

ASTOR OUTLOOK



February 1st, 2015 • Volume 21 • Issue 1

526 S. Monroe Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

President's Letter

Each January, roughly one in three Americans resolve to better themselves in some way. This year why don't you make a resolution to volunteer in the neighborhood? The neighborhood has many volunteer opportunities. You can decide to serve on the ANA Board; this involves attending monthly meetings. If you don't have time for that, consider helping out with a special project like the Annual Wine Tasting or selling Popcorn in the Park. These activities have limited time commitments. Whatever your schedule we have opportunities that will fit.

Besides being great for the neighborhood, volunteering has been shown to have many benefits. According to some recent studies here are the top seven benefits we each gain by compassionate helping: more happiness, reduce stress, relief from pain, longer lifespan, lower your blood pressure, reduce mild depression and even benefit your career. Please consider helping out because "many hands make light work."

Keep an eye out for information on a new upcoming winter event at Hazelwood House (if we get snow) - a neighborhood sledding party. We unfortunately had to cancel a popular winter event - the Annual ANA Wine Tasting - due to a lack of volunteers. We are hoping that this event which raises money for area non-profits will return again next year!

Remember to 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

Little Free Library

By Katie Houle

As I reflect on some of my favorite books, what comes to mind is where I was and the time of year as I engrossed myself in the pages hours on end. My favorite season for reading is winter. It is a perfect time to cozy up with a blanket, fire roaring in the fireplace, a glass of wine perhaps, and engulf your mind, page after page. In order to enjoy the winter reading season, you need to find that great book. Where is your go-to book spot? We are fortunate to live just down the road from Brown County's largest library, and it is a great resource. However, did you know we have libraries right here in our Astor Neighborhood? Yes, libraries. Plural. I am sure you have noticed these adorable free-standing miniature buildings in our neighbors' front yards. They are called the "Little Free Library".

The Little Free Library was started here in Wisconsin, back in 1999. Todd Bol built a model of a one room school house, put it on a post and filled it with books. This was a tribute to his mother, a schoolteacher and lover of books. Bol began building more of these libraries and it has spread all over the world. The idea is simple and one that fills my heart: take a book, no strings attached. And you can choose to share your favorite books. As neighbors, we share a common love of older homes filled with character, but I will bet our similar interests spread beyond that and into our reading selections. This winter, maybe between books, you can take a look at your bookshelf (or library, I know many of the beautiful Astor homes have them) and share several books. And on one of the beautiful sunny winter days, take a walk and check out these Little Free Libraries.



For more information, you can visit www.littlefreelibrary.org. (Please note, the "map" feature used to locate the libraries is not currently up to date.) Would you like a Free Little Library in your front yard? Check it out, you can have one. It would be a great addition to the neighborhood. Happy reading!

Mark Your Calendar

The Astor Neighborhood Association's annual meeting will be held Monday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Chili and root beer from Titledown will be served. There will be an open forum where you will have an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, or voice concerns regarding our neighborhood. We look forward to your thoughtful insight to help make our neighborhood better!

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

Call for Help with Energy Bills

If you're concerned about keeping up with energy bills, a call to Wisconsin Public Service can be the answer. Working with WPS upfront can prevent you from falling behind. WPS can help you with billing options, assistance programs, special payment arrangements and more.

Additionally, you are encouraged to apply for financial assistance. WPS can provide information on energy assistance programs that will pay a portion of your winter heating costs if you qualify. Call 24-Hour Customer Service at **800-450-7260**.

A Note From Officer Paul Van Handel

Reducing Pharmaceutical Drug Abuse

In his project “Good Drugs Gone Bad” the author, Officer Jason Weber, Town of Menasha Police Dept, begins by quoting a statistic from the Drug Enforcement Administration. That statistic is that “nearly 7 million Americans abuse prescription drugs. That’s more than the total number abusing cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and other drugs.” He goes on to say “That number has increased 80% in the last six years.” When I initially read those statistics I, like most people had to say, “Wow, unbelievable.” Then it makes a reasonable person think that if this was a street drug or an illness garnering these statistics we would say something like, “It’s an epidemic.” If my lack of medical knowledge slightly skews the meaning of epidemic, I of course apologize. The results are simply to say... “This is unacceptable”.

