

ASTOR OUTLOOK

Spring 2018 • Volume 24 • Issue 2



526 S. Monroe Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

ANA Annual Meeting to Discuss Proposed Changes



Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Green Bay

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE UPDATES

The City of Green Bay's Department of Community and Economic Development staff and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) have been working to revise our existing Historic Preservation ordinance. The City is seeking Certified Local Government (CLG) status, which allows the City to apply for additional funding for historic surveys, educational materials, events, and other grant-sponsored activities. It's a great designation to have to enhance and further Green Bay's preservation efforts. To become a CLG, we need an ordinance that allows for a *binding* design review, versus our existing *advisory* design review. Aside from CLG status, the City's preservation efforts are intended to protect historic properties and sites. Nationwide, property values in protected historic neighborhoods have proven to outperform property values where no historic protections are in place. This phenomenon has been attributed to increased stability in historic neighborhoods stemming from the assurance that properties will be renovated in a manner that also protects & enhances the value of surrounding properties.

So, what changes are we proposing?

Very few, actually. As the ordinance stands, all exterior work done to a historic property or site requires a design review through the HPC. This will not change. The standards that are used to review each application will not change. The major change is that the HPC's review will be binding in nature with an appeal process. The other major change is that some work requiring approval will now be allowed through City staff. This change will minimize the wait time between application and receipt of your building permit. Along with this, the HPC will be reformed as the Landmarks Commission; this will allow for more owners of historic properties to sit on the Commission and have their voices heard.

How will this affect your property?

That will depend on your property. The City has a guiding document that details what features of each property are original, defining features of the property. These characteristics will be more closely monitored in comparison to details already replaced, or not original to the home. City staff would be happy to review your specific home's defining characteristics if you're looking at doing an exterior project, or if you're just curious!

What's next?

City staff will be meeting with property owners and neighborhood associations throughout the next few months, including the **Astor Annual Meeting on March 19th**. Once we get feedback from the neighborhoods, the ordinance amendment will be brought through the public process, requiring Plan Commission and City Council approval of the changes. If approved, we would then apply for CLG status with the State. Once accepted as a CLG, the City becomes eligible for the grant funds and can begin work on preservation education, updating historic surveys, and further outreach with historic neighborhoods.

Keep an eye on your mailbox for meeting updates! If there are any questions, feel free to contact Stephanie Hummel at (920) 448-3424 or stephaniehu@greenbaywi.gov.

A Word from Your ANA President

Fellow neighbors, this year you are receiving this spring newsletter a little early for a number of different reasons, but first and foremost is the upcoming **annual meeting** on **Monday, March 19th** at **6:00 p.m.** at **First Evangelical Lutheran Church** in the basement. There are numerous blurbs in this issue, so please take the time to read through the different articles concerning the annual meeting.

I want to share that back in December, I, along with my wife Deby were honored to accept the Neighborhood of the Year Award from the Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council for all the events that Astor holds consistently each and every year. This would not happen without your support as neighbors! A huge thank you to our Board Members: Katie Houle, Pastor Paul Schleis, Eric Vandeveld, Debbie Dhein, Deby Dehn, Kathleen Johnson, Cheryl Renier-Wigg, and Jennifer Lenz. These people really work hard to make these events happen.

I also want to thank everyone who participated in this year's Annual Wine Tasting event both as sponsors and participants. We all had a great time meeting and talking with our fellow neighbors. In this newsletter, we list all of the wonderful people who contributed to the cause. I also want to thank this year's hosts, Jim and Dona Schmidt and their next door neighbor Jon Costa for opening up their beautiful homes for all to share. You folks were very gracious hosts indeed!

Please dig a little deeper into this issue to note that the annual Easter Egg Hunt is just months away, and we still need volunteers. Please contact Kathleen Johnson if you can spare a little time and effort. The children really enjoy this outing.

Also this summer, right around the summer solstice, we will be holding the 2nd annual Beer Garden Event. I can assure you this is really going to take off this year and stay tuned to the website and Facebook page for some surprises as this event unfolds.

Finally, please mark your calendar for Saturday, September 22nd for our 2nd annual If Homes Could Talk walking tour. Look for upcoming workshops on researching your home at the Brown County Historical Society on our website and Facebook page.

With that said, please enjoy reading this latest issue and please feel to become involved at any level.
Regards,

Ron Dehn

President

Astor Neighborhood Association

Spring and Summer Events in the Neighborhood

The annual **Easter Egg Hunt** happens on **Saturday, March 31st** 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 **Kathy** at payitforwardandsmile@hotmail.com.



Astor Neighborhood's **Annual Neighborhood Rummage Sale** will take place on **Saturday, May 19**. We will have signs out in the surrounding area to help publicize the upcoming event.

