



# MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD  
Vol. 26 No. 10  
OCTOBER '21

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**Remembering W.C. Justice**  
*our beloved friend and neighbor - Page 3*

## TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

## Mark Your Calendar

**Toddler Time at TAM**—Mondays 10:00-11:45am from October 4-December

13. Designed to provide a fun and safe play learning environment for parents and children.

Themes:

October 4 - Circus,  
 October 11 - Fairytale,  
 October 18 - Superhero,  
 October 25 - Halloween,  
 November 1 - Autumn, and  
 November 8 - Pajama Party  
 (other weeks to follow).



**Montford Parent's Night Out**—Friday 6:00-8:00pm on October 15, November 19, and December 17 Ages 7-11 years old. Let the Montford staff watch the kiddos the 3rd Friday of the month and give you a break. Each night will have unique and fun activities planned and led by staff for kids to enjoy.

### Disc Golf Putt

**League**—Fridays 6:00-10:00pm from November 5-December 3.

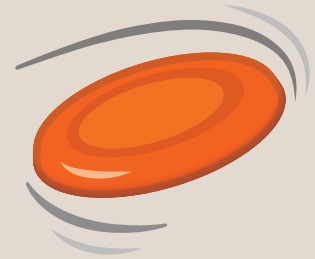
### Montford Youth and Pre-Teen Afterschool

**Programs**—Monday-Friday from 3:00-6:00pm

**Fun Day Out (School Work Days)**—8:30-6:00pm October 25, November 11, and November 24

**Holiday Camp for Youth**—8:30-6:00pm December 20-23 and December 27-31

Seth Jackson  
 Recreation Facility Manager  
 Tempie Avery Montford Center  
 Asheville Parks and Recreation  
 828-253-3714 - Office  
 828-337-2403 - Business Cell  
[sjackson@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:sjackson@ashevillenc.gov)



## Halloween Trick or Treat? - ASK FANG



**Dear Fang,**

Last year Trick or Treat was discouraged in Montford. What is the consensus this year?  
 —Coco Goodbar

**Dear Coco,**

OH YEAH! This is the best Holiday, IMO. You can bet it will happen this year. You'd better get yourself to the store and start stocking up on treats. Otherwise, turn off your lights and hide in the back of the house! LOL.

The opinions of Fang are the author's own and may not reflect the views of the Newsletter staff. Here's what Director Walensky, has to say - page 9





**James and W.C. attending the 2008 Music and Arts Festival.**

W.C. Justice Jr., 72, of Asheville passed away on Monday, September 27, 2021, at the Memorial Campus Mission Hospitals in Asheville. Born May 17, 1949, in Asheville, NC, he was a son of the late Willard and Bertha Justice. In 2014, he retired from UNCA as an employee of Campus Operations. W.C. enjoyed working in his flower garden and listening to a wide range of music. He was instrumental in helping restore the Montford neighborhood back to the wonderful place it is today. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Lional Justice. Surviving is his spouse of 6 years and partner of 36 years, James David Liner; siblings, Larry Justice of Enka, NC and Loren Justice and his spouse, Cecila, of Leicester, NC; and many nieces and nephews.

❖ *James Liner called to tell us the sad news that his loving life partner and our friend and neighbor of 36 years had passed. Most residents of Montford will remember W.C. as the pleasant soft-spoken gentleman on Soco Street. Others will remember the gracious holiday parties he and James threw in their beautiful home and garden. Still others (old-timers) will remember the trip to Raleigh 30 years ago and presentations before the city council, as W.C. and others worked to address issues in the neighborhood. W.C. loved Montford. We will never forget him.*

—Trudy and Ross Terry

❖ *W.C. Justice, a longtime resident of Soco Street, died this morning, September 27. We lived next door to W.C. and his husband James Liner for nine years. They were the first friends we made in Montford, and we'll always count them among our very best friends.*

