



# MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD  
Vol. 25 No. 4

APRIL '20

## Montford Donates to ACS Nutrition program



### Your Dollars at Work

On March 26, the Montford Neighborhood Association donated \$1,500 to Asheville City Schools' Nutrition program to provide food to individuals and families in need. With the recent school closures and numerous job losses due to COVID-19, many students and their families are struggling to find resources for even the necessities. In partnership with United Way, Buncombe County, and Manna Food Bank, ACS has been helping fill the gap by providing food for families through drive-thru Community Engagement Markets at area schools. Isaac Dickson School was a recent location for the Market where 2,000 pounds of food were given away.

**continued on page 2...**

### How to Avoid Coronavirus Malware & Misinformation

by Christina Edwards on March 26, 2020, AVG Technologies

Phishing scams have multiple ways of selecting their victims. Quite often they prey on the victim's fear by using real and current threats. Other times they jump on the opportunity bandwagon with stories that are highly topical in the news. And every so often one comes along that packs the double punch. Yes, coronavirus (COVID-19) malware has joined the conversation.

**continued on page 8...**

### Riverside Cemetery Update

By Zoe Schumaker

Now that the final Environmental Impact Assessment (FEIS) for the I-26 Connector Project has been issued, NCDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) have begun the **Section 106 Process to address the impacts on Riverside Cemetery.**

Section 106 is a federal statute designed to protect historic resources from the negative consequences of federally sponsored projects. The output of this

**continued on page 4...**

## TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

The Facility Is **CLOSED** until further notice.  
All activities—including the Montford Park Egg Hunt—are canceled.

Shana Kriewall, Facility Manager, Tempie Avery Montford Center

253-3714, [skriewall@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:skriewall@ashevillenc.gov)

### Montford Donates

Continued from front page...

ACS Nutrition Director Katie Treece expressed her deep gratitude for the MNA gift, saying “This will help us greatly during these totally unprecedented times. I can make sure that this will go toward our food and supplies.”

Thanks to the overflow attendance at the 2019 Holiday Home Tour and the success of last spring’s Music and Arts Festival, the MNA is fortunate to have funds to help during this challenging time. Sadly, our donation is just a small fraction of what is needed to support the many individuals whose lives and livelihoods have been upended by the pandemic. Our beloved restaurants are closed or are limited to take-out, our B&B and homestay owners are forced to cancel reservations and wondering when they will be able to fill beds again, and staffs are laid off at businesses across the City. We are seeing a new, insidious, and very real trickle-down effect - one we were not prepared for.

Thankfully, Asheville is a creative town. In the first five days since its launch, One Buncombe relief fund received more than 700 applications from individuals seeking financial assistance and 71

requests for small business loans. One Buncombe was created to aid both laid off county residents and small businesses experiencing an economic blow due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is just one of several local partnerships focused on positioning Asheville to rebound from the economic shutdown.

### How You Can Help

Many posts to the Montford listserv and Nextdoor suggest other ways to help and organizations accepting donations. You may also send your suggestions to MNA website manager Ross Terry at [ross@krtdesign.com](mailto:ross@krtdesign.com) who will compile the resources on the MNA website: [montford.org](http://montford.org).

Please email Ross the names of organizations accepting donations to help with COVID-19 fallout. Or, if you are providing services to the community, such as sewing face masks, shopping for groceries or selling take-out food, please share your contact information. In either case, please include a brief description about the purpose of the assistance. Thank you all for sharing any helpful information!

Lynn Raker - *Forever Montford*

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# Riverside Cemetery Update

Continued from front page...

process is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that contains agreed-upon actions to help minimize impacts. Although the agreement is between NCDOT, FHWA, and SHPO, the process provides for public engagement, including a formal “Consulting Party” role for key stakeholders. For Riverside Cemetery, the City of Asheville,

the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County (PSABC), and the MNA have been granted Consulting Party status. We have formed a joint “Consulting Team” (sidebar) and are presenting a consolidated position to NCDOT et al.

Usually, the Section 106 process kicks off with a public input session, and one was scheduled for March 17. However, the meeting was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. NCDOT is now designing an alternate public input process. Once we have the details, we will provide them to the neighborhood.

