



MONTFORD

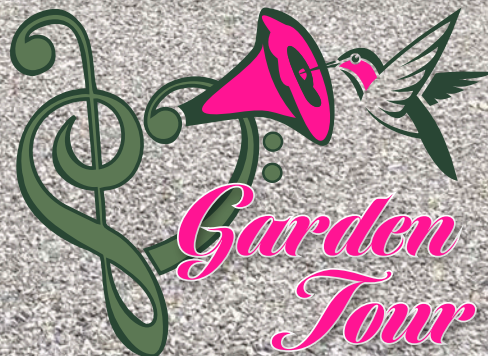
THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 26 No. 06

JUNE/JULY '21

Montford residents came together to show off their beautiful gardens. AND WHAT A SHOW IT WAS! More inside...



HISTORIC MONTFORD

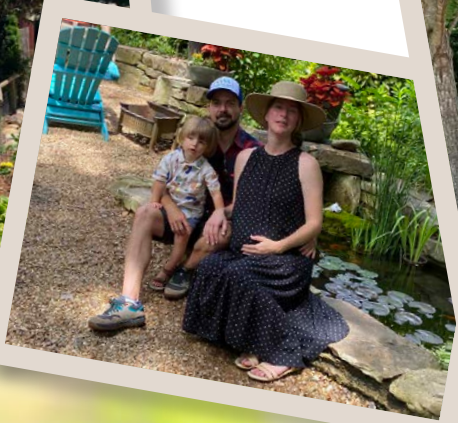
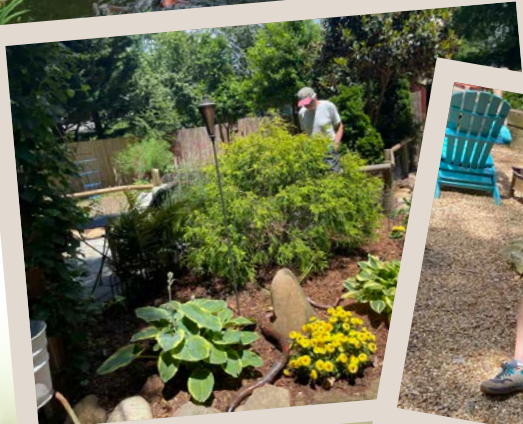


*Garden
Tour*

A Memorable Day in the Garden!

With lovely weather and appreciative crowds, the June 5th 2021 Historic Montford Garden Tour was a huge success for the neighborhood. **Our sincere thanks go to our 1000-plus guests, our docents and sponsors, a hard-working planning committee, and especially to our twelve garden host families.** We showed some of the best we have to offer, and from all reviews, our visitors went home happy and inspired. Revenue from the tour will be used for future neighborhood improvement projects.

Lynn Raker



A BIG Thank You to all the people that sent photos from the tour. Sherree Lucas, Ellen Nutter, Lynn Raker, Trudy and Ross Terry, Rick Vogel, and George Zourzoukis.



Dear Sponsors,

Thank you so much for supporting the Historic Montford Garden Tour yesterday. I saw some of you on the tour and trust you enjoyed your day. I'm hoping most if not all of you were able to visit at least a garden or two and enjoy great live music sometime during the day.

I don't have the final tally of what we were able to raise, but I know we sold over 1000 tickets. We decided to stop selling tickets 24 hours before the event as we were concerned a bigger crowd would result in a negative experience on the part of both garden owners as well as attendees.

We couldn't have done this without you and I hope you felt your sponsorship was a good spend of money for you or your business. It was truly a beautiful community event that you associated your name with and from feedback we've gotten, it was a very positive association!

We'd love to hear any feedback you have on the event or on your sponsorship in particular. If you took pictures you'd like to share, send them my way!

Thank you again!
Sherree LSucas



TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Center Update

At this time, we are continuing to provide Monday-Friday all-day programming in partnership with Asheville City Schools (ACS). ACS provides teaching assistants in the morning as well as breakfast and lunch for the kids. We (Parks and Recreation) provide activities focusing on physical movement and socialization in the afternoons.

PODS: Pandemic's virtual learning students get much-needed help

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2020/10/20/pods-pandemics-virtual-learning-students-get-much-needed-help/3711013001/>



Photo Credit: Asheville Citizens-Times

Calendar - More activities are coming as we re-open.

Summer Playground Camp (at limited capacity) June 7-August 13 from 8:30pm-6:00pm (Monday-Friday) Rising 1st-5th Graders

Yoga with Holly Alexander (beginner class) Saturdays 10:00am-11:00am (currently on softball field).

Seth Jackson
 Manager, Tempie Avery Montford Center
 253-3714, sjackson@ashevillenc.gov.

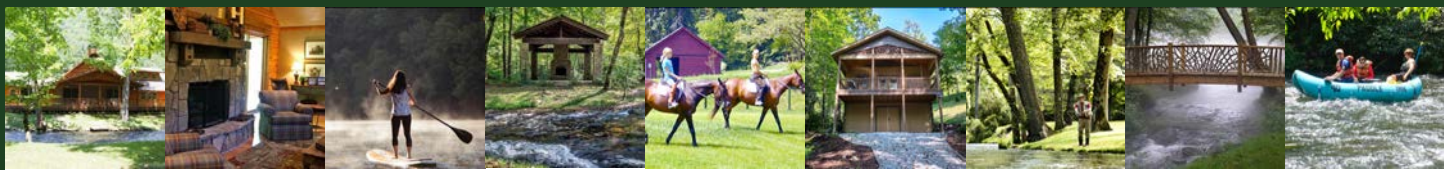


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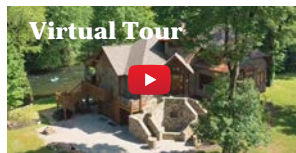
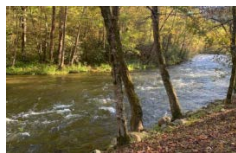
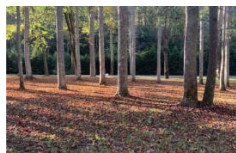
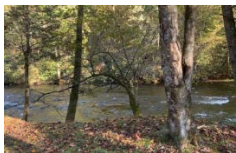
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Remembering Jerry Conner

