

ASTOR

OUTLOOK



526 S. Monroe Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's a great day in the neighborhood!

My name is Andy Rosendahl and I currently have the honor of serving as president of the Astor Neighborhood Association. The current board is full of new ideas and ways to make our great neighborhood even better! If you have ideas you would like to share, please contact one of the board members or attend an upcoming meeting that takes place on the third Monday of the month. The meetings start at 6:00 PM and are held at First Evangelical Lutheran Church (743 S. Monroe Ave).

This has been a busy year in the neighborhood with events that include the Wine Tasting, Easter Egg Hunt, Fox River Cleanup Day, Carillon Concert and most recently, the Back to School Picnic. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who worked on the Back to School Picnic. We had a great turnout, everyone had an enjoyable time and we all ate too much! All of these events are successes because of the wonderful volunteers in the neighborhood – thank you for all that you do!

We have a new project coming this winter. Luminaries! The Astor Neighborhood Association will be selling luminaries to light our beautiful streets. More information can be found inside this edition of the newsletter. For more neighborhood information between newsletters, “like” the Astor Neighborhood on Facebook.

Stay warm!

Andy Rosendahl
President
Astor Neighborhood Association

HOUSE KUDOS

By Skip Heverly



This edition's House Kudos goes to Virgil Alberts of 303 Lawe Street. Growing up in a large family of Belgium descent on a farm in the Preble district, self-sufficiency became a necessity at an early age. He has lived in this house, which was built in 1880 by the railroad for its employees, for seven years. At nearly 1,000 sq.ft., it is smaller than most in the Astor neighborhood. He has made extensive renovations to the interior, exterior and landscaping including major improvements to the foundation. He has done the vast majority of the work himself, with a remarkably modest array of tools.

As I enter his dining room, the table is covered with various herbs laid out to dry, and his kitchen shelves are well-stocked with these. He possesses an intuitive knowledge for using garden-grown herbs and his kitchen has been remodeled and arranged in a way that supports the requirements of this style of cooking. There is a small granite countertop behind the stove providing a flat workspace on which to roll out pastas that maximizes precious wall space, which in turn is used for keeping cooking utensils, herbs and dry goods within easy reach.

As I listen to Virgil describe his various projects that he is working on, as well as the re-styling and renovations that he has already completed, it is powerfully evident that careful consideration goes into all of the work he does with his house. He laments some of the standard practices of modern construction and has, in many instances, gone well beyond the requirement of building codes. One such example is the posting up of his garage, which he

did with a 4x4 then buttressed by two 2x4s. He also spaced his trusses at 16" instead of the standard 24", and used a thicker sheathing than required by code. From the exterior of the building none of this can be seen, yet clearly the stability of the structure is improved by these measures.

Early on in the project he had the house raised and installed a poured concrete foundation. Instead of using the usual posting system of support for the center of the house, he had pilasters installed abutting the exterior wall, on top of which he placed two massive steel I-beams oriented width-wise to the house. While serving as an unquestionably more stable foundation, this arrangement also allows more freedom of movement without impedance from posts, helpful in the finite space of a basement. He then went on to correct the west-facing exterior wall which was wavy. To remedy this he posted it up internally, used hand jacks to make it as close to square as possible, then set it back down, working on one small section at a time.



Front entry foyer with small hanging lamp creating a three dimensional balance.

The landscaping is notable for crisp retaining walls that border the sidewalks allowing maximum use of available space. The gardens facing the street on both sides of his corner house feature roses and various other perennials. Wisconsin's state stone is red granite and a boulder of this adorns the Adams

House Kudos continued from page 2

Street lawn. Seen only discreetly from the street, his back yard and the shaded area next to the garage are flush with a remarkable variety of herbs and vegetables in what he calls a kitchen garden.

With attention to aesthetics, function and structural soundness, Virgil has patiently rehabilitated a historic house in a way that maximizes its current use while ensuring it will remain solid for generations to come.



Backyard garden abundant with strawberries, dill, lavender, peppers, tomatoes, grapes, raspberries, and more.

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POPCORN IN THE PARK WRAP-UP

By Sara Wall

Once again, we had another successful summer selling concessions during the city band concerts on Wednesday evenings. Our success is due to the fabulous neighbors who volunteer to make popcorn and sell the soda, ice cream, and concessions. Thank you to all who volunteered this summer! We are looking forward to next summer and would love to have new and returning volunteers, as well as suggestions for improvement.

If you would like to be added to the list of possible Popcorn in the Park volunteers or have suggestions, please contact Sara Wall at sararwall@gmail.com



MEET THE BOARD

We will introduce you to some of our board members each edition. Wouldn't you love to be introduced to your neighbors? Come to our next meeting and you can be featured in our meet the board section!

Sara Wall

After a brief stint in New Orleans, Louisiana, I moved into the neighborhood as a renter. After a year and half, I knew that I wanted to make Astor Park my permanent home and was fortunate enough to purchase a home around the block from my previous address. I joined the Astor Neighborhood Association Board in February 2012 because I want to help continue to support the great things happening in Astor. I love living in Astor because of the history, diversity, and commitment to community. When not helping the board, I can be found playing at St James Park with my son, Ethan, age 7.

Katie Houle

Hello! My husband Scott and I moved to the neighborhood in June of 2011. We were drawn to the character and uniqueness of the historic district, central location to community events and our home's charm. I am a Green Bay native, graduate of UW-Green Bay and work for the Department of Transportation. You will frequently see me running through the neighborhood over to the Fox River Trail or cooking something healthy in the kitchen. I am very excited to serve on the Astor Neighborhood Association board because I believe we live in Green Bay's finest neighborhood and want to contribute to our community.

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS DOWNTOWN!

November 14th at 6 p.m.	Peace Tree ceremony at the courthouse
November 15th from 5 – 8 p.m.	Gallery Nite
November 16th at 5 p.m.	Lighting ceremony on Broadway
November 17th at 10 a.m.	Green Bay Holiday Parade
December 1, 15 & 22, January 12, February 2 & 23.....	New Leaf Winter Farmers Market with expanded Holiday Market on December 15th

HOLIDAY LUMINARIES ARE GRACING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!



Watch Facebook for more information about holiday luminaries! They are coming back to the neighborhood and will be offered for sale in packs of 10. Send crystalosman20@gmail.com an email if you'd like to be added to the list to purchase these inexpensive, festive, holiday luminaries.

BELLIN HEALTH PROPOSED SIGNAGE



Proposed Logo Location on Webster



Proposed Logo Location on VanBuren



Proposed Logo Location on Cass



Proposed Logo Location on VanBuren

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Your neighborhood association meets every third Monday at 6:00 at the First Lutheran Church at 743 S. Monroe. Please join us. We discuss and plan upcoming events, discuss neighborhood happenings and have a great time!

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