

ASTOR OUTLOOK

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526 S. Monroe Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

President's Letter

Spring has finally come to the Astor Neighborhood! I really love all the seasons, but spring always feels great when it arrives. It is wonderful to see all of the neighbors again working in their yards, walking on the Fox River Trail, and playing in the parks. I hope you are able to take some time to get out and enjoy the weather and all the great places to see in the neighborhood.

Spring and summer are always busy times in the Astor Neighborhood. As you do some spring cleaning, this might be the year that you hold a garage sale during the annual neighborhood rummage. This year it will be on May 16th. If this isn't your year then keep it in mind for next year because this event always happens the Saturday before Memorial Day Weekend. Summer is also the time for Pie in the Park and Popcorn in the Park during the city band concerts. I hope to see you at one or two of the concerts, maybe even volunteering to sell popcorn. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and catch an awesome concert.

As always, 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



Photos courtesy of Jack Martzke

Brown County District 4

I was recently asked by a constituent to determine whether the county would have authority to help encourage moving the coal piles which sit across the Fox River from our neighborhood. I have approached this question from the county regulatory and health impact standpoint, as well as taken the opportunity to speak with the key coal users in our area. I visited the C. Reiss coal piles to discuss and observe their dust management strategies.

There are a number of regulations in the Wisconsin Administrative Code which regulate issues of fugitive dust (NR 415.04), and storage and handling of coal (NR 445.10); these are monitored by the state DNR and met by the companies storing coal in Green Bay. One change in state policy relating to coal dust is that now air quality monitoring stations measure levels of PM 2.5 (particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers – generally products of combustion), rather than the larger PM 10 (4 times larger and includes coal dust). The District 4 monitoring station no longer directly measures coal dust; however research has shown that smaller particles in the air have more significant health consequences. Researchers have also shown that children living closer to sites with extensive coal dust do not show levels of greater asthma severity or respiratory illness. I will continue perusing the scientific literature to research the findings of other studies related to this issue.

At the C. Reiss coal plant, an extensive system of water/surfactant application, street sweeping, intentional location and pile formation, and minimal processing of the coal shipments are all done in an effort to minimize fugitive coal dust. All year, the air direction, temperature, and cloud cover are monitored to direct the location and duration of the water cannons. Ultimately, moving the coal piles to a location closer to the bay would be a benefit to all – removing remnant coal dust from our neighborhood, opening up a wonderful riverfront development opportunity, and to ease ship-based delivery of coal. As coal use continues, but declines in some industries as it is replaced by natural gas, the costs of moving the piles may make this opportunity more feasible; in the meantime, efforts are being made to minimize the impact on our neighborhood.

As always, please feel free to email or call me if you have any questions or concerns:

Erik Hoyer

District 4 County Supervisor

ewhoyer@hotmail.com

Bellin Run

By Katie Houle

Each year, the Bellin Run brings much excitement, energy and thousands of people to our neighborhood! It is one of the Nation's largest 10k races, attracting approximately 20,000 people, and it is right here in our backyard. This year the events start on Friday, June 12 at Astor Park, with packet pick up, MyTeam TRIUMPH mile, the children's run, amongst other events.

On Saturday, June 13 the 10k run starts at 8:00 a.m. in front of Bellin Hospital. Please use extra caution when navigating through our neighborhood during these events, as there will be many extra people walking on the sidewalks and vehicles parked on our streets. For any neighbors running, best of luck to you!

Calling All Pie Lovers

After a fun and casual second year, Pie in the Park will be back for its third year on Wednesday, June 17, at 6:30 p.m. in St. James Park. Join us at the basketball hoop for free pie and ice cream and fun conversation. Stay for the first City Band concert. Would you like to bake or bring a pie? Contact Sara Wall at 430-1628 or sararwall@gmail.com to sign up to bring a pie.



