerns related to the Day Resource Center.

As we prepare for the City of Madison's review of the anticipated application for a Conditional Use Permit, we hope that the upcoming discussions with the County will be productive. The latest information we have indicates that the County's architect for the project recommends removing approximately half of the existing structure from the site and we anxiously await an initial design proposal in the first part of the new year.

- Tenney Nursery & Parent Center
Board of Directors

New Renaissance Painters

KEVIN SIMPSON
608 886.7165

25 Years Experience
Lead Safe Certified
Low & No VOC Paints



Tenney Nursery & Parent Center, Inc.

A Pre-school and community based parent cooperative.

1321 E. Mifflin St.

255-3250

tnpc@cgfirepower.com
www.tnpckids.com

• Pre-School age 2-5
• Parent/Child Playgroup age 0-3



STATE LICENSED & CITY ACCREDITED