



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 24 No. 8

AUGUST '19

SAVE THIS DATE

Saturday, December 7, from 1-5 PM
24th Annual Montford Holiday Tour of Homes

Tickets: \$25. Reserve tickets any time at MontfordTour.com (credit card); or in-person 12/1 through 12/7 at the Asheville Shop, Asheville Visitors Center, 36 Montford Avenue, Asheville.

On Tour Day, bring your ticket reservation to the Visitors Center, 36 Montford Avenue, to pick up your ticket. The ticket is our Keepsake Booklet, which will include a map of home locations for your self-guided tour.

2019 will be the 24th annual Montford Holiday Tour of Homes. This is your chance to explore lovingly restored historic homes and carefully crafted new houses in historic style. There will be 10 houses on the Tour.

The Montford Holiday Tour of Homes Keepsake Booklet serves as your map and ticket, providing directions to the self-guided tour, photographs

and information about the individual properties, historic information about the neighborhood, and colorful ads of our sponsors and advertisers.

The Tour of Homes is an activity of the Montford Neighborhood Association and is its primary fundraiser. Profits of the Tour support neighborhood improvements and activities, including youth programs at the Tempie Avery Montford Center, neighborhood beautification, and our newest project, matching Incentive Grants to neighbors for tree planting in Montford.

Come and be a part of our historic neighborhood!

This is a rain or shine event. No refunds will be available.

For more information, contact Ellen Nutter, Chair, elnutter@aol.com



Forever Montford

COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE:

PLANT A TREE

Apply for the **Tree Planting Incentive Grant** and plant a tree this fall. The MNA announced the new grant in April, and there are still funds available for fall planting. **Details on page 10.**

TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

EVERY WEEK

Badminton—Join this active group of players Thursday nights 5:30pm - 8:00pm, Saturday mornings 8:30am - 11am.

Capoeira—Learn the Afro-Brazilian art which combines martial arts, dance, and culture. Saturdays 10am - noon.

Table Tennis—Meets every Monday 5:30pm - 8pm and Saturday 11am - 2pm.

Ukulele—Mondays 6pm - 8pm. This self-led group welcomes all levels of talent including beginners.

Open Basketball—Tuesdays 6pm - 8pm. Free.

Wednesday Line Dancing—Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm. Free. Instructor donation accepted.

Monthly Saturday Line Dancing Party—August 10 and September 14, 2:30pm - 5:30pm. Free. Instructor donation accepted

HOT AUGUST NIGHT 5K
AUGUST 24, 7pm

A great family-friendly event that runs through the Montford Neighborhood. All ages and abilities welcome! Lots of great door prizes thanks to our sponsors Juns Running and All Day Darling Montford. To register, go to www.active.com



For information regarding any of our programs, facility hours or special events, call 253-3714 or email skriewall@ashevillenc.gov Shana Kriewall, Facility Manager, Tempie Avery Montford Center

NEWSLETTER AD RATES

Contact Ross Terry at ross@krtdesign.com or call 230-7439 to place an ad.

SIZE	RATE/ISSUE
Resource Directory	\$15
Business Card	\$35
1/4 Page	\$60
1/2 Page	\$100
Full Page	\$200

How to Contact the Asheville Police Department



- For emergencies, call 911.
- For nonemergencies and to report suspicious activity, call 252-1110.
- For the Crime Prevention Division, call 259-5834.
- For Police Dispatch, call 259-5888.
- For Montford's Community Resource Officer Justin Wilson call 828-450-3719

TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Folks gathered in the Montford community Thursday to celebrate the past and present.

Content and photos courtesy WLOS report by John Le Thursday, July 18th, 2019

The moment was a long time coming.

They unveiled the new sign for the **Tempie Avery Montford Center**. Avery, who died in 1917, was a midwife and nurse to hundreds of babies and mothers.

Cathryn McLeod, of Asheville, collected hundreds of signatures to support naming the place in memory of Avery, who was born into slavery. After the Civil War, the Woodfin family deeded an acre to her. “Her cabin was right about here where the center is now, and she lived here for the last 50 years of her life. Thank you for being here, this is just awesome,” McLeod told the crowd.