*W.C. moved to Montford in the 1980s. He loved the neighborhood, knew its history, and worked to make it what it is today. The home and gardens he and James maintained are something to see.*

*W.C. was a fine man, loved by many. He will be missed.*

—Joe and Wanda Newman

*It's a sad day for our community. WC was a treasure, and we will miss his joyful Spirit so much. Holding James in our hearts, as he navigates this tender time. We are here to support in any way we can. Peace be with WC.*

—Cate Scales

❖ *My husband saw an ambulance the other night, but we hadn't heard. So very sorry for James and our Montford family. They have been the friendliest and most gracious neighbors to us since we moved in across the street from them 21 years ago. RIP WC.*

—Julie on Soco

❖ *So sad to hear this! ~ May he Rest in Peace ~ I saw him last on the 11th of September as many of us were near his home in the afternoon. I did get a chance to wave at him and say hello as he was in the front garden then.*

—Katia Simonov





**BUNCOMBE  
COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT**  
— NORTH CAROLINA —

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Update for Oct. 12, 2021**

### ***COVID Cases, Hospitalizations, Death Rate Continue to Decline***

For the fourth consecutive week, Buncombe County is seeing a decline in local case rates. The case rate fell from 216 week prior to 198 in current week. For the last two weeks, the rate has dropped by about 8-10% each week. The percent positivity has shown a stabilization and is currently hovering between 6.7%-7.1% for the last three weeks. Hospitalizations have decreased in the last two weeks now with approximately 9% of inpatient beds occupied with COVID-19. Additionally, ICU utilization has decreased since week prior. Lastly, weekly death rate decreased from 2.3 deaths per 100,000 to 1.9, and represents five deaths reported in the last week.

“Overall, our local trends continue to improve,” says Public Health Director Stacie Saunders. “This is a welcomed sight after this most recent surge, fueled by the Delta variant, which showed very rapid spread and transmission,

especially among our unvaccinated population. While this is a hopeful trend, it is important to remember that while decreasing, this case rate and transmission rate is still very high. This is a steady decline but not a precipitous decline, meaning that COVID-19 is still widely circulating in our community.

To date, 62% of the total population in Buncombe County has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 60% of the total population is fully vaccinated. Seventy-one percent (71%) of those 12 and older in Buncombe County are partially vaccinated. Buncombe County Health and Human Services (BCHHS) has administered more than 102,000 doses of vaccine since December 2020. BCHHS administered more than 600 total doses in the last week through vaccine efforts that included three school partnership events (Erwin, Enka, and North Buncombe), one fire department event (Barnardsville), and a multi-day event in partnership with the Mexican Consulate.

“Each vaccination is protecting another member of our Buncombe County community, which in turn helps to protect us all, especially those not yet eligible for vaccine,” reiterates Saunders. “We are actively planning for vaccination events for the anticipated eligibility of some of our youngest family and friends, 5-11 year olds. Until then, I hope that other members of our community will do their part to help protect our children from COVID-19.”

With fall events and celebrations approaching, BCHHS recommends the following attending outdoor or virtual events where the risk for spread of COVID-19 is lower. If you are planning to attend in-person, indoor events with groups of people: vaccinated.

### **Get more information here:**

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/countycenter/news-detail.aspx?id=18543>



# The Montford Neighborhood Association

*Invites You to Join us to  
make Montford Festive and  
Kick-Off our Holiday Season with  
**MONTFORD LIGHTS!***

**Saturday, Dec. 4, 4:00-4:30 pm:** Montford Park Players, Holiday Performance, Hazel Robinson Amphitheater, 90 Gay St.

**4:30-5:00 pm:** Parade led by Asheville HS Marching Drumline, Amphitheater to Montford Garden, Montford Ave. and Waneta St.

