

Olde Norwood News

Olde Norwood Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting Celebrates First Year Accomplishments, Sets Goals for 2009

Welcome to the first issue of Olde Norwood News for 2009! Approximately 30 neighborhood residents attended the association's first annual meeting held Tuesday, October 7, 2008. They enjoyed a chili supper and a guest presentation by Kevin King from the city's neighborhood division.

Five new members were elected to the board: Mary Kathryn Burke, Barry Christensen, Elliot Christenson, Diane Richardson and Carol Sheier.

Kevin talked about low-interest home improvement loans of up to \$25,000 that are available for several areas within our association boundaries. For more information on eligibility and application procedures you may call him at 448-3402.

He also spoke about the block party grants and the facade fix-up program, which will have funds available in April. The city is also administering the Lamp Post Program, which subsidizes front yard lighting. For more information on any of these programs call Andy or Kevin at 448-3400.

Board President Tom Burke gave an overview of what the association accomplished in its first year and outlined some goals for the upcoming year.

The association successfully adopted a logo and motto, *Growing a Community, One Neighbor at a Time*, which has been printed on a colorful vinyl banner. In June the association partnered with the Southwest Branch of the Brown County Library for its annual summer carnival. The event was even bigger than usual since it was also the 50th anniversary celebration of the Southwest Branch. At one point a few years ago there was talk about

closing the branch, but several elected officials worked hard to save this gem of a resource for our neighborhood. Many of them attended the celebration and were recognized for their efforts.

Thanks to a generous donation from Mason Brothers Red Owl, ONNA members served more than 280 free ice cream cones to go along with the 50th Anniversary cake.

Other accomplishments during the first year included publishing three newsletters and starting a tradition of weekly neighborhood walks.

Going forward into 2009 we plan to again publish newsletters in Winter, Spring and Summer/Fall. The weekly walks will also start up again in May, with dates and times to be announced in the spring issue of the newsletter.

Several residents expressed interest in forming Neighborhood Watch groups, so an informational meeting will be scheduled sometime in April. If you would like to attend call Tom Burke at 497-1421.

Tom also reported that the design for our official neighborhood sign was approved by the city and should be ready to install by the time the ground thaws in the spring. It will be located at Ninth Street and Ashland Avenue. Volunteers will be needed to help with the landscaping and maintenance throughout the summer, so if you enjoy gardening we could use your help.

Other opportunities to get involved in variety of events in the neighborhood are listed on the last page. We hope to hear from you soon!

Energy Assistance Programs Available

You or someone you know may be eligible for help with home heating bills. The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home heating costs.

WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). The funding pays a portion of the heating costs, but the payment is not intended to cover the entire cost of heating a residence.

The amount of the heating assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and heating costs. In most cases the heating assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

Winter Fire Safety Tips

With furnaces running almost constantly and many residents utilizing space heaters, December through February tend to be the busiest months for firefighters. When was the last time you tested your smoke alarm? In a fire, you'll need every second to get out safely, and the early warning from a smoke alarm can make the difference between surviving a fire and dying in one. Please test your smoke alarms today!

The Green Bay Fire Department asks citizens to clear away snow from the approximately 3,500 fire hydrants in Green Bay that are located near or on their property. This will ensure that in the event of a fire, responding crews can quickly locate and connect to the hydrant. In the event that a fire hydrant hasn't been cleared, valuable time may be lost as crews locate and clear the hydrant to use it. If you are unable to clear the snow away from a fire hydrant on or near your property, ask a neighbor or call the fire department for assistance. The non-emergency number is 448-3270.



Snow Removal Reminders

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their property within 24 hours of a storm event. If this is not done the City may send a crew to clear the sidewalks and then send a bill to the property owner for the work performed. For questions or reports, call the Public Works Operation Division at 492-3731.

On garbage and/or recycling collection days, do not place bags or containers on top of snow banks. City crews are not allowed to collect them due to the City's insurance carrier policy. Instead, place your garbage bags and containers on the driveway apron or clear a space on the terrace in front of your property.

You may also receive assistance with weatherizing your home if you meet the WHEAP income eligibility guidelines. Weatherization may include caulking, weatherstripping and insulating.

In addition to regular heating and electric assistance, specialized services include:

- Emergency fuel assistance,
- Counseling for energy conservation and energy budgets,
- Pro-active co-payment plans,
- Targeted outreach services,
- Emergency furnace repair and replacement.

For more information on applying for energy or weatherization assistance in Brown County, call Integrated Community Services at 448-4540.



