



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 25 No. 9
SEPTEMBER '20

Photo Courtesy the North Carolina Room at Pack Library

TAKE A HIKE!

In Montford, that is!



Montford is arguably the most walkable neighborhood in town attracting walkers and runners with its 200 acres of beautiful landscape, sidewalks, paved trails, and historic homes. Even the Pandemic did not dampen the appeal of Asheville's urban pedestrian destination. *As you walk past folks, be a good neighbor and keep your mask handy.*

OK, Montford is a wonderful place to walk. What else makes it special? Well, Montford is in the 28801 zip code. This means, if you walk south you will be in historic downtown Asheville in minutes, with everything that entails.

Wear your mask.

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TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Center Update

We are going to be opening up for our regular after school customers so they can be here from 8am to 6pm. In addition, we continue to visit parks throughout Asheville with our Rec N Roll van providing free games and activities for all age. The Rec N Roll schedule can be found on the Asheville Parks & Recreation FaceBook page. The playground is still closed at this time.

Shana Kriewall

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



Cancelations etc.

The Montford Music & Arts Festival - Postponed

The Festival Committee is working to determine the safest way to proceed with a version of the Festival. Stay tuned!

The Holiday Tour of Homes - Canceled

Most of you have heard this—the Tour committee has decided to cancel the December 2020 Tour due to the pandemic.

Montford Park Players - Season Canceled

As part of this decision, the board voted to move the previously scheduled 2020 shows to the 2021 season.

Halloween at Tempie Avery Montford Center - Possible Alternatives

Tempie Avery Montford Center is looking at alternatives. Outdoor activities may be possible.

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Voter Information (Part 2)

The November General Election Is only about 2 Months Away and it's time for Montford Residents to plan their vote. There are three ways to vote in Buncombe County in the General Election: Absentee, Early Voting, and Voting on November 3 (Election Day). Here's some information to assist you in your planning process. We've also included the races and candidates which will appear on the ballot you will receive as a Montford Precinct Resident.

1. ABSENTEE BALLOT (also called Voting By Mail)

Here's a summary of what you need to know about voting by absentee ballot:

- Anyone registered to vote in North Carolina can vote by mail.
- You do not need a reason to request an absentee ballot.
- You can request an absentee ballot and then decide to vote in person.
- You must request your ballot by October 27.
- Ballots will be mailed starting September 4.
- You only need one witness on your ballot

In order to vote by absentee ballot, you must :

A. Request an Absentee Ballot by:

1. Computer: Download the Absentee Ballot Request form on your computer and print it. Copy this link into your browser to download the request form: <http://bit.ly/BuncombeBallotRequest>
2. Phone: Call the Buncombe Board of Election Services at (828) 250-4200 and press '0' to speak to a staff member. Ask for an 'absentee ballot request' form and it will be mailed to you.
3. In-person: Request forms also may be picked up at Election Services office: 77 McDowell Street, Asheville, NC 28801 Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
4. Online: Coming soon. The NC State Board of Elections will have an online portal available by September 1st.

The board of elections must receive your request by October 27. (BUT: to make sure your absentee ballot is counted it's best that you request an absentee ballot as soon as possible, and certainly by mid-October.)

B. Return Completed Absentee Ballot Request Form By Mail, Hand Delivery or e-mail to the Board of Election Services, or at Early Voting

You (or your near relative or legal guardian) should fill out the form, including your full legal name and address, your date of birth, and either your NC Driver's License number or DMV-issued ID or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. Indicate which election you want a ballot for and the address where you want your ballot to be mailed.

Make sure you sign the form at the bottom.

<p>Mail To: Buncombe County Board of Election Services PO Box 7468, Asheville, NC 28802 PO Box 7468, Asheville, NC 28802</p>	<p>Hand deliver to: Buncombe County Board of Election Services, 77 McDowell Street Asheville, NC 28801, M-F 8AM to 5 PM</p>	<p>Email your completed request form to: elections@buncombecounty.org.</p>
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2. EARLY VOTING

Early voting begins on October 15 and continues to October 31 at 16 different voting sites listed below. While the general deadline for registering to vote in the General Election or updating your registration information is October 9, there is an exception to the registration deadline for Early Voting. Persons can register to vote at an early voting site and then vote the same day. Also, completed absentee ballots can be presented at an early voting and the absentee ballot will be counted.

