

# ASTOR

# OUTLOOK



526 S. Monroe Avenue  
Green Bay, WI 54301

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy holidays everyone!

As I write this letter the holidays are just getting underway. Christmas lights are starting to go up and the weather is starting to get colder. Every morning my son wakes up and asks if it has snowed yet. "Not yet," I tell him, "but it will soon." In fact, during this season a couple of years ago we had a big snow storm overnight. The next morning we discovered a huge snow man in the front yard. It had snowed so hard that all traces of how it was formed were erased. It just looked like this giant snowman had magically appeared. There's nothing like waking up and finding an unexpected snowman in your front yard. We still don't know who to thank, but would encourage them to feel free to surprise us again this year. It's small things like these that make our neighborhood so fantastic!

Speaking of snow, don't forget our new art project that's down by the river. These boats will make perfect snow forts and hide outs for snowball fights. The artwork should be receiving its plaque soon. Stop on down to take a look at it.

In preparing our house for winter, we took down all of the screens and rehung all of the storm windows. I even took the time to finally fix the counter weights and rope on a window in our bedroom that probably has been broken for 50 years. The wooden rod that was used to prop it open over the years was so well used it had developed the fine patina of a cherished antique. If you have taken the time to remove one of the sashes from your window, I highly recommend taking the extra time to install some light durable weather stripping to the part of the sash that butts up to the jamb to tighten up the fit and prevent drafts. If you want more info on how to do this, send me an email and we will schedule some "this old house" time. We are thinking of hosting some home maintenance/repair workshops. If you are interested, please contact anyone on the board and we can work to set something up.

While it seems like things are starting to quiet down in the neighborhood we have quite a few things going on. First we have our annual Wine Tasting Charity Event on Saturday, January 28th. Please join us for the really special event in our neighborhood. Additionally look around for all the amazing lighting and decorating displays. Finally, there has been a report of excessive and constant industrial type noise in the neighborhood. We have the city looking into this issue but have not resolved it. If you have noticed an issue or have ideas about what might be causing the noise, please contact me.

**Jesse Sharp**  
President

Astor Neighborhood Association



## ASTOR GOES GREEN!

Do you want a neighborhood garden? Vegetable, flower or both? We are looking to start a neighborhood garden. If you are interested in helping planning, have good ideas or would be interested in planting, please share your ideas with Charles at [cschwenk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cschwenk@sbcglobal.net) and help the Astor Neighborhood develop another uniquely Astor project.

## WONDERING WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

While we often try to have all our upcoming activities in the quarterly newsletter, we also try to communicate with our neighbors through email or our Facebook page. If you are interested in being included in our emails, please email board president Jesse Sharpe at [jesse.sharp@gmail.com](mailto:jesse.sharp@gmail.com) and you will receive all of our email blasts.

You can also see what's going on and some great pics at our Facebook page. Just log onto Facebook and search for Astor Neighborhood Association and "like" the page. You will get updates on your page after that!

Finally, the best way to find out what's going on is to join the board or attend a meeting. Our meetings are held the third Monday of every month at the First Lutheran Church at 743 S. Monroe at 6:00. Our next meeting will be December 19th. Hope to see you there!

## REGISTER NOW!

13th Annual ANA Wine Tasting  
A Progressive Wine Tasting Party  
Saturday, January 28, 2012 7:00 pm

Once again, our neighborhood will be host to an amazing progressive wine tasting party. One neighborhood host home will feature a variety of white wines, while the second home will pour exclusively red wines, and, as always, deliciously prepared hors d'oeuvres will be served. Come join us!

Fellow neighbors Steve Johnson and Maria Milano from Parallel 44 are partnering up with us to again provide wines and tasting insights. There will also be a stunning assortment of raffle prizes held that evening to benefit both the Howe Neighborhood Family Resource Center and Clarity Care.

If you are interested in attending you must **REGISTER NOW!** Due to space constraints, we are limiting registration to the first 100 registered and paid guests. Register by e-mail to Katie Higgins at [k8ehiggins@yahoo.com](mailto:k8ehiggins@yahoo.com). Please include names of attendees, address, phone and e-mail.

The cost is \$25 per person. That will include your admission to both homes, two glasses of wine at each home and tons of hors d'oeuvres. Make checks payable to ANA. Mail or deliver to Katie Higgins, 745 S. Quincy St., Green Bay, WI 54301. Once registered, we will contact you via e-mail to inform you of the details of your evening's itinerary! We look forward to you joining us for a great evening!

If you have any questions, you can contact Katie at 737-2395.



# HOUSE KUDOS

By Skip Heverly

This edition's house kudos go out to Bill and Sue LaLuzerne of 1014 S. Jackson. The LaLuzerene's have lived in their home for the past 13 years with their sons Austin and Ben. They moved to this home when Austin was one year old from another home, also in the Astor neighborhood, and have done extensive renovations since. Both Bill and Sue are natives of Green Bay. While Sue grew up in Astor, they were both attracted to the character and architectural variety of the older homes. They had undertaken an exhaustive search for nearly one year when this home came on the market. Though initially reluctant to look at yet another home, they had a first showing of the house at noon on its first day on the market, had a second walk through at 4 pm, and the sale was completed by 6 pm of that evening!



