



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 25 No. 6
JUNE/JULY '20

WELCOME SUMMER

Wow, what beautiful weather we are having. The streets and sidewalks in Montford are especially attractive this year. After weeks of self-quarantined and 24/7 cable news, the magnetic pull of nature is drawing us out into the open. This is not to say we have been prisoners in our own homes. Most of us have already bravely ventured out for exercise or to shop for necessities.

With NC Phase 2 in effect until June 26, we went on a “drive about” this Saturday. We passed through downtown, to Carrier Park, Lake Julian, and Bent Creek. Even as cases rise, people are out everywhere. We did not see much social distancing and hardly any masks. **The good news** is you are much less likely to contract the virus outdoors according to the experts.

“Interviews show a growing consensus among experts that, if Americans are going to leave their homes, it’s safer to be outside than in the office or the mall. With fresh air and more space between people, the risk goes down.” — *The New York Times*.

“Scientists say that yes, you can have fun this summer. Just do it outside.” — *Bloomberg News*

“It’s not the temperature that kills the virus (the World Health Organization says the virus spreads in both hot and cold climates), rather the ultraviolet light. UV light is even being used in New York City to disinfect the subway and buses.” — *Huffington Post, UK*

Guidance from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/activities.html>

So, dust off your running/walking shoes and grab your face covering. **Let us Welcome Summer!**

Ross Terry - Editor

INSIDE

Tempie Avery Montford Center 2

Festival Update 2

A Dance Tale 4

Crows: Naughty Ninjas 6

How to Contact the Asheville

Police Department 8

Ask Dylan 9

The Sanctuary of Trees 10

Welcome Packet 11

Resource Directory 12

Green Corner 12

TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Our center will remain **closed for the rest of June** and all center programming is cancelled for the month.

Sadly, we have also made the decision to cancel the annual **Hot August Night 5K** this year.

Shana Kriewall, Facility Manager, Tempie Avery Montford Center
253-3714, skriewall@ashevillenc.gov

Montford Music & Arts Festival Postponed

Editor's Note: The Festival Committee is working to determine the safest way to proceed with the Festival. Stay tuned!

Due to the ongoing global Coronavirus pandemic, The Montford Music & Arts Festival has announced a postponement of the 17th annual event, which had been set for Saturday, May 30.

Presented by the Montford Neighborhood Association as the longest-running and only free-to-the-public festival in the greater Asheville area, the event has been rescheduled for **Sunday, Sept. 20 from noon to 6 p.m.**

Located on Montford Ave. between Chestnut and Waneta Streets just down the street from downtown Asheville, the Asheville Visitors Center and Chamber of the Commerce, the all-day event will feature more than 100 arts, crafts and food booth vendors, and a music stage with another attractive lineup in 2020.

Dan Rogers, the festival committee chairman, said the

decision to move this year's event to September was based on current data, the advice of medical experts and government officials.

Featuring turn-of-the-century "Victorian" homes and several bed-and-breakfast inns, a portion of Montford

is proclaimed a National Register Historic District. Many of today's Montford historic homes were designed by the same architect hired by the Vanderbilt Family to create the Biltmore Estate.

World famous authors Thomas Wolfe and O. Henry are buried in Montford at the nearby Riverside Cemetery, while the community's rich history

also dates back to the once thriving African-American community of Stumptown, which ended in the 1960's.

The very first Montford festival was presented in 2004, held inside of Pyper's Place, which is now Nine Mile Restaurant, and Sweet Heaven Ice Cream Shop, now a real estate office.

Bob Rose, Festival Public Relations
510-282-7279 - bobrosepr@gmail.com



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tough love for trees

I am using the quarantine time to finally finish the compilation of the many stories and antidotes about my life experiences through the years. I wanted to share another section from the rough draft.