The early voting hours are:

- Monday through Friday 8 AM to 7:30 PM
- Saturday 10 AM - 3 PM
- Sunday- 10 AM - 3 PM
- Saturday October 31 (last day) 8 AM to 3 PM

BUNCOMBE COUNTY EARLY VOTING SITES:

1. Asheville Mall (Old McAllister's Entrance Near Dillard's), 3 S. Tunnel Road, Asheville
2. Asheville Outlet Mall (store/place TBD) 800 Brevard Road, Asheville
3. Bee Tree Fire Department, 510 Bee Tree Road, Swannanoa
4. Black Mountain Library, 105 N. Dougherty St., Black Mountain
5. Dr. Wesley Grant Senior Center, 285 Livingston Street, Asheville
6. Enka-Candler Library 1404 Sand Hill Road, Candler
7. Fairview Community Center, 1357 Charlotte Highway, Fairview
8. Harrah's Cherokee Center (Civic Center) 87 Haywood Street, Asheville
9. Land of Sky Regional Council, 339 Leicester Hwy., # 140, Leicester

10. Leicester Community Center, 2979 New Leicester Hwy., Leicester
11. Reynolds Village, 50 N. Merrimon Ave., #107, Asheville
12. South Buncombe Library, 260 Overlook Road, Asheville
13. Turtle Creek Shopping Center, r23 Turtle Creek Drive, Asheville
14. UNC Asheville Campus, 1 University Height, Highsmith Student Union, Asheville
15. West Asheville Community Center, 970 Haywood Road, Asheville
16. Weaverville Town Hall, 30 S. Main Street, Weaverville

We hope this information will assist you in formulating your voting plan and making an informed choice about who to vote for. Above all, we hope that all of you WILL VOTE!

If you have additional questions you can contact the Buncombe County Board of Election Services located at 77 McDowell Street, Telephone Number (828) 250-4200. Also, their website is a valuable source of information: <https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/election/Default.aspx>

3. VOTING ON ELECTION DAY, November 3

Montford Precinct residents vote at the Montford North Star Academy, 90 Montford Avenue on election day. The polls open at 6:30 AM on election day and close at 7:30 PM .

4. CANDIDATES

Visit this link to see a full list of candidates: <http://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020candidates.pdf>



Forever Montford

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



FEATURED HOME

The history of 178 West Chestnut Street

The origin of this property started in 1868, when Loranzo Love, an African-American serving as Butler to Nicholas Woodfin, purchased a 2-1/2 acre parcel, from his employer. The property was known as Lot. No. 8 on a survey/subdivision made by Thomas W. Patton. The lot was in "The Old Fields" near the Asheville Male Academy, at the northwest end of North Main Street. When the Montford Subdivision was formed twenty years later, the property formed the southwest corner of Gay Street and Montford Avenue. The property now encompasses the lots from the southwest corner of Montford Avenue and West Chestnut westward along the south margin of West Chestnut to Pearson Drive. Loranzo and his wife Anna Wilson Love, built a small house on the eastern end of the lot facing North Main Street (Montford Avenue).

Although Loranzo showed on the 1870 in the household of Nicholas Woodfin, he and Anna actually lived in their home on North Main Street, with their two children, John Lorenzo and Emma. However, just two years later, in 1872. Perhaps because he was the Butler to a lawyer, Lorenzo had prepared a well written and detailed Will, instructing that his wife Anna was to have, "in lieu of dower", at least one-half acre on "the eastern end" on which "the dwelling house and garden are situate", for the use of her natural life. Lorenzo also willed a 3/4 acre portion

on "the lower or western end, next to Tempie Avery's lot" to his mother, Lazenias Brown, wife of Daniel Brown for the use of her life. However, the remainder of the property, "about one acre and a quarter, as well as the reversionary interest in Lots No. 2 and 3, herein given to my wife and mother at their respective deaths, to my two children . . . to be by them held jointly and equally forever". Lorenzo goes on to name his children as "John Quincy, born

before the marriage between me and my wife, and Lu Emma Kate, born since said marriage."

