



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 22 NO. 4

APRIL/MAY '17



14th Annual MONTFORD *Music and Arts* FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 20
10:00am—7:00pm

**Volunteers
Needed**
Details Inside...

I-26 “Dis-Connector”

Update at April 18 MNA Annual Meeting

Suzanne Devane

The **Don't Wreck Asheville Coalition** (DWAC) is continuing its efforts to help the public and the Asheville City Council understand the ramifications of the 4B Alternative. In the last edition of the newsletter, we shared the news that our efforts led to the City's adoption of a resolution to hire a consultant to help it understand the NCDOT plans and how best to protect the City's interests. That effort to hire a consultant has met with a bit of a snafu.

The City released a “Request for Qualifications” or RFQ for interested bidders. Responses were due on March 17 and only

one bid was received. DWAC members with transportation planning expertise had reached out to companies capable of helping the City received bad news on two fronts as to why more companies declined to bid.

An RFQ requires a significant amount of work and the firms felt they didn't have enough information about what they were expected to do for the contract to even make an attempt. When members of the MNA Board met with City officials last September to discuss the possibility of retaining expertise, City officials stated the City wouldn't even know how to write an RFP for this work. That concern was obviously warranted as reflected by the lack of interest in responding to the RFQ. One firm DWAC continued on page 10...



Illustration by Dana Irwin

2017 Montford Music & Arts Festival

The Montford Neighborhood Challenge

Dear Montford neighborhood,

The Montford Neighborhood Challenge

is now in full swing for 2017, and we need you to once again do us proud!

Hernán and Lou Ann Navarro have yet again offered to match up to \$1000 in donations from Montford Neighbors and Friends. As well, **Brian May and Scott Merrill** have also issued a donation-matching challenge of \$1000!! These four extremely generous people care a lot about our community. Do you want to be a part of that number? Any amount you donate will help, no matter how small. Let's do our best and meet this challenge with a neighborhood goal of \$2,000, Then Hernan, Lou Ann, Brian, and Scott will match it for a total of **\$4,000!!**

These funds will provide much-needed support for the 14th Annual Montford Music and Arts Festival to be held Saturday, May 20, 2017, as well as various neighborhood improvements through the Montford Neighborhood Association. Let's join together again this year and exceed our goal.



Hernán and Lou Ann Navarro



Brian May and Scott Merrill

How Can you Donate?

Make checks payable to the Montford Neighborhood Association (MNA) and mail them to Susan Eggerton, MNA Treasurer, P. O. Box 7181, Asheville, NC 28802. Please write "Montford Challenge" in the memo section of your check.

Cut along the line, and return this section with your donation (unless you donate online)

YES! I/we proudly accept the Montford Challenge and would like to support the 2016 Montford Music and Arts Festival with my/our donation.

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Donation Amount: _____

Make checks payable to the Montford Neighborhood Association. Mail to Susan Eggerton, MNA Treasurer, p.o. box 7181, Asheville, NC 28802.

You will receive a thank you letter/receipt for your donation from the MNA, which can be used for tax purposes. Thank you for your support!

Go to www.montfordfestival.org, proceed to the Store, click the Montford Challenge Donation link and make your donation using PayPal. http://www.montfordfestival.org/?q=montford_challenge_donation

The Montford Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by the tax code. All proceeds from the festival help fund community projects and activities of the Montford Neighborhood Association. You will receive a Thank You Letter/Receipt, for your donation, from the MNA which can be used for tax purposes. For additional information or questions please contact me. We are grateful for your support.

Sincerely, Dave Baker

Fundraising Committee Chair

The Line Up

There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight

This year's performers include:

- Billy Jonas • Alarm Clock Conspiracy • Buncombe Turnpike
- WestSound • Crooked Beat Reunion • Krekel & Whoa • Lyric
- Liz Teague and Friends • the Midnight Plowboys
- Cat Dragons • Mountain Lion Chinese Dancers • and more



2017 Montford Music & Arts Festival

MONTFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shana Kriewall, Montford Community Center Director

There is no better way to support your neighborhood, than volunteering at the Montford Music and Arts Festival! The event will be held Saturday, May 20 and we need volunteers from 7am all the way until 9pm. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks from monitoring a barricade or passing out flyers, to running the silent auction booth or picking up trash; plus much more. We have over 70 shifts to fill which means we need you! To signup contact Shana Kriewall at skriewall@ashevillenc.gov or at 253-3714.