Jerry Conner, Westover Drive

A Dance Tale

From an early age, I was fascinated with dance and movement and would imitate steps done by performers on television. I was in middle school and my father was now home for good with no more moving across the country or deployment overseas. As we were settled in to our new home, my mother asked me if I would like to take dance classes. I pushed the envelope, so to speak, asking if I could take more than one type. She agreed and I began taking tap, social (ballroom) dancing and even ballet classes. With all those years of dancing in front of the TV set behind me, I was now able to learn properly. The classes lasted into my high school years.

I joined the football team and used to get ribbed from my fellow teammates about taking ballet. That is until the day my dance instructor was invited by our coach to teach us some ballet moves. For the next 4 weeks during preseason and before every practice, my instructor would take us through the basic dance warm ups, which weren't too much different from our regular ones, just with more form.

Next, came some basic ballet movements, like foot positions, Relevé (where you stand on one leg raising up and down on the ball of your foot), and even a Semi and Grande Plié (a squat down with legs out half way or the full way down and then up). This was quite a sight to see in the beginning as the team struggled to do this with grace. It was like watching a live cartoon. The big take away for the team was learning more about balance, and movement while loaded down with so much protective equipment. I am not sure how

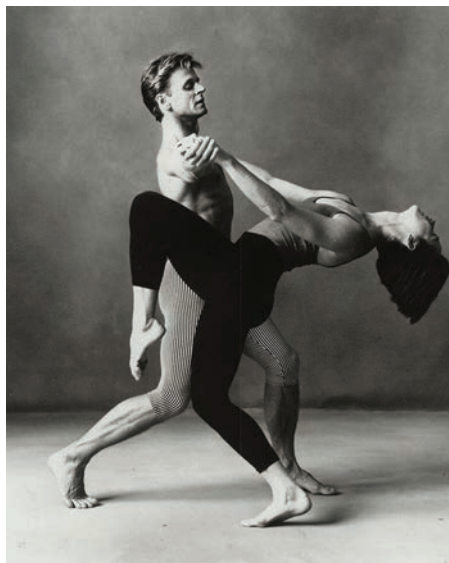
much credit can be given to my instructor for the new techniques but that year we were undefeated and went on to play in the finals. Unfortunately, we lost, but the experience gave everyone a different outlook on dancing and my ballet training as well.

Years later, after moving to New York and working in the garment industry, many introductions came my way both industry and social wise. During one of my club hopping nights, I bumped into Calvin Kline on the dance floor of Studio 54 where a friend introduced me to him and his group. We then chatted back and forth throughout the evening. Just before I left, he proceeded to invite me to a party at his home on Fire Island the next weekend. I figured he was just being cordial and thought nothing of it only an impersonal gesture and nothing more. After all, we had just met and I thought he made more of an impression on me than I did towards him. Walking in to the office the next day, I couldn't contain myself and began telling everyone about the evening's events and meeting Calvin Kline. During my conversation, the phone rang. It was Calvin! Sometime during the evening, I had given him my card so he knew my number. On the phone, he reiterated his invitation and wanted to make sure I knew it was genuine as well as how to get to his house on the Island. I was dumbstruck at the thought of being out there with him and his friends from the fashion industry.

Saturday came and after a train and taxi ride, I looked up at this ultramodern structure that was his home. (I later found out

it was called Sloan House) I was greeted at the door with a sweeping gesture to come in and immediately felt right at home. Of course, not being one to be shy, I just delved into conversations and allowed myself to be introduced around. I gravitated to the kitchen, like at most parties, and joined in with the group gathered there. One of the guests looked over at me and asked if I had met Misha yet?