Anna remarried four years later, in 1876, to barber William Henry Martin, to which she subsequently bore three more sons and

another daughter. Anna and her children, John & Lula moved from the house on the Love property to William's house at 102 Mountain Street (now part of the East End). Anna passed away in August of 1890. At the time, John & Lula were 21 and 19 years of age (respectively) and living at the Martin home on Mountain Street.

Although John & Lula Love were living with their half-siblings and step-father in 1890, they had inherited the Lorenzo Love property at the time of their mother's death. Although we don't know who was living on Love property at the time, the 1891 Bird's-Eye View, clearly shows a one-story house on the property-no doubt the old Lorenzo Love house from 1868. I assume that it was being leased out to another Negro family.



The stories of John & Lula Love are too long to fully document here, except as pertains to this property. John



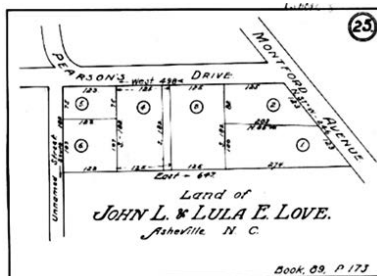
John L. Love, c. 1930
from *The Crisis*,
Vol. 37 No. 6,

& Lula were sent off to college (*I suspect through the auspices of the work of St. Mathias Church*) in 1890, John to Oberlin College, in Ohio and Lula to Livingstone College in Salisbury. After graduating from Oberlin, John transferred to the Catholic University, in Washington, DC. Lula subsequently attended and graduated from Howard University.

Both siblings evidently ended up in Washington, DC, where they were taken into the home of noted black educator, Anna J. Cooper. Both John and Lula became notable teachers (John later as professor). John even became an early leader in calling for “black rights”, with his 1899 publication of *The Disenfranchisement of the Negro*. However, in the mid 1890s, both John & Lula had returned to Asheville.

In May of 1894 John & Lula had the property surveyed and subdivided into six lots. They decided to equally split their inheritance with John taking title to Lots 2, 4, & 5 and Lula taking Lots 1, 3, & 6. Although they may have intended to sell each of their lots separately, in 1899, John & Lula, who had both accepted teaching positions in Washington, DC, decided to sell the property in its entirety to Alabaman Samuel Doan Holt, for \$5,000.

It was announced at the time of the sale to Holt, that the “*unsightly Negro quarters and butcher shop*” on the property in “*this fashionable neighborhood*” would be removed and that Mr. Holt would build a handsome residence on the lot. From this description it appears that the property had not been maintained, not surprising considering that John & Lula were young absentee landlords. While Mr. Sloan did build a handsome residence



(the stucco house at 166 West Chestnut), he also built and opened a grocery store at the corner of Montford and West Chestnut (*now 171 Montford Ave.*).

S. D. Holt operated his new grocery store for only three years before selling it to Charles W. Baird in 1902. At the time Holt retained his residence and remainder of his property. But prior to selling his store, beginning in 1900, Holt began selling off the remaining portion of the property in small lots. Although there appears to be no recorded “plat” for the new lots, they were mostly 50 feet wide and extend south along Montford, and west along Gay Street (soon changed to West Chestnut Street).

