

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! Spring and summer are always busy times. 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 21st. 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.

This will be my last letter as your Neighborhood President. My term is expiring in March and I will be stepping down from the board to focus my energies elsewhere. It has been a great experience being part of the board and helping to build community. I hope that everyone takes the time to experience it!

As always, check out the Facebook page, Nextdoor 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

Connect With Astor

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

You could also create an account on our neighborhood's Nextdoor page! Nextdoor Astor is a private social network just for the residents of Astor Neighborhood. Join the 127 neighbors already using Nextdoor Astor to stay up to date on news and upcoming events.

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



Meet the ANA Board

Hi! I'm Nicole Vartanian. My husband, Jeremy DeGlopper and I recently returned to Green Bay and relocated to my favorite area of the city. We purchased a 100-year-old home and spent three months working on the floors, walls, and repairs. I love this area of Green Bay due to the great aesthetics of the neighborhood, the amazing neighbors, and the pride in the area. We appreciate the welcome. I have spent 19 years away from home, living in six different states, moving for work when need be. I have missed my parents, the Green Bay Packers, and the great sense of people in this area. Please stop by this summer and say hi... we'll be working on our home's exterior. I'm honored to be working with the Astor Neighborhood Association board and the community. Thanks!

Spring and Summer Events in the Neighborhood

The annual **Easter Egg Hunt** happens on Saturday, March 26th at St. James Park. Arrive at 9:30 to visit with neighbors and hopefully to catch a glimpse of the Easter Bunny. The hunt begins at 10:00. Like in years past, we will have a special area for the little children ages 3 and under. If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Jen at jennifermlenz@gmail.com.

Astor Neighborhood's Annual Neighborhood **Rummage Sale** will take place on Saturday, May 21. We will have signs out in the surrounding area to help publicize the upcoming event.

The **Bellin Run** is happening on Saturday, June 11. Watch the Facebook page and Nextdoor Astor for information regarding a **free concert** for the neighborhood, sponsored by Bellin, as a "thank-you" for showing such great hospitality the last forty years. The concert will take place the evening of Saturday, June 4 in Astor Park. Once we get more details, we will pass them along.

After a great second year, **Pie in the Park** will be back for its third year on Wednesday, June 15 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 Deby Dehn at debydehn2@yahoo.com to sign up to bring a pie.

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 15, 25 (Saturday - Kids' Day concert), and 29
- July 6, 13, 20, and 27
- and August 3, 10, and 17

Please contact Jen at jennifermlenz@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for the concession stand. We will need three volunteers per concert. Thanks!

We are also excited to announce our third annual **Movie in the Park**! This year, it will happen on Wednesday, August 24 at dusk, also in St. James Park. 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 Thursday, September 1st at St. James Park. Bring your appetite and get a chance to catch up with your neighbors. If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Jim at jfriskjr@yahoo.com.

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

Wine Tasting Benefits St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter to the Tune of \$1,500

By Jennifer Lenz

On a Saturday night in January, over 70 neighbors got together to enjoy a night of good wine, food, and camaraderie. The evening started off at the home of Ron and Deby Dehn on S. Jackson, where guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and wine, while striking up conversation with friends, new and old. Ron Dehn reflected, "We were honored to have so many neighbors in our humble old house... Although it may have been a little tight spatially, our home allowed for great conversation with many really nice folks."

Midway through the evening, the event continued at the home of Kevin and Lynn Heslin on S. Van Buren, where everyone continued to enjoy the evening sampling red wine and more food and desserts. "I thought the best part of the night was just the ability to socialize and meet with neighbors while raising money for a worth-while cause," described Lynn Heslin, thinking back on the evening. "I encourage other neighbors to both attend or open their homes to keep this great tradition going."

The silent auction and ticket sales allowed the Astor Neighborhood Association to donate \$1,500 to St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter! We were very fortunate that we had two fantastic families who were willing and able to host the event in their beautiful homes.

If you would be interested in hosting the 2017 Wine Tasting next January, please send an email to jennifermlenz@gmail.com or call 920-609-7099.

Special thanks to our volunteers and donors who helped to make this event a success:

A Bag Lady
Aster Park Floral
Bake My Day
Black and Tan
The Bike Hub
Cafe Madrid
Captains Walk Winery
Cliff Wall Subaru
Daily Buzz
Ron and Deby Dehn
Debbie Dhein
Ken and Hisako Duellman
Greater Green Bay YMCA
Hagemeister Park
Phil and Kitty Hauck
The Heel
Kevin and Lynn Heslin
Skip Heverly
Katie Houle

Erik and Jennifer Hoyer
Jimmy Seas
Kavarna
Lorelei Inn
Lox, Stock 'n Bagel
Monzú Bakery
Naturalscapes
Republic Chophouse
Runaway Scissors Salon
Sassy Girl
Schreiber Foods
St. Brendan's Inn
Jennifer Steffel
Devin Summers
Titletown Brewing Co.
Nicole Vartanian
Webster Avenue Market
Brent Weycker
Zeller's Ski and Sport

The Great Multitasking Myth



It seems lately that I cannot help but find myself in conversations where people are talking about drivers using cell phones, and in many cases, texting. While many are upset about distracted drivers, I have had some people openly defend such practice by saying that it all comes down to this thing called "multitasking". So I will hear it said like "Hey, you know some have it, some just don't," referring to divided attention skills, or multitasking. Well, as it turns out none of us really have it if you consider driving and cell phone use as multitasking. This, according to the National Safety Council is one of the great myths. The Council's research has found that "Contrary to popular belief, the human brain cannot multitask. Driving and talking on a cell phone are two thinking tasks that involve

many areas of the brain. Instead of processing both simultaneously, the brain rapidly switches between two cognitive activities." The driver's ability to process critical information as quickly as needed becomes impaired, therefore putting the driver and anyone else on the road at risk.