I admitted that I wasn't sure whom Misha was. "You know, Misha... Mikhail Baryshnikov!" I said "no, though I have always been a fan." And went on to explain how I had taken years of ballet



Mikhail Baryshnikov & Kate Johnson c.1990
Photo credit - Annie Leibovitz

and still could do a Grande Plié. Acting a bit over the top, which I sometimes did, I grabbed the handle on the refrigerator and proceeded to arrange my feet into position and then descend to the floor with arms out in perfect movement. (Now I was slightly overweight at that time, so I didn't look the part of a dancer.) As I rose, I my eyes drifted towards the doorway and there he was; Mikhail Baryshnikov himself gazing at me. He immediately lifted his arm, extended his hand and pointed at me exclaiming "Fantasia!" The room erupted in laughter, including myself. He sauntered over to me, reached out and shook my hand. "That was great fun" he said. After our introductions, the conversation continued including everything from dance to fashion and New York. This was a night, I would not every forget.

A few years later, during my culinary career in Charlotte, I was approached by a newly forming group called Dance Charlotte. They were beginning a ballet company and managed to obtain a stop from the NY City Ballet company, with their first performance on their first tour. To my surprise, Mikhail Baryshnikov had taken over as Artistic Director and was leading and dancing on the tour. I immediately said yes, I would cater a Patron's Reception after the performance all the while thinking, "I wonder if he would remember me, after these years?" I never forgot him. So, I went about creating a special Russian Themed reception, even though he is Ukrainian not Russian. The day of the performance, I was on the stage going over plans for where the food stations would be and how much time I would have to bring them out and set them up after the performance. Standing downstage, I bent over reaching the floor to pick up something. As I came back up and turned looking upstage, I saw a small figure standing still and glaring at me. He moved closer and threw out his hand pointing towards me and exclaimed "Fantasia!" He remembered! I couldn't believe it. We caught up back stage and he remarked how he had not forgotten, the crazy guy that made him laugh with my ballet move and our meeting.

Years later, I was a bit down after just learning one of my inoperable medical conditions gave me a diagnosis of

a year. The timing was right to help forget about it and I agreed to accompany friends on a trip over Labor Day weekend to Pensacola. We were all sitting around the pool and the conversation came up about seeing "Love, Valor and Compassion" and cracking up over the scene with the guys doing a ballet dance in dressed in Tutus. (It was a Pas de Quatre, which means dance of the little swans.) After they finished all the details about how funny the dance was, I nudged a close friend sitting next to me and started to relay my story about Mikhail, New York, Charlotte and my dancing.

We all had a good laugh about my story and the weekend turned out to be a lot of fun and escape from my diagnosis. A few days after returning home, I received a package in the mail. I didn't remember ordering anything and proceeded to opened it up. As I tore away the packing material, there was an envelope and a glass sculpture of Hyacinth, the Hippopotamus from Fantasia posing in fourth position. That close friend, Godo Frabel the famous glass artist, had created this special original piece in glass just for me. His note told me how he was taken by my sense of humor and outlook on life and not give up- just keep telling my stories so we all could have a smile on our faces.

Today, every time I enter the living room, I pass by that sculpture of Hyacinth sitting atop my chest and do just what has kept me going all these years. . . Smile. (Oh, I have outlived the prognosis by 20 years and counting, though the tumor is still there and now I have additional health complications causing me to be bed ridden most of the time; but I haven't given up and yes, I still Smile.)



Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the April/May 2016 issue of the Newsletter.

Crows: Naughty Ninjas

Cherie Morris

There's something about crows – black, menacing ninjas, muttering “Nevermore.” Personally I'm a crow lover and I will try to convert you – resistance is futile!

Caw! Caw!

Yes, they can be noisy, but so can humans when we get together. Like many of us, crows are very social and surprisingly family oriented. Let's start with the “caws” that seem most prevalent early in the morning. This is the standard communication that serves as greeting, warning, general gossiping, kids arguing and males bragging. In April the communication will change to a higher pitched whining when the females are stuck on a nest and saying, “FOOD! Over here, dear!” Dutifully, dad and his family helpers will deliver a tasty morsel. Extended family groups often include kids from previous broods, parent's brothers and sisters and occasionally neighborhood “adoptees.” Family groups can number as large as 15, and the kids often hang around for years, squabbling and playing. Sound familiar?