Mayor Esther Manheimer, along with several children, cut a ribbon at the center, marking recent improvements, including a new playground area, parking, and outdoor seating. The work was funded with a \$17 million parks bond referendum approved by voters three years ago. That funding also included \$25 million for affordable housing and \$32 million for transportation.

“I am a descendant of Tempie Avery,” Martha Warren said at the event. She is Avery’s great-great-great-great granddaughter and traveled from Massachusetts to be at the ceremony. Warren collaborated with McLeod for years to make sure Avery’s legacy lives on. “Tempie represents a lot of African-Americans in this country who did what they could to make it a better community. She loved people of all races. She helped to deliver black and white babies, and she nursed them,” Warren said.



Controversial Development in Montford



Corner of Elizabeth Place and Starnes Avenue

Residents in historic Montford are coming together to protest a proposed development. A developer has proposed two new apartment buildings at the corner of Elizabeth Place and Starnes Avenue. Each building would have 11 apartments and be 8850 sq. ft. for a total size of 19,700 sq. ft.

The development would be inside the Historic District on Elizabeth Place, a residential street. Approval of this project could open the way for similar projects in Montford.



Developer's Rendering

Residents are also concerned with tree removal, potential parking problems, the aesthetics of the design...and the project may be in the path of the proposed extension of the Reed Creek Greenway.

The Historic Resources Commission (HRC) will decide whether to approve the project or not at a meeting on Wednesday, August 14th at 4pm in the North Conference Room on the 1st floor of the City Building (70 Court Plaza).

How to get involved.

Attend the HRC meeting and visit: <https://downtown6.wixsite.com/mysite-1> to learn more about this controversial development.

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Grove Park Sunset Mountain Neighborhood Tour of Homes
Sunday, September 8 11am-5pm

The Grove Park Sunset Mountain Neighborhood will hold its annual Tour of Homes featuring homes and gardens as unique as the neighborhood itself. Come see a remarkable variety of homes this year from brick Arts and Crafts to stunning mid-century moderns—all situated in the beautiful Grove Park district.

- Sunday, September 8, 2019
- 11am-5pm
- Advance tickets are \$20 and go on sale August 16 online at www.gp-smna.org and at Metro Wines, Avenue M, City Bakery Charlotte Street and City Bakery downtown on Biltmore.
- Day of Tour Tickets are \$25 at the Country Club at the Grove Park Inn
- Continuous trolley transportation between stops included in the ticket price
- Parking available at the Grove Park Country Club Grove Park
- Proceeds benefit neighborhood beautification projects in our 3 public parks

For more information, contact Suzanne Escovitz at president@gp-smna.org

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 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda Jul 10, 2019

Members present: Chair Bryan Moffitt, William Eakins, Emily Spreng, Emily Kite, Gordon McKinney, Craig Cline, Benjamin Mitchell, Gail Lazaras

Staff present: Stacy Merten, Alex Cole, Jannice Ashley

Item, Summary and Action

72 Woodlawn Avenue—After the fact approval request to regrade area of yard adjacent to driveway and construct a boulder retaining wall.

Action—Continued

50 West Chestnut Street—After the fact approval request to remove original concrete walkway in front yard, install new pebble walkway with stone edging, construct stone retaining wall.

Action—Approved with Conditions

26 Courtland Avenue—After the fact approval request to modify front entry stair/landing and install stone patio at front elevation.

Action—Continued

23/27 Elizabeth Place—Demolish existing one-story, 500 square foot primary structure. Construct two (2) three-story, 9,850 square foot multi-family structures.

Action—Continued

Montford Avenue & Watauga Street—Duke Energy utility improvements, including replacement of eleven 40' wooden utility poles with 45' wooden utility poles, conductor upgrades, and pruning of trees adjacent to utility lines.

Action—Approved

82 Pearson Drive—Replacement of existing wire and chain link fence in front and side yards with new 4' tall wood post and wire fence.

Action—Approved

250 Montford Avenue—Removal of existing two-story deck on rear elevation; construction of porch and replacement of two doors with new wood windows on rear elevation.

Action—Approved

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

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Asheville

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The Montford listserv is a neighborhood discussion list. This is a place where you can exchange news about the neighborhood. Visit Montford.org to learn more.

