

# ASTOR

# OUTLOOK



526 S. Monroe Avenue  
Green Bay, WI 54301

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## A Letter from the Astor Neighborhood Association President

Spring is once again arriving in Astor and some of our annual summer birds are beginning to make their way back into the skies and fields around the state. It's the time of year we begin to think about spring projects which let us fully enjoy our homes and yards in and throughout the spring and summer months. It turns out that we enjoyed a pretty mild winter here in Wisconsin. With that, it's getting closer to the time where we listen to bands play in St. James Park, and our Astor Neighborhood Association sells popcorn and other treats to raise money for neighborhood causes.

This summer, I hope to attend numerous evenings in the park in the hopes of meeting even more of you than I did in my first year as President of the association. I also hope to create a summer fundraising event which will be similar to the wine tasting event of the winter months, only to be held in one or more of the beautiful yards in the Astor neighborhood. Neighbors have discussed a beer and summer foods idea, which could also incorporate wine for those who are not beer lovers. I believe any neighborhood get together is a great idea, so I will work hard to pull this off. Please let any board member know if you are interested in hosting, participating, or donating to such a cause.

As soon as the weather breaks this spring, I have promised the Parks Department that the boats down on the Fox River Trail would be repaired, sanded and re-stained. I'm looking for help and helpers with this project!! If you own a generator and would be open to sharing it for a day, please contact any one of us with your contact information.

Finally I want to wish all a terrific spring season! We are always looking for additional, ambitious board members and volunteers for projects. Again, thank you for being wonderful neighbors and please enjoy spring as it is upon us.

**Ron Dehn**  
President  
Astor Neighborhood Association



Nextdoor Astor is growing by the day! We currently have a whopping 343 neighbors on our private neighborhood social network. This number is over twice what we had at this time last year. Visit [https://astor.nextdoor.com/choose\\_address/](https://astor.nextdoor.com/choose_address/) to join. Nextdoor Astor is a great place to post information that will go directly to your neighbors' email inboxes. Are you missing a beloved pet, do you have furniture for sale, or maybe you're just looking for a great company to do work on your house? Nextdoor is a great resource for all of us. **Join today!**

Check out our beautiful website: [www.astorneighborhood.org](http://www.astorneighborhood.org). There you will find information about upcoming board meetings and other events. The Astor Neighborhood Association also has a Facebook page. Go to [www.facebook.com/AstorNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/AstorNeighborhood) and click the "like" button.



## Why Have We Seen an Increased Need for Mental Health Treatment in Recent Years?

That was a question that was asked at a Basic Needs Committee meeting recently. Basic Needs has been meeting since 2013 to identify gaps in service for mental illness and AODA treatment. Ultimately, the goal is to provide a continuum of care that allows greater access to services for those in the community. So the question asked was something that has been asked nationally as well. The answer is that we are seeing a definite rise in the need for treatment. In fact Jean M. Twenge, PhD, concluded that there are a raft of studies and all show that "anxiety and depression are markedly higher now than they were in earlier eras". She goes on to say that there was a "consistent pattern of increase mostly between the 1930's to 1990's. After that we see an inconsistent pattern with some studies leveling off at historically high levels" where mental health is concerned (posted Oct 12, 2016).

Studies by the **National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)** conclude that 1 in 5 adults in the US or 43.8 million experience mental illness in a given year. 1 in 25 or 10 million experience a serious mental illness in a given year. 1 in 5 youth aged 13-18 experience a severe mental disorder at some point in their life. The study goes on to say that an estimated 26% of homeless adults staying in shelters live with serious mental illness and an estimated 46% live with severe mental illness and/ or substance abuse.

One thought is that maybe on a national and even local level, the rise in mental health needs has increased proportionate with the population. Or another reason could be that we have a better system in place that allows for the identification

of mental illness early on. Research shows that 50% of all mental illness begins by age 14. Yet, maybe new systems in place allow people to access care and therefore get the diagnosis and treatment they need. In Green Bay in 2016, we saw the largest number of mental health commitments ever, at 595. We have seen this steadily increasing number over the last several years. In 2015- 538 persons needed a commitment and in 2014- 463 were committed. The commitment normally stems from an episode where the person being committed has made a serious attempt to harm themselves.

If you know someone that has shown a dramatic change in behavior the NAMI website can offer you some guidance and steps to take. Go to <http://www.nami.org/>.



**National Alliance on Mental Illness**

Thanks,

**Paul Van Handel**

Community Police, GBPD

President, Wisconsin Association of  
Community Oriented Police (WACOP)

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# Spring and Summer Events in the Neighborhood



The annual **Easter Egg Hunt** happens on **Saturday, April 15th** 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 [jennifermmlenz@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermmlenz@gmail.com).

Astor Neighborhood's Annual Neighborhood **Rummage Sale** will take place on **Saturday, May 20**. We will have signs out in the surrounding area to help publicize the upcoming event.

The **Bellin Run** is happening on **Saturday, June 10**.



The Astor Neighborhood is lucky to have the **Green Bay City Band** concerts in our very own **St. James Park**! Join us for a fun night of great music, popcorn, and ice cream. The concert dates are from mid-June through mid-August. Watch the summer newsletter, our Facebook page, and our website for the dates. Please contact Jen at [jennifermmlenz@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermmlenz@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering for the concession stand. We will need three volunteers per concert.