It is really important that right here and now we get a sense of our own driving. I am not writing this to talk about that obscure "some other guy" that was driving erratically when you were heading to get groceries last week. Nor is this about addressing a neighborhood or city issue where the ownership of the problem lies with someone else. I am writing this about how all of us can help make the roads safer for each other. Look at it this way: the National Safety Council reports that cell phone use leads to 1.6 million crashes each year. Nearly 330,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving. 1 out of every 4 car accidents is caused by texting while driving. Still need more convincing? Ok, texting while driving is 6 times more likely to cause an accident than driving drunk, 11 teens die every day as a result of texting while driving, and a recent AAA poll states that 94% of teen drivers acknowledged the dangers of texting and driving but 35% admit to doing it anyway.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. It was chosen to draw much needed attention to this epidemic. The goal is really to empower people about their driving. Get back to thinking about safety first. We need to stop putting the blame on technology and start questioning ourselves when we choose to use it. April is the month that was chosen, but I urge everyone not to wait until then. Think about your own driving. Safety starts with everyone the very next time we get in the vehicle and go somewhere. Well, there are a couple of things that you can do. First, challenge yourself to go to this site: <http://nsc.org/pledge> and take the Focused Driver Challenge through the National Safety Council. For students, I encourage them and teachers to get involved in creating a SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Chapter at their school. You can find this site at <http://www.sadd.org> or call 1-877-SADD-INC. Learn more about the NSC and SADD mission at these sites. Find out about how you can get involved in the mission, become an even better driver, and help keep our roads safe.

Thanks,
Paul Van Handel
Community Police, GBPD

Vice President, Wisconsin Association of
Community Oriented Police (WACOP)

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Brown County District 4

Communicating with the County

Through these articles in the Outlook, I have tried to make neighbors aware of some of the decisions and activities of the county that impact your life. Other opportunities are also available online. First, the Brown County website can be found at www.co.brown.us. At the website you can be connected with a number of different departments and areas, and get information about elections, marriage licenses, property information, court dates, and more. There are also links to external websites including the Neville Public Museum, the Brown County Library, N.E.W. Zoo, and more. You may also explore all of the minutes and agendas from the monthly board of supervisor meetings and the many committees that work with various areas within our community. While the website has a lot of information, the overall structure has not changed in many years. It is our plan to update the site to make it more user-friendly – all in the goal of government transparency.

Another online source of County information is the social media presence. Both the County and the County Executive have Facebook pages, as do many of the departments. Several county areas have Twitter feeds to keep up to date; some multi-platform social media, as well – for instance, the Neville Museum is currently running a cat photo contest on Instagram, for their “Feline Fine: The Art of Cats” exhibit.

Finally, the County website has access to your elected officials. A little over a year ago I put in a communication to ensure that all county supervisors had a County email address for official business. My new contact information is Hoyer_EW@co.brown.wi.us. You can still reach me at the email address which I have mentioned in previous articles, but I will likely respond from this email address. Additionally, you can keep track of your supervisor and learn more about what is happening in our district and county with the SupervisorErikHoyer Facebook page.

Erik Hoyer

District 4 County Supervisor

Hoyer_EW@co.brown.wi.us

Dear Astor Neighborhood Gardener,

I know that it is still quite early to start any gardening outside, as we still have snow on the ground. What can I do to get ready in the meantime?

Sincerely, Gary on Grignon.

Dear Gary,

Despite the snow cover remaining on the ground, spring is on its way. You can warm up your green thumb by working on your house plants. Begin by examining each plant. Remove any dead or diseased leaves with a pruner or sharp scissors. Clean blades often with bleach wipes. Does it need repotting? House plants can become root bound and the soil can become compacted, causing the plant to crown. If roots are all the way to the edge inside the pot, you may need to transplant it to a larger pot, usually only one to two inches larger. Remove most of the old soil and add new potting soil. I like the new soils that come with fertilizer in them. If you do not need to transplant to larger pot, you can still add a small amount of new soil to the existing pot. Be careful not to cover stems.



Ask A Gardener

Make sure to water according to instructions for each genus. You can also use a water soluble fertilizer when watering. Finally, don't forget to keep plants in the correct lighting and room temperature. Houseplant411.com is a great site for identification and care instructions. Good luck!

Astor Neighborhood Gardener

Send your gardening questions to
AstorNeighborhoodGardener@gmail.com.

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