



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 26 No. 12
DECEMBER '21/JANUARY '22

Seasons Greetings Montford!

from the
Montford Neighborhood
Association

and the
Montford Lights!
Committee

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TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Mark Your Calendar

Montford Youth and Pre-Teen Afterschool Programs—Monday-Friday from 3:00-6:00pm

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

For more Information Contact:

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

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The Importance of Buying Local This Holiday Season

Sherree Lucas

Since moving to Asheville three years ago, I have been enamored with Asheville's local independent business community. And as a Montford resident, I am surrounded by these warm, welcoming locally owned establishments. They are the most visible reasons Asheville is the special place we love to call our home. That's why, this holiday season, it is so important to buy gifts from local businesses and craftspeople. There are so many ways to do this, especially during the month of December. Here are a few:

- Mountain Bizworks' Holiday [Handmade Gift Guide](#) will help you find unique crafted gifts for everyone with over nine categories that supports more than 90 local artists. When you purchase a gift from this guide, it means that you are helping them thrive and build a strong craft economy in Western North Carolina.
- Explore Asheville's [Holiday Gift Guide](#) features more than 80 locally-made products. From arts and crafts to specialty food and beverages, make an impact this holiday season by supporting Asheville's local artists and businesses. Asheville's online gift guide features mountain-made treasures from across Western North Carolina.
- If you'd prefer to see and touch your products before you buy, visit the [River Arts District](#). It will warm your heart to see all our local craftspeople and business owners. If COVID has you hesitant to go into enclosed areas during the holidays, many of the RAD shops also sell online.
- If you'd prefer to shop outside, check out the [Holly Jolly Pop-up at Rabbit Rabbit](#). Celebrate and shop local + indie craft, design, and vintage in a great outdoor venue.
- Another holiday pop-up that features local craftspeople is [The Mingle Jingle](#) Holiday Craft Market at Grey Eagle. While you peruse the booths, there will be holiday tunes playing and you can grab a bite from

the Taqueria. Note: for this event, you will need to show your vaccination record or a negative COVID test within the previous 48 hours of the event.

- If you'd like to support our black business community during the holiday season, go to [Black Wall Street AVL website](#) to find products and services offered by its members. [Yoruba Life](#) is an online directory of Asheville Black-owned businesses and artists that also offer great gifts for the holiday season.
- A great stocking stuffer for the foodies in your life is from our friends at AIR (Asheville Independent Restaurants). It is their 2022 [passport](#) program, which offers Buy-One-Get-One-Free meals at over 50 independent restaurants in Buncombe County.
- And of course, there's all of our locally-owned boutiques, shops, restaurants, wellness centers, breweries or entertainment venues that line the streets of Asheville. They have wonderful holiday gifts and gift cards that are sure to delight any out-of-town (or in-town) friends or relatives that love receiving a gift from their favorite Asheville places.