Jerry passed away around noon Friday 11, 2021. I met Jerry for the first time when I was a volunteer for the Montford Music and Arts Festival. I saw right away that this man had rare talents, along with a giving and sharing personality. Despite chronic health issues, he stepped up and played an indispensable role in the Festival. And then—there he was again, managing all the printing and artwork for the Holiday Tour of Home.



Later, Jerry shared stories from his past on the neighborhood listserv. I knew some of the details from conversations with Jerry, but I had no idea how interesting a life he led. I included several of these stories in Montford Newsletter issues. If you knew Jerry, you miss him as much as I do.

In this issue I have included one of my favorite stories by Jerry. Enjoy.

Ross Terry - Editor



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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.

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 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



Jerry 2 years old with Mom

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.

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.

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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 05/12/21

Present: Chair Emily Kite, William Eakins, Will Hornaday, James Vaughn, Emily Spreng, Maggie Brousaides, Benjamin Mitchell, Sara Gardner, Stephanie West, Sioux Oliva, Gail Lazaras, Darin Waters

Absent: None

Staff present: Alex Cole, Shannon Tuch, Jannice Ashley

Item, Summary and Action

90 Montford Avenue (PIN 9649114539) - Rebuild existing stone retaining wall along rear property boundary.

Action—Continued

240 Pearson Drive (PIN 9639848399) - Modify door and window openings on existing accessory structure; construct new section of 4' tall metal picket fencing in front and side yards; construct stone pillars adjacent to driveway and install 4' tall metal picket gates between.

Action—Continued

32 Panola Street (PIN 9649050039) - Install 17 solar panels on southeastern facing portion of roof.

Action—Approved

23 Cumberland Circle (PIN 9649048359) - Construction of a new 2-story, 3,268 square foot primary structure.

Action—Continued

279 Cumberland Ave (PIN 9649044472) - Construction of a new one-and-a-half story, 4,390 square foot primary structure.

Action—Approved with conditions

Please refer to the website (www.ashevilenc.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.ashevilenc.gov/>



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Green Corner

Mitch Russell



Well, a few months late with this topic, the “Nasty Six” exotic invasive plant species and especially since I wanted to pair it with native plants that you may consider weeds

because they are growing in your yard or garden. Those natives will have to wait until next year and hopefully. I’ll remember to write the article in March or April...I am mentioning the exotic invasive plants that can do the most damage to your yard/garden and that also happen to greatly damage wild native plant communities.

Kudzu - Has a Beautiful fragrant flower that reminds me of grape soda, but that is where my adoration ends quite abruptly! Perhaps the most invasive of all the species mentioned and the most difficult to eradicate due to its deep root structure. It smothers plants as it crawls on the ground and climbs to the tops of trees where it strangles the tree and shades out lower branches. It creeps between the cemetery and baseball field behind Tempie Avery Center.

English Ivy - The vampire of the vine world. It utilizes tendrils to climb and suck the moisture out of tree bark and often weighs down limbs until they break or are held up by the ivy. Relatively easy to manage with cutting and pulling. Can be viewed on multiple sites throughout Montford.

Japanese Honeysuckle - If left undisturbed can grow quite a large main root that will need to be dug out. Feeder roots when they make contact with soil will add to the difficulty in removing. The main issue with honeysuckle is that it can “cut” into the bark and deeper layers of shrubs and smaller trees and like English Ivy will shade out species on the ground, shrubs and smaller trees, plus the sheer weight can kill those shrubs and trees. Ironically there is a native species, Coral/trumpet honeysuckle, that

is coral red and ambles along the ground and will climb a little way up a tree, but does not become invasive.

Burning Bush/Winged euonymus - Best to take the literal interpretation and burn it! A large shrub often creating thickets with “wings” growing parallel to the green branches and trunk that some turn a grayish brown with age. Vivid deep pink to red leaves in the fall along with red berries. Also like honeysuckle, there is a native version that is prized by deer and colloquially referred to as “deer candy” since they’ll browse it all the way to the ground.

Dandelion - There is nothing dandy about this exotic invasive as I’m sure many of you have experienced as it pops up in your yard or garden. I will say it is valuable as a green, early season pollen source and child entertainer with its seed head that resembles a lollipop that I blew on hundreds of times as a child to watch it all disappear. Introduced by Europeans as a medicinal and green for sustenance it seems to sprout wherever a seed touches the ground. It has a long taproot that can be very difficult to completely remove.

Japanese privet/Ligustrum - Almost anything in the landscaping world from Asia is going to be invasive including this large shrub. It’s not an especially dramatic species and the only redeeming qualities include, it is a good screening shrub and has fragrant flowers. These are outweighed by it spreading rather quickly and creating thickets. Like most of the others in this article, it will shade out smaller shrubs, trees, and species on the ground.

There you have it. If you don’t have any of the Nasty Five in your home landscape consider yourself lucky!