*Morning winter light illuminates the light colored limestone.*

The house was built in 1930 and includes a member of the Straubel family as a former owner. The early renovations began with mechanical systems - new furnace and electrical systems and roof. Bill spent many hours in their first year repairing, calking and painting the original outside windows and updating the storm window system.

The entry walkway initially consisted of a simple walk following sloped landscaping up to the front door. That has been replaced by a beautiful, large flagstone patio raised up behind a low retaining wall which is connected to the Jackson Street sidewalk

with a flagstone walkway. The steps and the patio itself feature wrought iron railings that enclose the full space. The rail was obtained from a friend's relative who had purchased it at auction several years prior but had never found a use for it. The railings were straightened, repaired, cleansed and re-coated with protective finish. The contractor doing this work noted both the machined and the signature handcrafted features of the railing - ultimately recognizing the original craftsman to be a former mentor!

At the rear of their home an attached two-car garage, original to the home, is a vestige of the entrenchment of the automobile in mainstream American life. This clean and insulated space is easily transformed into a large entertainment area with screened openings, excellent natural lighting and ventilation for the summer, and a large heater and flat screen T.V. for the winter.

The foundation is poured concrete. Interestingly, so too is the structural support of the main floor-5" thick poured concrete. Bill alluded to a story that this design was intended to serve as a bomb shelter! In any case, it certainly gives a very solid feel to the house.

Their major indoor project has been a complete kitchen renovation. They actually did the demolition work before they had finalized their plans for the rebuild so that they could better visualize the space. In order to make room for a work island, an area, which had included two closets and a breakfast nook next to a beautiful built-in hutch with original



*New kitchen with work island.*



*Original kitchen hutch in its new location.*

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hardware, was incorporated into the new kitchen. The hutch was subsequently built into the dining room where it complements the original built-in corner shelves.

Their home's siding is a tan-khaki limestone that is believed to be locally quarried. Combined with the flagstone, wrought iron rails, and poured cement underflooring, the LaLuzerne's home exudes solidness and permanence. Their patient and clever use of existing features, salvaged materials and stylish upgrades, work together to create an interesting, historical and harmonious home.

## Winter Carnival

February 23

4:30 - 7:30



Webster Elementary School

Games · Raffle · Cake Walk · Silent Auction · Pizza

## THINKING OF REMODELING?

Are you thinking of renovating or remodeling your home? Are you having a difficult time finding information on funding for such a remodel? 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.

# NEIGHBOR PROBLEMS?

In our neighborhood we are lucky to live close to many amazing neighbors. Unfortunately, that closeness sometimes causes problems. If you are struggling with a neighbor who you think needs to clean up his or her property, take care of a noisy dog or some other issue in the neighborhood, there are some good steps to take in order to keep the neighborhood happy.

First and foremost, try to contact the homeowner about the problem. If you aren't aware of who the owner is or struggle getting in touch, you can visit the website for land records search for Brown County. Here you can find out the information about the owner if you need to contact him or her. Second be sure of the ordinances that apply to our neighborhood. You can find these at the City of Green Bay's website under the Public Works link. Here you will see exactly what is expected of neighbors in Green Bay when it comes to the care and maintenance of their homes and properties.

Finally, if you are struggling with a reoccurring issue with a neighbor that has to do with public works, you can file a report at the city's website at <http://www.ci.green-bay.wi.us/publicworks/ReportProblem.html>. You can do this anonymously and the city's public works department will look into the problem.

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# WHAT DOES ANA DO?

As the year is winding down, we thought it would be a good idea to give our neighbors a quick look at what we do in the neighborhood. We are a small group of neighbors who are working to make our neighborhood a great place to live. We would love to have more involvement from our neighbors and welcome anyone to our meetings or events. Please join us!

The ANA raises money every year and tries to put much of it right back into our neighborhood. Our largest, and really only, fundraiser for general ANA funds is the popcorn and treat sales in St. James Park during the City Band concerts. The board works on staffing, funding and running this event. It is always such a treat to see our neighbors enjoying themselves in our beautiful neighborhood park. We also organize the neighborhood wine tasting. The funds from that are donated to a local charity. Last year we donated to the Howe Neighborhood Resource Center.

The ANA board also organizes the annual back to school pot luck dinner at St. James, the Easter egg hunt, Christmas lights on Monroe and the quarterly newsletter.

As you can see, your money, when donated to the ANA go to amazing programming right here in your backyard. Please, join us in making our neighborhood association an example of philanthropy and involvement. Join us for our next meeting on the third Monday of every month.

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# WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

As winter comes along it is important to remember that removal of snow and ice is everyone's responsibility. It is dangerous for our students who are walking to school and for our many neighbors as they are walking to work. The city's ordinance states that "snow must be shoveled from public walks adjacent to your property within 24-hours of a snowfall". If the snow is not removed, the city will come and remove it for you and bill you. Please make sure to look out for neighbors who may have difficulty with this task.



**Bill Doyle, Realtor®**  
**(920)713-3779**

21 year resident of Astor Park Neighborhood  
15 years in real estate sales

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