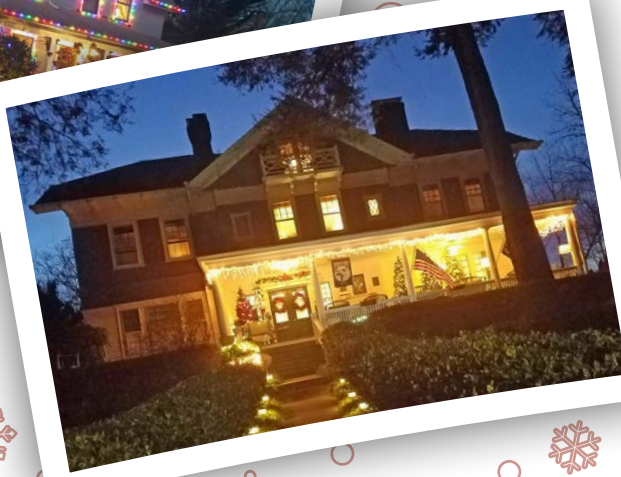
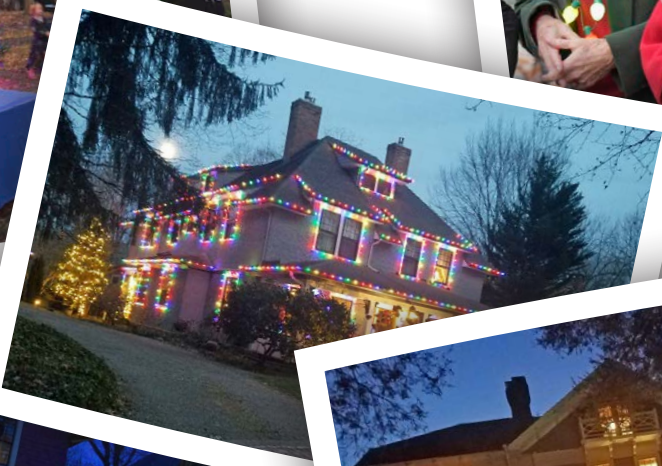
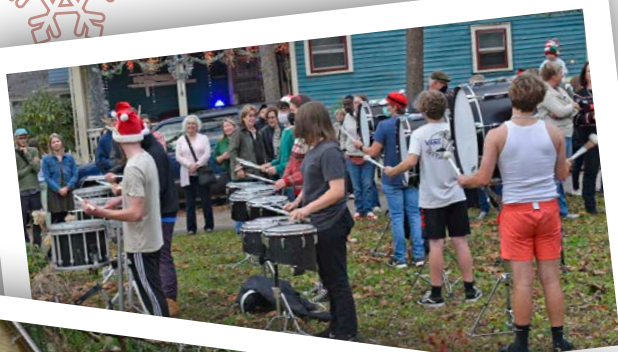
As the Owner and Director of [Go Local Asheville](#), I would be amiss if I didn't include what I objectively believe to be a great stocking stuffer. The Go Local Asheville card. At \$20, it is the gift that keeps on giving. Cardholders get discounts and perks at over 500 local independent businesses, the local economy is strengthened (do you know your dollar goes three times further in our local economy when you buy from local independent businesses?) and with 50% of the card proceeds donated to our Asheville public schools, kids get better schools. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about Go Local Asheville and to buy your Go Local card or Go Local merchandise. And to my Montford neighbors, there are local independent businesses in our own backyard that honor the Go Local card. To name a few... All Day Darling, Archetype Brewing, High Five Coffee, Little Jumbo, French Broad Chocolate, Pinecrest Bed & Breakfast, Cumberland Falls Bed & Breakfast, and the Asheville Shop at the Visitor Center.



Montford Lights!



What a wonderful evening.
Let's do this again next year!





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COUNTY**
GOVERNMENT
— NORTH CAROLINA —

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Update for Dec. 14, 2021

Declining COVID-19 Rates Offer Hope in Advance of the Holidays

Cases are declining in Buncombe County since the last week's community update. Last week, we saw rates climb to 208 cases per 100,000, which was expected given that we were 10-12 days out from Thanksgiving. Since then, cases have gradually declined to 155 cases per 100,000.

The percent positivity has dropped just below 6%. Last week, the percent positivity was 6.6%. Weekly testing numbers still are steady with the last several weeks averaging between 5,000 and more than 6,000 tests performed weekly. Death rate decreased slightly from 1.1 per 100,000 to 0.8 per 100,000, and sadly, two deaths were reported to the dashboard in the last week. Hospitalizations decreased slightly but ICU utilization went up; however, both indicators are favorable at this time.

Public Health Director Stacie Saunders says, "I am encouraged that we've seen a decline that seems to be holding, and I am hopeful that we will continue to see a decline, or at least a leveling, as we approach winter holidays when we may see another increase before entering 2022."

Vaccination rates continue to increase steadily with the total population in Buncombe County at 67% partially vaccinated and 64% fully vaccinated. Regarding the eligible population, 5 years and older, 70% are partially vaccinated and 67% are fully vaccinated. If you or your child still need to get vaccinated, please do so as soon as possible in advance of holiday gatherings. Free COVID-19 vaccines are available to anyone 5 and older at Buncombe County Health and Human Services between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday at 40 Coxe Ave., Asheville. No ID is required. Anyone 18 and older should get a booster six months after a two-dose series or two months after a single-dose vaccine. Learn more at www.buncombeready.org. Flu vaccines are also available to anyone six months and older.

Do spread cheer over the holidays by following the holiday guidance for large gatherings found on our website at www.buncombeready.org. As a reminder, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners extended the county-wide face covering requirement for all indoor public spaces through Jan. 5, 2022. The indoor mask requirement also extends to Asheville, Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain, Montreat, Weaverville, and Woodfin.

Get more information here:

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



MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS

But we don't FEEL 50!

Montford Park Players Celebrates its 50th YEAR!