Green Corner

Mitch Russell



I don't usually advocate and try to remain politically neutral in this column, but to shut out our voices in a process isn't American. There is a potential change in the US Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, that could have catastrophic consequences. The change could include removing public comments and involvement, as well as not utilizing outside scientific analysis. You may comment using any of the methods at the end of this article, but please do so by August 12 @11:59pm

Pisgah National Forest is the closest to Asheville and in its entire range contains roughly 513,000 acres managed by the Forest Service. There is additional acreage managed by other agencies or entities.

Per the Southern Environmental Law Center the changes could exclude public comment/involvement in:

- Commercially logging up to 4,200 acres (6.6 square miles) at a time;
- Building up to 5 new miles of roads at a time;
- Adding illegally created roads and trails to the official roads and trails systems;
- Closing roads used by the public to access hunting areas, streams for fishing, and trails;
- Bulldozing new pipeline or utility rights of way up to 20 acres (e.g., 4 miles at 40' across)

As you have read the potential impact to the forests themselves, access to the forests, degradation to mountain streams and damage to surrounding communities could be devastating if the Forest Service is allowed to operate and act in a vacuum without public and outside input. It has the potential to not only change the landscape of WNC but the tourist economy.

Please strongly consider commenting on this potential rule change by August 12 11:59pm. Here are the preferred methods:

Visit <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FS-2019-0010-0001> & click on Comment Now! to the right of, "This Proposed Rule...."

Mail to: NEPA Services Group, c/o Amy Barker; USDA Forest Service, 125 South State Street, Suite 1705, Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Email: nepa-procedures-revision@fs.fed.us

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Eating local is about more than just food.

It's about knowing the farmer, celebrating a connection to place and heritage, and the sense of community that comes from knowing firsthand where and how your food was produced.

All proceeds from the event benefit ASAP's programs to help local farms thrive and build healthy communities through connections to local food.

When: Thursday, August 15, 6–8:30 pm

Where: New Belgium Brewing Co., 21 Craven Street, Asheville, NC

Tickets: \$30 per person. Beer is not included in admission price, but can be purchased separately at the event.

Website: <https://asapconnections.org/events/asaps-local-food-experience/>

Contact: Robin Lenner, robin@asapconnections.org, 828-236-1282



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Montford Reflections

Last year W. M. Smathers, now president of the Chamber of Commerce, sponsored the rearing of fingerlings in the Pack Square pool. This experiment proved successful as to actually rearing the fish, as well as in offering an unusual attraction downtown. It was announced that the Montford Park pool will care for three times as many fish as the Pack Square fountain pool. The park caretaker will feed and guard the fish in Montford Park. The city has granted permission to use the pool for this purpose.

It is the plan of the Chamber of Commerce fishing committee to emphasize Asheville and Western North Carolina's actual resources and natural attributes in the fishing sport. Asheville business men and sportsmen have been asked to volunteer their cooperation in this plan, only transportation and food being needed, since the fish will be supplied by the Marion hatchery. Any person interested in this plan may call the Chamber of Commerce, telephone 1172, for any further information. Members of the fishing committee believe that there are enough sportsmen and business men in the city interested to insure food for the fish, since this will not mean so very much money as a total fund for the summer months. The fish thus reared have proven hardy and very few are lost after they are placed into the streams.

It was described as both a business and a sporting proposition, since the stressing of the mountain streams here as the best in the country for fishing can easily be made possible. Restocking is the answer to the problem and a great amount of this work is being done, both publically and privately. It was found last summer by a number of persons who owned a few miles of fishing water to be a most profitable business, renting space or charging fees for fishing privileges.

The fish will be transferred from Marion next week, the day being selected to accommodate those who offer trucks for the purpose of transporting the fish. The committee is composed of Francis Bourne, chairman, G. Lyle Jones, W. K. Betchler, J. G. K. McClure, Jr., F. J. Fanning and W. J. Fitzgerald.

The Asheville Citizen, March 26, 1930

Combat Climate Change: *Plant a Tree*

Like many of us, you might wonder what you can do as an individual to really make a difference in climate change. The Montford Neighborhood Association has at least one easy answer: apply for the plant tree-planting incentive grant and plant a tree this fall. The MNA announced the new grant in April, and there are still funds available for fall planting. Apply now to be ready for the ideal tree-planting season.