**5:15 pm:** Holiday Tree and Menorah Lighting, Montford Garden

**5:30-6:00 pm:** Asheville HS Holiday Brass Ensemble playing Seasonal Music

**6:00 pm:** Stroll through Montford and see Montford Lights!

*Help make Montford festive for the Holidays. Decorate and turn on your lights on December 4, 2021. Looking forward to seeing you then!*



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*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](mailto:cpabanker@yahoo.com)

Leslie Humphrey: [leslie@squarepeginc.net](mailto:leslie@squarepeginc.net)

Sherree Lucas: [sherree.l.lucas@gmail.com](mailto:sherree.l.lucas@gmail.com)

Lynn Raker: [lynn.raker@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.raker@gmail.com)

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**Join the Montford listserv.**

The Montford listserv is a neighborhood discussion list. This is a place where you can exchange news about the neighborhood. Visit [Montford.org](http://Montford.org) to learn more.



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**From Newspapers.com:  
Asheville Daily Citizen (Asheville Citizens-Times) December 26, 1890**

Asheville Democrat: THE CITIZEN objects to the change of the name of Academy street to "Montford avenue," and asks whence the name came from anyway. It comes from Lord Montford, the paternal ancestor of Hon. Richmond Pearson, who is one of the most energetic figures in the grand improvements in northwest Asheville.



## “Neighboring”

By Rebecca Strimer



**Montford and Stumptown Fund House Party**



**Rebecca Strimer speaking at house party.**

This June I attended the kickoff event for the Montford & Stumptown Fund of the Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust. Afterwards, because we were eager to learn more and to support the fund, my husband Kyle and I decided to host a house party fundraiser in our backyard. I'm so glad we did.

We gathered in August to practice “neighboring,” a term found in the book *Neighbors: The Power of the People Next Door*, which teaches that “neighboring is actually sacred, or can be, and that it’s a real solution to some of our country’s most enduring moral disgraces.”

## CDC Director Rochelle Walensky on “Face the Nation,” September 26, 2021

MARGARET BRENNAN:

Just very quickly before I let you go: Should kids go trick or treating on Halloween? Is it safe?

DR. WALENSKY:

Oh, gosh, I certainly hope so. If you’re able to be outdoors, absolutely. Limit crowds. I wouldn’t necessarily go to a crowded- crowded Halloween party, but I think that we should be able to let our kids go trick or treating in small groups. And- and I hope that we can do that this year before I go: If you’re not vaccinated, please get vaccinated. If you’re eligible for a boost, go get your boost.

Our conversations included honest reflections on the history of our neighborhood and the moral disgrace of the displacement of Black families over the years. We learned that there are over 300 land trusts across the country and about how this proven and successful model works. We committed to support the Montford & Stumptown Fund as a way to create and protect equitable, permanently affordable housing where we live.

By the end of the evening, attendees agreed to continue to talk to our neighbors about investing in the fund through one-time or ongoing donations. We collectively dreamed of what is possible when neighbors work together to create a place where we all can thrive.

If you’d like to host a house party for the Montford & Stumptown Fund, email [anna@abclt.org](mailto:anna@abclt.org). To learn more about the fund, go to [montfordandstumptown.com](http://montfordandstumptown.com). I am very excited to be part of this emergent initiative of neighborhood-based generosity and community care.



**CDC Director Walensky**

Go to this address for the complete Transcript:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-cdc-director-rochelle-walensky-face-the-nation-09-26-2021/>





## Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

### Montford Action Agenda 09/08/21

Present: Chair Emily Kite, Emily Spreng, Gail Lazaras, Will Hornaday, James Vaughn, Sioux Oliva,

Absent: Stephanie West, Sara Gardner, Georgene Falcon

Staff present: Alex Cole, Shannon Tuch, Avery Tew, Jannice Ashley

#### Item, Summary and Action

**99999 Elizabeth Place** (PIN 9649229707) - Construction of a new 3,132 square foot, two-story primary structure.

**Action**—Approved with conditions

**66 Flint Street** (PIN 9649216885) - Restore original siding; construct two-story porch and modify window openings on rear elevation; install two new windows on north elevation; install two new windows on south elevation.

