

ASTOR

OUTLOOK



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ANA Wants YOU!

see page 5....



Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to work with both neighbors and the Astor Neighborhood Association (ANA) board to help create a three-year strategic plan. Our goals have been multifold: 1. To become more relevant to the needs of a changing community, 2. To help give future boards direction, and 3. To allow the ANA board to continually progress as an organization. The process of creating this plan was initially slated to take just a few months. It has, however, expanded to where the board is just now winnowing the ideas down to a strategy that will meet our goals of social involvement, historic preservation, safety and physical improvement of the neighborhood. These ideas range from reviving Project Porchlight -- a program that encourages residents to keep their exterior lights lit during the night -- to introducing a program series that will educate residents on a variety of home repair and preservation topics. We expect the completed document will be finished within the next few months. If you would like to view a copy of this document, do not hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to share that with you.

Some of our initiatives have already begun. We have been working with the City of Green Bay to acquire a piece of artwork to be placed at the corner of Adams and Porlier Streets in what is often referred to as the Fox River Parkway. Along with plantings initially created by a group of Astor neighbors, this functional piece of art will be another step toward developing the parkway in a manner equal to that of St. James or other established parks in the city. We have also partnered with Hazelwood Historic House to sponsor historic Green Bay bus tours, and have created an ANA Facebook page to give residents an additional way to connect. Here you will be able to find and share photographs, discuss neighborhood issues, and find

postings about upcoming events. It will not be a replacement for our website, newsletter, or email list, but a supplement that will help our neighborhood community better communicate. You can find us by looking for Astor Neighborhood Association, Green Bay, WI next time you visit Facebook.

With all our plans, the ANA board cannot do it alone. The dozens of people who volunteer to assist with events each year have been vital, and their help has truly been appreciated. Over the last year our neighbors have done a wide variety of things, including donating the use of their home for the wine tasting, helping sell popcorn during concerts, hiding Easter eggs, designing the newsletter, cleaning up the Fox River Trail, and so much more. I personally want to thank everyone who has taken the time to help over the past year. You are truly what make the neighborhood as wonderful as it is. As different activities are added, the board will continue to need volunteers to help with events, to sit on the board, and to assist on committees. Everyone within our neighborhood has talents and expertise that can benefit our community as a whole, regardless of whether you chose to share these during set meetings and events or as you have time at home. Take a look at our strategic plan, attend a meeting, or lend a hand at an event. You may find something that uses your skills -- or teaches you something new -- while helping others too. And if you do want to volunteer, please feel free to contact any one of the board members by calling, emailing, messaging on Facebook, or giving any board member your name at an upcoming neighborhood event.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline D. Frank
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WANTED:

A few good men and women willing to share an hour or two per month for the benefit of our Astor Neighborhood.

Learn more ► ► ►



Please join us for the

ANA Annual Meeting and Chili Supper

Monday, March 15
6:30 PM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

743 S. Monroe Street

We'll hear from Mayor Schmitt, Alderman Tony Theisen, our community police officers, Jeff Gibson from the Green Bay School District talking about the April 6th school referendum and Jeff Mirkes discussing what is going on in downtown Green Bay.

The Mission of the Astor Neighborhood Association is to maintain the integrity, vitality, and diversity of the Astor community through the protection and preservation of its history, neighborhoods, and architecture.

Q&A on the ANA

Who is the Astor Neighborhood Association?

You are! The homes are majestic, the parks are beautiful, and the neighborhood events we enjoy are certainly fun—but it's the people who live here and the community we create together that make our neighborhood such a wonderful place to call home. If you live in the neighborhood, you are part of our neighborhood association!

Who is the ANA Board?

The ANA board typically consists of 10 to 12 neighbors who meet for 60 to 90 minutes each month. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6 PM and usually end before 7:30. Board members also occasionally help with special projects and social events depending on their interests and availability. For a current board roster, see the last page of this newsletter.

continued on page 6

What does the ANA Board do?