On July 19, 2019, the World Economic Forum published an article by Crowther, Assistant Professor of Global Ecosystem Ecology at the Institute for Integrative Biology, Zurich, titled “This is How Trees Can Help Solve the Climate Crisis.” Crowther asserts many of the proposed solutions to address climate change primarily prevent future emissions. But to stop climate change, he says, we must draw down the carbon already emitted into the atmosphere. How do we do this? “Ecologically speaking, trees are the most effective means to capture and store carbon,” Crowther states. (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/07/trees-reforestation-climate-change-crisis/>)

While the Montford Neighborhood still has many mature trees, the urban forest is being increasingly degraded by development, old age and disease. In many instances, removed trees are not replaced with new plantings. We cannot live without our trees, and it is up to us to ensure our neighborhood tree canopy is protected, nurtured and replaced at a pace that exceeds its decline.

We know this to be true: trees are a life force. They absorb CO₂ from the air and release oxygen, they clean the air by absorbing other gases, pollutants and particulates, and they conserve energy by providing shade in the summer wind blocks. Trees slow runoff, hold soil and help with stormwater control. Native species in particular host beneficial insects critical for pollination, and they provide food and shelter for wildlife and humans. Trees buffer unsightly views and unwelcome noises, and they increase property values.

If your property is within the Montford Historic District, there are guidelines for tree removal and replacement. Trees larger than 6 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) may not be removed within the Historic District without a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the City of Asheville Historic Resources Commission, and replanting may be required when trees are removed. For more information on historic district requirements, please see the Montford District Guidelines: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h2HHKm198Mzs2Q0XCuPkn4azTTDOEqd0/view>

At the end of the Guidelines is a list of recommended trees. While the list is extensive, other tree species also may be considered for

funding by this grant. Many of the trees recommended in the Guidelines are native species. Although the MNA tree planting grant does not require native species, it strongly encourages their selection because restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. To read more about how native plants support pollinators and food webs better than introduced ornamentals and which species perform the best, check the findings of renowned entomologist Doug Tallamy: <http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>

Overhead utilities are also a major consideration when planting trees. If you are unsure if the species you want to plant is suitable under a power line, you may contact Duke Energy’s Customer Service at 800.452.2777.

About the Grant: As an incentive to plant trees for restoration and maintenance of the urban forest, the MNA may provide 50% matching grants for up to \$150/tree with a \$300 maximum per applicant. Any Montford property owner (or renter with the owner’s permission) or approved local organization may apply. Grant applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, and award of grants is at the discretion and funding availability of the MNA.

- The completed application is required.
- Trees must be planted on the owner’s property (residential or commercial) within the Montford Neighborhood.
- Selection of tree species and location for planting must be approved by the MNA. Large canopy trees and native species are encouraged. A recommended tree list is included the Montford Historic District Guidelines: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h2HHKm198Mzs2Q0XCuPkn4azTTDOEqd0/view>
- Planting may be performed by the owner or contractor. The cost of contract labor may be included in the \$150 maximum/ tree.
- It is the responsibility of the property owner to locate any underground utilities by calling 1-800-632-4949 3-12 days prior to digging.
- Grant reimbursements will be made within 3 weeks following confirmation that the tree has been planted.
- It will be the applicant’s responsibility to properly care for and maintain the trees.
- The MNA shall be held harmless in all matters related to the tree, including, but not limited to, the selection, planting and maintenance of the tree.

Download an application here:

<http://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/TreePlantingGrant-application.pdf>

If you have questions, please contact Lynn Raker at lynn.raker@gmail.com.

TREE PLANTING INCENTIVE GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Date of Application: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address where tree/s are to be planted if different from above: _____

TREE TYPE	SIZE	QUANTITY	TREE COST	CONTRACT LABOR COST (OPTIONAL)

Total cost of trees and planting: _____

Owner contribution (minimum 50% of total): _____

Total grant requested (not to exceed \$150/tree, \$300 total) _____

Tree Planting Diagram - In the area below, sketch a simple diagram of where your proposed tree(s) will be planted. Include any buildings and overhead utility lines.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date _____

If not property owner, Owner's Signature: _____ Date _____

Return completed application to: Lynn Raker ▪ 266 Pearson Dr ▪ lynn.raker@gmail.com

Montford Neighborhood Association Community Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2019

Michael McDonough called the meeting to order at 7:05. Welcome and introductions occurred.