In the interim, the Consulting Team is trying to push

forward our list of requests. We had a working session with NCDOT, FHWA, and SHPO via videoconference on April 2nd. The Consulting Team reviewed our general concerns and also provided NCDOT with our joint Position Statement, which can be found on the MNA website at <http://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FINAL-Section-106-Consultation-RCCP-Position.pdf>

## Consulting Party Concerns

- **Visual Impacts.** U.S. Highway 19/23/70, which borders Riverside Cemetery, will be divided into separate north and southbound roadways for the entire length of the cemetery. The northbound section will be elevated between 60-80 feet above the current roadbed at its highest point. The exact height is still unknown, as NCDOT is working on design changes that will hopefully lower it. The plan indicates the elevated roadbed will be supported by a wall along the south end of the cemetery property line and will transition to a bridge structure toward the north end. Additionally, there will be three new bridges spanning the French Broad River: one for I-26 north/south traffic and two “flyovers” that separately carry I-240 eastbound and I-240 westbound traffic as represented in the NCDOT map (Figure 1). For a sense of the scale and elevation of these structures as they converge near the cemetery, (Figure 2).

Unfortunately, we do not have good representations of the overall view of the wall and the bridges from the cemetery. NCDOT has provided one view of a partial section of the wall from a low point in the

**Riverside Cemetery Section 106 Consulting Team**

*Montford Neighborhood Association:*

- \* Michael McDonough
- \* Lynn Raker
- \* Zoe Schumaker

*Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County:*

- \* David Nutter

*City of Asheville:*

- \* Julie Mayfield (City Council)
- \* Debbie Ivester (Parks)
- \* Stacy Merten (Planning)
- \* Ken Putnam (Transportation)
- \* Janet GeorgeMurr (Admin)

### Sidebar

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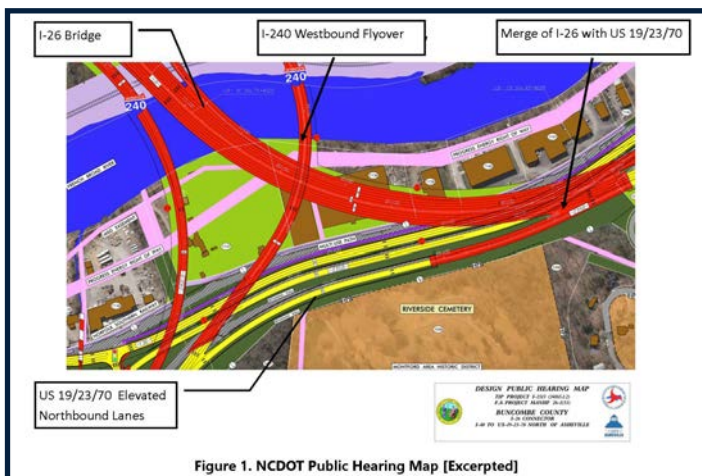


Figure 1

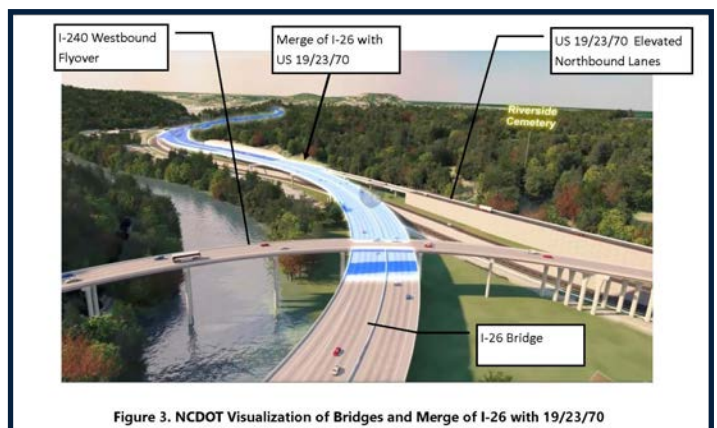


Figure 2

southwest corner of the property (**Figure 3**). NCDOT has expressed some reluctance to share additional information with the public until they further refine their designs, which may include a lowering of the roadbed. We will continue to push for better visualizations to help the neighborhood understand the impacts and thus be better able to provide meaningful public comments when that process initiates.

- **Auditory Impacts.** The raised roadbed carrying U.S. 19/23/70 northbound traffic will provide some noise shielding in the southwestern portion of the cemetery. However, the transition of this structure to a viaduct (bridge) and the merging of I-26 roadway will significantly increase noise in the northwestern half of the cemetery and up the hill to the east (toward the caretaker's cottage). Noise levels for a significant portion of the cemetery are thus projected to increase between 3 and 9 decibels. A 3 decibel increase is barely audible; however, because the decibel scale is logarithmic, a 10 decibel increase appears twice as loud to the human ear.

Unfortunately, although the Section 106 statute recognizes auditory impacts, they are infrequently mitigated through the MOA process. This is because an increase in noise is seldom determined to degrade the “integrity” of a historic resource to the same degree as out-of-character visual elements. That said, the Consulting Team maintains that Riverside Cemetery’s unique setting is noise sensitive and that acoustical impacts must be addressed. Additionally, the City

of Asheville is still pursuing the Federal Highway Administration’s Category A “Land of Serenity and Quiet” designation for Riverside Cemetery, which will provide stricter noise restrictions.