Extremely Intelligent Birds

Crows are opportunistic feeders, basically omnivores. They're also part of nature's clean-up crew, darting expertly into traffic, tidying up remains of more unfortunate and less agile neighbors. Super intelligent, crows can mimic human words and a variety of sounds. Curiosity, not always an advantage, leads them to inspect shiny objects and often

collect them in nests which have yielded spare change, nuts and bolts, and lost earrings. Years ago, as a docent at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, I became fond of a rescued crow, no longer able to fly. He was dubbed Edgar Allen Crow and quickly became a favorite resident. He loved to wolf whistle at all the girls and could deftly mimic a barking dog causing frequent confusion in the bird enclosure! Then he enjoyed a good chuckle (oddly similar to his keeper's) at our expense.

Local Crow Bar

If you would like to observe crows more closely, having mature trees in your neighborhood is helpful. Leave a pile of small sticks and dryer lint for nesting. To create a local “crow bar,” try tossing some food scraps in a location where possums and raccoons can't reach them or leave some shiny pennies in a birdbath or feeder. Normally crows are not visitors to seed feeders but curiosity (or juicy grapes!) can attract them. If you should glimpse a wing tag on one, be sure to notify the Cornell University Ornithology Lab. They love to know where their tagged birds land!

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Visit Montford.org to learn more.

67 Furman Avenue




JUST LISTED! \$585,000

This large 2230 Sq Ft home has 3 bedrooms and 2 & 1/2 baths. It is one-story with off-street parking and easy wheelchair access in the rear.

This lovely home has been fully renovated featuring new sheetrock, insulation, HVAC, roof, windows, flooring, electrical, and plumbing.

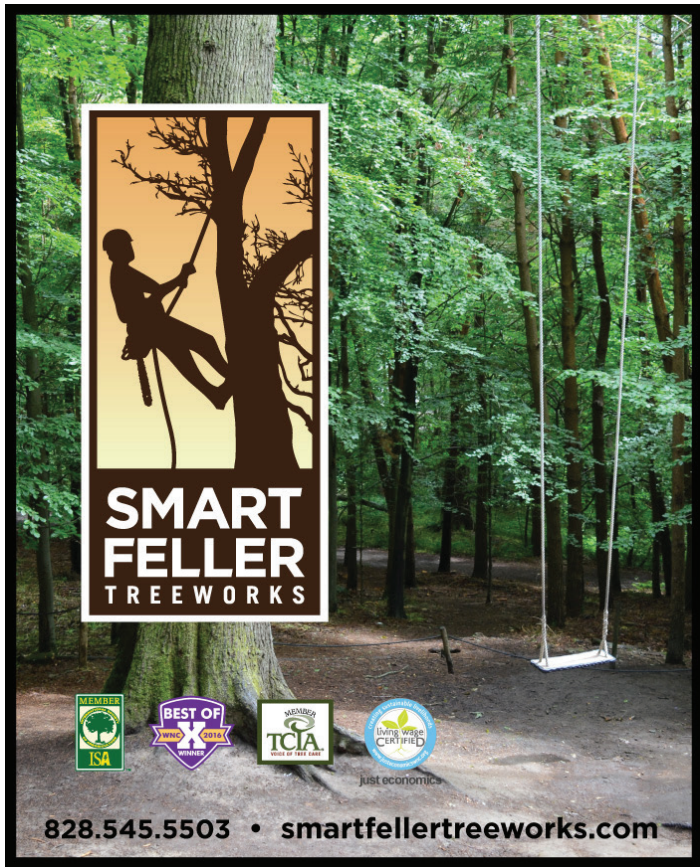
The open floor plan features nine-foot ceilings, custom kitchen with stainless steel and solid surface countertops, and new custom tile bathrooms. Close to everything, it is just blocks from Downtown, Harris Teeter, Trader Joes, restaurants, a bakery, a butcher, and coffee shops.