LaZOOM™

The LaZoom Tour Company is graciously offering a fundraising comedy tour to help out the Montford Neighborhood Association and the Montford Music and Arts Festival. If you have not been on a comedy tour with them, it is a must-do! Here are the details:

DATE: Sunday, June 4

BOARDING TIME: 4:45 pm

DEPARTURE TIME: 5 pm

DEPARTURE LOCATION: Behind the Chamber of Commerce, Montford Ave.

DROPOFF LOCATION: Same

TOUR TYPE: 90-minute comedy tour

Complimentary beer will be provided and complimentary wine provided by Michael Oppenheim Photography. You can also bring your own beer and wine (only beer and wine, no hard liquor) if you so choose, but the beer and wine are included in the **\$29 per-person** price tags.

To learn more about the tour, go to:
http://www.montfordfestival.org/?q=lazoom_ticket

TO PAY

You can one of two things.

Mail a \$29 check made out to "Montford Neighborhood Assoc." (and write "LaZoom 2017" in the memo) to:

Montford Neighborhood Assoc.
c/o Susan Eggerton
PO Box 7181
Asheville, NC 28802

OR...you can go to http://www.montfordfestival.org/?q=lazoom_ticket, and buy a ticket for \$29.

IMPORTANT! PLEASE! email sponsor2017@montfordfestival.org when you send in your payment. I'll be keeping a list. **First come, first serve!! 41 seat capacity!**

If you don't let me know by emailing me when you have sent in payment, I won't have you on the boarding list.

See you there!

Dave Baker, Fundraising Committee Chair



Help The Festival Committee

"The Festival committee needs new members. Specifically, we need help with fundraising, publicity, neighbor notifications, booth marking, signage, and more. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Ben Scales at ben@benscales.com (863) 529-8312."

2017 Montford Music & Arts Festival

THE MONTFORD MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
these sponsors for their GENEROUS SUPPORT in 2017...

Please go to www.montfordfestival.org/2017_sponsors for
business descriptions and contact info for this year's sponsors!

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Many thanks to: Moog • Pinecrest B&B • Great Beginnings Pediatric Dentistry
...and all of the volunteers that make this festival possible!

If your business would like to become a sponsor, there is still time! Contact sponsor2017@montfordfestival.org

© 2017 All proceeds from the Montford Music & Arts Festival help fund the community activities of the Montford Neighborhood Association.


CALENDAR

Montford Community Center News
April – May 2017
Easter Egg Hunt at Montford Park

It's time to get out your Easter basket because The Easter Bunny and his good friends at Asheville Recreation and Parks will be hosting this year's egg hunt on **Saturday, April 15 at 11am**. The event is free to the public.

Table Tennis; Mondays 7:15-9:30 and Saturdays 11-1:30pm, Free

Badminton; Fridays 5:30-8pm and Sundays 9-11am, Free

Ukulele; Mondays 6-8pm, Free

Martial Arts; Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm, \$15 per person

Community Volleyball; Sundays 11am-2pm, \$5 per person

Community Basketball; Sundays 9-11am and Sundays 5:30-7:30pm; Free

Family Hours; Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm; Free

Chair Yoga; Fridays 10:30-11:45am; \$10 per person

For more information contact Shana Kriewall at skriewall@ashevillenc.gov or at 253-3714.

Montford Community Meeting
7 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, 2017
Habitat Brewing, 174 Broadway
Agenda

- I. Welcome—Michael McDonough, President
- II. Introduction of Neighborhood Association Boardmembers and also Shana Kriewall, new Montford Community Center Director – Michael McDonough, President
- III. Community Resource Officer (CRO)—Asheville PD update and audience questions
- IV. I-26 Connector Project—Council Member Julie Mayfield and Suzanne Devane of Don't Wreck Asheville coalition.
- V. Music & Arts Festival update—Ben Scales
- VI. Slate of Candidates for Election to Board and call for additional final nominees—President Michael McDonough
- VII. Friends of Hummingbird Park (Starnes & Cumberland Ave) update—Zoe Schumaker
- VIII. Custom Bus Shelters—Sue G. Russell and metalsmith Tina Councell
- IX. Holiday Home Tour 2017 update—Ellen Nutter
- X. Montford Community Garden (Waneta & Montford Ave) update—Leslie Humphrey
- XI. Status of Randolph School reopening—President Michael McDonough
- XII. Audience feedback, questions, suggestions



“Yes, it is I, Ninja Egg, reminding you about the Easter egg hunt in Montford Park, **Saturday, April 15 at 11am**. My good friend Easter Bunny will be there.