One of the first to purchase a lot from S. D. Holt was John B. Wilson and his wife Agnes R. Wilson. Actually, the deed was in Agnes’ name only. In fact the newspaper reported on December 1, 1900, that “*Watson & Reagan, real estate agents have sold to Mrs. Agnes Wilson a lot on Stacy [Gay] Street. Mrs. Wilson will build a cottage on the lot.*”

The young couple had just married the year before. It was reported that the bridegroom, John B. Wilson, was “a member of the force at Mrs. L. A. Johnson’s furniture store”. A few years later, John’s occupation was listed in the city directories as “carpenter”, and even later as “painter”. Perhaps he built the young couple’s new cottage at 17 Gay Street, or at least assisted in the construction. Agnes Wilson was a dressmaker, who worked out of their home.

The Wilson’s only lived in their new cottage for less than six years, selling the home in 1906 to Frank F. Brown. Although Frank Brown’s name was on the deed, he had purchased the home for his son and daughter-in-law, Walter & Essie Brown. Walter was a superintendent at the Swannanoa Laundry.

Shortly after their purchase, that portion of Gay Street form Montford Avenue to Pearson Drive was changed to West Chestnut, and the house’s street address became “178 West Chestnut”.



The Brown family became long-term owners of the house. They were successful in business, so much so that they were able to purchase a large “touring car”, for which they advertised for sale in 1924. They were apparently “downsizing” as they advertised their “Cleveland Six” for sale, or trade for “smaller car.”



cut from a single piece of Appalachian hardwood, and locally forged iron stair rail.

Susan undertook a complete renovation. The original front portion of the house, with its four-room plan, was retained. A later back addition was demolished and replaced by a great room, master bedroom, and a large master bath. The exposed ceiling beams in the great room are reclaimed barn wood. Outdoor improvements include a new garage, river stone wall, and full landscaping, including a fountain and goldfish pond.

Compiled by: Dale Wayne Slusser, October 2019

Walter Brown died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1941. His wife Essie continued to live in the family home until her death in 1965. At that time the home was sold to barber Ralph B. Bird and his wife Helen Boyd Bird. Ralph passed away in 1983. A few years later, Helen’s daughter (from her first husband) Betty Lou Ballard and her husband S. G. Ballard, moved into the home to take care her mother. Helen Bird died at the ago of 90 years old in 1995. Betty & S. G. Ballard continued to live in the home for their remaining years. Following the death of Betty Lou Ballard in 2001, her family continued to live in the house until It was purchased by Susan Murray in 2017.

Susan Murray has traveled widely and lived in five different countries. Her home displays both treasures from her travels and local artwork, all reflecting her keen sense of design. Note particularly: in the parlor, fireplace surround with tiles from Provence; in the kitchen, large wall screen from India; in the dining area, small chest from China, large painting from Vietnam, dining table

1. Will of Lorenzo Love, dated August 26, 1872, witnessed by Nichols Woodfin. Ancestry.com
2. Ibid.
3. Asheville Citizen Times, August 16, 1890, page 4.
4. Asheville City Directory & Business Reflex (Charleston, SC: Walker, Evans, & Cogswell Printers, 1890).
5. See Plat of “Land of John & Lula Love”, May 18, 1894, Bk. 8, page 25 and Bk. 89, page 173, Buncombe County Register of Deeds.
6. May 18, 1894, Lula E Love to John L. Love, LOTS 2-4-5 BK 35 P 226, Bk. 90 page 302, Buncombe County Register of Deeds.
7. May 18, 1894, John L. Love to Lula E. Love, LOTS 1-3-6 BK 35 P 226, Bk. 90 page 304, Buncombe County Register of Deeds.
8. “\$5,000 Sale: Prominent Alabamian Will Improve Montford Avenue Property”, Asheville Citizen Times, July 29, 1899.
9. Asheville Citizen Times, December 1, 1900, page 8.
10. Asheville Citizen Times, September 25, 1899, page 4.
11. Asheville Citizen Times, May 10, 1924, page 13. The Cleveland was an American Automobile that was a smaller and cheaper version of the Chandler. The Cleveland Automobile Co. (1919-1926) was formed by F.C. Chandler, Samuel Regar and The Homblower & Weeks Co. Frederick Chandler and Samuel Regar managed both The Cleveland Automobile Co. and The Chandler Motor Car Co. of Cleveland, Ohio.