Illicit Drugs and Neighborhood Crime Show a Pattern, No Matter How You Look At It

The national statistics on drugs are out, including 2014. The best news is that illicit drug use among teens has either stayed the same or dropped very slightly depending upon the drug type since 2012. Statistics were gathered by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). While the national average of "status quo" might be a moral victory, given how far we have come in recent years, it is also concerning. The problem is we don't live the national average when it comes to street drugs. We live in cities, communities, and ultimately in our neighborhoods. That neighborhood is defined each day by our own perception and level of satisfaction.

In early 2009, my partner Brian Schilt and I began working on a neighborhood crime initiative which focused on the near downtown east side of Green Bay. We determined through our own simple observation and further analysis of calls that there was a large amount of drug activity in the area. In 2008, downtown Green Bay also saw the highest total call volume in this same area. The biggest problem areas of crime were the very things that affect life in a neighborhood: disturbances, disturbances with a weapon, damage to property, ordinance violations, and noise complaints. When I saw drug deals happening in the open on the street in many of our problem areas, the telltale sign seemed to be drugs were the common theme.

The initiative, which later turned out to be called "Project Clean Sweep," focused on reducing drugs and neighborhood crime. Quite simply-

reduce drug houses, arrest the street dealers, make it uncomfortable for them to operate, and crime will be reduced. An idea that Brian Schilt and I had started with to just "bust a few of the worst drug houses" turned into a four-year-long, comprehensive "Problem Oriented Policing" project. **Clean Sweep** ran from 2009 to 2012 in the downtown area of Green Bay.

Over four years, 54 drug search warrants were served, which produced nearly 100 arrests. Problem drug houses were abated. It wasn't just about arrests. Drug Endangered Child (DEC) teams from Social Services engaged the affected families' children, and neighbors in the area were spoken to and made part of the solution. Ultimately by the end of 2012, **Clean Sweep** reduced total calls to downtown by 16.7%. Disturbances were reduced by over 20%, disturbances with a weapon fell 35%, damage to property fell 48%, ordinance violations fell 47%, and noise complaints fell by 50%.

Satisfaction surveys were done with a random number of neighbors in 2010 and 2012. Each showed that safety and quality of life had greatly improved. The transformation took time, but anyone that lives in the affected area agreed that it was well worth the wait.

If you would like more information on Project Clean Sweep go to WACOP.ORG.

Thanks,

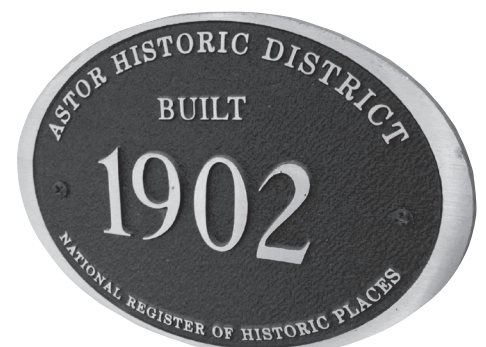
Paul Van Handel

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Astor Neighborhood Association Plaques By Jill Hogan

We have already placed our first order for the Historic Astor Neighborhood plaques, and we are ready to place another order! The price with shipping will be \$171.10 for 2015 and the checks can be made out directly to Erie Landmark Company and can be sent to me at 826 S. Quincy St., Green Bay, WI 54301. I can also be contacted at jillknit2002@yahoo.com or **920-857-9119**. Once we place the order it takes approximately 8-12 weeks to ship. We ship all orders to one location, and then we will contact you when they are ready. The plaques are very high quality and are made by the same company that makes commercial plaques for government buildings. Thank you for the great response so far, I think they show real pride in the neighborhood.

Thanks, Jill



St. Thomas More School, a staple in Green Bay's Catholic Community

By Patrick Walker Jr.



St. Thomas More School was established in 1987, and is nestled on the corner of Cass Street and S. Irwin Avenue. The school is part of the GRACE System. GRACE stands for Green Bay Area Catholic Education, and was founded in 2008 to provide affordable Catholic education. It is the largest Catholic school system in Wisconsin.

