

ASTOR

OUTLOOK



**SUMMER
2010
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**Astor Neighborhood Beautification Project!
see page 3**

"Where were you last night?" my six year old daughter asks me at the dinner table.

"I was at the Neighborhood Leadership Council for the city." I reply and add, "Sweet-heart, please eat your food."

This is quickly followed by, "Why?"

"Well, if you don't eat you will be hungry later tonight."

"No silly, I mean, why did you go to the meeting?" She says, knowing I was purposely dodging her question.

"Well, sweet-heart, all of the presidents from all of the neighborhoods get together once a month to learn about the things we can do to help our neighborhoods. Now, please eat your dinner before it gets cold."

Her eyes go wide and her mouth drops open, "Dad ... you are the President?!"

Trying to hide my smirk, I respond how any good father would, "Why yes ... yes, I am the President."

My wife rolls her eyes and adds, "Sugar, Daddy's the president of the neighborhood association, not The President. Do you understand? Come-on now, you've hardly touched your food. Eat up."

"Dad?"

"Yes," I say.

"Are you like the boss of everyone in the neighborhood? Can you tell people what to do?"

"Why, yes dear, I can. For instance, I make a proclamation as your neighborhood president that you must now eat your dinner ... start eating!"

"Mom, can Dad really do that?"

"No, the president of the neighborhood does not get to boss anyone around. Dad's responsible for leading a team of people who want to help do nice things for our neighborhood?"

"Like what?"

"Well, the neighborhood association does lots of work, like: raising money through Popcorn in the Park, working with the community police and local businesses when issues arise, coordinating and hosting things like the Easter egg hunt, the rummage sale, the wine tasting, the back to school potluck, the Fox River Trail clean-up and publishing the Astor Outlook Newsletter. And there are always great ideas to do even more; we just need the people willing to jump in and get involved."

"Oh, I thought that stuff just ... you know... happened," she says.

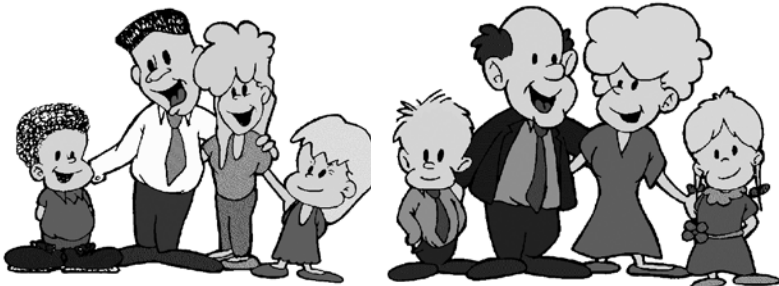
"Not without a strong neighborhood association. Now please finish eating."

"Dad..."

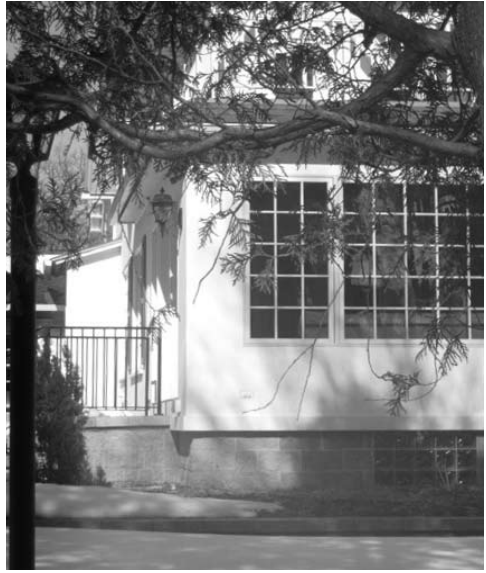
"Yes, sweetheart."

"Can I have a treat?"

"Eat!"



