Menomonie City Council Elections: Ward 2
Knaack, White focusing on budget difficulties

By Pamela Powers
Menomonie News Bureau

MENOMONIE — Voters will have plenty to choose from in Menomonie City Council races in the April 3 election.

In addition to the mayor’s race that pits incumbent Randy Knaack against Dennis Kropp, the man he defeated for that position two years ago, there are contested races in city Wards 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10.

Ward 2

Incumbent Sandy White says continued budget difficulties and revitalizing Menomonie’s downtown are the two most important issues facing the City Council.

Her opponent, political newcomer Brian Knaack, says the council must focus on finding inhabitants for vacant buildings and doing a better job of listening to the community.

White opposes raising city taxes, saying many households can’t afford added taxes in an economic slump. She said the council must push for economic development, which would increase the tax base and offset continued state aid cuts. Downtown business owners should take advantage of incentives for upgrading storefronts to help revitalize downtown, she said.

White, who represents Menomonie’s northwest side, also backs reducing energy costs and outsourcing some jobs to reduce expenses.

Knaack, the nephew of Mayor Randy Knaack, said he decided to seek election because he believes he can use more residents’ ideas to improve Menomonie.

“I am a local guy just trying to bring common sense and a new perspective to the council,” he said. Knaack said city policies should be checked and reviewed periodically.

“I think the council should set the policies and let city administration maintain the laws,” he said.
when asked about having alcohol licensees appear before the council if they fail alcohol compliance checks. White said she supports alcohol licensees having to appear before an Alcohol Review Committee to encourage early intervention and to prevent more serious alcohol-related offenses.

She said her 12 years of service and professional leadership experience make her a better choice for the council.

“I know the key to making a difference is getting involved in the community dialogue on issues and working towards a common vision,” she said.

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Sandy White

Age: 57.

Address: 608 Elm Ave. W.

Education: Bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry with teaching license at UW-Eau Claire; master’s degree in education and human resource development at George Washington University.

Occupation: Outreach program manager at UW-Stout.

Political Experience: Menomonie City Council since 2000; one year on UW-Stout Academic Senate.

Family: Single.