- Community Resource Officer Justin Wilson offered updates on neighborhood crime and nuisance issues. Last 30 days there was one vehicle B&E, one stolen and recovered, several bicycle thefts and moped thefts. Typically unlocked windows and doors are the entry point. 27 crimes last 30 days vs 29 in 2018, a slight improvement. Klondyke shootings like late May are less prevalent today due to police presence. Jeffrey (last name?) addressed gang activity and he said that closing Lee Walker Heights stirred the pot but it is calming somewhat now. The Salvage Station noise issue was discussed and he stated that the City of Asheville is working on a new noise ordinance which should be ready Fall 2019. Neighbors have observed drug activity on Elizabeth Place and did contact police. Montford Park planter – what is status? Ken Putnam from the city will check. Someone stated that there is a house/RV parked on a property on the street at Santee and Montford – Justin will check.
- MNA has a 2019 budget approved with a \$2000 surplus. MNA has about a \$36K reserve. We donated \$2200 for the bus shelter, phase 2 of the landscaping at North Star Academy (\$3K), we have initiated a tree incentive program (matching up to \$300 per family – must do proper paperwork for reimbursement). The discussion centered around the \$36K reserve – some thought higher than should be. Please bring any projects for Montford forward to the board for consideration. Hummingbird Park is waiting on the city to move forward.
- Bus shelter hoops have been jumped thru – yay! The new shelter should be coming soon and the roof issues will be adjusted (trucks scrape sometimes). We are advocating for the improvement of the Montford Avenue bus shelter (closer to Klondyke).
- Music and Arts Festival wrapup: was a highly successful year. Montford Garden area got lots of use. Please consider joining the committee who puts in on every year – contact Ben Scales or Dan Rogers. Festival wants to investigate ways to reduce the plastic impact.
- Holiday Tour of Homes is Saturday, December 7, from 1-5pm. They have 10 homes.
- The Newsletter is having printing issues – expenses vary significantly. Greg Mayer investigating options. Update, Greg at One Click Fix will print black and white on his laser printer (75 copies or so). Questions were asked if we should go back to printing all or more often. Next newsletter in early August.
- Elizabeth apartment project was discussed. Bonnie Gilbert gave an update. Michael talked HRC input; must be in person since it is a quasi-judicial process. MNA has not taken stances in the past; the board will discuss but tread lightly. Lucy Crown says the proposal will not assimilate greenway; city hope greenway will continue.
- Car parking on streets, especially near Broadway and downtown, is becoming a major issue. Michael will reach out to Ben Putnam to begin a discussion of permitted parking in Montford.
- Broadway Fire station. No one attended city input meetings but many are not concerned with the station.
- Susan Loftis provided an I-26 update. Four subcommittees are working to mitigate the impact, especially on Montford. The Riverside Cemetery will be placed on the endangered list by the Preservation Society. One subcommittee is looking at ways to mitigate impact to the cemetery. Decibel readings could be key.



Meeting adjourned at 8:20.
Respectfully submitted,
Dan Rogers

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Mike is not about selling or pushing – he is all about earning trust & developing a relationship. He respected my thoughts during the negotiating process & represented us well. As a lifelong Asheville resident Mike had excellent recommendations on folks to help out with inspections, survey, closing attorneys & more (including restaurants & music venues). His team at Town and Mountain Realty is professional and friendly. Going to their office is a cross between visiting a real estate office & visiting someone’s home. You cannot go wrong working with Mike Miller! - Don K.



www.townandmountain.com



While on a run, Marc Voorhees snapped these photos of a deer in Riverside Cemetery.

Resource Directory

House Histories

Learn the story of your house. Who lived there, who owned it and what they did for a living.

- For more information call Sharon at 777-1014

Historic Walking Tours

Stroll the neighborhood or downtown. Walking tours of historic Montford, Riverside Cemetery, Biltmore Village and downtown Asheville, call 777-1014.

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