

EDITORIAL

New subdivision example of smart, sustainable growth

The “Danielle” is a warm-looking place to call home.

Wooden piers accent a front porch. Larger, wood-paned windows greet guests. Shake shingles vary a bungalow-like facade.

It's a brand new design in a cutting-edge residential development being built northwest of Oshkosh.

The condominium house is deeper than wider. A condo association plows the hidden driveway and manicures the green.

You can review the Danielle for yourself at www.edgewoodvillage.com — Web site for Port Side Builders Inc.'s subdivision development of the same name.

Keep in mind, however, Edgewood Village isn't your father's subdivision.

The streets within it off Ryf Road and Edgewood Lane will be curvaceous, not wide drag strips. There are large front porches where many modern homes make room for an extra garage door. The development will feature snaking recreational trails.

And, with the introduction of the deeper-than-wider bayhome, this subdivision has less of an appetite for unturned earth.

Smart Growth: Achieved. This is a subdivision for today and the future. Oshkosh should encourage more.

There is room for all kinds and styles of homes in the developing Oshkosh area. And that's why Port Side and Madison-based RHS Companies Inc.'s Edgewood Village plans are so inviting.

The city harvests new tax base with the subdivision. Families get a new menu of living options at relatively affordable prices. And, best of all, Edgewood Village's footprint is both physically and neighborly compact.

The companies hope the development goes gangbusters next spring. They plan 200 lots on 70 acres — a mix of single-family and bayhomes.

The latter, in particular, is something new and exciting for the Oshkosh market.

The design of bayhomes is demographically fine-tuned. There's no giant acreage to mow. There's no driveway to shovel or snowblow. Yet, as appealing as that style of home may be to empty nesters or aging retirees, it's also capitalizing on the condo revolution — an ownership style increasingly popular with younger folks.

If you think this editorial is turning into a commercial for Edgewood Village, here's where any perceived pitch stops.

In Edgewood's innovative plans and layout, Oshkosh squeezes more out of clever developers than clever developers squeeze out of Oshkosh.

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This kind of development isn't for everybody. But it is truly win-win for house shoppers, local government quality-of-life services starving for new tax base and a community trying to curtail the wasteful consumption of land.

THE FINAL THOUGHT: The new Edgewood Village subdivision is an example of a smart development that can help Oshkosh grow intelligently into the future.