

ASTOR OUTLOOK

October 1st, 2014 • Volume 20 • Issue 2



526 S. Monroe Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

President's Letter

As we move into the cooler days of fall, there seems to be a frantic pace of preparing our yards and houses for winter. As I begin the process of moving my storm windows from their place of summer storage and onto the house, I need to sometimes remind myself why I chose to live in this old house instead of a new one.

Old houses tell a story. They have a history. There is something about running your hand down a banister that generations of people have held in their hands for centuries. It gives you a sense of place and time, and a perspective on where you fit in this huge, sometimes impersonal world. You are a part – a small but important part – of a much greater story.

This summer has seen some great work from your Astor Neighborhood Association including: our first Movie Night in the Park with the showing of *Shrek*, Popcorn and Pie in the Park, the annual Back-to-School Potluck, and upkeep of the boat art installation along the Fox River Trail.

Please keep an eye out for information on upcoming winter events that include the luminaries and wine tasting. If you would be interested in hosting the wine event, which raises money for area non-profits, please contact me and I can fill you in on the details.

Remember to check out the Facebook page or sign up to receive emails on the Astor Neighborhood Website so you can stay connected. Otherwise, you are always welcome to attend the monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month at First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Molly Martzke
President

Astor Neighborhood Association

The ANA Board Needs You!

If you are looking for a way to become more involved in the neighborhood, look no further than the Astor Neighborhood Association Board! We have a few positions open that we would love to fill. Come find out more at our next meeting: Monday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran church, 743 S. Monroe. If you have any questions, or if you would like more information, contact any of the current board members. Thanks!

Back To School Picnic

By Sara Wall

Astor's annual Back to School Picnic was held on the first night of school. About 75 neighbors and guests enjoyed the beautiful weather and feasted on a delicious meal at St. James Park. Thanks to all who attended the event and we looked forward to seeing you next year.



Luminaries

By Jennifer Lenz

Downtown Green Bay, Inc. sponsors a Holiday Lights Tour, in which patrons can ride a free GB Metro bus around the downtown area and enjoy the festive decorations and lights. Our neighborhood is lucky to be a part of the tour! This year, the event will be taking place on December 4 from 5-8 p.m. We thought this would be a perfect time to light our luminaries!

If you are in need of a set of luminaries, please contact me at jennifermmlenz@gmail.com or 920-609-7099 to set up a time for me to deliver your luminaries. Each set is only \$5, and it includes 10 bags with 20 candles and the sand. I only have about 20 sets of the luminaries left, so act fast! Light the Luminaries!



Here are the dates when we would like to have our luminaries lit:

December 4, 5-8 p.m.
December 6, 6-8 p.m.
December 13, 6-8 p.m.
December 20, 6-8 p.m.
December 24, 6-8 p.m.
December 27, 6-8 p.m.

Thank you for making our neighborhood even more beautiful this holiday season.

Thank You to
Seaway Printing Company
for the donation of this newsletter.

Musings on Revolution and the Astor Neighborhood

By Skip Heverly

The revolution is gaining momentum. After half a century of consistent population movement away from urban centers toward suburbs and ex-urbs, in the past decade this demographic shift has come into balance, and subtly but perceptibly moved in the other direction. The trend is expected to increase and within the next half century, 70% of the world's population is expected to live in urban centers.

So what does that mean for Green Bay and Astor? As housing options expand downtown (more than 200 new housing units already underway will be available by 2016) a renewed urban population density will be created. And with that, Astor will once again become a suburb, just as it historically had been as the city grew during the Industrial Revolution at the turn of the 20th century.

Imagine the Astor neighborhood as a suburb with all of those amenities -- open space, lots of greenery, uncongested, neighborly -- while at the same time maintaining all of its current conveniences: proximity to schools, church, restaurants, shopping, the Fox River Trail... From a purely location standpoint, i.e. irrespective of its history, architecture, gardens, etc, it's easy to see Astor as a prized place to live.

I anticipate a cycle will occur where young urban professionals start out downtown then look to move to neighborhoods like ours as they start families. A revival of the inner-ring suburbs. A non-violent and positive social revolution.

A Note From Officer Paul Van Handel

Fall & Winter: A Great Time for Scams

Last week I received a phone call. The guy calling sounded like he was definitely under some stress. He asked who I was so that he could make sure of the person he was talking to. He then said in his stressed out and concerned tone, "Your computer is sending out an error message over the Internet!"

I said, "Really? When did this happen?"