The **Bellin Run** is happening on **Saturday, June 9**.

2018 BELLIN RUN



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 **Ron Dehn** at dehno4@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering for the concession stand. We will need three volunteers per concert. Thanks!

District 4 News

The solution to better roads in Green Bay is lined with potholes, taxes, assessments, speed bumps, bonding, and I believe Council fear of voter reaction in addressing this real problem we have. City roads total just over 400 miles. They are expected to last about 25 years before they need to be replaced. We currently replace about 2 percent of our roads each year, so we are replacing our roads about every 50 years. You can see why some of our roads are in such bad condition. Under those roads are sewer lines, storm sewer lines, water lines, and fiber optic cables, to name a few. The City currently assesses the roads on a rating scale of 0 to 10. When a road meets a set score, the road is scheduled for replacement. The planning that goes into replacing a road involves City engineers drawing up the plans, inspecting the infrastructure below the road to see if it needs repair or replacement while the road is being resurfaced, applying for any state or federal monies that can offset the costs, and seeking out best rates for the bonding. The roads are paid for by state and federal monies (if applicable), bonding (the City takes out a loan which the repaying of is part of the yearly budget including interest), and assessment to property owners based on the amount of street footage they have on the road. On average, the property assessments equal about one third of the total cost.

The complaints I get as an alderperson are: **1)** the roads need to be fixed, **2)** I do not want to pay the assessment, **3)** don't raise taxes or find the money in the budget. I think everyone agrees that the roads need to be replaced at a faster rate. I would like to see them replaced at rate of about 4 percent a year, so roughly doubling the amount of roads we currently do. It should be understood that if we did double the amount of roads we replace, we will need to hire about 2.5 more engineering staff to do the increased work to plan the road replacements. This would cost the City approximately an additional two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in salary and benefits. I can understand why people complain about assessments. For many it is a financial hardship that it is hard to plan for. I had one constituent call and tell me the assessment he received in the mail this week is about half of his monthly retirement income. The big question is how or where we find the money to get rid of assessments and increase the amount of roads we are replacing. I am not holding my breath waiting for the State or the federal government to help us out. After working on two City budgets, I can tell you we have a very lean budget and there is no fat to cut that could be used for this.

There are only three ways to get the money we need: **1)** we make major cuts to personnel and programs. For example, if we cut the Community Police program, we would save about a million dollars. **2)** Raise our tax levy, though we have to be careful not to go over the levy limit set by the state or we lose our state aid, and there would be no money for any other city programs. Even if we raise the levy the maximum amount, there are no guarantees that new alders or mayors will not take the increase and use it for something else. **3)** We institute a new tax such as a wheel tax. The advantage of a wheel tax is that people with vehicles who use the roads pay the tax. The money generated by the tax by ordinance can be set in to a separate account and only used for road replacement. If enough money is generated, assessments can be done away with. The money can also be designated to hire the additional staff which keeps it off the general tax levy. If enough money is generated, we can also increase the number of roads replaced every year. The wheel tax, I feel, is a small amount every year instead of a large amount every 25 years for home owners to deal with. I will say, I have had constituents complain that a \$15 to \$25 dollar a year wheel tax is a financial hardship. I would ask if you want to pay a very little amount every year or pay upwards of thousands of dollars roughly every 25 years or more.

If you have any thoughts or ideas on this problem, I look forward to talking to you about it.

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

If You See Something, Say Something

Only you know what's supposed to be in your everyday. We all share a unique perspective as we go to work, school, the grocery store, or the gas station. But how much do we really look around and have a sense of situational awareness? Do we notice things that are out of place? What makes something suspicious? The Department of Homeland Security has been promoting the **"If you see something, say something program"** for years. It is the first level of prevention in a domestic terrorist type threat. The success of the program is really based on each citizen. How much do we pay attention, notice the unusual, and then know what to do about it?

As we proceed through our "everyday" do we notice unusual items or situations? A vehicle parked in an odd location or a door or window open that is usually closed. What about someone who is eliciting information, such as asking questions about certain buildings in the area? What about a car parked on your street for prolonged periods of time with a person in it that appears to be watching a house? Each of these areas is listed in the training under the aspect of potential pre-event activities. Granted any one of the above mentioned as suspicious could also

be completely harmless, because we each know the sense of normal in the area we live in. We should be able to notice when something isn't just a bit strange, but really out of place and not something noticed before. The reporting of any suspicious activity to your local police is up to you.