With it's first small and stage-less production in the park back in 1972, no one dreamed that we would grow to be one of the premier Shakespeare theater's in the country, and still be here 50 years later. But here we are.

We couldn't be more proud of announcing our Golden Jubilee season and, since we're thinking in round numbers, we're expanding each of our season's offerings to 5 weeks!

Here's a peek at what's on tap!

May - *As You Like It*, by William Shakespeare

Our season kick-off continues our tradition of opening with a comedy, and this is one of the Bard's best!

June - *The Little Prince*

We're bringing this beloved family classic to the stage. Just in time for summer vacation!

July - *Much Ado about Nothing*, by William Shakespeare

One of Shakespeare's most popular and funniest shows takes us through the hottest months.

August - *The Three Musketeers*, by Catherine Bush

A new adaptation by the Playwright-in-Residence at The Barter Theatre. A North Carolina Premiere!

September - *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare

We enter a somber autumn with this most-somber tale. You know it, even if you've never seen it. Don't miss it!

"For the first time, we're expanding the run of every show to five weeks, in order to give even more of our patrons the opportunity to see great live theatre! Our 50th season will be a stellar one, including a North Carolina premiere, and will feature some great Shakespearean comedies along with his most famous tragedy, along with two productions that are sure to delight our youth audience as well.", according to John Russell, Executive Director.

We hope you'll start making plans for the new year to include some glorious time at the Amphitheatre. We know we'll be there!

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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 to learn more.

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Asheville



Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 11/10/21

Present: Chair Emily Kite, Gail Lazaras, Emily Spreng, Will Hornaday, James Vaughn, Sara Gardner, Sioux Oliva, Georgene Falcon, Shannon Watkins

Absent: Stephanie West, Amanda Vollrath

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

Item, Summary and Action

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; construct two new sections of 8' retaining wall; construct new roof overhang on rear elevation of primary structure..

Action—Approved with conditions

61 Pearson Drive (PIN 9649025914) - Relocation of two windows and conversion of one window opening to a door on rear elevation.

Action—Approved with conditions

43 Elizabeth Place (PIN 9649228855) - Construction of a two-story, 3,109 square foot primary structure.

Action—Continued

Montford Action Agenda 12/08/21

Present: Chair Emily Kite, Vice-Chair Emily Spreng, Gail Lazaras, Will Hornaday, Sara Groce, James Vaughn (present for first hour), Stephanie West

Absent: Sioux Oliva, Georgene Falcon, Shannon Watkins, Amanda Vollrath

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

Item, Summary and Action

43 Elizabeth Place (PIN 9649228855) - Construction of a two-story, 3,109 square foot primary structure. **Action**—Continued to February meeting

162 Flint Street (PIN 9649220805) - Construction of a roof covering over existing deck on south elevation.

Action—Approved with conditions

327 Montford Avenue (9649040483) - Construction of a new metal picket fence in front yard and minor landscaping.

Action—Application withdrawn

6 Houston Street (9649015980) - Construction of new one-story, 1,320 square foot primary structure.

Action—Approved

HRC Application Portal

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

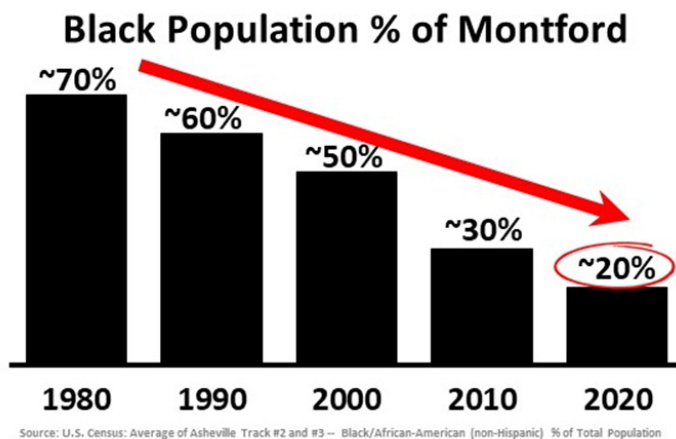
<https://develop.ashevillenc.gov/>

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

History and Healing: Spring 2022 Gatherings

By the Montford Community Club

Did you know that, as recently as 2000, Montford (census tracts 2 + 3) was about 50% African American? That number has consistently declined, and today is approximately 20%. This has meant the loss of supportive community ties, enriching neighborhood heterogeneity, and generative opportunities.