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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.
- **Sarah Baker is our new Community Resource Officer. Contact her at sbaker@ashevillenc.gov**




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Dear Dylan,

I'm staying at home for the most part and preparing my own meals at home. However, my culinary talents are—dare I say—lacking. What are my options for takeout in Montford? — Hungry

Dear Hungry,

I feel your pain, but you are in luck. There are several excellent food establishments on Montford Avenue. Here's a list.

**Ask Dylan****All Day Darling**

102 Montford Ave, Asheville, NC 28801

Take-out and outdoor seating**Hours:**

9am - 9pm Everyday

Coffee & Pastries Only until 10am

Full menu available after 10am

To Order:

- Order in-person from the walk-up window.
- By Phone: (828) 505-3701
- Website: Order/Pay

<https://www.alldaydarlingavl.com/>

- Pre-order (one day ahead): Cakes, breads, baked goods boxes, cookies by the dozen, whole quiche, etc.

Chiesa

152 Montford Ave. Asheville, NC 28801

Patio Dining, Curbside Pick Up**Hours:**

- Monday -Saturday from 5-9pm

To Order:

- By Phone Only: (828) 552-3110

Nine Mile

233 Montford Ave, Asheville, NC 28801

Take-out**Hours:**

- 11:30am - 8pm Everyday

To Order:

- By Phone Only: (828) 505-3701

Montford Deli

231 Montford Ave, Asheville, NC 28801

(Inside the Montford Corner Store)

Take-out**Hours:**

10am - 7pm Monday-Friday

11am - 5 pm Saturday

Closed Sunday

To Order:

- Order in-person from the walk-up window.
- By Phone: (828) 707-7362

Montford Corner Store

231 Montford Ave, Asheville, NC 28801

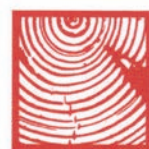
828-258-1879

Hours:

9am - 11pm Monday-Saturday

9am - 10pm Sunday

Note: Hours and order details are subject to change at all restaurant locations.



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Forever Montford

The Sanctuary of Trees

Lynn Raker

Hindsight is 2020. As we look back on this year, we will regret as a country not paying closer attention to warnings of a potential pandemic. We will regret as a nation tolerating 400 years of systemic racism and gaping economic disparity. Let us not, as a neighborhood, regret that we did not take action to help ensure the health and comfort of our residents and inclusivity of all our citizens.

My assignment was to update you on the Montford Tree Grant. Tell me, how do we segue from the life and death events with which we are struggling to how many trees were planted because of the grant? Yet somehow, I maintain, the actions are connected.

Montford is a vibrant neighborhood where generations of residents from varied backgrounds weave a colorful tapestry of stories. Our ecosystem with its diverse flora and fauna is the weft, providing a dependable foundation for Montford's quirky street network and charming architecture. Our residents are the warp, weaving in and out as they tend their gardens, raise their families, and socialize with neighbors. We only work well when both systems are healthy and interactive.



Unless you have been a complete hermit, you cannot help but to have noticed a marked increase in Montford foot traffic since mid-March. Many walkers have come from other

neighborhoods. Just the other day on Pearson Drive I overheard a young woman tell her companion, "the Poetry for Passers-by is just ahead." She was referring to what I think of as a poetry respite on a stick, which neighbor Alida Woods refreshes every day – for the many

passers-by. Even on a hot, sunny afternoon, you can stand in the shade of a tall white oak and drift for a few moments into the poet's world.



Closer to town on Pearson Drive, a neighbor has announced their allegiance with a bold One Love - BLM banner across the second floor of their home. I was immediately drawn into the leafy setting both by the declaration and that it is an affirmation that unites our neighborhood. The shade of the old sweet gum allowed me to stand

for a few moments and ponder the deeper meaning of the statement.

