

# ASTOR OUTLOOK

Summer 2017 • Volume 23 • Issue 3



526 S. Monroe Avenue  
Green Bay, WI 54301

## A Word from Your ANA President

As I sit down to type this letter for the summer newsletter, it is 40 degrees and raining outside and the trees and shrubs are beginning to open up. A robin is building a nest by the corner of our garage. She was almost done with this artful adventure yesterday, but the winds from last night must have blown the entire nest to the ground. She just keeps working away on a new one. By the time everyone reads this letter, her young will be almost large enough to be chased from the nest. Nature is remarkable.

As a neighborhood association, we try to be like that robin, working on community projects that strengthen our nest to build a new active base of volunteers and neighbors that work toward common goals and civic engagement. We work together to bring neighbors together in venues that are both fun and entertaining. This year's Easter Egg Hunt was one of those moments. Because of the disciplined work of your VP Jennifer Lenz, many neighbors were able to gather with their children to have a little fun in St. James Park. It was fun to watch so many people guide their children through the park to find those treats, and I enjoyed meeting and talking with so many of you as well.

As we slide into summer, please consider contacting any board member if you would like to volunteer to help out at some of our events. Students should consider this as a positive way to earn community service time they need to graduate as well.

Remember that we are Green Bay's most historic neighborhood and historical preservation is at the core of our mission. We are also wide open to any ideas you may have for community projects that you feel may be important near you and your neighbors. Each block is different and needs vary. Please get involved and let's grow our presence together throughout this lovely neighborhood we call home.

Regards,

**Ron Dehn**

President

Astor Neighborhood Association

# ANA Receives \$1,000 Grant for “If Homes Could Talk”

By Deby Dehn

The Astor Neighborhood Association has received a grant from the Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council to support our efforts in the development of the “If Homes Could Talk” historical walking tour. The tour is in partnership with the Brown County Historical Society to document and present the social and architectural history of the Astor Neighborhood.

We need your help! Do you love the history of your house and would like to share it with others? Tell your house's story in 2017! The concept is to collect and present local history and historical anecdotes of your home in “story form” to be a part of the tour. The ANA will offer workshops for participants to develop a written history, tell stories, and offer information from the past. This information will be put on a sign, which will be provided by the ANA, and will be placed in front of participating homes in time

for the guided walking tour. It will take place on **Saturday, September 23rd** throughout the twenty-five-block Astor Historic District bordered by Mason, Van Buren, and Grignon Streets and the east bank of the Fox River. To explore an example of an ongoing historical tour and signage displays in Newburyport follow this link: <https://walknewburyport.wordpress.com/>

Check out our website <http://astorneighborhood.org/> for upcoming workshops on how to research your home. Information will be on our Facebook page as well.

We have a number of homes committed but are looking for more to join us. Our goal is to have 30 homes participate. If you are interested in volunteering, participating, or donating to this project please email or call Deby Dehn at [deby.dehn@wheda.com](mailto:deby.dehn@wheda.com) or (920)737-6501.

## Meet the ANA Board

My name is Kathleen Johnson and although I have been active in the Astor community for many years, I just recently became a resident in one of our historical homes.

I founded an ongoing community group project called George's Secret Elves and do projects for this all year long with many other secret elves. I am blessed to live with a pair of beautiful hearted people which includes my daughter and mother who get to enjoy the home and Astor area with me. We are a family of animal lovers and are excited to meet as many happy neighbors as we can, hopefully through a dog park in the Astor Park area someday. I love my jobs at the YMCA and also as the Nursery Director at Union Congregational Church (both for many years). I am an avid volunteer on many community projects, and had been at one time on the Aldo Leopold School Board for 4 years, as well as being the lead staff for the After School program there for 6 years.

Paying it forward with a smile is definitely a motto I live by and am always amazed at what can take place when big hearted people work together. I am looking forward to being “the think outside the box type person” on the Astor Neighborhood Association board.



**Reminder!** Any exterior work to a historic property, including but not limited to roofing, siding, window replacement, building additions or demolitions, fencing, etc., requires approval from the City of Green Bay's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC meets the second Monday of each month, with the application deadline the first Monday of each month. For more information, please contact the Department of Community and Economic Development at **(920) 448-3400**.

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

# Brown County District 4 - County Updates

A few weeks ago, I attended the graduation of a participant from our Heroin Court, a diversion court established by the county in 2015 that aims to stem jail recidivism while help our citizens overcome the perpetual challenges of addiction. This diversion court is part of a larger program of Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) in the county that started with the Drug Court in 2009. Though the original court was intended to assist those facing a variety of addictions, the specific challenges -- as well as the number of drug arrests due to heroin -- resulted in the decision to create a court that specifically sought to deal with this burgeoning problem.

There are two other diversion courts in Brown County--the Mental Health Court, also established in 2015, which seeks to better help members of the community with serious/persistent mental health needs. The Veteran's Treatment Court is the other one, created in 2012, which focuses specifically on veterans suffering from alcoholism and other drug addictions (AODA).

The graduation ceremony included a review of the intense process involved in participation in one of these treatment courts. Weekly meetings, drug testing, potential consequences for setbacks/going back to drugs (including termination from the program) all face participants. But there was also an incredible support team including the judge, caseworkers, and others - there to ensure that each phase of the recovery is complete and encourage progress. As the now-employed participant spoke about the 18-month program, surrounded by loved ones, I was encouraged that we had another contributing member to society rather than another inmate.