- **Construction Impacts.** Construction of the three bridges adjacent to Montford and the elevated U.S. 19/23/70 roadway that borders the cemetery will span years. The pile driving, grading, and compaction of the elevated roadbed will create considerable noise, as well as dust and vibration that must be minimized to the largest degree possible, to protect vulnerable structures and allow the cemetery to be usable. Implementation of best practices to limit these impacts will also benefit adjacent properties in our neighborhood.

NCDOT and SHPO did not provide much feedback on our specific requests during our initial discussion. However, they committed to putting our suggested mitigations on their “public input” list for consideration during the development of the MOA.

## Next Steps

The next milestone is for NCDOT to collect input from the general public. Once we know the process they will use, we will publish that to the neighborhood, along with some guidance on how to submit an effective comment. We also hope to be able to share better visualizations of the project at that point.

Once the comment period is closed, NCDOT will work with FHWA and SHPO to create a draft MOA. The Consulting Parties and public will be allowed to comment on the draft before a final MOA is issued. The target for the final MOA is July, but that is subject to change.

There is cause to be optimistic that some of our requests will be incorporated into the MOA. However, public support could make a difference for others. We hope that when the time comes, many of you will participate and help us achieve the best result for Montford and for Asheville.

If you have any questions or thoughts to share, please direct them to any member of the Consulting Team, or email them to [zoe\\_schumaker@yahoo.com](mailto:zoe_schumaker@yahoo.com)

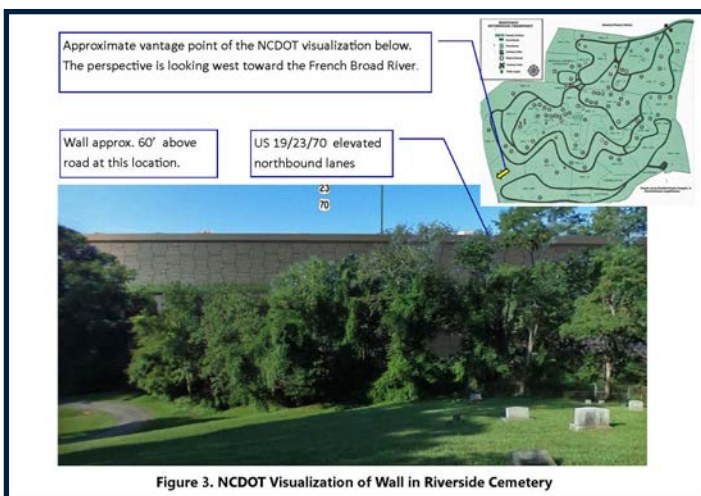


Figure 3. NCDOT Visualization of Wall in Riverside Cemetery

*I am using the quarantine time to finally finish the compilation of the many stories and antidotes about my life experiences through the years. Upon reading the thread about the Montford Deli's Reuben, I wanted to share a section from the rough draft and one story from my Manhattan Tales.*

**Jerry Conner, Westover Drive**

## The Great Reuben Quest

Back in the 70's, when I lived in Manhattan and was involved with the Garment District, a colleague and I made a game of each taking turns picking a restaurant to have lunch during the week. Our goal was to outdo each other in our selections, seeking unique and out of the way locations and rating the food, never returning to the same restaurant twice. I decided on one of my turns to find

the authentic Reuben and the Restaurant famous for its creation in 1914. Having just been transplanted to NY City, I had to do a lot of legwork to find the restaurant. Everyone knew of a Reuben but not the restaurant's creator. After weeks of research, I discovered the restaurant was called "Reubens"

and had moved three times until the mid '60's when it relocated to their final location 38th St. My office was in the Empire State Building on 34th St. so it wasn't that far to travel for our lunchtime quest.

My friend and I were salivating about being able to enjoy what the original Reuben would taste like. We picked mid-week, took a cab, gave the driver the address and arrived for lunch. The restaurant had a special front with etched glass windows flanking the double wooden doors. Inside we were greeted by a waiter with a black bow tie, full-length white waist apron, and cloth napkin draped across one arm. The round tables were covered with almost floor-length white cloths, fancy folded napkins and surrounded by black Bentwood chairs. It was as if we had been transported back in time to the days of its origin. So

formal and yet so appealing. This was going to be a great experience.