Across the street, my neighbors Jo and Kevin Hogan have installed a tree swing for their 3-year old grandson who has recently relocated with his family from Portland to Asheville. The majestic white oak on which the swing



hangs may be a century old - probably not coincidentally, the age of their house.

Trees mean different things to different people. Sadly, some of the connotations are painful, as in the indelible scars left from racial atrocities throughout the South just a few decades ago.

Yet, as a salve for an ailing environment, the planting of trees is one of our more accessible remedies. Trees cool the earth, clean the

Forever Montford

air, recycle moisture, and provide homes and nutrients for our wildlife. We cannot live without them.

Watching the City-sponsored “Building our City” webinar last week, Dr. Richard Jackson, speaking on building healthy cities, extolled the value of trees to our environment. He remarked, “We don’t plant trees for ourselves, we plant them for our children and grandchildren.” The Montford Neighborhood is on board with that philosophy. About one year ago, we initiated a tree grant to encourage residents to plant more trees for our future generations. We are happy to say, over the course of one year, the MNA helped fund the planting of 36 trees in the neighborhood. The grants totaled \$2,029

and leveraged \$8,523 value in plantings, including contract labor in some cases.

We must change the course of economic disparity and racial inequity. We must try to change the course of the COVID 19 pandemic. And we will continue to plant trees to replenish the environment and try to sustain a healthier place to raise families, connect with neighbors, and contemplate poetry.

WELCOME PACKET

Randy Hall

Forever Montford, a committee of the Montford Neighborhood Association (MNA) has created a Welcome Packet for new Montford residents. The packet contains information such as a brief history of Montford, a list of MNA board members along with contact information, Montford listserv, Montford newsletter, neighborhood parks, events (due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, be sure to confirm event dates/times), restaurants, maps, volunteer opportunities and much more. Packets are being delivered by MNA board and Forever Montford committee members upon learning of new residents. Recipients of the Welcome Packet have shown great appreciation with one neighboring writing, “Looks like we lucked out in the neighbor and neighborhood department! I appreciate the history and local information. Well done, and thank you for your thoughtfulness.”



If you are new to Montford or know of a new resident, please contact one of the below, and we will coordinate delivery of a Welcome Packet.

Randy Hall: cpabanker@yahoo.com

Leslie Humphrey: leslie@squarepeginc.net

Sherree Lucas: sherree.l.lucas@gmail.com

Lynn Raker: lynn.raker@gmail.com

Resource Directory

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

Green Corner Mitch Russell

I hope all is well. I'll get these to you sooner starting in August.

Summer is upon us, but not quite feeling like it, which is a good thing.

Tips for reducing over-usage, saving money, and staying cool this summer.

Gas up before temperature hits 70 or after it drops to 70. Doing so will reduce ground-level ozone that builds up as gasoline heats up.

Combine trips as much as possible. If going to Trader Joe's, Greenlife and Harris Teeter in one outing then park at Trader Joe's and walk to the other two stores. The same can be done for Ingle's, Sav Mor, and The Fresh Market. You can include area businesses like AAA, Duck Donuts, or Ace as walkable destinations when visiting one of the above grocery stores.

Water plants/grass in the morning & on non-windy days. This will reduce the amount of water that either evaporates due to higher temperatures or gets blown off-target on windy days. Also, it will allow the water to soak in and as is the case with phlox, the water will eventually evaporate and not damage the plants.

Do laundry early in the morning or in the evening/at night so that you don't heat up your house and need to run the a/c.

Same for cooking or prepare on one day and freeze or use the grill more.

Take advantage of the cool nights and utilize ceiling fans or box fans to cool down your house.



The Montford Newsletter is published online by the Montford Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 7181, Asheville, NC 28802, for the residents of Asheville's first historic neighborhood. We welcome articles and advertising by the 20th of the month. Opinions expressed in this newsletter by contributing authors do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the MNA.

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