## Erik Hoyer

District 4 County Supervisor  
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## Summer 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! Each Wednesday from June 14 - August 16, come join us for a fun night of great music, popcorn, and ice cream.

### The concert dates are:

- June 14, 21, and 28
- July 5, 12, 19, and 26
- and August 2, 9, and 16

Please contact Jen at [jennifermlenz@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermlenz@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering for the concession stand. It's okay if you've never volunteered for any neighborhood events in the past. The concession stand is a great way to get involved. We will need three volunteers per concert. Thanks!

**FREE  
POPCORN**

**REDEEM FOR ONE POPCORN AT THE  
CONCESSION STAND DURING  
THE CITY BAND CONCERT**

EXPIRES AUGUST 16, 2017

We are also excited to announce our fourth annual **Movie in the Park!** This year, it will happen on Wednesday, August 23 at dusk, also in St. James Park. Bring a blanket and enjoy some popcorn while watching our movie.



**BACK TO  
SCHOOL  
PICNIC**

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 5 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 Pastor Schleis at [pschleis@new.rr.com](mailto:pschleis@new.rr.com) or by calling (920) 621-0460.





## Characteristics of a Great Neighborhood

A while back I was looking through information on neighborhood safety. I was really just looking for what issues and solutions to a variety of problems had been implemented in neighborhoods. Then I came across an article by the American Planning Association (APA). The article was entitled "Great places in America: Neighborhoods". I became more interested when part of the piece gave characteristics and guidelines of great neighborhoods. I have to tell you the more I read through it the more I kept thinking about the Astor Neighborhood.

Here are some areas that I picked out that made me make the comparison as to why Astor is a great neighborhood. What about neighborhood character and personality? How does the neighborhood reflect the community's local character and set itself apart from other neighborhoods? Retain, interpret and use local history to help create a sense of place? Yes, there's a lot to take in here. Just think, when you enter Astor you are immediately seeing historic houses, designs that just can't be built today. There is no place in the city quite like it. That sets it apart right away. Then add a relaxed feel with people outside enjoying what the neighborhood has to offer.

How about fostering social interaction and creating a sense of community and neighborliness? The Astor board promotes wine tasting events in winter with proceeds being donated to local charities. Then there is the Easter egg hunt, which they even got me and other community officers involved in this year. This is not to mention City Band concerts in St. James Park as well as movie nights for kids. Then you also have to keep in mind this... What about connectivity to other parts of the city? Look, something I hear quite often from Astor

residents is about that connection. They tell me that in the summer you can walk to the Fox River Trail and take it right to the City Deck. Before you know it, you and your kids can be there eating ice cream.

But I couldn't end without throwing in an area where the article addresses safety. It asks whether the neighborhood is perceived as safe, and does it promote safety from crime? As I write this we are working with the neighbors on S. Jackson and S. Quincy to alleviate a theft issue. I can say that I have received more interest, information, and collaboration from the neighbors there than in any problem I have come across anywhere. I believe this problem will be over soon. But to really address the safety issue, Astor is not only perceived as one of the safest city neighborhoods, I believe it really is. I would compare it to any great neighborhood anywhere. These are only the top qualifiers that I selected. You can read more at the American Planning Association web site ([www.planning.org/greatplaces/neighborhoods](http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/neighborhoods)).

Thanks,

**Paul Van Handel**

Community Police, GBPD

President, Wisconsin Association of  
Community Oriented Police (WACOP)

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GREAT PLACES IN AMERICA:  
**NEIGHBORHOODS**

The American Planning Association celebrates excellence in planning



# 🏠 Nextdoor Astor: Q & A

## What is Nextdoor?

Nextdoor's mission is to provide a trusted platform where neighbors work together to build stronger, safer, happier communities, all over the world. The neighborhood is one of the most important and useful communities in a person's life.

## What are some of the core values of Nextdoor?

- Invest in community
- Put our members first
- Be a good neighbor
- Communicate openly
- Act like an owner

## What are some of the benefits to having a Nextdoor account?

- Address verification to help ensure that the people on Nextdoor are really neighbors.
- A neighborhood directory, which is built on top of real profile pages, making it possible to really get to know your neighbors (as well as having a dynamically updated directory of contact info).
- A neighborhood map.
- An Urgent Alerts feature, which makes it possible to blast out urgent information (emergency, crime, etc.) by text message as well as email.

## How can I sign up to be a part of it?

You may have received a postcard in the mail recently, with instructions on how to sign up. Or, you could go to [https://astor.nextdoor.com/choose\\_address/](https://astor.nextdoor.com/choose_address/) to create your own account. There are over 375 neighbors currently signed up, and it's growing every week!



# Easter Egg Hunt RECAP

The Easter Egg Hunt took place on April 15th, even though the conditions were a bit muddy and drizzly.

The Easter Bunny made an appearance to take pictures with children and families, but he wasn't the only one present. Our very own Green Bay Police Department was on site with two different police vehicles: a SWAT vehicle called the "Bear Cat" and a squad car!

Special thanks to Officer Paul Van Handel for coordinating the special guests, and also to the many volunteers it took to make the event a success.



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