He replied, "Right now...it's happening right now." He then said if I went on my computer and gave him my passwords he could fix this problem. He said his company watches for things like this and helps customers out. He said it would be a simple fix and would only take a few minutes. Of course being suspicious, the more questions I asked the more the fake stress in his voice was overcome by monotone, giving obscure answers that made no sense at all. I realized after a very short time that this was a scam. Many people I have spoken to have had this or a similar unfortunate experience.

Our area is not unique to scammers. You may have had the above scenario play out already. Or, you might yet have someone call you up and say, "You've won! Congratulations!" About the time you're thinking, "Well...huh?...I don't remember entering in anything lately." This caller -- a scammer -- is already telling you about the fabulous cruise that you and your family have won and can take for free. Then when they know they've got you listening, they say that there's just one small issue to iron out, which is that they need to fly you down to where the cruise ship is. So now they need... you guessed it -- your credit card number. "This will just help pay for the short flight to your cruise adventure." If you stay on the line long enough, they will start to tell you about some other small charges but will say, "Well, they are really no problem, we can take care of this quick." They will. And they will rack up charges on your credit card quick, too.

The best thing to do is simply say you are not interested and hang up. Do not engage in a long conversation. These scam artists are trained to overcome objections and do everything to sound legitimate. The longer the time on the line, the better their opportunity to suppress your resistance and get you to play. But if your curiosity gets to you, then you can usually identify the scam by first asking what the company name is, who they represent, and where they are located. Ask the caller their name and phone number. Scammers really hate this because their whole game is deception. They are going to give you a company name you have never heard of and a fake number. When you try calling back you will get no answer.

In the end, if any company tells you on the phone that "You have to act now or you will miss out," well...it's more than likely a scam. What you want to miss out on is lots of credit card debt, or even your whole card being completely maxed out.

Thanks,

Paul Van Handel

GBPD Community Police • Director NE Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Policing (WACOP)

Office 448-3143 Ext. 3

paulva@greenbaywi.gov

Astor Neighborhood Historic Home Plaques - UPDATE

By Tina Rybak

We have gotten a few orders since our last newsletter went out. The price was originally \$185 apiece, but with ordering multiple plaques at once, the cost went down to \$161.10 each.

If you are interested in placing an order to purchase one of these for your home, please send the following information to tina_m_rybak@uwc.com:

- your name
- your address
- the year your home was built

We will coordinate payment once we receive a few orders. Thanks!

Brown County District 4

For the 2014-2016 session of the Brown County Board of Supervisors, I was selected to become a member of the Human Services Committee. This board oversees a vast array of county services intended to assist our most vulnerable and at-risk citizens, organized into the area of Community Programs and the Community Treatment Center. Services span from Child Protective Services to Adult Long Term Care. These programs are largely funded through a combination of federal, state, and local tax levies, supplementing programs and services that may be covered by insurance, client payment, or private donations.

I recently toured a number of the facilities, including the Community Treatment Center, the Sophie Beaumont building, where many county services are provided and administered, the Aging & Disability Resource Center, and the Crisis Center. In addition to being impressed with the organizational structure and the quality of the employees, I found it worth noting that there is a priority to balancing the excellent services with allowing those that need these services to remain in their homes.

If you have any questions about these or other county services, please feel free to email me at ewhoyer@hotmail.com or call **920-366-1396**.

Erik Hoyer

District 4 County Supervisor

Is Elvis Living in Our Neighborhood? By Patrick Walker, Jr.

Sorry Ladies, not the real Elvis. However, one of our neighbors goes by the stage name, "Almost Elvis." His name is David Padgett. He started impersonating Elvis Presley in 1975, two years before The King's untimely death on August 16th, 1977. He was one of only a handful of impersonators at the time compared to the thousands that have since followed.

For nearly 40 years, Padgett has carried on Presley's memory throughout the midwest and Canada.

His most signature accomplishments were performing at the Ramada Inn in Milwaukee, as well as performing over 1,500 shows in the early 1980's.

Although Padgett never met Presley personally, he had the opportunity to see him live in concert on April 28th, 1977 at the Brown County Arena in Green Bay. Padgett had yelled out, "ELVIS!" as loud as he could, and The King turned to him and gave him a smile. Just four months later, Padgett was shocked when he saw on television

that Presley had passed away. "It was disbelief," Padgett said. Today he continues to keep Elvis Presley's memory alive through singing and playing Presley's music.

Padgett's home on Porlier Street was built in the 1920's, and he has been living there since 1993. He enjoys the peacefulness of the area and the all the neighbors he has met over the years. "Everyone's house compliments one another," he said. Recently Padgett has added an additional story to his house and also his garage, which he refers to as "The Upper Man Cave."