House rehab kudos to **Rick and Gail McNutt** of 840 S. Madison. Built in 1874, theirs was the third house built in the Astor neighborhood. Having lived in this house for more than ten years, they enjoy living in the neighborhood and love their house. Unfortunately, with the original fieldstone foundation they had to contend with serious seepage problems in the spring. They considered selling and building new elsewhere, but they love the neighborhood and didn't want to saddle new owners with old problems. "Astor is halfway to everywhere," as Rick likes to say. "Downtown, festivals, food and shopping are all within walking distance."



Their solution was to add a new basement to the existing house. This involved supporting the house while the old foundation was removed and a new one excavated and poured. The house was supported using low-tech materials such as railroad ties and steel I-beams. No computers, lasers, or the like were used. By the completion of the job there had been minimal impact on the pre-existing house. The above-ground portion of the foundation was completed with split-faced block.

The renovation also included rehabilitation of their in-ground pool. Their pool was the first in Green Bay. Built by the Minehan family in 1948, it was open to all children who brought a cup of chlorine bleach, a towel and could show a YMCA card as proof that they were capable swimmers! The McNutts had the pool sandblasted to raw concrete and then re-surfaced and re-plumbed to current code standards. Lights and an automatic pool cover were also added. New tile was installed at the edge and a new deck of stamped concrete was installed, with

each square being hand-colored giving it a natural look and feel.

The pool is architecturally framed by a red brick wall set in an English garden pattern. The wall is extended to its full height by brick columns with wrought iron fencing in between. The wall and columns are capped by sandstone, the fencing with fleur-de-lis. The original wrought iron gate which opened onto the driveway from the pool deck was sandblasted, re-painted and re-installed.

Lastly, the front yard and pool area were re-landscaped and additions to the red brick walkway leading from the front door to Madison Street were added.

The work took nearly one year to complete. All work was approved by the local historical society prior to the work permit being issued. The additions and renovations have added to the historic feel of the neighborhood.

If you would like to nominate a home for our "House Kudos", please send an email to Jaime Danen at jjdanen@gmail.com.

For families biking in the springtime or couples walking their dog in the winter, the Fox River Trail offers the Astor Neighborhood families many activities to enjoy. The trail plays an integral role not only to the Astor community but also to the greater Green Bay area. The Astor Neighborhood Association (ANA) board has implemented two goals in our strategic plan to maintain this vital asset in our community. First, we continue to have annual Fox River Trail cleanups. Second, and more importantly, we have added the goal of commissioning an innovative work of art to beautify the trail in our neighborhood. The artwork will add aesthetic value to the riverside and will also be one of the trail's main attractions.

On April 1st the ANA was awarded a \$5,000 grant by the Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council to begin the project of acquiring and installing a permanent piece of art. The work of art, with additional landscape surrounding the art for gardens, will be located at the corner of Porlier and Adams Streets. The artwork will serve two purposes.

First, it will further the ANA's mission statement by maintaining vitality in the community through attracting neighbors, city residents, and tourists to the trail; thus encouraging people to lead a healthier lifestyle by engaging in outdoor activities. Second, a new piece of art will lead visitors to the northern part of the trail to see the other art expeditions along the riverside. The artwork will be funded by the grant and also by private donations raised by the ANA.

We are in need of volunteers to join our committee to find an artist, an artwork piece and to raise funds. The committee will send out a request for proposals to Green Bay artists including those who reside or work within Astor Neighborhood. Having a local artist involved will create enthusiasm within the neighborhood for the project and will promote local art in our community. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting project, please send your contact information to christianpeterson28@hotmail.com. You can also check out our Facebook page for continued updates.

Popcorn in the Park

City Band concerts and Popcorn in the Park are back! St. James Park on Monroe Avenue is the place to be on Wednesday nights in the summer. Beginning on June 16th at 7:30 the country's longest running city band, the Green Bay City Band, will perform free weekly concerts in the park pavilion. Along with the wonderful music the Astor Neighborhood Association will be popping up some popcorn and selling other yummy treats. Come down and join your neighbors for a great summer evening.

