

ASTOR OUTLOOK

NEWSLETTER

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Contact information can be
found on our website at
www.astorneighborhood.org

Greetings fellow Astor Neighbors;

With fall upon us we can now ask “what happened to Summer?” With the weather and our activities turning the corner into fall mode, we all try to enjoy the remaining days as they become shorter and shorter. With that in mind, I along with the entire Astor board would like to thank everyone who patronized our popcorn stand this summer which is one of our traditional fund-raising events. If you are a member of a club or volunteer organization and you would like to help with your team next year, please contact Paul Schleis or myself so we can get your information. It’s fun to meet the residents of GB and converse with them, and this would be a great learning opportunity for younger folks who are trying to begin to think about entering the work force. Also, thank you to those who volunteered this year, you all seemed to have a good time!

To all the residents of Astor, I am asking that you take a couple minutes to read through this letter. Please note the upcoming events and please think about the time and effort that go into the planning and coordination of these events. We really want you to attend our neighborhood events, and to enjoy the time you spend with fellow neighbors and friends. If you have an idea and would like to create an event for Astor, please contact any of the board members listed on this letter; we need your ideas and we need your help to keep this neighborhood interesting and engaging.

Please enjoy your fall months and stay active and safe. Together we make Astor what it is, a truly great place to live.

Regards,

Ron Dehn
ANA President

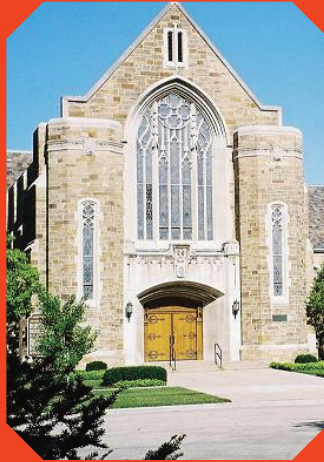
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The mission of the Astor Neighborhood Association is to maintain the integrity, vitality, and diversity of the Astor community through the protection and preservation of its history, neighborhoods, and architecture.

If These Homes Could Talk: *Astor Neighborhood Walk*

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019; 9:30 AM - NOON
STARTS AT UNION CONGREGATION CHURCH
716 MADISON STREET



Put on your walking shoes for a scenic walk through the historic Astor neighborhood led by an experienced guide! Astor residents share their house's stories and secrets through signs posted on the front lawn. Discover Astor's unique architecture while getting an exclusive look at several gardens and historic interiors.



Reservations Required
\$20.00/Person



Sign Up:

Online: Go to Eventbrite .com and search-- "If These Homes Could Talk"

OR

Call: 920-437-1840

SPONSORED BY:

ASTOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION & BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Due to the fantastic involvement of our neighbors in the past two years, the tour route has become too lengthy for some of our participants. This year we would like to offer two venues. First, a **self-guided walking tour** that will include past volunteered homes and any others that would like to put a descriptive a sign in front of their home talking about the history of that property. This will be a free self-guided tour throughout the neighborhood and signs will remain up all weekend. A map of the signs will be posted on our webpage.

The second venue will be a **ticketed walking tour** with a guide leading the way to view the interior of 6 historical properties on the route in addition to a free tour of Historic Hazelwood. **The cost is \$20.00.**

Please consider putting a sign in front of your home to the public to tell its story. We can provide a framework for you to research your home and a sign template. If you are willing, please email or call **Deby Dehn** at **deby.dehn2@yahoo.com** or **Chris Dunbar** at **bchs@netnet.net**. Last year's Tour was a great success and this year will be even better. Thank you for all that participated! Past contributors, you have a sign! Just let me know you are in!



Hello neighbors, as we transition into Fall/Winter, there are several things I want to make you aware of.

The first is the City of Green Bay and the Green Bay Area Public Schools have finished their safe routes to school research and the final draft was

approved by the City Council. This plan will enhance pedestrian and bicycle routes in and around our schools and through our community. The implementation will not be overnight, but you will see improvements for children and residents alike. With that being said, I have been in contact on several occasions with Chief Smith about traffic enforcement throughout our city and in particular our schools. As I have said before, the Police cannot do this alone. Every one of us has to show by example that we are following the rules of the road. This is not just for motorists, but also for bicyclists and pedestrians. If we all lead by example, others will take notice. If you do see a motorist who is violating the law, please make note of the vehicle description and especially the plate. You can use the new city website request for service option. Under Traffic, I would use "other concern" and fill in the necessary information. The police department does track down these individuals.

As we work toward better financial stability for our budgeting, and bonding process, I, with other members of the Finance committee, have requested that the city

develop a 5 year plan for bonding and budgeting. The hope is to have a better long term plan for our city that avoids the 4% cut that was experienced through each department this last year. With each department knowing there is a ceiling on our total bonding amount and budget each year over several years we hope to be more effective and responsible to the taxpayers.