## Thanks!



# Brown County District 4 - STEM Center

One of the biggest challenges facing Brown County is ensuring where our services are located, both to ease access, and to highlight the nature of those services. Discussions about the location of the East Branch Library, the sale of the UW-Extension office building, and the location of the Health Department are all occurring in an effort to have staff and services in locations that make sense. We need to ensure that the number and locations of properties owned and rented by the county are balanced by meeting the needs of our citizenry.

One component of this discussion is the proposed STEM center on the former county mental health property. The STEM building would house components of the new Engineering Program at UW-GB, organizations such as the Einstein Project, and potentially several county agencies. The goal will be as an engineering and entrepreneurial incubator for students of all ages, encouraging growth of this sector locally, and ultimately preventing brain drain of our newest graduates.

The first steps toward making this center a reality have included developing a relationship with UW-Green Bay, finding partners with local industry, growing support for the project on the county board, the completion of initial plans, and a recently announced 5 million dollars of support included in the state's next biennial budget. It is worth noting that this will be a private-public partnership; private dollars and support are a key to the successful completion of this building and project. I am interested to hear your perspectives on this and other projects in the county. Please feel free to contact me at [ewhoyer@hotmail.com](mailto:ewhoyer@hotmail.com) or text at **920-366-1396**.

## **Erik Hoyer**

District 4 County Supervisor  
[Hoyer\\_EW@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:Hoyer_EW@co.brown.wi.us)

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## District 4 News

Here are a few updates for our neighborhood:

Construction on the Astor Park shelter started the first full week in March.

The Webster St. construction will start just before the Bellin Run. There will only be preliminary work done before the Bellin. That work will stop and be cleaned up before the race. The work done before the race should not interfere with it. After the race the construction will start again. There will be two lanes open all the time during the construction.

There will also be construction on Madison St. It should be starting about May and continue until just after school starts. It will start at Lawe St. and end just north of Mason St.

Lastly, the Odd Fellows have decided not to add onto their facility. Instead they will be renovating much of the interior of their current facility.

## **Bill Galvin**

### **ALDERMAN DISTRICT FOUR**

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# Think Spring



Thank You to  
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# Annual Wine Tasting to Kickstart “If Homes Could Talk”

by Ron Dehn

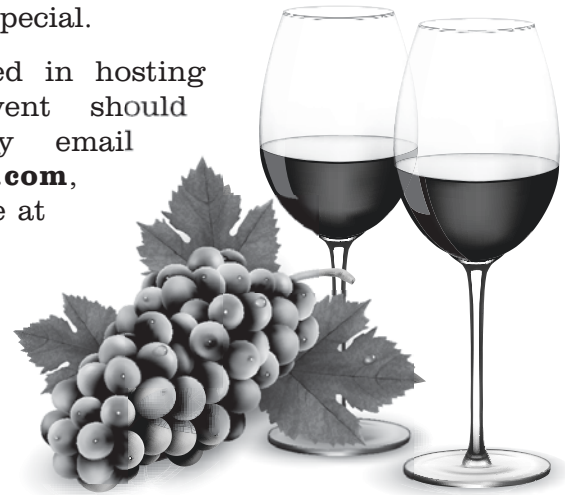
Special thanks to our volunteers and donors who helped to make this event a success:

Allouez Liquor  
Aster Park Floral  
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The Bike Hub  
Captains Walk Winery  
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The Heel  
Jimmy Seas  
Monzù Bakery & Custom Cakes  
Republic Chophouse  
Runaway Scissors Salon  
Titledown Brewing Company  
Webster Avenue Market

On January 20th, the annual Astor Neighborhood Wine Tasting Event was held at the home of Kevin and Lynn Heslin, to whom we owe a huge thank you for sharing their beautiful home, their wonderful hospitality, and willingness to take on the entire event this year. **THANK YOU!** The event included a selection of both red and white wines and a nice array of tasty treats which complemented both varieties of wine.

This year about 50 neighbors gathered to meet new friends and to discuss issues of the day, and approximately \$800.00 was raised to promote a tour of the Astor Neighborhood called “If Homes Could Talk”. Thank you to all who attended and made this night special.

Anyone interested in hosting next year's event should contact me by email **dehno4@yahoo.com**, or call or text me at **920-737-6502**.



## If Homes Could Talk: Volunteer Your Home!

by Deby Dehn

Do you love the history of your house and would like to share it with others? **“If Homes Could Talk”** will be a project in partnership with the Astor Neighborhood Association and the Brown County Historical Society to document the social and architectural history of the Astor Neighborhood. The guided walking tour will take place on **September 23rd** throughout the twenty-five-block Astor Historic District portion of our neighborhood, the area bordered by Mason, Van Buren, and Grignon Streets and the east bank of the Fox River. The concept is to collect and present local history and historical anecdotes, in which you, neighborhood residents, will volunteer your home to be a part of the tour. Participants will provide written signs and graphics to be placed in front of your homes, telling stories and offering information from the recent or not-so-recent past.

Two workshops on how to investigate the history your home will be provided for interested residents in May, and will be facilitated by Deb Anderson, Archivist at the Area Research Center of UWGB. Date, location, and times for workshops will be posted on the Astor Neighborhood Association Facebook page and website.

In the future, the ANA hopes to develop a second tour with actors depicting the stories. **Please attend our annual meeting on March 20 at 6:30 pm, First EV. Lutheran Church, 743 S. Monroe Ave. for a formal presentation.** If you are interested in volunteering, participating, or donating to this project, please email or call **Deby Dehn** at **deby.dehn@wheda.com** or **(920)737-6501**. To explore an example of an ongoing homes tour follow this link: **<https://walknewburyport.wordpress.com/>**

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