

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Re-elect Mark Gierl, a champion of our community

To the editor:  
Alderman Mark Gierl is a friend of mine, so when I saw a negative post about him on Nextdoor, I called him. He was being criticized because he only comes around every three years at election time. He asked me who was posting and commented that those individuals are his opponents' supporters and don't understand how a Republican works.

In a Republic, voters choose someone to represent them and make the right decisions so they can go about their daily business knowing someone is acting in their best interests. Election time is when candidates report back to voters what they have accomplished. It's like a report card. The election decides whether it passes or fails.

In the meantime, Mequon City Hall is complaint-driven. If a resident has a problem/complaint, they call their alderman who does whatever they can to fix it for them. This lets the resident focus on more important things like family, job, yardwork, vacations, etc.

If no one complains, there is no problem. Quality representatives don't go looking for problems, they look for solutions. As such, Mark identifies actual issues and only then gets involved to inform the community and resolve the problems.

Mark then told me a story about an ex-alderman who drove around his district looking for and reporting ordinance violations. This both overwhelmed city staff, who had more important things to do, and infuriated residents. That alderman served just one term.

City staff, enforcement officers and aldermen make it a habit of ignoring infractions that don't negatively affect anyone. What a homeowner does on their own property (if lawful) is their own business. Residents pay taxes and have a right to enjoy home ownership. Complaint-driven is an excellent model. It provides the most freedom for citizens.

I proudly support re-electing Mark Gierl, a champion of our community, for another term. I invite my fellow residents to help with keeping this champion of our community continue working on our behalf.

Alex Leykin  
Mequon

### Re-elect Wendy Francour for School Board

To the editor:  
I have known Wendy for many years and strongly recommend she be re-elected to the Mequon Thiensville School District (MTSD) Board of Education (BOE). Wendy is a strong public school advocate, serving on the MTSD BOE since 2014.

Wendy has a long and deep connection to our community. She has lived in Mequon for 32 years and is a lifelong resident of the North Shore. In addition, she is the proud parent of a MTSD K-12 graduate.

Wendy has decades of volunteer experience in the MTSD and the Mequon Thiensville Education Foundation. She has served as PTO Co-President, chaired multiple PTO committees, chaired subcommittee task forces, held committee chair positions for the Mequon Thiensville Education Foundation fund-raising events, and served on Principal and Superintendent Advisory Boards.

As a board member, Wendy helped create the MTSD mission, vision and strategic plans, approved the 10 Year Long Range Master Plan, Legislative Platform, Academic Recovery Plan and two School Resource Officer positions. In addition, she has been a good steward of the public's money, ensuring that the school budgets she has helped to develop have been clear, concise and reasonable.

Wendy is approachable and has the ability to listen from multiple perspectives. She is sincerely interested in understanding others' points of view on a topic. This skill allows her to serve our district's students, administrators, educators and community members optimally.

Wendy has one agenda, to ensure that all the children in the MTSD receive the best education possible. The MTSD vision, "Each student, every time, empowered to succeed," is the guiding principle behind her board service.

She is the experienced, thoughtful and committed leader we need on the School Board. I could not recommend Wendy highly enough.

On April 4, please vote to re-elect Wendy Francour for Mequon Thiensville School District Board of Education.

Jackie Mortenson  
Mequon

### Bach is the hard-working person we need for Mequon Common Council District 5

To the editor:  
I laughed when I read Alderman Glenn Bushee's endorsement letter in support of Alderman Mark Gierl's re-election!

"Hard-working," is what he calls Mark Gierl. There is no other alderperson in Mequon's history with Gierl's low attendance record when it comes

to Common Council meetings. (public record)

And the example Bushee gives is a crock of nonsense. Gierl's "hard work" was to fight against something that affected him personally. He is a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard), which is ironic, because Gierl publicly accuses residents of this when they come to council meetings to voice their concerns. (Mequon Common Council, 11/12/19, 0:49:30)

Mark Gierl bullies his own constituents. He is retaliatory and litigious—suing his neighbors, his city, our schools (see Wisconsin Circuit Court Access).

As for the particular Council meeting cited above, Mark Gierl supported a massive development proposal, unconcerned about the tax implications or his own constituents. This proposal included a hotel, an assisted living facility, four-story senior apartments, a daycare center and a medical office.

Due to the public outcry, the city held a community workshop to obtain more public input.

Over 100 residents showed up to City Hall. Alderman Mark Gierl did not.

Weeks later, Gierl was up for re-election. He changed his tune so fast on this development proposal that it made the news. (public record)

His opponent, candidate Gregg Bach, not only showed up to the workshop, he was a member of the committee that worked hard to successfully keep this land parcel at low density zoning. He talked with the people.

Gregg Bach knows what Mequon wants. He is the only candidate of District 5 who honestly works hard to achieve our goals: maintain Mequon's rural character, low density development and low taxes.

Please vote for Gregg Bach, Mequon Alderman District 5.

Mary McIntyre  
Mequon

### The alderman's oath of office

To the editor:  
The swearing in of each elected alderman has them raise their right hand and put their left hand on the Bible. It begins with "I solemnly swear and end with "and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to the best of my ability. So help me God."

As alderman I swear to God impartially. This is my duty. This makes it easy to avoid conflicts of interest and ensures fair dealing. I am beholden to a higher power to be impartial.

Residents often ask whether I am a Republican or Democrat. My answer is always the same, "I'm impartial. As your alderman it makes no difference. If it is good for Mequon and the residents, I will vote for it. If not, I won't. It doesn't matter whether I like or dislike the person(s), entities, developers or whatever making the presentation. Impartiality eliminates both special favors and retaliatory impulses. It ensures instead fairness."