We plan social and community events for our neighborhood, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Wine Tasting, Back-to-School Potluck Picnic, and Popcorn in the Park for the summer City Band concerts. We also work on a few projects to help keep our neighborhood beautiful, such as the fall and spring River-Trail Clean-Up, maintaining the flower beds at St. James Park, and decorating the Monroe Boulevard for the holidays. We help support neighborhood organizations such as the Howe Neighborhood Family Resource Center and the Brown County Historical Society/Hazelwood Historic House. We also listen to crime & safety reports from our community police officers, and act as a liaison with local government to help make sure neighbors' voices are heard.

What the ANA Board Does NOT do...

We don't review individual homeowners' plans to renovate garages, build fences, or undertake other home improvement projects. We do not have make rulings on projects within the neighborhood. While we do hear reports from local businesses planning to expand

or modify their properties at our monthly meetings, we do not have approval authority. We simply listen to reports, discuss questions and concerns, and try to communicate important information to neighbors.

We Need More Board Members!

...so please come to our annual meeting and consider getting involved. Every year we hold an annual meeting to allow our neighbors to express their concerns, meet members of Green Bay city office and their alderman, learn of the latest developments and changes to our neighborhood, and have an update on all of the exciting events that the Astor Neighborhood Association has planned for the year ahead. At this year's annual meeting we will be serving a chili supper—so bring your appetites! The meeting will be **Monday, March 15th, , at 6:30 pm at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 743 S. Monroe Street, Green Bay.** Pastor Paul Schleis is both the celebrant at this church as well as the treasurer/secretary for the ANA, and he has offered us the basement meeting room of his facility.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Spring Trail Clean-Up

The ANA is responsible for a portion of the trail along the Fox River, and twice a year, we pick it up. In the spring, our clean up event coincides with the Earth Week. Please join us on

Saturday, April 24

at **9:00 AM**, meeting at the Mile 0 trail marker where Porlier meets Adams Street. Garbage bags will be made available. Please join us to help beautify this important part of our neighborhood for the enjoyment of all!



ANA ANNUAL GARAGE



For the past six years, the ANA has set a date to hold neighborhood-wide garage sales. The response has been tremendous with continued growth in the number of homes in our neighborhood that hold sales on this day and the city-wide attendance.

This year, the event will be **SATURDAY, MAY 22nd**. We encourage all of our neighbors to go through their basements and closets to find items which they no longer use, but that others might treasure. We also welcome our neighbors from throughout the area to take the opportunity to walk the Astor Neighborhood streets and find those special bargains. The ANA will advertise with street signs and we encourage those holding garage sales to put out their own signs, too. By having a neighborhood-wide event, we are sure to connect people with items for sale with the people that want them. So on the morning of Saturday May 22nd, make sure you either set up your garage sale or start shopping early!

MARCH

- 5-7 Beja Shrine Circus:
Brown County Arena
- 12-13 Packers Fan Fest:
Lambeau Field
- 13 Einstein Science Expo,
Shopko Hall
- 15 Annual ANA Annual
Meeting: St. James
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Basement, 6:30 pm
- 18 WBAY Home and Garden
Show – Brown County Arena
& Shopko Hall

APRIL

- 3 Annual Astor Neighborhood
Easter Egg Hunt at St.
James Park – 10:00
- 10 Big Event for Little Kids –
Shopko Hall

- 19 ANA Board Meeting – Howe
Neighborhood Resource
Center – 6:00
- 24 ANA Fox River Trail Clean-
up – 9:00

MAY

- 2 Heritage Hill Spring
Celebration
- 15 Astor Neighborhood
Walking Tours – Hazelwood
Historic House – 9:30am
- 16 Cellcom Green Bay
Marathon
- 17 ANA Board Meeting –
Howe Neighborhood
Resource Center – 6:00
- 21 Astor Neighborhood
Walking Tours – Hazelwood
Historic House – 9:30am
- 29-31 Celebrate De Pere –
Voyageur Park
- 31 Open House at the Green
Bay Botanical Garden

The Bay Beach Master Plan includes the addition of more rides including a new roller coaster. Bay Beach returned a profit last year of over \$800,000. The total profit since 1992 is over \$10.5 million. This was used to lower property taxes. Mayor Jim Schmitt and Park Director Bill Landvatter have reviewed several roller coasters and have recommended a replica of the 'Zippin Pippin', a classic coaster built in Memphis nearly 90 years ago. Our replica of the Zippin Pippin will be built with treated lumber, something which wasn't available when the original was built.

