

# Edgerton City Council race features two contested seats

By Jack McLaughlin  
Special to the Reporter

Similar to this year’s mayoral race, Edgerton residents will encounter a full slate of candidates on the ballot when they hit the polls on April 7.

With Alderpersons David Esau and Debbie Olson (representing District 1 and 2, respectively) stepping down from their posts, the city will no doubt encounter a significant amount of turnover.

## District 1, Fidler vs. Langan

Vying for Esau’s vacant seat in Edgerton’s 1st District are Casey Langan and Kathy Fidler.

Langan has long family ties to the city as the grandson of Edgerton farmers. He was born in Edgerton and moved back for good in 2012.

Langan has served on many city boards, including the Hospital Board, Tobacco Heritage Days Committee, and the Historical Preservation Committee. He believes his experience as a government reporter has honed his ability to work with city officials and constituents alike.

While he cited maintaining flexibility if elected, Langan believes development is the largest issue currently facing the city. “Will we grow or stagnate,” he said. “Given our proximity to Madison, Janesville and the interstate, we seem poised for growth. I would encourage responsible development of senior housing, apartments, and good, affordable homes and condos. This would widen our tax base and improve the business climate.” Langan has also voiced a desire to increase historical preservation.

Kathy Fidler also possesses strong family ties to the Edgerton area. She was born and raised in the city, and graduated from Edgerton High

School. Fidler and her husband both returned to Edgerton after seeing the world in their younger years, and are also staying put for good.

This same passion for her hometown is what pushes the Edgerton native into municipal service. Driven by a strong sense of civic duty and community pride, Fidler has cited a desire to listen closely to her constituents if elected.

She believes one of the largest issues currently facing Edgerton is its inability to maintain growth, and stated her desire to address this if elected. Also Fidler cited the importance of historical preservation. “Edgerton prides itself on its history. We have to preserve what historical buildings we have. Once they’re gone, they are gone. They are not coming back. We as a community need to find ways to preserve our beautiful community for future generations.”

## District 2, McIntyre vs. Reynolds

The only other contested race on Edgerton’s City Council comes in its 2nd District, where former Edgerton mayor and alderperson Matt McIntyre takes on Robert Reynolds, a new face in city government.

McIntyre, an Edgerton native who has lived in the city his entire life and graduated from Edgerton High School, is running for city council and school board. He holds nearly 25 years of experience in municipal government, with 10 of those years as Edgerton’s mayor from 1996-2006.

He believes that economic growth is the largest issue facing the city. McIntyre cited his desire to entice businesses into both the refurbished Dickinson Warehouse and also the city’s north side business park. “One way [to promote growth] is to modify the building regulations which are making some companies not build and come here,” he said. “I will

gather a team of all the right people to fix this situation to increase our tax base for economic development.”

Like McIntyre, Robert Reynolds has lived his entire life in Edgerton. He cited the friendliness of the community and the city’s overall sense of peacefulness as two of its most appealing attributes.

As a lifelong resident of the city, Reynolds believes his overall knowledge of Edgerton and its residents, what they like and don’t like, makes him an excellent candidate, and he possess the ability to communicate this important knowledge to other city officials and committees.

Reynolds believes Edgerton would benefit from the addition of more local businesses and has several strategies to expedite this process. “I think the biggest issue facing Edgerton is getting all of the abandoned property in the downtown area put back into use. I think my proposed zoning law reform will make Edgerton more landowner and business friendly to help get that done.”

## District 3, Jim Burdick

After defeating former Edgerton alderperson Paul Davis two years ago, Jim Burdick will retain his seat in Edgerton’s 3rd District, as he is running unopposed.

Burdick’s wife is originally from Edgerton, and the pair moved back to the city in 2017, and now it call it their home. He attended school in Milton and has been drawn to small towns his whole life.

While he hasn’t been in Edgerton long, Burdick has made the most of his time, claiming a city council seat shortly after moving here and becoming involved in four different city committees. He believes his 26 years in U. S. Postal Service management have also prepared him for municipal government work.

Burdick believes that improving the city’s downtown and drawing more business to Edgerton is critical. He has also cited need for continued attention to the city’s streets. “Streets are always a concern and the city is working hard on maintaining its streets. Thanks to considerable grant funding, the West Rollin Street project is set to begin this year, and Main Street will begin next year also thanks in part to a million dollar grant. This year the spending on preventive maintenance of our streets will quadruple due to some TIF funds coming in and residents will notice the difference.”



BURDICK



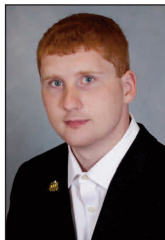
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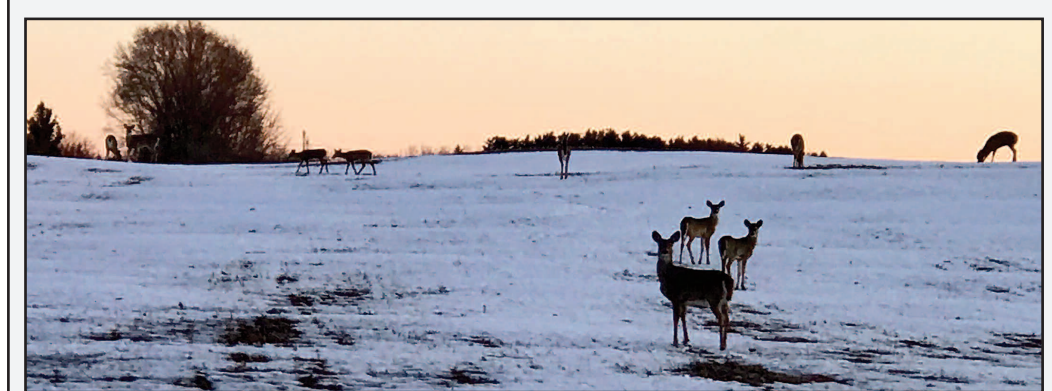
LANGAN



McINTYRE



REYNOLDS



Captured in silhouette form, a herd of deer mill about in an area field earlier this month.  
Photo by Tristan McGough



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