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Reed Creek (before)



Reed Creek (current progress)

Thinking Like a Stream

A Brief Overview of Our Reed Creek Restoration—Past, Present, and Future

By The Broadway of Asheville

Over the past 20 months, our team here at The Broadway of Asheville have been working with Headwaters Engineering to restore a portion of Reed Creek. Local residents may have noticed the stream banks' declining condition over the years. It has been our intention to restore this portion of the stream and, in turn, enhance the living conditions for native flora and fauna.

Kevin Kerr, Co-Developer of The Broadway of Asheville explains, "Our creek restoration project entails riverway improvements including rock formations and re-vegetation, clearing debris, and improving the flow of the river. As The Broadway construction progresses, residents in Montford will discover a noticeably cleaner and clearer section of Reed Creek to enjoy and admire."

The restoration project has focused on a tributary to Reed Creek from its headwaters downstream of Starnes Avenue to the bridge at Elizabeth Street. Neglected for decades and used as a dumping ground for waste concrete and other debris, the restored stream will include a series of stone structures that will stabilize the stream bed and create riffle-pool sequences similar to what existed before the neighborhood was developed in the early 1900's. The project will also establish riparian buffers using native plant species such as dogwood, willow, elderberry and ninebark, according to Headwaters Engineering's Principal Engineer, Andrew Bick.

"The Reed Creek Stream Restoration project is a win-win for area residents and the environment. Efforts such as this project will add to Asheville's natural beauty and positively impact our environmental health"

—Jay Lurie, Co-Developer of The Broadway of Asheville

The result is an environmentally cleaned-up and re-landscaped section of Reed Creek between Elizabeth Street and Starnes Avenue, creating a pathway for long-term sustainability and transforming an underutilized site into a vibrant and engaging center of residential connectivity and greenway access along Broadway's gateway corridor.

2020 is an exciting year for the Broadway Street corridor. The Broadway of Asheville, a modern, 20-home community showcasing today's urban brownstone-inspired living, is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2021!

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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 8/12/20

Members present: Chair Emily Kite, Bryan Moffitt, Valeria Watson, Emily Spreng, William Eakins, Benjamin Mitchell, Gail Lazaras, Will Hornaday
 Staff present: Alex Cole, Jannice Ashley

Item, Summary and Action

17 Cullowhee Street—Construction of screened porch on rear elevation.

Action—Approved

228 Montford Avenue—Replacement of an existing two-story porch on rear elevation.

Action—Continued

242 Montford Avenue—Rehabilitation of structure, including repair, replacement and relocation of windows and doors, construction of a deck on rear elevation and removal of trees.

Action—Approved with Conditions

279 Cumberland Avenue—Construction of a two-story, 3,000 square foot primary structure.

Action—Continued

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

HRC Application Portal

The city is now accepting HRC applications digitally via the Development Portal at this address:

<https://develop.ashevillenc.gov/>

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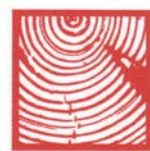
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- Call your neighbors,
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A New Little Free Library and Poetry for Passersby

Alida Woods



At the beginning of the pandemic I wondered how I could help. It seemed unwise to volunteer as I would in another time given my age, and the beloved schools I had left for retirement were closed. With the help of my husband, I began a daily poem posted at the top of our driveway. The world seemed hungry for poetry and I was happy to find words for the many who were, indeed, passersby in our neighborhood. I posted a poem on the Poetry for Passersby board every day until July 1 when I took it down. Since then, so many neighbors, walkers, runners, and bikers have asked *What happened to the poetry?*

So with the addition of the newest (we think) Little Free Library in Montford, we are back with a new and improved Poetry for Passersby at 282 Pearson Drive. My husband designed and built a wonderful house for books and a new platform for poems. A generous friend and neighbor contributed artwork. The world still needs poetry—yours, mine, and the many voices speaking to us all in this time of being together alone. As the poet Roque Dalton wrote, *Poetry, like bread, is for everyone.*

We hope you will stop by with a book, take a book, and read a poem. We hope you will share a poem for others to read. You can do this by sending a poem to alidawoods@gmail.com.