Contact Shana Kriewall at skriewall@ashevillenc.gov or at 253-3714.

Be there or be oblong.”

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Sid Border
Broker ABR, GRI, Green
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Sid is a Montford resident and a long-time supporter of the annual *Montford Tour of Homes* and the *Montford Music & Arts Festival*. His specialty is historic homes and he has participated in the sale of over 20 Montford homes and many others in Asheville's historic neighborhoods. If you are thinking of buying or selling a historic home, *experience counts*.



Contact Sid for details about marketing, researching your homes's history, references, or to receive updates about new listings and recent sales in Historic Montford.

Resource Directory

Advertise in the Resource Directory

Send a brief description (30 words or less) and contact information. **More than 1,500 newsletters** are distributed monthly throughout the neighborhood and are also available on the **Montford website** and at the Pack Memorial and North Asheville Public Libraries. Call 258-2207 for more information.

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Discovering Montford's Early History

"A Rustling Company" Develops a Streetcar Suburb

Zoe Rhine, Special Collections Librarian, The North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library

Asheville was the first city in North Carolina to have an electric streetcar system, with the first run on February 1, 1889. Asheville was followed by Winston, Charlotte, Raleigh and then Wilmington (1890-1892).

Montford was likely the first electric streetcar suburb in the state. Streetcar suburbs, defined as a planned community built around a street car line, represented a unified development in a community, rather than a city growing out one lot at a time. Created by one individual or group, they often contained wide streets which were often modified to the land and included trees and sidewalks.



View long the side of Montford Avenue. Line of trees between the sidewalk and street on both sides. Street bricked and with two sets of streetcar tracks. Streetcar wires overhead. William Barnhill photo, circa 1920

It is amazing to think how progressive the Asheville Loan, Construction and Improvement Company officers must have been.

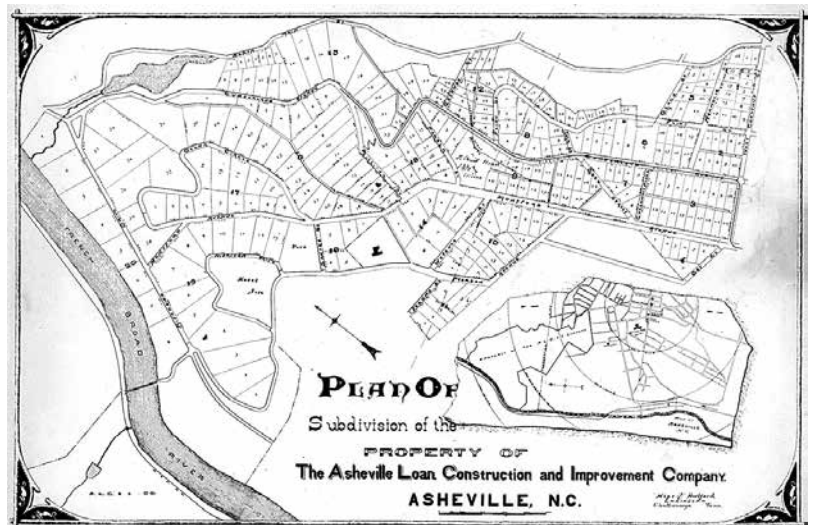
The ALCI got right to work developing their property after their purchase in June of 1890. An October article announced that active operations on the property were about to begin. It corrected the originally published acreage of 1000 acres, to 600 acres total with 400 being on the Asheville side of the French Broad River. An Asheville city map of 1886 shows the only streets laid out in this area before the ALCI involvement, and all being about a block long: Flint Street running from Haywood to Cherry Street, Mulberry Street (later Cumberland) running off Cherry, Short Street parallel to Cherry, and then Academy Street, the only street of any length, which ran into Cemetery Street, which in turn went straight to Riverside Cemetery. In October the ALCI had already advertised for bids for development of the first three miles of streets, which were to be built in the next 30 days. An extension of their principal street, Academy Street, running to the northern city limits was proposed, with one branch running west to the river at Pearson's bridge and the other almost north to the old Buncombe Turnpike with