Movie in the Park

By Katie Houle

On August 27th, Astor Neighborhood Association sponsored its first annual Movie in the Park event! About 30 people gathered at dusk and enjoyed *Shrek* at St. James Park. Families brought their picnic blankets, kids wore their pajamas, and ANA gave away popcorn to all. What a great way to end the summer!



Ask A Gardener

Dear Astor Neighborhood Gardener,
I am looking to update some long overgrown landscaping that is well past its prime (evergreen shrubs and tall cedars). While I like the privacy these provide, I know they need to be replaced. Any suggestions on what to replace with, and if possible, how can we keep some privacy the current plantings provide?

Sincerely, Katie

Dear Katie,
Though I do not know the details of your property, including light conditions and the layout of your lot, I will try to provide a few suggestions. If year round screening is most important, then evergreens are the logical choice. Many choices available, a visit to a local nursery would yield suggestions. Another possibility would be a dense branching deciduous tree or shrub; there is a nice row of hearty magnolias on the Southeast corner of Grignon and Monroe that seem to provide a nice screen. Also, a dark ninebark is dense and attractive, see the Southeast corner of Porlier and Monroe.

Astor Neighborhood Gardener

Send your questions to
AstorNeighborhoodGardener@gmail.com.

First Lutheran Church's Carillon to Receive Upgrades

By Pastor Paul Schleis

Many of us have heard the automatic player plays songs from First Lutheran's carillon tower at noon and 6 p.m. each day. Neighborhood children have known they have to be home for meals when those bells play! First Lutheran has also sponsored free public carillon tours and concerts, lately held before our City Band concerts in the summer. St. James Park is the best location to hear both concerts.

First Lutheran's carillon itself consists of 47 bells of various sizes and notes. It's one of three carillons in the state of Wisconsin, with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Marquette University in Milwaukee having the other two. There are around 167 carillons in the country. The bells are played when a metal clapper strikes the bells, and those clappers are controlled by wires, pulleys, and levers on a console arranged with traditional sharp/flat and natural keys. If you can play a melody on a piano, you can play a melody on the carillon console.

First Lutheran's carillon was given to the church in 1957, as a gift from benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Otto Kaap, with a matching trust fund for maintenance and players. While the carillon has been well maintained over the years, significant wear-and-tear has been discovered with the bolts, yokes, and motors of the carillon bells. In late July, First Lutheran's members voted to invest about \$40,000 in short and long-term carillon repair and upgrades. We hope the Astor Neighborhood can hear these bells for many years to come.

For further information, check out the August 8, 2014 article, *First Evangelical Lutheran church bells to get a tune-up* in the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

Leaf Removal

The City of Green Bay Department of Public Works has an update on their Fall Leaf Collection. According to their Facebook page, "The Fall Leaf Collection will begin on Oct. 13th this year. Yard waste and debris cannot be placed to the curb under a week prior to this time. In the meantime, the city maintains two yard waste sites for city residents for daily use from dawn to dusk. They are located at 1470 Hurlbut St (west) and 2530 East Shore Dr (east)."

Astor Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

Molly Martzke - President

1125 S. Monroe Ave.

H: (920) 437-7370

mpmartzke@yahoo.com

Tina Rybak - Vice-President

824 S. Jackson St.

C: (920) 530-9807

tinarybak@mac.com

Pastor Paul Schleis - Secretary/ Treasurer

740 S. Quincy St.

W: (920) 435-7970

C: (920) 621-0460

pschleis@new.rr.com

Jennifer Lenz - Astor Outlook Editor

704 S. Jackson St.

H: (920) 609-7099

jennifermmlenz@gmail.com

Katie Houle

701 S. Jackson St.

H: 920-471-7867

katiehoule@gmail.com

Sara Wall

410 Cass St.

H: (920) 430-1628

sararwall@gmail.com

Stay Connected With Astor

Stay informed with events in our neighborhood by visiting the Astor Neighborhood Association's Facebook page! Just go to www.facebook.com/AstorNeighborhood and click the "like" button.

Another way to stay connected: Create an account on our neighborhood's Nextdoor page! Nextdoor is a private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. Join the 59 neighbors already using Nextdoor Astor and see what all the commotion is about! Visit https://astor.nextdoor.com/choose_address/ to sign up.

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREEN BAY WI
PERMIT NO. 460

Astor Neighborhood Association, Inc.
526 S. Monroe Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301