Are you curious about the factors behind this change and how to respond?

Are you a legacy neighbor with stories to share about living in Montford for decades?

If so, you are invited to attend a “History and Healing” gathering this spring.

At these informal get-togethers, we’ll have honest,

respectful conversations about the dynamics and lived experience of these demographic shifts. We’ll also consider strategies to disrupt patterns of displacement and protect diversity, including the Montford & Stumptown Fund of the Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust (ABCLT).

These events will allow us to reimagine what it means to live in a community with neighbors while acknowledging the history that brought us here alongside the hopes we have for the future.

To host or to get announcements about gatherings, email montfordclub@gmail.com.

To learn more about the Montford & Stumptown Fund, find informational resources, see postings about public events, and more, go to montfordandstumptown.com.



“Growing Up in Asheville,” a painting by artist Jenny Pickens who grew up in Montford on Cumberland Avenue.

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Why I support the Montford & Stumptown Fund

By Marc Voorhees

(a.k.a. an old white guy)

You have probably seen the Montford & Stumptown Fund signs around the neighborhood and may have wondered what they were all about and whether it was something you would want to become involved with.



The easy part of that question is the “what”. A primary goal of the Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust (ABCLT) is to provide affordable and permanent home ownership for people of color. The Montford & Stumptown Fund works within ABCLT, but with a focus on Montford’s unique real estate and affordable housing issues.

The deeper question is whether to get involved. It is hard to feel accountable for the actions of others that occurred over the past 400 years that got us to where we are today. 250 years of slavery which ended with the Civil War, then 100 years of legal racism which ended with the Civil Rights Act, and then varying degrees of illegal racism since then.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. But as a privileged old white guy, here is how I think about it. While it’s hard to feel accountable for the actions of others in the past, we must hold ourselves accountable for a fair and just future. This is not about guilt. This is about fairness.

A typical white household has nearly eight times the wealth of a typical Black household and is almost twice as likely to own a home. Homeownership is key to building wealth. Wealth enables education. Wealth enables healthier food options, and good physical and mental health care. Wealth enables stable family structures. Wealth may not buy happiness, but it can certainly help.

Let’s do a little test. Raise your hand if you own a home. Keep it up if your parents ever owned a home. Keep it up if your grandparents ever owned a home. You get the point. Success tends to breed success.

If we could ignore the past, we could debate how much someone might be disadvantaged today by being a person of color. But we can’t ignore the past, even if we did not personally cause the past. The Black person today bears the cumulative disadvantages from many, many past Black generations. This is especially true when it comes to homeownership and the benefits that come from it. Think about our hand-raising exercise. If this were a race (no pun intended), a typical Black person would be back near the starting line while people like myself . . . and I dare say “people like many of us” . . . are miles ahead. That is not fair.

And that is why I support the Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust and the Montford & Stumptown Fund, and their efforts to provide affordable and permanent homeownership to Black families in Montford. This is not about more public housing or renting. This is about real homeownership and the benefits that come from homeownership.

If you are curious to learn more, I encourage you to go to the resource page on the Montford & Stumptown Fund website. <https://montfordandstumptown.com/resources/> The videos and articles are enlightening. To learn how the ABCLT land trust works, check out <https://abclt.org/>

If you can feel it in your heart to support the Montford & Stumptown Fund, that would be great! But even if you decide not to join the movement, the above links will help you better understand why others are joining in increasing numbers.

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≡ B ≡

Bears' fall eat-a-thon: what's on the menu at your house?



In fall, bears are hard at work searching for plenty of food so they can fatten up for the winter ahead.

The hunt for food starts in late summer as berries and fruits ripen and shifts into high gear when calorie-packed nuts and seeds (soft and hard mast) are available. By fall bears are foraging up to 20 hours a day in a race against the clock. This annual power-eating marathon is called hyperphagia.

During hyperphagia, bears need to eat ten times the calories they normally consume — that's at least 20,000 calories a day.

Their goal: put on as much weight and insulating fat as possible before turning in for the winter. Even bears that live in warmer climates and den up later or sometimes not at all still go into hyperphagia in the fall.

A pound of acorns has about 2,100 calories; a pound of blueberries, just 256 calories. It takes many hours of foraging each day for bears to find 20,000 calories' worth of nuts and berries. But just one bird feeder full of black oil sunflower seed or one garbage container overflowing with leftovers can reward a bear with a day's worth of calories for less than an hour's work. No wonder human-provided foods can be even more tempting as winter closes in.