A Mother's Tale

Jerry Conner, Westover Drive

Growing up was a unique experience around our household; with my mom being a cross between Lucile Ball and "Leave it to Beaver's" mom, June Cleaver. You never knew what the day would bring; from an adventure to a bit of zany.

Every time the TV series "My Little Margie" or "The Gail Storm show" would come on, mom would stop and relive memories of when she left home in Evanston, Illinois at the urging of friends to go to Hollywood. Train travel back in the 1930s was an adventure in itself. While onboard, my mom, a very gregarious person (I think that's where I get my personality from) met and was befriended by Leo Gorcey, best known from the movie gang called the "Dead End Kids." He introduced her to a number of "B" list stars traveling to LA as well. They became friends during the trip and it was suggested that she stop by Monogram Pictures and given a name to contact. Mom did and got a job immediately as a receptionist. She began going out with the gang she met on the train and also dating Leo. Among the group was Gail Storm, she and mom became good friends and later suggested that they become roommates.

Those days at Monogram Studios were relayed with so many stories of their escapades; that they really sounded like part of a movie script. Steve Martin's famous line about "being such a wild and crazy guy" definitely would apply to my mom – then and up until her death. She lived a crazy and active life compared to others. As World War II wound down, Gail moved out to get married, Leo moved on to his next wife and mom began joining friends at the USO for dances with the guys. You have seen the many films about the stage door canteen and USO shows; the way mom told it: they were so true. It was as if the script was life imitating the movies.

One evening a not so tall but very handsome young marine came in and swept her off her feet. My dad was convalescing from wounds incurred while on Iwo Jima in the Pacific and happened to be at the USO the same time as mom. He didn't dance; but, his warm smile, dark hair and uniform was all it took. After a whirlwind 6-month romance, they were married on one of the sound stages at Monogram, where she continued to work until Dad was transferred to Great Lakes, north of where my mom grew up. As a decorated war hero, dad was assigned to recruiting duty which next took him to Lexington, KY.

Here is where I enter the picture. Now, Laurena (Lonnie) Thiel Conner became a mom.



Jerry 2 years old with Mom

It is only natural to place our mothers on a pedestal as being the best around. To me, I couldn't have had a better one. Growing up, that same fun-loving, crazy young gal never left her persona, even as she aged. While she grew up in the Chicago area, it didn't take long for my mom to settle into a Southern Way of Life and mix the gentle manners of the south with a witty sense of humor. It just so happened that my aunt had a horse farm in Lexington, KY, and my mom fit

right in with the horse crowd when she visited. She loved to tell me about my first "Kentucky Derby." My aunt had a box at Churchill Downs for the Derby and invited mom and I to join her in the box. They rushed out shopping for the big day and outfitted me in jodhpur pants, Chesterfield jacket, and even black riding boots (which wasn't bad for a 2 yr. old). On the day of the Derby, my aunt came down the stairs dressed in a fancy hat and a cashmere coat with a big blue fox fur collar. We got in the car and I reached over and began petting my aunt's collar, thinking it was a pet sleeping. The driver kept turning around to see if we were ok, as both my mom and aunt were laughing so hard about my attentiveness to her collar.

When we arrived, mom beamed with pride on her little boy walking in between them "just like a horse owner" she said. We got to the box and I stood on the chair
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holding onto the rail and waving to those around us. When the race began, I got so excited that I almost fell out of the box until my Aunt grabbed me. Everyone around her, mostly my aunt's friends kept complimenting me and my mom. She said that I was the hit of their box at the Derby.

I always remember that my mom kept herself busy with numerous jobs, volunteer work, and social clubs. We kids were taught the importance of giving back and doing for others from an early age. Even though we had help for the upkeep of the house, she always took the time to prepare meals or bake special "goodies" for us. She was a great cook and baker; which became the influencer of my love for cooking.