Officer Weber talks about how this prescription drug abuse cuts right across all sectors of the community. It involves “young teens, the elderly, high school and college age students as well as career professionals.” It affects “economically depressed areas right up to Hollywood celebrities.” But in the wake of this growing problem the author can be lauded for his work in curbing this crisis and offering a better way to move forward. In what I call some of the best community policing work ever, the author assisted in forming a coalition of law

enforcement, pharmacists, and juvenile justice and drug free coalitions to educate and create a comprehensive packet of material that went out to schools all around Wisconsin. The all electronic DVD-CD program “**Good Drugs Gone Bad**” ended up being introduced statewide and even was taught nationally.

What the author and a small team of professionals started as a coalition in 2009 has since teamed up with the re:THINK “your life your choice” program and The Partnership for a Drug Free America. Now 87% of students surveyed say that the presentation has impacted their decision making. Local cities were encouraged and have set up pharmaceutical medication disposal sites. Oshkosh has collected 7,196 pounds of pharmaceutical medication since 2010. Other cities followed suit: Neenah collected 1,213 pounds, Menasha 681 pounds, and in Green Bay, 10,400 pounds. The disposal was done through the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The “Good Drugs Gone Bad” program and author will be honored at the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Policing Conference in February, 2015. If you have any questions about Officer Weber’s program, or would like it introduced at a school you teach in or are associated with, please let me know. Thanks,

Paul Van Handel

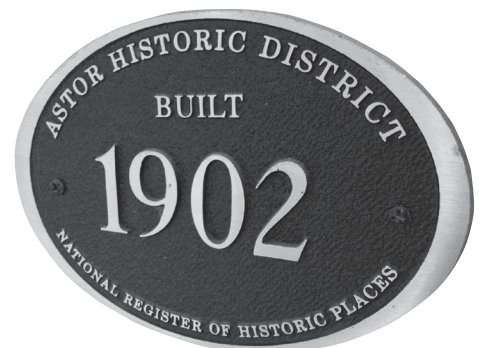
GBPD Community Police • Director NE Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Policing (WACOP)
Office 448-3143 Ext. 3
paulva@greenbaywi.gov

Astor Neighborhood Historic Home Plaques - UPDATE

By Tina Rybak

We have placed our first order for the Historic Astor Neighborhood plaques. 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 824 S Jackson St, Green Bay, WI 54301. I can also be contacted at tina_m_rybak@uhc.com or **920-530-9807**. Once we place the order it takes approximately 8-12 weeks to ship. We ship all orders to one location, and then 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, Tina



Volunteers Needed to Help the Elderly!

Are you looking to spread some holiday cheer this season by giving back to your community in a meaningful way? Then sign up for **Neighborhood Volunteer Connection!** Get paired up with a senior or person with disabilities in your neighborhood to help them remain independent by shoveling snow. This is a winter season commitment that you can join as an individual or a group. Every shoveled driveway makes a huge difference to someone who needs help in your community.

Make a positive impact in another person's life and join **Neighborhood Volunteer Connection** today. For more information please visit <http://www.volunteergh.org>, email Natalie@volunteergh.org, or call us at (920) 429-9445 ext. 15.



Stay Connected 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 71 neighbors already using Nextdoor Astor and see what all the commotion is about! Visit https://astor.nextdoor.com/choose_address/ to sign up.



Brown County District 4

In September, 2000, residents of Brown County were offered two referenda about a 0.5% sales tax in Brown County. The first was a "stadium tax," proposed by the state, which added the 0.5% to the 5% state sales tax, and was passed by about 54% of the voting county residents. This money from the 0.5% sales tax was to be used for Lambeau Field renovations and maintenance. It was approved, and the first renovations - which occurred in 2003 - cost about \$250,000,000. Subsequent renovations were funded from stockholder sale, private/public partnerships, grants, etc. Sometime in the fall of 2015, this entire amount will have been collected, and the 0.5% tax will sunset.

During that same election there was a second referendum to determine if, after the completion of the renovation payments, the 0.5% sales tax would remain to fund county activities and, presumably, to reduce property taxes, which is the other taxed source of income for county activities. These include the library, zoo, museum, golf course, county police, county highways, airport county health and human services. This was not approved by the public, with about 56% voting against continuing the sales tax.