We are also looking for some eager volunteers to help out the association with the popcorn selling. Here's a chance to hang out with other neighbors and to get involved in a great activity. If you are interested in helping sell popcorn during one of these band concerts contact Tanya Sharp at tanya_sharp@yahoo.com.

City Band Schedule:

| | | | |
|---------|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| June 16 | Old Time Band Concert – Barbershop Quartet | July 14 | A Night At The Oscars |
| June 25 | Disney Salute – Kids Night | July 21 | Salute To Old Green Bay |
| June 30 | Around the World | July 28 | Swing's The Thing |
| July 7 | Sousa/ Patriotic | August 4 | Happy Holidays |
| | | August 11 | A Night On Broadway |
| | | August 18 | Best of Summer |

The Astor Neighborhood's St. James Park has always been considered one of the more beautiful in the city with its historic plantings and mature trees. During the spring and summer months photographers can often be seen photographing the blue Siberian squill that carpets the ground, the magnolia flowers on the trees, or the perennials in the flower beds. The same interest in the flowers can be seen in the beds that have been added to the Fox River Parkway. This developing park in the Astor Neighborhood is located along the Fox River Trail between Porlier and Cass Streets and attracts children as they examine the orange poppies or the towering grasses in the four small beds near the fishing pier and near the benches at the end of Cass Street.



While the flowers beds are beloved, the city does not take responsibility for them. The Astor Neighborhood Association coordinates the planting, fertilizing and winterizing of the gardens, but needs help removing the weeds. While walking in either of the parks, please feel free to stop for a moment and pull a weed or two. If enough people take that simple step every time they walk by, the weeds will not overwhelm the gardens -- and the city will not cover the plantings in favor of grass.

This is also a terrific way to help the community for those who are looking for a volunteer opportunity for school, a club or church. Two people weeding the flower gardens in both St. James Park and the Fox River Parkway can do the job in about two to three hours – a group could do it more quickly. If you would like more information about volunteering as a group to care for the beds, or would like to schedule a date to do this, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Frank at (920) 217-8979 or at jacqueline_d_frank@hotmail.com. She can help you get started as well as write letters and sign paperwork documenting your time.

Thinking of Remodeling?

Many homes in our neighborhood are in the dusty midst of remodeling. Are you thinking of renovating or remodeling your home? Are you having a difficult time finding information on funding for such a remodeling? Did you know there are many programs out there to help historic home preservationists? Below are some websites that might be helpful in your search as you begin contemplating the difficult decision.

www.wisconsinhistory.org – This website lists the requirements to be eligible to receive a 25% state income tax credit for rehabilitation of a historic personal residence. This website also has tons of resources for people looking into historic rehabilitation.

www.nwgreenbay.org – This is our very own Green Bay NeighborWorks website. Here you can find information on counseling and lending programs, current home remodel projects going on in the area, and other great resources for home buyers.

www.preservationnation.org – This national website offers tons of resources on historic preservation, preservation contractors, places to find funding and many other things for individuals interested in maintaining the historical nature of their homes.

Fox River Trail Clean Up *By Jesse Sharp*

Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloomy weather will keep our neighborhood volunteers from cleaning up the Fox River Trail. Well, it was really cold, wet and windy, so our turnout was not the strong Astor Neighborhood representation that we have seen in the past. But what we lacked in numbers was made up with the enthusiasm and hard work of those who did make it down to the trail.

The good news is that the areas directly adjacent to the trails were in very good shape. We can take pride in knowing that the years we have spent getting these areas cleaned up is paying dividends. I've heard stories about the first year of the event and how much trash was found just within a few feet of the path. Not so anymore. It appears that people are less likely to litter on a clean trail.

However, there is still a significant trash problem on the shoreline. Many plastic bottles, small bits of Styrofoam and plastic, snack wrappers, and even plastic sacks of dog waste.

Cleaning up next to the river is a good reminder that whatever garbage is washed into the street gutters ends up in the river. Let's help our river and make sure we are keeping our own areas clean all the time!