the streets being set at 70 feet in width—referring to what became Pearson and Montford Avenues. An extension of what was then known as Magnolia Avenue was also next to be built, running north to the old Turnpike also and again 70 feet wide, which became Cumberland Avenue. No lots were offered for sale by the company until the improvements were made.

ALCI announced the publication of the plat of their property in the Asheville Daily Citizen on December 3, 1890, dating a very important document that was originally not dated. The plat was drawn by Nier and Hartford, engineers from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Along with the announcement of the plat map the company announced the sale of their first four lots, three of which were on Montford Avenue, the first published use of the name for the street. Under agreement with the company, each purchaser agreed to erect a dwelling to cost not less than \$3,000 and have it completed within six months.

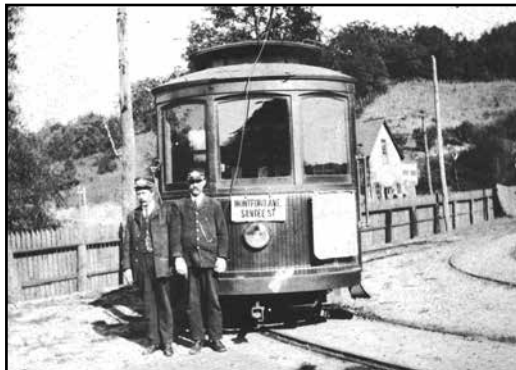
A company ad placed January 3, 1891, advertises broad avenues being laid out at that time, as well as a complete water and sewer plan, and an electric street railway running through the property. The contract for the streetcar road was announced April 2, 1891. J.G. White of New York City was to build a 1.75 mile line for \$20,000 to be completed by June 1 of that year—just two months.

On May 25, 1891, the Citizen, accompanied by the president of the ALCI, George S. Powell, took a trip to look at the work of the "bustling company out at Montford Park" and reported the following day that the work was quite advanced. The street railway was then being constructed on West Chestnut Street. Since Montford Avenue ran right through the center of the company's property, it has been made 70 feet wide, and by this time the gutters were paved and 250 Norway maple trees had been planted along the edges of the sidewalks.



Cumberland Avenue, West Chestnut Street, Magnolia Avenue, Cullowhee Place, Iola, Panola, Watauga, Soco, Ocala, Tacoma and Santee streets, Ocona Circle, Hibriten Drive and Riverside Drive were all being laid out by the time of the May 1891 article, varying in width from 50 to 62 feet. The company had spent over \$35,000 on streets, water and sewerage. Twenty lots had been sold. The following month the ALCI would sell 40 acres on the west side of the river to Major Robert Bingham for the location of the Bingham Military School. Development was going well. The May 1891 article in the Asheville Daily Citizen summed it up with this:

“But to describe all the work of beautifying the property that has been done by this company of prominent Asheville men would take columns. This much is sure, Montford park and drives will long be among the city’s most attractive resorts. Visitors will go there for rest and enjoyment, and residents will go to praise the work and foresight of the pushing company that has made the improvements.”



Two drivers standing in front of the Montford Ave – Santee St streetcar, circa 1917. Note sign on front/center of car.

The regular schedule for the Montford Avenue electric railway was announced July 14, 1891, and the Citizen was not about to miss it. Returning to Montford Park to ride on the new railway that very day, they rode down Montford Avenue to West Chestnut and on to Cumberland, ending at this point in time at Zillicoa. They reported that the cars were built by the Gilbert Company of New York and the track was well built, with top-of-the-line Johnson girder rails. The Citizen also noted that “both lakes were filled with clear, pure water and a fountain

played in the center of the grounds.” They noted their approval by saying, “The amount of work they have done in improving the property is astonishing.” The company sold a total of 36 home lots in 1891. David Bailey wrote in *Trolleys in the Land of the Sky* that “Montford Park became the place to live and the foremost influence on the civic and social life of the city, remaining so until the ‘crash’ of 1929.”

