



526 S. Monroe Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

A Word from Your ANA President

Once again as I sit to write this letter to all of the people in the Astor Neighborhood, I can't help but to think how lucky we are to live in this important, remaining piece of architectural and cultural history. This past summer at our first annual "If Homes Could Talk" tour, many residents shared dozens of pictures, stories, and artifacts from their historical homes. Thank you to all who participated and those of you who took the tour as well. This is the kind of effort that makes us a unique and interesting neighborhood. Thank you to all of you who decorate each season and celebrate with lights, statues, candy, and goodwill.

With this in mind, we will be calling a meeting soon to discuss the newest round of the City of Green Bay's attempt to achieve Certified Local Government status. As we should all know by now, this allows the local government to protect historical properties, but also to work with residents to preserve important historical features within neighborhoods. It is something that we should all especially be proud of and willing to give great consideration to. Please check our Facebook page, or the Astor Neighborhood Website for any possible announcements concerning this matter and, or possible meetings.

Until spring,

Regards,

Ron Dehn

President

Astor Neighborhood Association

Help Needed to Plan Easter Egg Hunt!

Each year, the ANA plans and hosts the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** in **St. James Park**. This year, it will take place on **Saturday, March 31** at **10:00 am**. We need volunteers to help make this event a success. If you are interested in lending a hand, we have many small tasks, including buying candy, stuffing plastic Easter eggs, planning a few small activities, and hiding the eggs the morning of the hunt. Please contact **Kathy Johnson** at **920-530-1840** or by sending an email to **payitforwardandsmile@hotmail.com**. Thanks!

ASTOR NEIGHBORHOOD RECIPIENT OF 2017 GBNLC "NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR" AWARD

The Astor Neighborhood received the **2017 Neighborhood of the Year Award** on December 7th at the Annual Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council meeting. It was an honor for Ron and Deby Dehn to accept the award on behalf of the rest of our hard working board and volunteers. We received the award for our events: **Annual Wine Tasting, Easter Egg Hunt, Popcorn in the Park, Beer Garden, Back to School Potluck, Movie Night, If Homes Could Talk Historical Tour** and our awesome newsletter.

Thanks to all who come to our events and help us raise money to keep on making this a fun and engaged community.



If Homes Could Talk: a Successful Event!

By Deby Dehn

The "If Homes Could Talk" event in partnership with the Astor Neighborhood Association and the Brown County Historical Society interactive walking tour took place on September 23rd 2017. 18 residential homes, Union Congregational Church, and Hazelwood participated in the walking tour. It was a great success. Over 100



people purchased tickets and joined us on one of the hottest days September has ever seen in Green Bay. The event was so successful that we are planning to make it an annual fund raiser for both the Astor Neighborhood Association and the Brown County Historical Society.

To prepare for the tour, workshops were held at the Historical Society on how to research your home. Participants designed a written story with graphics for the sign placed in front of their home offering information from the recent or not-so-recent past. Union Congregational started off the tour with the history of the church and its mission. Some homeowners opened their homes for a peek, many greeted the walkers and personally gave their insights on owning a piece of history, and others opened gardens to ticket holders. A big thanks for all that joined us on our first effort! We are working on ways to make the 2018 event flow a little smoother, and we hope next year will bring us better weather. All in all it was fun, informative, and showcased the best neighborhood in the City of Green Bay!

Brown County District 4

With the New Year, the 0.5% county sales tax will commence, to be collected over the next 6 years. While I have discussed some of the important initiatives that will occur over the time of collection, we have had to prioritize and timeline the different initiatives so expenses incurred for each project do not extend beyond revenue collected by the sales tax. Since we are all going to be impacted by this tax, I wanted to share the most immediate priorities:

Roads

For the first time in many, many years, we will not need to bond for road repairs for county highways.

Over the past few years, the county has not only paid down the debt, but has been able to use our AAA Moody's rating to refinance the existing debt. This, compounded by using the sales tax revenue to continuing to pay off existing debt and not taking out new debt for road repair, will continue to ensure our healthy reduction in overall debt. The retiring debt will result in property tax savings for Brown County Residents over the six years that the sales tax is collected.

Debt

County Jail

Due to overcrowding of our jail, we have had to spend millions of dollars each year transporting inmates to other facilities. The plan to add two additional pods will aim to address the lost expenditures and police time with these transports. The two areas of most need that will be expanded facilities for female inmates and expanded facilities for inmates with AODA or co-occurring mental health issues. Taxes this year will pay for the planning and site preparation, with construction occurring in 2019.

In the past few years, the county has gone from having a coroner to a medical examiner. During these first years, we have contracted with the Dane County ME to provide these services. With the incoming tax we will be building a permanent facility to house our own Medical Examiner office and staff with morgue and autopsy laboratories. In addition to serving Brown County, we will be a regional provider of these services, as well. As with the jail expansion, plans will occur in 2018 with planned construction in 2019.