Thanks to all who made it out.

Always a neighborhood favorite, the Astor Neighborhood Association's annual Easter egg hunt was held again at St. James Park on April 3, 2010. Despite the rain and cool weather that prevented some of the craft activities from taking place, more than 100 people attended the event. In excess of 2000 eggs were hidden throughout the park, free popcorn was served, and the Easter Bunny made an appearance. One neighbor even brought two "real"

Easter bunnies in a wagon that many children played with after the event.

The continued success of the event was due to everyone who volunteered their time and resources. I want to give a special thanks to Jenny and Charles Schwenk, who brought the Easter Bunny to St. James Park, Tim Noll who filled and hid eggs and made popcorn, Dan Madigan and Mayor Jim Schmitt for hiding eggs before the event,

Alderman Tony Theisen for helping to coordinate with the city the use of the park, the ANA board who attended and supported the event, and to all those who donated eggs.

Thank you!



A health and safety concern has been noted on the vacant lots owned by Rebekah Haven on Grignon Street between Jackson and Van Buren. Dog owners in violation of city ordinances have allowed their dogs to roam through this area (sometimes unleashed) and defecate on the property; then fail to promptly remove the messes. Some unleashed dogs have been reported as aggressive toward children and pets that live in the surrounding homes. Nearby neighbors do not appreciate use of these vacant lots as a dog park or so-called "poop park".



City ordinances regulating these issues are listed below. It is unlawful to allow your dog to defecate on another's property without immediately removing the mess... so bring a scooper or bag whenever you walk your dog! Dogs must be controlled whenever within five feet of a public rightaway...so keep your dog on a leash! Those not following these ordinances are subject to up to a \$1,000 fine per incident. Our community police officers have been made aware of this problem

and will be keeping an eye on the situation. Neighbors who become aware of loose and/or aggressive dogs in this area or dog owners failing to immediately remove their pet's waste are encouraged to contact the community police officers at 448-3143. Thank you to all the responsible dog owners who respectfully keep our neighborhood safe and tidy!

8.04 (5) REMOVAL OF ANIMAL WASTE. No person who possesses an animal shall permit such animal to defecate upon any property other than that of its owner or custodian unless the custodian immediately thereafter cleans up and removes such animal excreta from such property.

(6) ACCUMULATION OF ANIMAL WASTE. No person possessing an animal shall permit more than 24 hours accumulation of such animal's manure to remain on property under the possessor's control.

(7) CONTROLLING ANIMALS. No person who possesses an animal shall walk or escort such animal off the property under the possessor's control unless the person is in possession of equipment to clean up any defecation which may be deposited by such animal.

(8) PENALTIES. Any person who shall violate this section shall forfeit not less than \$1 nor more than \$1,000 for each offense. Each violation of this ordinance shall be considered a separate offense, and any violation continuing more than one day shall be considered a separate offense.

8.06 ANIMALS TO BE CONFINED.

(1) No person, owner, or custodian shall permit any animal to be at large within the City. Any animal shall be deemed to be at large when it is off the premises owned or leased by its owner or custodian unless crated, penned, or under the control of a person able to control the animal by means of a leash of sufficient strength to control the action of the animal, or such other personal attention as will reasonably control the conduct and actions of the animal.

(2) No person, owner, or custodian shall permit any animal to be left unattended within 5' of a public right-of-way.

JUNE

- 2 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway
- 3 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
- 4 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 5 Green Bay Farmers' Market
Prevea Titledown 3-on-3 basketball tournament
Green Bay Botanical Garden's 26th Annual Garden Fair
- 9 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway
Day Out with Thomas – National Railroad Museum
- 10 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 11 Green Bay Farmers' Market
International Bayfest – Leicht Park
- 12 Bellin Run
- 14 Music on the Green – Heritage Hill State Park
- 16 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway
- 17 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
- 18 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 19 Green Bay Farmers' Market
- 20 Father's Day
- 23 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway
- 24 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
- 25 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 26 Green Bay Farmers' Market
Civil War Encampment – Heritage Hill
Civil War Weekend – Hazelwood
- 28 Music on the Green – Heritage Hill
- 30 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway

JULY

- 1 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
- 2 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
Oneida Pow Wow – Norbert Hill Center
- 3 Green Bay Farmers' Market
- 4 Festival Food Fire Over the Fox
- 7 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway

- 8 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
Leicht at Nite
- 9 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 10 Green Bay Farmers' Market
22nd Annual Garden Walk – gardens throughout Green Bay
- 12 Music on the Green – Heritage Hill
- 14 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway
- 15 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
Leicht at Nite
- 16 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 17 Green Bay Farmers' Market
NEW Zoo Palooza
- 18 Titledown Bike Tour
- 21 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway
- 22 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
Laura Ingalls Wilder Days – Heritage Hill
Concerts in the Garden – GB Botanical Garden
Leicht at Nite
- 23 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 24 Green Bay Farmers' Market
- 28 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway
- 29 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
Concerts in the Garden – GB Botanical Garden
Leicht at Nite
- 30 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 31 Green Bay Farmers' Market

AUGUST

- 2 Feast with the Beast – NEW Zoo
- 4 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway
- 5 Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square
Taste on Broadway
Concerts in the Garden – GB Botanical Garden
- 6 Fridays on the Fox – City Deck
- 7 Green Bay Farmers' Market
- 9 Music on the Green – Heritage Hill
- 11 Dine on the Deck – City Deck
Farmers' Market on Broadway

AUGUST (continued)

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 12 | Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square | 20 | Fridays on the Fox – City Deck |
| 13 | Fridays on the Fox – City Deck Baylake Bank Tall Ship Festival | 21 | Green Bay Farmers' Market |
| 14 | Green Bay Farmers' Market | 25 | Dine on the Deck – City Deck Farmers' Market on Broadway |
| 18 | Dine on the Deck – City Deck Farmers' Market on Broadway Brown County Fair | 26 | Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square Leicht at Nite Concerts in the Garden – GB Botanical Garden |
| 19 | Summer in the Park Concert – Jackson Square Leicht at Nite Concerts in the Garden – GB Botanical Garden | 27 | Artstreet – Downtown Green Bay Fridays on the Fox – City Deck |
| | | 28 | Green Bay Farmers' Market |

Back to School Potluck

Our wildly popular Back to School Potluck will be held once again on the first day of school! On September 1, 2010 at 6 p.m. we will meet at the shelter at St. James Park and have food for everyone. Bring your family and share the stories of the first day of school with your neighbors and friends. The ANA board members will make sure that you and your family won't have to cook on this first day back and can just sit back and relax. We hope to see you there. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this awesome opportunity contact Jaime Danen at jjdanen@gmail.com.

Literacy Center

The Literacy Center of Green Bay has been improving lives through literacy for 28 years! It is located at 424 S. Monroe Avenue in the neighborhood. They offer programs centered around the advancement of literacy -- an individual's ability to read, write and speak English. Their programs include adult tutoring, English classes, Spanish classes, family literacy, child tutoring, workforce development, and computer courses. For more information, see their website, www.literacygreenbay.org or call 435-2474.

We Need You!

We are looking for some more amazing neighbors to help out with our great Astor Neighborhood Association. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 at the Howe Neighborhood Resource Center. Our meetings are informal and we discuss upcoming events and issues. We would love to have you on the board to help out. Please email President Jesse Sharp at jesse.sharp@gmail.com if you are interested in attending a meeting to see what we are all about. We need as many neighbors as possible to help plan, schedule and work all the great events in the neighborhood.

Also, check out our Facebook page. Here you can see what's going on around the neighborhood, view photos from all our events and reconnect with neighbors!

If you aren't on our email list yet, please join it. You will get updates on important events and happenings around the neighborhood. Visit our website at www.astorneighborhood.org and click on the "join the mailing list" link.



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