During the December board meeting, we had a lively discussion about whether we should hold another referendum during the April election, which includes Judges, the County Executive, and Green Bay Mayor, to ensure that this was still the case - after 10+ years of paying the additional sales tax. Although I voted in favor of considering wording for a referendum, a majority of the board voted against pursuing this option. As a result, the county sales tax will end in fall of our New Year, but the topic of a county sales tax will likely not go away anytime soon. Happy New Year from Supervisor Hoyer. ewhoyer@hotmail.com, 920-366-1396

Erik Hoyer

District 4 County Supervisor



Dear Astor Neighborhood Gardener,
I just remembered I have some crocus bulbs that I forgot to plant. What should I do? I've read that I can put them into a chilled pot, but will they die over the winter? Should I put some soil in there too? Help!

Sincerely, Jacob on Jackson St.

Dear Jacob,
I have never tried to over-winter bulbs in the way you suggest. If I were to try, I would add soil to the pot. You might also be able to force a bloom, place in a shallow dish/bowl, prop upright with marbles or pebbles and keep the base submerged, about half way, and place in a bright location. The question is how long you can wait? Crocus are, as you know, very early bloomers often popping up through snow, if you try to plant after you can work the soil in the Spring, the bloom might be invisible in year one.

Astor Neighborhood Gardener

Send your gardening questions to
AstorNeighborhoodGardener@gmail.com.

Howe Elementary School Turns 103 Years Old

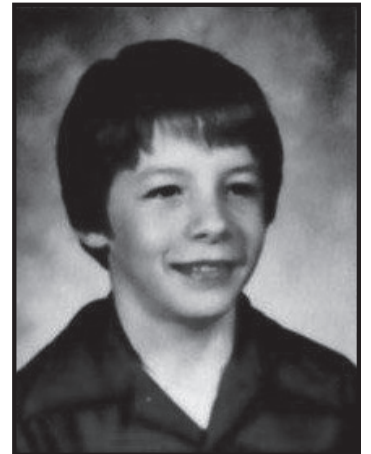
By Patrick Walker Jr.

Howe school has been a staple in the Astor neighborhood since 1912. Throughout its history, Howe school has prided itself on putting the future of the students first. Second-year Principal Christine Fabian enjoys the diversity, the neighborhood feel, and family feeling Howe school brings everyday. What Principal Fabian enjoys most about her job is when children's eyes light up and she can tell that "learning has occurred." The current student population at Howe stands at 450 with a staff of 90. Howe has a volunteer program which involves retirees they call, "Rockin' Readers". They read to the students and the students read back to them.

I was fortunate enough to attend Howe Elementary from 1979-1986. It has been 29 years since the last time I set foot in that building. As I walked into the school recently, it resonated a plethora of memories for me from my childhood. Many changes have occurred throughout the school, such as the locations of both the gym and the library. However there are many things that have stayed the same, like the stairwell in the middle of the building. It has the same handrails and flooring from what I remember as a boy.

I want to thank Principal Fabian for giving me the opportunity to go back in time. Those memories at Howe will stay with me forever.

Here's me at 12.
Dressed for success in 1986!



Astor Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

Molly Martzke - President

1125 S. Monroe Ave.

H: (920) 437-7370

mpmartzke@yahoo.com

Tina Rybak - Vice-President

824 S. Jackson St.

C: (920) 530-9807

tinarybak@mac.com

Pastor Paul Schleis - Secretary/ Treasurer

740 S. Quincy St.

W: (920) 435-7970

C: (920) 621-0460

pschleis@new.rr.com

Jennifer Lenz - Astor Outlook Editor

704 S. Jackson St.

H: (920) 609-7099

jennifermlenz@gmail.com

Katie Houle

701 S. Jackson St.

H: (920) 471-7867

katiehoule@gmail.com

Sara Wall

410 Cass St.

H: (920) 430-1628

sararwall@gmail.com

We Need You!

The Astor Neighborhood Association Board currently has five positions open, and we would love to have you join us. Come find out more at our next meeting: Monday, February 20 at 6:00 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran church, 743 S. Monroe.

If you have any questions, or if you would like more information, contact any of the current board members. Thanks!

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREEN BAY WI
PERMIT NO. 460

Astor Neighborhood Association, Inc.
526 S. Monroe Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301