Using a very conservative estimate of having only about 25% of the

roller coaster seats occupied on average, the revenue (without any taxes) will pay for this coaster in about 10 years. I am convinced that the ridership will be higher. The construction will be publicly bid and will cost about \$3 million. Mayor Schmitt is leading fundraising with a goal of \$600,000. The remaining \$2.4 million will be paid by ticket sales. I believe this coaster will increase the total ridership on all of the rides at Bay Beach and will increase concession sales. A May 2011 opening is anticipated.

Tony Theisen
theisentony@yahoo.com
433-9331

Grab your Easter baskets and join the Astor Neighborhood Association for the annual Easter egg hunt!

Held at St. James Park, this year's event will take place on

Saturday, April 3rd from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. with the hunt starting at 10:00 a.m. Plans for this wonderful family event will have two age-appropriate egg hunting grounds and an appearance by the Easter Bunny who will hop by to meet the children and pose for photographs. Popcorn in

the Park will be available before and after the hunt as well as children's activities, so guests are encouraged to stay and socialize.

As a note, the Easter Egg hunt is a "green" event, where the Easter Bunny will provide special plastic egg recycling bins. As we celebrate the emergence of spring, this is a terrific way to help teach children the importance of keeping the environment clean. Event staff will be happy to direct participants to these bins and to answer any questions that day.

For more information about the event, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Frank at (920) 217-8979 or at jacqueline_d_frank@hotmail.com.



The 11th Annual Astor Neighborhood Association Wine Tasting Event was held on Saturday, January 30, 2010. We are happy to report that the event was a huge success!

Over 80 people attended the event that was held at the homes of Peter & Heather Opichka and Jon & Kathleen Brandt. Downtown Green Bay's very own Captain's Walk Winery provided the delicious wines, and a variety of Green Bay's best restaurants donated the outstanding hors d'oeuvres. Most impressively, we were able to raise \$2,000 for the Howe Neighborhood Family Resource Center from proceeds from the evening's registration and raffle!

A sincere thanks to our hosts, the Opichkas and Brandts, and to everyone who helped organize the event, made donations, and attended the event. This annual gathering continues to be one of our neighborhood's finest and most popular events of the year!





Each year the Brown County Historical Society's Preservation Committee, awards community preservation efforts at their annual meeting in February. This year, an award was presented to an Astor Landmark, the Mitchell Joannes house.

Mitchell Joannes House

**902 South Madison St.
Green Bay**

In 1856 Eugene and Marie Joannes emigrated from Belgium with their eight children. They settled on a farm in the township of Lawrence but within a year tragedy struck when Eugene drowned in the Fox River. Marie and her children moved to Green Bay. The four boys Charles, William, Mitchell and Thomas started a retail grocery business in 1872 when they were in their twenties. By 1884 they quit the retail business and dealt strictly in wholesale groceries, coffee and spice. Their success in the Green Bay wholesale grocery business and that continuing prosperity enabled the brothers and their children to build several of the landmark homes in the Astor Neighborhood. Mitchell Joannes was very community minded and served as an alderman and director of Citizens National Bank, the Green Bay Water Works,

the Green Bay Planning Mill and the Green Bay Pickle Factory. In 1900, Mitchell Joannes built his impressive red brick mansion that was designed by renowned local architect Henry Foeller. In 1917, he provided the house with an apartment for his daughter Arleen and her husband Dr. McCarey, and the family continued to live there until 1956. Later, the upstairs ballroom was also turned into an apartment. Recently, the home was purchased and restored back to a single family residence. The owners replaced the roof and trim, updated the wiring and HVAC, and converted the upstairs apartment back into a family space accessible from the main stairs. The house has been beautifully preserved as an Astor Neighborhood showpiece.



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