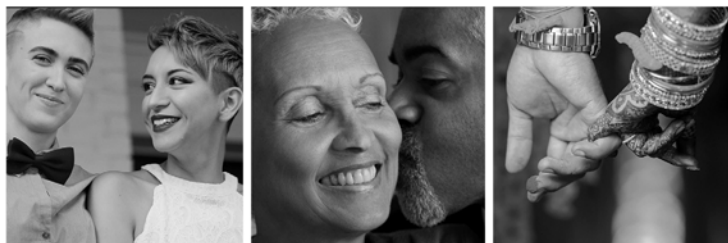
Images Courtesy of Special Collections, The North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library.



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-Michele



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I-26 “Dis-Connector”

Continued from front page...

spoke with said that there wasn't even a line in the RFQ about needing NEPA environmental review process assistance and that this is an issue because that allows a firm to assess the overall scope of the project. It's unrealistic to expect that companies will invest the effort to secure a project when the City is having difficulty explaining what that project will encompass.

Second, to be responsive to the RFQ, it was necessary for any responding firm to have highway Architect/Engineering (A/E)

capabilities. One firm DWAC was hoping would respond to the RFQ is internationally known for NEPA project assistance with a Raleigh office. When that office reached out to A/E firms in the State, no one would even consider being involved for fear of annoying NCDOT. Since NCDOT is where they get the lion's share of their work that is clearly an issue. It also underscores the reality that preparing the City to negotiate with NCDOT from a position of educated strength is widely perceived as a move that would annoy NCDOT. In a nutshell, NCDOT doesn't want the City reps to negotiate with it from a position of knowledge.

DWAC has reached out to the City to offer our assistance in writing a Request for Proposal that could generate more responses. At press time, we were awaiting a response.

Anyone wishing to hear more about the status of the I-26 Dis-Connector is invited to attend the next annual meeting of the Montford Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm. I will be there to update people on DWAC efforts opposing 4B, while the main proponent for Alternative 4B – Council Member Julie Mayfield – will share her perspectives.



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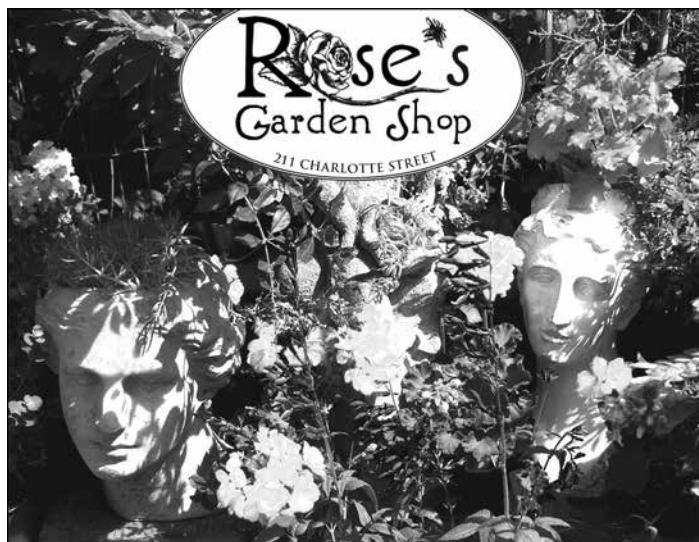
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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Tentative Agenda, March 8, 2017

4:00 p.m., Asheville City Building, First Floor North Conference Room

Old Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

117 Flint Street—Enclosure of portion of rear porch on first floor with glass; railing and pickets will remain and glass will be installed within; enclosure of first floor patio with mesh screeningContinued

New Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

54 West Chestnut Street—Demolition of one-story accessory structure; construction of a one-story addition on the rear elevation

Montford Action Agenda, March 8, 2017

Staff present: Stacy Merten, Alex Cole, Jannice Ashley

ITEM AND SUMMARY	ACTION
117 Flint Street —Enclosure of portion of rear porch on first floor with glass; railing and pickets will remain and glass will be installed within; enclosure of first floor patio with mesh screening	Continued to April
54 West Chestnut Street —Demolition of one-story accessory structure; construction of a one-story addition on the rear elevation	Continued to April

Please refer to the website (www.ashevillenc.gov) for the full approved minutes after the following month's meeting.



Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Tentative Agenda, April 12, 2017

4:00 p.m., Asheville City Building, First Floor North Conference Room

Old Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

117 Flint Street—Enclosure of portion of rear porch on first floor with glass; railing and pickets will remain and glass will be installed within; enclosure of first floor patio with mesh screeningContinued

54 West Chestnut Street—Demolition of one-story accessory structure; construction of a one-story addition on the rear elevation.....Continued

New Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

42 Cumberland Avenue—Construction of one-story accessory building

20 Watauga Street—Expansion of parking area, terracing of rear yard and installation of new fence

77 Cherry Street—Replacement of asphalt shingle roof with metal roof

Please refer to the website (www.ashevillenc.gov) for the full approved minutes after the following month's meeting.



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Ask Dylan

Dear Dylan,

I recently moved to Montford with my dog, Shorty. I have noticed Shorty exhibiting behavior indicating an increase in intelligence. Also, other dog owners have noticed this too. What gives? Do dogs become smarter by just living here?— Perplexed



Dear Perplexed,

In fact, all animals become smarter here—not just dogs. Montford is smack dab in the middle of the Altamont Vortex. You may notice the absence of road kill and animal droppings—typical signs of dumb animals.

What about people you might ask. I have not investigated the effect on our human residents, as I'm having trouble finding volunteer control subjects.

The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and may not reflect views of the Newsletter staff.

Our History

Piggly Wiggly announced this Christmas Eve opening 92 years ago. The location is now Harmony Interiors. Maxwell House Coffee has been “Good to the last Drop” since 1917—Wow, 100 years!

Courtesy *Asheville Citizen-Times*, Wednesday, December 24, 1924.

PIGGLY WIGGLY

Opens Another Store in Asheville

Located at Number 235 Montford Avenue

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**Natural
Neighborhoods**
Ecological balance

Lisa Wagner

Many of us enjoy watching (and hearing) birds in our landscapes, as well as in our historic



Ravine Forest behind Lisa's home.

neighborhood. Pollinators such as butterflies, bumblebees, flower flies, sweat bees, and honeybees are equally welcome. But we don't always recognize the attributes in our landscapes that support these animals and insects.

Their presence is basically a reflection of available habitat: do our gardens and landscapes support the diversity of their needs for food, shelter, and nesting sites?

For example, it's native trees and shrubs that largely provide food for caterpillars that feed the nestlings of many birds that live in our neighborhood. A nesting pair of chickadees needs roughly 4,000 caterpillars to successfully raise a single group of nestlings, according to entomologist Doug Tallamy (author of *Bringing Nature Home*). He points out that many adult birds eat seeds and/or fruits, but most feed their young protein and lipid-rich caterpillars. Oaks, pines, black cherries and willows are some of the most important host plants for these caterpillars (the larvae of butterflies and moths). A typical oak species may harbor upwards of 550 species of insects, providing food for a lot of young



birds! In contrast, the species of caterpillars found on the leaves of non-native species are much fewer; Tallamy's research documents 8 caterpillar species occurring on flowering quince and 5 species on ginkgo as examples

In Montford, we've been lucky to have a robust canopy of native oaks, hickories, pines, and other species, planted long ago, but also persisting as volunteers in remnant patches of forest throughout the neighborhood.

As our older canopy trees age out, we need to continue to replace the oaks and other native trees with natives (of all sizes of trees), while we leave the snags, where possible, to provide homes for woodpeckers, owls, and other cavity nesters. Preserving (and restoring)

backyard edges, ravine forests, and greenway corridors also plays a vital role.

By including more natives, we help re-knit the fabric of our altered ecosystems in cities and towns, increasing ecological balance. The vibrancy of the urban forest in Montford (and Asheville) depends on us; let's keep planting to maintain nature in our neighborhoods.

The City of Asheville has a list of recommended tree and shrub species (native and non-native) from the Asheville Tree Commission on their website (ashevillenc.gov). Look on the Urban Forestry page for a link to this list.

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Asheville

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