Arriving around noon, we were surprised to find the restaurant only moderately full. Quickly ordering our sandwiches and beer to accompany them; we felt like two kids on Christmas Eve anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus and presents. The waiter arrived with our order, which consisted of huge sandwiches piled high with corned beef on thick rye bread.. Not unlike the many offerings of the same name we had enjoyed before. We looked at each other, each picking up a half and tried to wrap our mouths around the overstuffed sandwich. As we bit off chewable amounts, our expressions turned from presumed delight to unexpected anguish and then unintelligent mutterings. After all the anticipation of finding the restaurant and excitement of tasting "the original" the result

was terrible.

The sandwich was nothing like what it had morphed into over the years at so many restaurants. It was collectively decided "the worst" Reuben that either of us had ever tasted. It was dry, lacking in enough sauce to compensate for the hard rye bread and the meat was extremely fatty. We couldn't do

anything but laugh at how this lunch had turned into a major quest with the results becoming such a bust. We continued our daily lunches for a couple years until I moved to Paris, with a few disappointments along the way; but none as big as the "Great Reuben Quest."

I have eaten so many variations of the Reuben over the years and having tasted the Montford Deli's version, I am pleased to find it a very good one and agree with the many comments made on the list serve.

I relay this story as an example of how often great dishes and variations such as the Montford Deli's Reuben can be found right around the corner in the simplest of unexpected surroundings and even without a "Great Reuben Quest."

Hope you enjoyed this reminiscence





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## Music & Arts Festival

Hi all,  
We decided in our Zoom meeting today to pursue postponing to September 19 or 20. We're going to hold off on announcing the postponement until we've picked a new date.  
Ben Scales, 4/4/20



*the Amy and Eva team*



*Amy* *Eva* *Oscar*

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## Misinformation

Continued from front page...

### Okay, but what's coronavirus malware?

In a nutshell, it's a way of using the coronavirus crisis to pretend to offer information or services to the public which are actually filled with malware designed to hurt or steal from people. Here are a few examples.

### Industry targeted emails

Phishing scams targeting the manufacturing, transportation, higher education, and healthcare industries have been discovered promoting COVID-19 cures as well as topical conspiracies. Once the email attachments are opened, malware can harvest data and wreak havoc.

### World Health Organization spoofs

Last week a spoofing campaign targeting Italian email addresses was launched. It coincided with the Italian government increasing the quarantine measures within the country and therefore capitalized on the fear of those it targeted. The emails contained a document allegedly containing a list of precautions to take to stop the spread of the virus. Once the document was opened the device was compromised and personal information was harvested.

### Remote worker email scams

In line with the global response to the crisis, hackers are doing their best to be reactive in every scenario. Most recently, many companies worldwide have encouraged

their employees to work from home. These lists are available online, so the information is available to anyone. Hackers send emails claiming to be from company HR departments asking users to sign in and then boom — credentials stolen.

### Coronavirus maps

As the virus spreads several organizations have produced reactive maps allowing viewers to keep track of the global pandemic. So, of course, hackers want their piece of the pie. The malware is indeed a map showing how coronavirus is spreading but it's just a front for attackers to generate malicious files and install them on your computer. They are then able to steal info stored in your browsers such as passwords and credit card details.

### Wash your hands clean of coronavirus scams

So how can you stay safe? The coronavirus outbreak is a constantly evolving situation with events changing every day. People want information as fast and efficiently as they possibly can—it's the nature of the world we live in. But there are several reliable and trusted sources that should be your go-to when looking for advice, precautions, and updates. To make it easy on ya here's a shortlist.

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[US Department of State](#)

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- Call your neighbors, Leslie and David Humphrey 277-5164

## Green Corner Mitch Russell



I hope everyone is finding a way to harness joy during this time. Below is a picture from a bike ride on the Parkway the last Saturday of March that makes me smile.

I don't think John & Yoko had COVID-19 in mind when they wrote & recorded "Nobody Told Me", but here we are.

How to care for the environment in a situation as we're in currently?

Luckily, completely tongue in cheek here, the county & governor took care of one major polluter for us, our vehicles. With more of us staying home then we're not driving as much, which is a good thing for the environment. Those disinfecting wipes can be re-used to clean your toilet along w/disposable nitrile or latex gloves. Hydrogen peroxide, 3-5%, at full strength works as good as bleach, plus you can wash the rag to re-use it along with the hydrogen peroxide vs disposable wipes. On to the ever elusive tp....Sheryl Crow famously said that she only uses three squares, but that was obviously a joke to garner attention as she toured the country in support of a national global warming tour in 2007. It, using fewer squares, doesn't have to be however. Challenge yourself to use fewer squares & see how long you can make your rolls last.

"Strange days indeed."

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Contact Editor Ross Terry at ross@krtedesign.com, 230-7439 for more information.