St. Thomas More is the only school within the GRACE system to have religious classes taught by a nun. Also there is a strong emphasis in the Spanish language and culture. Former student Andrew Dewane attended St. Thomas More from Kindergarten through 8th grade, graduating in 2004. When asked if he would recommend St. Thomas More, he said without hesitation, "Absolutely." He says the school taught him good values, to be respectful, and most of all, treat others as you would want to be treated. He remembers his entire 8th grade class consisting of only 11 students. He's met lifelong friends there and he said that is priceless!

St. Thomas More offers its students with a wide variety of activity and sport opportunities. Band is available for grades 5-8 and numerous performances are held during the year. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops are available, in which the children take part in a number of activities that concentrate on personal growth and opportunities to make new friends. Their athletic department consists of girls' volleyball for grades 5-8, track for boys and girls in grades 5-8 and boys' and girls' basketball for grades 3-8.

For parents and students using the Internet, there is a program called PowerSchool. It provides real time information such as communicating with teachers, tracking attendance, grades, and assignments, to name a few.

St. Thomas More believes in the benefits of fundraising as they have many programs throughout the year. They have a Seroogy's candy bar sale and Market Day, in which part of the profits go directly to the school. It offers a variety of food items available each month. One of the more popular and largest fundraisers offered is called "International Night," held in January. Classes adopt a nation and research all areas of its culture. With paid admission, the public enjoys the diversity of each nation represented, including food and entertainment. They also provide a variety of items up for auction. Support from students, parents, the community, and local businesses make this event an annual success.

St. Thomas More celebrates its 28th year in 2015, and will proudly continue to serve the Catholic Community in Green Bay for years to come.

Connect 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 74 neighbors already using Nextdoor Astor and see what all the commotion is about! Visit https://astor.nextdoor.com/choose_address/ to sign up.





Ask A Gardener

Dear Astor Neighborhood Gardener,
I am interested in starting a compost pile to help my small garden produce better this year. Do you have any tips?

Sincerely, Pete on Porlier

Dear Pete,
Composting is a relatively easy way to provide your garden with rich nutrients. I'm not a composting expert, but I will try to provide some of the more popular ideas I've seen out there.

First, many people place their compost pile directly on the soil. This will allow worms and other organisms to help break down the compost. Another thing to keep in mind is what to place in a compost pile: fruit and vegetable scraps, yard waste, straw, and even used coffee grounds are all good materials to use. Try to keep the pieces small, so they break down more quickly. Finally, make sure to incorporate oxygen into your compost pile by using a pitchfork or shovel to turn the pile over every now and then. Oxygen is a necessary part of the breakdown process, as is moisture. You may find yourself needing to water your compost pile in the middle of the summer, when it tends to get dry. Good luck to you.

Astor Neighborhood Gardener

Send your gardening questions to
AstorNeighborhoodGardener@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events at St. James Park

The Astor Neighborhood is lucky to have the **Green Bay City Band concerts** in our very own St. James Park! All but one of the dates falls on a Wednesday night. Join us for a fun night of great music, popcorn, and ice cream.

The concert dates are: June 17 and 25
July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
August 5, 12, and 19

We are also excited to announce our second annual **Movie in the Park!** This year, it will happen on Wednesday, August 26 at dusk. Bring a blanket and enjoy some popcorn while watching our movie!

Finally, the ANA will be hosting the **Back to School Picnic**. This event is always on the first day of school. This year, it'll be on Tuesday, September 1st. Bring your appetite and get a chance to catch up with your neighbors.

Meet the ANA Board

My name is Jim Frisk, and my wife Kim and I moved into the neighborhood in May of last year. We live at 1043 S. Roosevelt St. We have a daughter attending the University of Southern California studying Astronautical Engineering, and a son who was just accepted into Purdue University. He will be in their Professional Flight Technology program.

My wife and I really love the neighborhood with all the unique older homes, and all the very friendly residents. You will see us taking Riley, our Westie, for walks whenever we can. I volunteered to be on the board as a way to help with the needs of the neighborhood and to meet more of our neighbors. I look forward to the upcoming year.

Thank You to
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for the donation of this newsletter.

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