Last year winter came early which caused some problems with leaf pickup. Many of you were caught short including me. Luckily I was able to use a pickup truck to move my leaves to the city waste disposal site, but I know many of you were not. Please make an effort to learn when leaf pickup starts and ends and take advantage as early as possible of that service. Be aware if snow is forecast, it takes several days to turn our fleet of trucks over to snow removal and it is very costly and time consuming to convert them back for those whose leaves were missed.

I have also made a decision to run for another two year term. I will be bothering some of you in December to get signatures to run and after that I will be out knocking on doors to make contact with as many of you as possible. I appreciate your support in the past and hope for your continued support in the future.

Thank you for your time,

Bill Galvin

920-639-4640

District4@greenbaywi.gov



CONNECT WITH ASTOR

Check out our beautiful website!

www.astorneighborhood.org.

Sign up to receive the Astor Neighborhood Update, which goes right to your email inbox!

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.

Visit https://astor.nextdoor.com/choose_address/ to sign up.



Recipes from times past...

Grandma's Rolled Cookies

2 cups oleo or shortening

2 cups sugar

1/2 cup milk

3 eggs

3 tsp. vanilla

4 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. baking soda

6 cups flour

pinch of salt

Combine all ingredients, form into a ball, put in fridge for 30 minutes. Take out, roll out the dough and use your favorite cookie cutters. Bake cookies at 375 degrees for 7-10 minutes. Frost and enjoy!

Milk Toast

Toast bread, butter it and place it in a bowl. Warm enough milk to cover the toast. Cover the toast with milk. Sprinkle sugar on top. Repeat with as many layers as desired. Add more milk and sugar to taste.

Brown County Updates



services, and strict community supervision.” The target population for this court are individuals who have received their fourth OWI with a BAC of 0.15 or more.

Courthouse Dome: After the repairing of the roof and refurbishing of the courthouse dome, many noticed subsequent discoloration similar to the pitting present prior to the repairs. Through working with the company that advised and installed an incorrect sealant, it has been corrected at no cost to the taxpayer. Hopefully our proud dome will shine for many years to come.

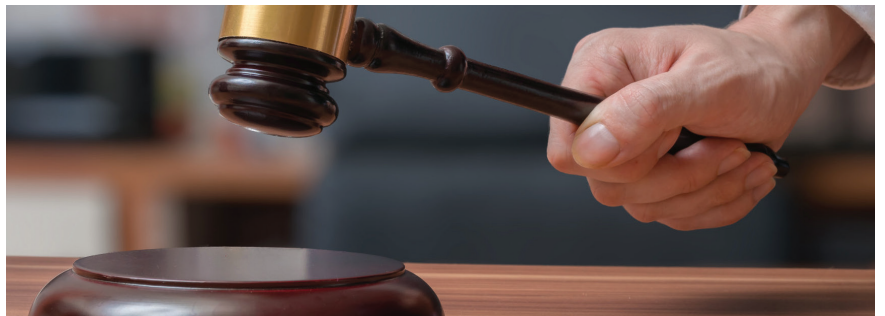


Diversion Courts: Since the establishment of the Heroin Court in 2015 (the first of its kind in the state of Wisconsin), we have now added a fifth diversion court. The OWI court is for “cases involving adult offenders through an intensive, judicially-monitored program of drug and alcohol treatment, rehabilitation



Exposition Hall: The demolition of the former Packer Hall of Fame building and Brown County Arena on the Brown County Veterans Memorial Complex is now complete, and construction of a new 90K + square foot Arena has begun. It is projected to be completed by 2022. While a majority of the cost of this building will ultimately be from the taxes collected by guests staying at hotels in Brown County, during the planning, demolition, and early construction will be supported by the county half percent sales tax.

Lawsuit: For over a year and a half, the Brown County Taxpayers Association (BCTA) has been suing the county as it contends that the 0.5% county sales tax set to be collected between 2018-2023 is illegal. There are specific laws that regulate this collection, indicating that it must go to property tax relief. We contend that these necessary capital projects would have resulted in higher property taxes, and the debt that we are paying off (14 million in 2019) will further tax relief. Though there are other considerations on your tax bill, the county property tax rate is the lowest it has been since 2008. In spite of this (the incredible opportunities for investment in our community, notwithstanding), the BCTA has continued in this process, as it travels through the courts of Wisconsin. We are hoping, however, that a judge will rule that it is legal and throw out the case. As of July, 2019, the lawsuit by the Brown County Taxpayers Association has cost the taxpayers \$238,716.17 (something that really makes us wonder).