Brown County Southwest Branch Library Programs and Events

By Jody Lovaj, SW Branch Library Supervisor

Programs for Children and Teens

Winter story time break
February 15-28

Spring story time session
March 1-May 23

Look for Spring break activities for school age kids, themed story times, and after school game activities in the Brown County Library Children's calendar.



Adult Programs

Mondays - February 16, March 16, April 20, 6-7:30 p.m.
English/Spanish Bi-lingual Conversation Group

Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 p.m.

Cut the Coupon Clutter: Learn how to save money and relieve stress with coupons. Yolanda Martin will demonstrate how to create a coupon management system.
Location: Harmony Café, Justice Room, 1660 West Mason St. (next to Goodwill)

Thursday, February 26, 10:30 a.m.

One Book, One Community- *Bless Me*, *Ultima* Book Discussion. Refreshments provided.

Individual beginning Internet and basic Microsoft Word lessons for adults. Please call 492-4910 to schedule a lesson.

Southwest Branch Library Hours (effective until Memorial Day)

Mondays-Wednesdays 9am-8pm

Thursdays-Saturdays 10am-5pm

Sundays-Closed

More information about programs and events can be found at www.browncountylibrary.org. Customers may renew Brown County Library materials if no holds exist on them. Most materials can be renewed online through the library's website, by calling the 24-hour/day automated renewal system at 448-6263 or by calling any of the nine Brown County Libraries during open hours to speak to a librarian.

New! The Southwest Branch has a blog at <http://southwestlibrary.wordpress.com>
View updates about the library and information about events.

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Rustic Elegance Shop Occupies Historic Building

Long-time resident remembers it as the neighborhood grocery store

By Betty Fierros

Growing up on Norwood Avenue, it was just a short walk to the neighborhood grocery store and meat market at 806 Ninth Street, one block west of the Ashland Avenue intersection. The store was owned by Herman Christensen, who lived with his family in the back of the building.

During World War II he traded my mother's ration stamps for coffee because my dad had to have three cups a day. I also remember eating an awful lot of Spam in those years.

Herman was a wonderful source of candy for us kids, especially the long strips of paper with the dotted candies in different colors and the candy cigarettes. He also made sure we knew about the latest comic books and toys that came in the cereal boxes, like Dick Tracy's badge, Superman's ring and the Jack Armstrong, All-American boy's whistle.

After Herman retired, he sold the place to Robert Hansford. Hansford also lived on the premises and made his living fixing bicycles in the back of the store.



Lorrie Blaylock welcomes customers to browse through the unique inventory of home decor items at Rustic Elegance.

About four years ago Hansford sold the building to the proprietors of Rustic Elegance, Lorrie Blaylock and her cousin Lisa Beekman.

The cousins started their business with help from the Urban Hope program and operated for the first few years in a rented location at Ninth Street and Military Avenue. They are only the third owners of the historic 90-year-old building, and their unique home décor store brings back the old Main Street way of doing business.



Rustic Elegance is open 10 am - 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am – 4 pm Saturday. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

“We want to make your shopping experience personal and enjoyable and for you to feel like part of our community,” Blaylock said.

The store offers antiques, giftware, custom floral arrangements, quality resale furnishings, a variety of yard and garden items and unique treasures of all kinds. It's worthwhile to visit and spend some time browsing among the many items. I bought a great hat for \$4.99 and plan to go back again soon!

The owners also provide affordable in-home consultations and home staging services. They can be reached at 965-2600.

Meeting Schedule

The board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at St. Joseph Parish (use the back entrance off of 13th Avenue) and all meetings are open to the public. Dates through the end of 2009 are:

March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9
July 14
August 11
September 8
October 13
November 10
December 8

If there is an issue you would like to have added to the agenda please contact board president Tom Burke a few days prior to the meeting. He can be reached by email or by calling 497-1421.

Volunteer Opportunities

Board members and other volunteers from the neighborhood are currently working on a number of projects and more help is always welcome. Opportunities include:

Newsletter - Photos, Articles and Ads
Neighborhood Rummage Sale
Neighborhood Watch Groups
Special Events and Socials
Neighborhood Sign Landscaping

If you are interested in any of these projects, or if you have ideas for other projects or events please contact any board member.

Olde Norwood Online

Updated event information will be posted throughout the year on our new web site:
www.olderwood.org

Board Members

Tom Burke President	tdburke5@juno.com
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**Growing a community
one neighbor at a time**