One of mom's special attributes was she always kept a journal of friends and major members of her different organizations and their important dates. She always remembered everyone with a card and/or special gift or baked "goodie" on those occasions. She kept a closet at home filled with gifts purchased on trips for those friends. When she died, among the many tributes at her funeral were the tremendous number of remembrances about her kindness and thoughtfulness through the years. One note from a dear friend just said, "no more goodies from Lonnie, what will I do and who will think about me; I will never forget her".

Remember, the zany side of Lonnie. We lived on the coast not far from Sneads Ferry, a fishing community. Mom decided that she wanted to get some shrimp for the freezer, just like dad would do when he was here. So, she called up one of the captains and asked about buying some shrimp off the boat. He replied that he only sells the catch as a whole and gave mom a wholesale price per pound.

Mom was so excited that she was getting such a good deal, the agreement was made. The day came for us to meet up with the boat and bring back the catch. The station wagon, we still had one, was loaded in the back with ice chests for the shrimp and off we went. Upon arriving, mom soon discovered that what she thought would be around 20 lbs was more like 200 lbs. She bought the entire boat! Sounds something like an episode from "I Love Lucy". Now, here we are standing next to the car, just laughing so hard our stomachs were hurting. Mom ran over to the phone and called up Sears, talked to the

manager; whom she knew well, and explained that she needed a freezer fast. Even though it was near closing time, they arranged to deliver it to our home and set it up in an outer room, in the back of the house. We proceeded to load up the shrimp in everything we could find, luckily the captain was helpful with additional containers, and everything fit in the car. Well, almost. There wasn't room for us, so we all squeezed into the front seat and headed off for home.

What do you do with 200 lbs. of shrimp to get it ready for freezing? First, you have to pop the heads off and then fill up freezer bags. Remember the famous episode of Lucy and Ethel at the candy factory?

Mom called a couple neighbors over and here we were all sitting in the back yard, flipping shrimp heads off and stuffing them in bags. It took us most of the evening, but we managed to get them all done and filling up the new freezer. This was just one example of mom's crazy antics. We never wanted for dull moments, there just weren't any. When my dad learned about her adventure with the shrimp, all he could do was laugh as well. He just said, "that's your mom, we will just have to live with her and love her even more."

I went to school at Western Carolina about 60 miles from Asheville and my mom would come up and visit from time to time. She would make it a weekend and stay at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. Back in the 60s it only consisted of the main stone building. Inside the lobby was the entire length of the main hall. Overstuffed couches and chairs spread throughout with massive rugs covering the floor.

Arriving on Friday, after checking in, mom would drive over to campus and we would go out for dinner. I would treat her to my favorite restaurant, "The Parkway" in Sylva. I would joke with my mom, that their pies were better than hers. Their pies had 4+ inches of meringue on top and the fillings were homemade. Mom would usually agree about how good they were; but remind me that the crust wasn't as good as hers. She was right.

On Saturday, I would drive over to Asheville and meet mom for lunch at the Inn and then go shopping or just spend the day downtown. In the evening, she would treat me to dinner at the top of the Northwestern Bank

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Building, now the Arras. It was spectacular with views of Mt. Pisgah and the Tennessee mountains, and the food matched the views. It was one of my mother's favorites. She loved the mountain views. After dinner, we would return to the Grove Park Inn. On Saturday nights, the staff would roll up the rugs, move the furniture around, and create a massive dance floor. On the right side, in front of one of the massive fireplaces, a band would set up and play music till 11:00 PM. As it turns out one of mom's close friend's son worked at WLOS in Asheville and he had a band which played at the Inn. He knew that my mom was visiting and met us before beginning their set. We had a great time discussing music, German background, and how mom and I both loved to dance. While we were enjoying the evening, he got up and made an announcement dedicating the next song to my mom. It was a Polka. Up jumped my Mom, grabs my hand and

we proceeded to dance around the room. We were the only ones on the floor but it didn't faze my mom. She loved every minute and I have to admit, I enjoyed it as well; seeing my mom so happy. It was one of those memorable moments.