Erik Hoyer - District 4 County Supervisor

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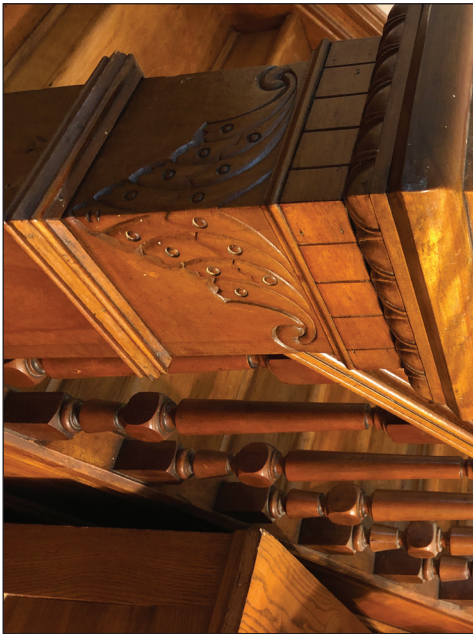
HOUSE KUDOS

by Skip Heverly

This edition's house kudos go out to Todd and Mary Ostendorf of 500 Congress Street. Originally built in 1895 for Mary Jane Hathaway, the architectural style is romantic revival with elements of both queen anne and gothic. Purchasing the house in spring 2002, Todd and Mary traveled here from Ohio weekends and holidays for the next three months to make the house improvements to the house for their young family.



Even though listed at over 3,500 sf, the previous owner focused on two-family to one-family conversion and most of the renovations were made on the first floor leaving only one usable bedroom on the second floor. They began their renovations with new ceilings, refinishing all of the floors and took on themselves the job of wallpaper removal, wall repair, and priming, all completed by the time they moved in early summer.



They are quick to say they could point out innumerable defects in their work throughout the house. I carefully surveyed the walls in the room in which we were sitting and could not perceive a single bowed or uneven surface, crack, or imperfection in the paint lines. The same was true through the rest of the house. Their work is immaculate.

Original trim pieces were thicker than standard available sizes. To match the original dimensions, Todd bought raw cured lumber, ran it through a planer to get the right thickness, then cut and milled by hand all of the trim work that he replaced. He became so proficient at this that when he rebuilt their garage, he milled all of the clapboard siding himself to match the dimensions of the house siding - 4,000 linear feet!

Finding chemical paint strippers to be a slow and smelly mess, Mary early on settled on hand scraping as the method of choice for exposing the stained original wood. She did room by room over a period of approximately 6 years. With intention she did not sand out all the scratches and other imperfections, at times using 1,000 grit sandpaper to create a glass-fine substrate. A natural

finish using a tinted shellac, which adhered to the underlying varnish more effectively than polyurethane, was used to produce a warm and authentic look. In instances where the finish didn't look right, she sanded out the first layer of application, then re-stained it a second time.

I was struck by a cohesiveness and consistency of look and feel throughout the house. Mary says "We both love old houses and we hate to see people come and install cheap molding or modern kitchen cabinets that don't fit the period of the house." In everything they did, Todd and Mary approached the process with a commitment to detail and respect for the original intent and purpose of the architecture. Their home exudes warmth, aesthetic comfort, and layer upon layer of craftsmanship.



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Storm Water Tips from the Dept. of Public Works

Summer Storm Water Tips

Know your grass! Different types of grasses require methods of care. Cool-season grasses such as fescue, ryegrass and bluegrass should be mowed to 3 inches high. Warm-season grasses such as Bermuda and Zoysia should be mowed to 1-2 inches tall. Leave grass clippings on the lawn because they hold in moisture and are rich in nitrogen, making them a natural fertilizer. Only fertilize in the Fall, and only if it is needed.

Wash your vehicles on the lawn rather than the driveway. The soil will serve as a natural filter to the soaps, chemical and leaking liquids from the vehicles.

Fall Storm Water Tips

Don't sweep or rake leaves into the curb and onto the street, this will cause street flooding due to the debris at the point of drainage known as the catch basin (inlet). It also produces "Leaf Tea". What is "Leaf Tea", leaf tea is a phosphorus nutrient rich tea that is produced when you combine leaves and storm water runoff. The phosphorus is leached out from the leaves and is carried downstream to our waterways, causing the waterways to produce algae.

Winter Storm Water Tips

Shoveling often and immediately following the storm removes the snow from driveways and sidewalks before it gets packed down by tires and feet.

Make the most of the salt you use. Ask yourself, is it necessary that the snow or ice be removed. For salt to be effective, air temperature needs to be warmer than surface temperature. A little of salt goes a long way, use only the recommended amount. Use only enough deicer to break the bond between the ice and the pavement, then remove the remaining slush by shoveling. As for sand, it does very little other than for traction. Sand contributes to the excess sediment in our waterways. Since ice removal is typically the concern of homeowners, sand may not be necessary.