Make Your Place a No-Bear-Food Zone

Vist: <https://bearwise.org/bears-fall-eat-a-thon-is-on-whats-on-the-menu-at-your-house/>



SMART FELLER TREEWORKS

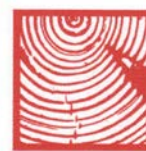
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Logos: ISA, BEST OF THE SOUTH, TCA, and others.



Order your Montford Banner

Three colors to choose from: red, green, and mustard yellow. They are available at the Asheville Visitor Center, 36 Montford Ave. (828) 258-6101



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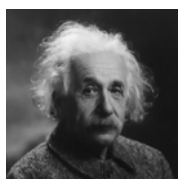
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BUNCOMBE COUNTY LIBRARIES

Pack Memorial Library 67 Haywood Street in downtown Asheville



"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."
—Albert Einstein

Are you new to the neighborhood or has it been a long time since you last visited Pack Memorial Library in downtown Asheville? There are endless resources to explore or to discover:

- **Over 150,000 items available for browsing and lending.** These resources include books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, and research materials. The library also participates in statewide resource sharing and offers inter-library loans.
- **Free internet access, public computing, and Wi-Fi.** Photocopy and printing services are available for a small fee.
- **Free laptop and hotspot lending program.** Laptops and hotspots are now available for a free 30 day loan with a library card.
- **Free tickets to local attractions.** Use your library card to sign up for Zoom passes, which are free tickets to local attractions like the WNC Nature Center, the NC Arboretum, or the Asheville Museum of Science.
- **Free digital audiobooks, e-books, magazines, and movies.** The Libby app from Overdrive provides downloads of these items to your smart phone, tablet, or computer. It's like an Audible subscription service, but free with your library card.

- **A vibrant and inviting children's library.** The library has books for all ages and reading levels, and board games, and sporting equipment available to lend.
- **Thousands of unique local historical records, photographs, maps, and memorabilia.** The Buncombe County Special Collections Library provides researchers the resources and expertise they need to understand and interpret the history of Western North Carolina.
- **Bookends Used Bookstore offers bargain prices for a wide variety of books and media, including vintage and collectible materials and bestselling fiction.** Proceeds from the sales benefit the library programming.

For more information, visit the library or their website:

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/library/branch-locations/pack-memorial.aspx>

Parking in the Civic Center parking ramp is free for the first hour. The library is also walkable from the Montford neighborhood.

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Resource Directory

Historic Walking Tours

Stroll the neighborhood or downtown. Walking tours of historic Montford, Riverside Cemetery, Biltmore Village and downtown Asheville, call 777-1014.

Smart Feller Tree Works

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Montford references available. Thanks.

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Green Corner

Mitch Russell

If you celebrate Christmas or just enjoy a Christmas tree hopefully by now you've gotten it and aren't stressed. If not, I won't make you wait until the end of the column so you can purchase a cut tree.



Was reading an article:

"Real vs. Fake-Which Christmas tree is better for the environment?", in Nature Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy's membership magazine, about the debate of artificial vs cut trees. Although artificial trees can be used for multiple years before being replaced unlike cut trees that are only used once, the drawbacks far outweigh the benefits.

Some drawbacks include:

Potential for "off-gassing", ie from Merriam-Webster: emission of especially noxious gasses. Typically associated with manufactured items.

Being manufactured from materials that are carbon-intensive

Being produced primarily in Asia requires massive amounts of resources to transport

Most are not recyclable and end up in landfills

Benefits of cut trees:

No off-gassing, unless you consider the scent of Balsam fir, Spruce pine or other common cut trees especially noxious. Plus there are other benefits from a mental and physical health perspective of cut trees-<https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/08/health/christmas-tree-mental-health-wellness/index.html>

Cut trees annually account for 10%, 30 million, of the total 350-500 million trees grown on tree farms that continue to provide carbon reduction benefits for the atmosphere and wildlife habitat

Most cut trees in the Asheville area are locally grown, within probably 75 miles or less, so emissions from transportation are significantly less

Cut trees can be recycled for compost or conservation projects after all the tinsel and ornaments are removed

So there you go. Get out there and support WNC farmers and the environment by buying a cut tree today!

HAPPY
Hanukkah



Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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.

Note: 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.