Medical Examiner's Office

Other

Smaller components of some of the other projects will also be started in 2019, including work on the library system and renovation of the Neville Museum permanent exhibit (don't worry, they are keeping Stompy).

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Erik Hoyer

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Crisis Response

Problem Oriented Policing Initiative

In their project this year titled “Crisis Response-Problem Oriented Policing Initiative” two Green Bay Police Mental Health Officers took policing and behavioral health to a new level. Recognizing that mental health was a huge part of what police see on a regular basis, they decided to work with community partners and make changes. Over this past year, Officers Barbara Gerarden and Kamra Allen focused on three critical areas in the mental health system: The Emergency Detention Process, Jail Diversion utilizing mental health court, and collaboration with Adult Protective Services for vulnerable adults.

I knew through my work with the homeless and mental health/AODA systems that the landscape was difficult to navigate. It was a complex continuum of care and each entity that was wrapped around it had a footprint that was only so large and capable of doing only so much. We in policing always want to see the right outcomes for the people we come in contact with. If every police call only involved crime than we could at least refine what we do on a regular basis to standardized practices. But it is not that simple and as the “Crisis Response” work showed us that an estimated “20-40% of police calls have a mental health component”. It goes further to say that “Mental Health related police calls are difficult to measure since they are often coded in such a variety of calls like welfare checks, suspicious person, suspicious situations, disturbances etc”.

In their work looking at Emergency Detentions (Mental Health Commitments) Officers Gerarden and Allen assessed that the GBPD had 549 commitments in 2016 alone. The officers identified several problems with the process. The number one issue was long medical clearance times while people were in police custody often combined with unnecessary medical clearances that the process required. One of the most troubling areas I found in their research was that in some cases “people were discharged from psychiatric centers before stabilization and then ended up getting arrested when it was clear they were still in a mental health crisis”. It was clear that things needed to get better fast.

The officers identified stakeholders and formed community partnerships, then together set some bold goals to improve the system. Goals included: No more than three hours of police custody time, allow more voluntary options for people and have all hospitals notify the Crisis Center/mobile crisis before police when discharging patients. They worked with an ER doctor to reduce steps in the clearance process itself which reduced custody time and resulted in less stress for the individual in crisis. A partnership was also formed with a new mental health provider to take dual diagnosis patients.

The Crisis Response project didn’t stop there. It also looked at jail diversion. The analysis identified that “People are often in both the mental health and criminal justice system” as well as “local jail estimates that 75-80% of inmates have a mental illness”. There was a difficulty getting people connections to treatment that they needed. The officers worked with Mental Health Court and better assisted the individual and their specific needs. Through their work, many alternatives to active jail time were identified and implemented. This allowed people more time to get the treatment they needed.

Each year the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police Association (WACOP) recognizes great accomplishments in Community Policing. This year when this project was presented, the board of directors did not take long to make their decision. Crisis Response was given this year’s “Sir Robert Peel Award” in the state of Wisconsin.

Paul Van Handel

Community Police, GBPD

President, Wisconsin Association of
Community Oriented Police (WACOP)

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

ASTOR NEIGHBORHOOD ANNUAL WINE TASTING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

Astor Neighbors, it is once again time for our Annual Wine Tasting party! This event has been held in our neighborhood for years, and we are proud to keep the tradition. This year's homes will not disappoint! Our first home will provide exceptional hors d'oeuvres and white wine. Our second home, right next door, will also provide provisions and red wine. Both hosts have graciously offered their beautiful Astor homes and we are so appreciative. You will be able to see many exciting home updates in both homes. Our proceeds will go to Astor Neighborhood Association, to put towards the many events we host throughout the year, including Easter Egg Hunt, Back to School Picnic, If Homes Could Talk Historic Walk....

Please register today! Our event will be held Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 7:00pm. You can register by emailing **Katiehoule@gmail.com**, or call/text at **920-471-7867**. Cost is **\$30 per person**, or **\$35 after February 6**. Once registered, we will contact you via e-mail to inform you of the details of your evening's itinerary. Please help support our wonderful Astor Neighborhood Association!

Time To
register

Astor Park by Patrick Walker, Jr.

Astor Park is named after John Jacob Astor. The land that occupies Astor Park today was originally intended for a manual labor school. In 1835, Astor founded the Town of Astor and it merged with the Town of Navarino. Combined, the two became known as the City of Green Bay.

Today, Astor Park is open to the public year round to all ages. Weather permitting the public has access to a wading pool, a basketball court, horseshoe pits, a tennis court, as well as an area for volleyball and a softball diamond. In addition, the park has a small playground area for children and approximately 16 picnic tables where families can enjoy themselves and the scenery. During the winter months, hockey players and skaters are seen near the west side of the park on the ice rink. A beautiful, brand new shelter building was recently completed.

Astor Park plays a major role in the annual Bellin Run thanks to the countless volunteers. It is

"Ground Zero" for everything from the spaghetti dinner held the night before the race to helping those cool down with refreshments and water after. Astor Park is a great asset to the City of Green Bay.



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