**Action**—Approved

**27 Houston Street** (PIN 9649014676) - Construct new concrete driveway/parking pad in front yard.

**Action**—Approved with conditions

**185 Pearson Drive** (PIN 9639944073) - Restore front entry door and sidelites; replace existing deck on rear elevation with new deck; site modifications, including install a new section of fence in rear and side yards, construct concrete basketball court in rear yard, remove non-original retaining wall and gravel parking area and walkway, install new stone walkway and gravel parking area in front yard.

**Action**—Approved with conditions

**37 Watauga Street** (PIN 9639943578) - After the fact request to modify rear yard; construct a new 2-story, 1,152 square foot accessory structure; construct a 24' x 14' swimming pool and hot tub within a new 60' long patio entertainment area area; construct two new sections of 8' retaining wall; construct new roof overhang on rear elevation of primary structure.

**Action**—Continued

### HRC Application Portal

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

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

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

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Resource Directory

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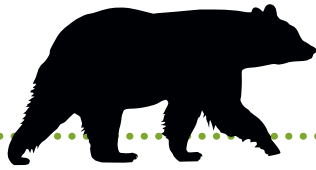


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# BearWise® BULLETIN

#2

## Dogs + Bears = Problems

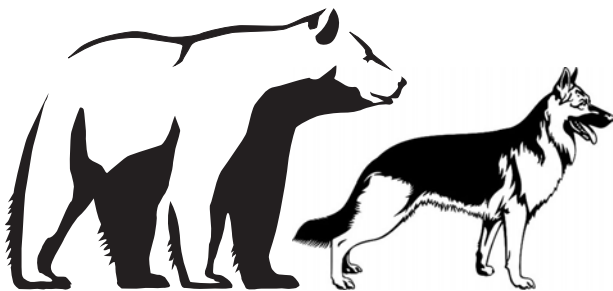
If you live in or travel to bear country and own a dog, sooner or later your dog may encounter a bear. Understanding why some encounters end peacefully and others end with dogs and people being injured or killed can help keep people, dogs and bears safe.



*Don't force a mother black bear to defend her cubs.  
(Photo: Warren Holland; Durango, Colorado)*

### Dogs were involved in more than half of the incidents involving people and black bears between 2010 – 2015.

Just under half (46%) of those dogs were injured or killed; their human companions did not fare quite as well, with 62% of them being injured. Many of the dogs involved had been off-leash, a situation that can easily result in the dog chasing or cornering a bear and being injured, killed, or turning tail and running back to its owner with an aggravated bear close behind.



*Black bears can weigh 300 pounds or more, depending on age, sex and time of year. A popular large dog breed, the German Shepherd, averages only 70 pounds.*



### Why Bears and Dogs Don't Get Along

**Black bears are neither confrontational nor aggressive by nature.** As a species, black bears evolved in forested habitats where they learned to respond to danger and avoid trouble by climbing a tree or disappearing into the woods. When those options aren't available, a bear's natural instinct for self-preservation kicks in, and the bear will defend itself, its food, or its cubs.

**Dog behavior is more complex;** not all dogs bark for the same reasons. Some breeds bark, lunge and bite out of fear; others have an innate drive to bark and chase. Protective breeds may be trying to guard their humans. And some dogs just really love to bark. But to the bear, your dog's motivation doesn't matter. A barking, lunging, snapping or chasing dog is seen as a threat. It's very likely the bear will respond by defending itself.

### Bears Will Protect Their Food

Bears will typically defend any food source, particularly something as calorie-rich as pet food, garbage or birdseed. A dog that interrupts a bear's dinner is asking for trouble. A person who comes between a defensive bear and an aggressive dog is putting their life at risk.

*continued...*

**BearWise.org**

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### When Dogs Chase Bears

Bears can run faster than an Olympic sprinter for short distances; if you're lucky, the bear will escape from your dog. If you're not lucky, the bear will have to defend itself against your dog. Dog vs. bear seldom ends well for the dog.