I judge proposals on impact and merit, not on the basis of the entity making the proposal. I don't consider myself a politician. Politicians and I are often not of the same ilk. Far too many are not impartial and sad to say, don't take their oath of office seriously. Visit the GierlForAlderman website to see the complete Oath of Office.

Alderman Mark Gierl  
District 5 Mequon

### Bach will be a caring leader on Mequon Common Council

To the editor:  
It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Gregg Bach, who is on the April 4 ballot for Mequon's 5th aldermanic district. I have worked closely with Gregg for the past several years within the context of REDgen, a nonprofit organization that advocates for youth mental health and well-being. In so doing, I have found Gregg to be someone who demonstrates genuine concern for those in need and consistently acts with the highest integrity.

As a recently retired educator with a distinguished record of both teaching and administrative leadership, Gregg strikes me as someone I would readily welcome and embrace as my alderman. Indeed, I am entirely confident he would serve the interests and needs of his constituents in a caring, competent, level-headed and fair-minded manner.

With a desirable degree of humility and fine sense of humor, Gregg is a man of accomplishment on whom you can depend. Consequently, it is without reservation that I heartily endorse him for becoming Mequon's next District alderman.

Bill Henkle  
Port Washington

### Gierl has made positive impact on community

To the editor:  
My alderman is the GOAT. I have known Mark Gierl for over 20 years and he has been my alderman for the last nine. Since Mark moved into the community, he has worked hard to improve the neighborhood and bring residents together. He first organized a strong block watch connecting residents to one another.

This occurred shortly after a number

of home break-ins made neighbors fearful. Mark worked with the Mequon Police Department in this endeavor. To date, almost 80% of the neighborhood participates and our neighborhood has become virtually crime-free. Even today, on many evenings, I still see Mark patrolling the neighborhood with his dog Josie.

Each summer Anne Marie and Mark host our annual picnic, bringing over 100 neighbors together to renew existing relationships, catch up on local events and welcome new residents to our community.

Alderman Gierl is our leader in fighting opportunistic developers who seek to triple the approved density, depleting the aquifer and destroying the rural character of our neighborhood. He keeps us informed about all the important issues at city hall.

Mark saved lakeshore residents' rights to own their shoreline, helped abolish the costly and inhumane deerculling program, led the Common Council in preserving residents' rights to lawfully rent their properties, and helped create the live trapping and relocation of nuisance coyotes. I could go on and on.

Check out the GierlForAlderman.com website. You will find more than a dozen other ways Alderman Gierl has made a positive difference in District 5 and throughout our community. I consider him the GOAT (greatest of all time) of Mequon aldermen.

Vote to re-elect Mark Gierl District 5 Alderman on April 4. To absentee vote, visit MyVote.WI.gov.

Charles Schmidt  
Mequon

### Sidney doesn't understand the mission of the Cedarburg School District

To the editor:  
On his campaign Facebook page, Cedarburg School Board candidate Scott Sidney wrote: "Spending on programming or services which don't contribute to the core mission of the school wastes resources." I asked him to explain what he considered a "waste of resources." He has not replied.

The Cedarburg School District's mission is, "to provide an exemplary education that challenges students in a nurturing environment to develop into lifelong learners, to become responsible adults, and to achieve their goals and dreams."

Developing lifelong learners is an ambitious goal. It means not only providing an education in academic subjects, but also fostering curiosity and imagination. The desire to learn, and to keep learning, relies on a steady influx of awareness brought about by new and varied experiences.

To nurture is to care for something, and to encourage its growth and development. Schools do that by providing academic and emotional support to students. Children do not check their emotional needs at the door each morning and pick them up at the end of the day. CSD's mission is to be a nurturing environment, and so it cannot treat students as simply robotic information repositories that process and regurgitate data on command.

We live and blossom in the spaces between facts and figures. That space is nebulous; not easy to grasp or quantify because it doesn't translate into a spreadsheet or statistics. Nevertheless, it cannot be trivialized or ignored. An education is never a waste when the whole person is its endeavor. Supporting students' social and emotional needs is never a waste. Encouraging their artistic, musical, athletic and creative talents is never a waste. It takes more than just reading, writing and arithmetic to develop responsible adults that can achieve their goals and dreams. That, after all, is the mission.

Jessica Martischang  
Cedarburg

### Erickson revealed true self in first run for Cedarburg School Board

To the editor:  
When I heard that Kate Erickson was running for attempt #2 on the Cedarburg School Board, I couldn't help but recall some of the wild claims she made on her campaign website during attempt #1.

ON THE STUDENTS: "Too many of our kids, especially children of color, are experiencing bullying and discrimination at the hands of fellow students in our schools."

I remain shocked that this candidate accused the students of CSD of being racist.

ON COVID: "No teacher or staff member should ever feel like their life is being put in danger because we are not taking proper steps to mitigate the spread of a deadly disease."

Masks and vaccines, especially for children, are openly acknowledged, now and then, to have little to no benefit as they relate to COVID. Is this mindset one we want from someone making important decisions that impact our children and their education?

Candidate Connie Kincaide has hitched her wagon to Ms. Erickson and they are running as a duo. When you see their signs together in Cedarburg yards, take note of what other signs are there. It will be telling. It is crucial we vote for Corey Kubichka and Scott Sidney in the election on April 4.

Tony Duckert  
Cedarburg