

Idea Lounge 10: The Urban Battle

Meet the Panelists!



Mary Ruffedt

Mary Ruffedt has been actively involved in selling real estate in the Chippewa Valley since 1997 and holds a real estate license in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. She has also furthered her education by earning her ABR-Accredited Buyer Representative, RRS-Recreation and Resort Specialist, GRI-Graduate Realtor Institute, CRS-Certified Residential Specialist, and SRES- Seniors Real Estate Specialist Designation. Mary's hard work and dedication to the business has earned her many awards and recognition both regionally and nationally. Recent awards include; first place sales associate award (closed residential units) of Wisconsin in 2000, Top 100 sales associate in the state of Wisconsin. When Mary is not busy buying/selling homes, she enjoys many recreational activities. She has a great passion for spending time on the water and spending time outdoors. She enjoys running and spending time at the gym.

Ted Barr

Ted Barr is the Owner of Barr Electric and current Vice-Chair of the Eau Claire Redevelopment Authority (RDA). Mr. Barr represented the RDA on the Citizen's Advisory Committee during the development of Eau Claire's 2005 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Barr is the electrical contractor of record for the installation of the first residential, grid tied, solar electric generating systems in the city of Eau Claire (2006), and St. Croix ('06), Clark ('06) and Eau Claire ('09) counties. Resident of 1023 Emery St, he is a member of the East Side Hill Neighborhood Association and even served as its President. He participated in the Hyatt-Palma downtown assessment and dealt with the relocation of Boyd School to the Lee St. Park, the re-use of Boyd School, and the redesign and upgrade of Boyd Park. Currently involved with the Citizens for Accountability in Jail Expansion (CAJE).

Cody Filipczak

Mr. Filipczak is the owner of C&M Properties and Construction Inc., a home building, development and rental management company in Eau Claire. C&M builds 15 to 20 properties a year and has won the last four Parade of Homes "Best of Show" awards. Cody is very active in the government affairs committee with the Homebuilders Association, and as a relatively "young" business owner he brings a new perspective to the industry.

Ned Noel

Ned Noel, Associate Planner, City of Eau Claire. Mr. Noel has a bachelor degree in city planning and geographic information systems from the University of Minnesota. He has held urban planner positions in the inner city and suburbs of the Twin Cities. He has worked on both MN's Hiawatha light rail and Northstar commuter rail projects and is a communications co-chairman for the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition. Ned is Eau Claire's city planner dealing with sustainability and serves on Clear Vision Eau Claire's Sustainability Task Force and on the local Earth Day Committee.

Wallace Rogers

Wallace Rogers came to Eau Claire in 1981 from Ohio to be the county government's first Director of Planning and Development. He's served four terms on the Eau Claire City Council (1985-1993), and was Council President from 1987-1991. Since 1991 he's been a local government specialist and government organization analyst working on foreign aid projects in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, the Central Pacific, Central Asia and Southern Africa. Rogers has a BA in government and English from Valparaiso University, in Indiana and a masters degree in public administration from Kent State University in Ohio. He lives in the newly constructed Phoenix Park Neighborhood apartments.

Ryan Weichert

Dr. Weichert is an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Born in Marshfield, Wisconsin he attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he earned his bachelor's degree in Geography. Upon graduation from Eau Claire, he obtained a masters degree from Texas State University and recently a PhD from the University of Nebraska. Ryan's research has ranged from urban issues of crime for the Austin, Texas Police Department, to the examination of Hispanic's participation in the American political system. Other research interests include urban and rural geography, quantitative methods, and political geography. He is happy to be living once again in Eau Claire.