If you are very unlucky, the dog will realize it has picked a fight it can't win, turn tail and run back to you. If the bear gives chase, you and the dog become one big problem the bear needs to neutralize so it can feel safe again.

### Bears Don't Like To Be Cornered

A black bear's natural instinct is to avoid confrontation. That's why the most common bear sightings consist of the tail end of the bear disappearing into the trees. If you encounter a bear AND your dog is on a leash AND you can keep it from lunging at the bear, the bear will most likely run away. If your dog is not on a leash, you are increasing



the chances that a bear encounter will escalate into a dangerous situation.

*Wolves, coyotes, bobcats, eagles and male bears all prey on black bear cubs. To a mother bear, a barking dog is another potentially dangerous predator that means harm; if she cannot quickly or easily get her cubs to safety, she will defend them.*

### Living With Dogs in Bear Country

- Feed pets indoors, if possible.
- If you must feed pets outside, feed only single portions and remove bowls as soon as your pet is finished.
- Keep your dog on a non-retractable leash even if you're just going to the car.
- Install motion-activated security lights. Check the yard and bang on your door before you let your dog out.
- If you see a bear, bring your dog inside. Don't allow it to bark at or harass the bear, even from inside a fenced yard.
- Pet doors should open into completely enclosed areas; some bears can squeeze through openings as small as nine inches high. Cubs (and other critters you don't want in the house) can fit through even smaller openings.
- If your dog gets into an encounter with a bear, don't try to rescue it. If you can do so from a safe distance, use your bear spray or a high-powered garden hose.

### Out Walking Your Dog?

- Keep your dog on a non-retractable leash at all times.
- Carry bear spray and know how to use it.
- Stay alert; music and phones are distracting.
- Avoid walking at dawn, dusk or at night in areas with known bear activity.
- If you see a bear, turn around and leave.
- Don't let your dog bark at, harass, chase, or corner a bear.
- If your dog gets into a fight with a bear, don't try to rescue it. You will get injured. Instead, use your bear spray.

**Making the right choices can keep dogs and people safe and bears wild. Making the wrong choices can have serious consequences for all. Be BearWise.**

**Leashes Save Lives** Letting your dog run free in the neighborhood or the woods is usually illegal and always dangerous. A much higher percentage of dogs that get into confrontations with bears are seriously injured or killed when dogs are off leash. The people who try to rescue a dog are also more seriously injured. It may be tempting to let your dog run free, but don't put your dog and yourself at risk. **Please, leash up.**



BearWise.org



BearWise® CREATED BY BEAR BIOLOGISTS, SUPPORTED BY STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES

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## Green Corner Mitch Russell



Crisp fall air. Rain abates from summer highs. Fewer tourists before and after leaf season, let's hope. . . . Reluctantly, perhaps, tiptoeing towards winter.

All great reasons to get on a bike or walk wherever we need to go. There is a bill that's been introduced in Congress, the E-BIKE Act: Electric Bicycle Incentive Kickstart for the Environment Act, that will give you a refund for purchasing an electric bicycle and a provision in the Build Back America plan proposed by the Biden administration to provide tax benefits for commuting to work. Find out more here: <https://www.peopleforbikes.org/news/theres-something-for-everyone-in-the-e-bike-act>

The added benefit of cycling or walking is better health directly for you, but also the environment. Both are vitally important as we continue to struggle with COVID, plus its soon flu season and the climate is overtaxed by our dependence on fossil fuels, plastics, unsustainably grown and harvested timber and a myriad of other negatives that impact the planet we depend on.

I know it's tough to get motivated to bike or walk when the weather is less than perfect because I battle it too. On the plus side, you'll have: a built-in New Year's Resolution-you can up your mileage or number of days you walk or ride, you can eat more during the holidays and not feel guilty and the aforementioned better health for you and the planet.

Get out and enjoy all of the benefits of fall!

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