Do you want to get better at noticing things that are out of place? I challenge you as I did to go to this website: <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/take-challenge> for Homeland Security and take the challenge. You will be shown a series of videos. When prompted to begin, start observing what seems like an average situation and try to pick out the suspicious activity that is happening. I think you will be shocked at what you miss. You can help local law enforcement greatly by remembering a few key things: What you saw, When you saw it, Where it occurred and Why it's suspicious. For more information go to the Department of Homeland Security website – "If you see something say something" <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/about-campaign>

Thanks,

Paul Van Handel

Community Police, GBPD

President, Wisconsin Association of
Community Oriented Police (WACOP)

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Meet the ANA Board

Cheryl and her husband Jonathan bought their house on S. Jackson in 1990. Since then they have diligently worked to restore the house back to its original status, most recently rebuilding the front porch. This is not Cheryl's first time on the board. She served on the ANA from 1994-1999 serving as its President in 1999. They have one adult son Keaton.

Cheryl has been involved with neighborhood and redevelopment projects for over 30 years. During her employment with the City of Green Bay she has worked on numerous housing and neighborhood initiatives from housing rehabilitation and new home construction to neighborhood association organization. She is currently the Assistant Director of the Dept. Of Community and Economic Development.

Connect With Astor

*Nextdoor Astor is growing by the day! We currently have a whopping **480** neighbors on our private neighborhood social network. Visit 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 newly redesigned website: 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 and click "like".



Annual Astor Wine Tasting Event

by by Katie Houle

On February 10, the annual Astor Neighborhood Wine Tasting Event was held at the homes of Jim and Dona Schmitt, and Jon Costa. The mild evening started with white wine, provided by Captain's Walk and appetizers donated by Studio 1212. Jim and Dona allowed guests to peruse their home and many enjoyed their recently remodeled third floor party room; what views of the city, even at night! ANA's president, Ron Dehn spoke briefly, thanking our many sponsors and neighbors and sharing all ANA's does in our neighborhood. The red wine home featured two red selections from Captain's Walk, and exquisite tapas made by Devin Summers. Jon also opened up his home for guests to enjoy the many updates and an extensive collection of clocks.

We appreciate all of you who attended. What a great turnout with 70 guests! We are grateful for all the neighborhood participation. It is wonderful to meet neighbors over a glass of wine and get to know these amazing people living right here in Astor. We couldn't have had this event without you attending- thank you!

ANA also extends tremendous gratitude for those businesses and neighbors who contributed food and silent auction items. We also could not have had the event without their participation! What a gift it is to see neighborhoods come full circle, giving back to

each other; isn't that what a community is all about? Please support these businesses and thank the neighbors listed below.

The goal of the night was to raise money towards a cause the Board chooses. This year, we chose to put the profits back into our Association to help support the many events we sponsor throughout the year. I believe our neighborhood is stronger and builds a sense of community because of these events, so please keep coming! Stay engaged with ANA through our Facebook page and website, join the ANA board, or volunteer at an event!

Thank you to these businesses and neighbors:



Bake My Day • Black and Tan • The Bike Hub
Café Madrid • Captains Walk Winery
City of Green Bay • Cliff Wall Subaru
Ron and Deby Dehn • Greater Green Bay YMCA
Hawthorn Suites • The Heel
Erik and Jennifer Hoyer • Los Banditos
The Main Salon • Pomps Tires
Republic Chophouse • Sante Fe Salon
Devin Summers • Studio 1212

Brown County District 4

In 2018, Brown County is celebrating its 200th anniversary, and there are events throughout the year to celebrate that fact!

Our county is named after General Jacob Jennings Brown (1775-1828), who was a heroic army officer in the war of 1812; duties during the war included the coordination of soldiers battling British forces along the Great Lakes, necessary to maintain the important trading routes of the day. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1814, and appointed as a Commanding General in 1821. There are four Great Lakes States with counties named after Brown, including those in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin – Brown County Wisconsin and Ohio were both established in 1818 while the Brown Counties in Indiana and Illinois were established in the 1830s.

When Brown County, Wisconsin was established, it was one of only two counties (along with Crawford County) in the state and covered much of the eastern half of the state – this was 30 years before Wisconsin was admitted as the 30th state in our Union. Now that we have 72 counties across this great state of ours, Brown County is now a more manageable 616 square miles.

Events to celebrate the birthday of our county include:

- ◆ A wintertime release party of the Brown County-opoly, based on the Hasbro favorite with a local flair
- ◆ 5/29/18 – Our Brown County, an exhibit at the Neville Public Museum will open, celebrating the 200th anniversary with an exhibit featuring 50 artifacts, 50 people, and 50 places, and 50 photographs that identify 200 important things that make Brown County, WI what we are today.
- ◆ On 10/26/2018, there will be the official 200th birthday celebration at the Neville Public museum (Cupcakes! A time capsule! Singing and dancing!)
- ◆ 11/1/18 – an Honor Guard Flight from Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport
- ◆ More! Stay tuned for more events through the year



I look forward to seeing you at these events and celebrating the history of our special home.

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