Years later mom succumbed to a weak heart. I received word of her failing health and rushed to Jacksonville with my son to see her. It was touch and go; however, she held on until we made it so the family could be together one last time. Even on her death bed, she cracked a joke and gave us all a big smile as the life drained from her. The nice thing about memories is they are triggered by events and tangible moments. Those triggers for me become a big smile of remembrance.

Editor's Note: I plan to tell the story of other Montford restaurants and businesses in upcoming issues.

The Montford Deli

By Pat Spurgin

Since he was a young boy, Chef Dave (Dave Sweeting) was always in a restaurant. His parents owned restaurants with home-cooked meals and desserts. Patrons would provide childcare during busy hours, and he was never hungry. He would sit in a booth doing his homework after school and eat a hearty meal—like his Dad's Trail Drivers Stew and mom's homemade cornbread.

Quite often, Chef Dave would go back to the kitchen and learn how to cook a medium-rare steak, season a burger, or even put a pot of chili on the fire. He absolutely loved the kitchen, and he did just about anything his dad asked him to do (didn't much like dish duty).

Years later Chef Dave married his sweetheart Courtney and moved to the Asheville area from Florida. He worked in the food industry and learned from some of the best Chefs in town. His dream was always to have his own place.



Then, opportunity knocked when he found this little small batch kitchen in Montford—his chance to shine, and he certainly did that. Dave and his Mom (Mama Pat) put together a menu and then he put his culinary expertise to work. The menu has changed several times to accommodate the diverse neighborhoods in the area. Dave also tweaked flavors to give customers exactly what they wanted.

Everything is basically from scratch—Wings, Philly Cheesesteak, Reuben, Jersey Worthy Italian Sub, Buffalo Chicken Sandwich, Breakfast Sandwiches, Shrimp Basket with Remoulade Sauce and Fries, and much more.

Montford Deli is strictly take-out and you can call ahead at 828-707-7362 for pick up or use Take-Out Central <https://www.takeoutcentral.com/asheville/restaurants/delivery/montford-deli/1632/>

Also visit: <https://www.facebook.com/montford.deli/>

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The Montford Neighborhood Tree Grant returns for the 2nd year! The Neighborhood Association will pay up to 50% of your cost for planting a tree on your property - up to \$150 per tree and up to \$300 total per household.

From September 2019 through May 2020, the MNA helped residents plant 36 trees, awarded \$2029 for tree planting, and leveraged \$8523 worth of tree planting projects.

Any Montford property owner, renter, or local organization may apply. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Award of grants is at the discretion and funding availability of the MNA.

Remember, fall is for planting!

Find additional information and the grant application at [Montford.org](http://montford.org).

Click "Links" then "Tree Grant"

or go to this link: http://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TreeGrant_2019_1209.pdf



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We're closing in on seven months since the Novel Coronavirus made itself known and has forced us to into many actions that we may not be fond of following. Although I don't relish wearing a mask I understand the science behind it. It helps to protect my 83-year-old mother & mother-in-law as well as many others so I'm happy to do it.

Another arena in which I understand the science is climate change & it has the potential to impact a heck of a lot more people than my "mothers". Making simple changes such as changing the types of light bulbs from incandescent, filament, to LED can significantly lower power consumption thereby reducing CO2 emissions and lessening the impacts of climate change. Per the US Department of Energy, residents LEDs, especially ENERGY STAR rated products use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.

Widespread use of LED lighting has the greatest potential impact on energy savings in the US. By 2027, widespread usage of LEDs could save the equivalent of the annual electrical output of 44 large electric plants (1000 megawatts each-by comparison the new all-natural gas plant at Lake Julian produces 460 megawatts) and a total savings of over \$30 billion at today's electricity prices.

So yes, I will continue to wear a mask believing in the science of protecting others and the same for converting any remaining compact fluorescent light bulbs, CFL's, some of which have lasted over 20 years, to LED's to protect the one planet from climate change.

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