



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 27 No. 5
MAY '22



Welcoming Spring in Montford

Our State flower, the Dogwood and State bird, the Cardinal

The Little Winters and The Flowering Dogwood

Ross Terry

Don't put away your winter clothes or start planting until the Dogwood blooms. This year this farmer's advice seemed to be true. Folklore has it that there are several "little winters" or "cold snaps" in the Appalachians

before Spring is in full swing. I am familiar with four; the Redbud, Dogwood, Locust, and Blackberry winters. True or not, nothing says Spring for me like the Dogwood blooming at the edge of forests and urban parks. As a young boy, I found Dogwood trees abundant along creek banks and on wooded slopes of our farm.

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TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Mark Your Calendar

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

Gymnasium will be closed to refinish the floor and stage May 30-June 10

Yoga Basics

May 7, 14, and 21 from 10-11am
Weaver Park

Montford Open Gym Basketball

Wednesdays and Fridays from 12-2pm

Montford Open Climbing

April 27 from 6:30-9:30pm
May 10 from 12-3pm

Climbing Together (Women's Climbing Program)

May 6, 13, and 20 from 6-8pm



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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Green Corner

Mitch Russell

George Masa

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and thought it'd be good to write about a local advocate for what would become the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. He came to Asheville as a young Japanese immigrant and unfortunately left too young, but in his short time here made a significant impact. His name was **Masahara Iizuka, aka George Masa**.



Masa came to Asheville via San Francisco where he landed to study mining. Upon arrival in Asheville, he worked at the Grove Park Inn as a launderer and quickly worked his way up to valet. He also took photographs for the hotel and wealthy guests. His high-quality photography skills shone through while taking pictures. Almost as quickly as moving from launderer to valet he opened a studio to showcase his scenic photographs.

Masa met Horace Kephart a journalist and like-minded nature enthusiast. They worked closely together to create maps for what would become Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Appalachian Trail.

Masa hiked through the region taking photographs and measuring distances and terrain along with taking meticulous notes. He did so without compensation.

Masa and Kephart created promotional materials that made legislators and citizens aware of the need to preserve land in national parks. John D Rockefeller Jr. was so moved by



Masa's photos that he made a \$5 million donation toward the purchase of the parkland. First Lady Grace Coolidge, also showed major appreciation for Masa's work when he sent her a book of his photos.

In 1933 Masa planned to take a hike to memorialize Kephart's death but ended up getting gravely ill from influenza. Unable to pay his medical bills due to being severely impoverished Masa was sent to the county hospital where he passed away penniless—without the means to be buried next to Kephart as he'd wished. However, he was buried in **Riverside Cemetery**.

He was considered the Ansel Adams of the Smokies and his mission to see that the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was created led to the establishment of the park.

Without the photos and drive of George Masa, we may not have the Great Smoky Mountains National Park or the Appalachian Trail.

Read more here: <https://www.nationalparks.org/connect/blog/passion-parks-and-gift-photography>





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Resource Directory

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Update for May 3, 2022

May 3, 2022 Update: Buncombe County Remains in the Low Community Level (Green)

As of today, there have been 53,072 total cases of COVID-19 in Buncombe County and the current case rate is 136 per 100,000. This is an increase from last week's case rate of 94 per 100,000. This coincides with an incubation following Spring Break and Holidays where increased in-person interactions likely occurred. Buncombe County remains in Low Community Level. Current recommendations include staying up-to-date on vaccinations and seek testing if symptoms or exposure. We may see our community level change to medium (yellow) if the case rate continues to rise during these weeks following Easter.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

While there has not been much change in the overall proportion vaccinated amongst the different age groups, each week we do continue to see total number of vaccinations administered increase. Stacie Saunders, Buncombe County Public Health Director, reminds the community to take action to protect against getting and spreading COVID-19 and says, "Be aware of symptoms or exposure to those with COVID-19 and get tested if you have been exposed or feel ill. If you are high risk for severe illness, talk to your provider about [COVID treatment options](#)."

All COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, and second boosters ([for eligible populations](#)) are available at the Buncombe County Health Department Immunization Clinic at 40 Coxe Ave. This clinic is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and COVID-19 vaccines are available on a walk-in basis. Visit yourspotyourshot.nc.gov for additional vaccine providers near you.

COVID-19 Testing & Treatment

While case rates are declining, it is important continue to stay home and away from others if you are symptomatic or have tested positive for COVID-19 to keep from spreading it to others. Testing is available in many locations. If you need to be tested for COVID-19, [click here to find testing near you](#). Please visit <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/treatment> for more information on available treatments and providers in our area.

The federal government Test to Treat program has expanded to include urgent cares and local pharmacies. Through this program, people are able to get tested and if they are positive and treatments are appropriate for them, receive a prescription from a health care provider, and have their prescription filled all at one location. To find local Test to Treat locations, go to <https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx>.

Get more information here:

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

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PDIXON77@YAHOO.COM

COMMERCIAL ■ RESIDENTIAL ■ INTERIORS
EXTERIORS ■ LICENSED

Dogwood

Continued from front page...

In 1941 the North Carolina General Assembly designated the flower of the Dogwood tree (Cornaceae) as the official state flower. At that time, three species of Dogwood existed in North Carolina.

The Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), common in the wild and popular as an ornamental, is a tree that enchants people every spring. The flowering dogwood is found in deciduous woodlands throughout the state up to elevations of 4,500 feet.

The Alternate-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), which is common in the mountains and rare in the northern piedmont, has leaves that are simple and elliptical but are alternate on their stems (hence the name).

The Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) is a bush that has simple, elliptical, and opposite leaves. Its gray-to-white fruits and gray twigs give it its name. This dogwood grows in thickets in damp meadows in the mountains of the northwestern corner of North Carolina.

Dogwood Anthracnose

Sadly, Dogwood Anthracnose, first noticed in the late 70s, has caused serious losses to Flowering Dogwood found in the forest and ornamental plantings over large portions of the Eastern and Southern United States. Dogwoods already had a list of other pathogens plaguing them making things worst.

Enter the Appalachian Spring Dogwood

This tree was introduced by the University of Tennessee from a disease-free tree found in the Catoctin Mountain Park in Maryland. This resistance to anthracnose is huge as those in the Eastern U.S. know how devastating this disease is to native Flowering Dogwood trees. The Appalachian Spring Dogwood is not the product of genetic experiments; it was discovered growing amid thousands of other trees that had died of anthracnose. The Appalachian Spring Dogwood is a product of good old natural selection.

Sources:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5447373.pdf

<https://www.yourgardensanctuary.com/appalachian-spring-dogwood/>

<https://www.wkrn.com/weather-headlines/springtime-winters-the-folklore-behind-tennessees-little-winters/>

Interesting site:

<https://www.dogwoodalliance.org/?s=dogwood>





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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 04/13/22

Present: Chair Emily Kite, Vice-Chair Emily Spreng, Gail Lazaras, Will Hornaday, Sioux Oliva, James Vaughn, Shannon Watkins, Shelly Jackson (appointed March 8, 2022)

Absent: Sara Groce, Stephanie West

Staff present: Alex Cole, Avery Tew, Jannice Ashley

Item, Summary and Action

295 Cumberland Avenue (PIN 9649045502) - Construct shed dormer on rear elevation; modify door and window openings on side and rear elevations.

Action—Approved with conditions

144 Flint Street (PIN 9649221658) - Construct gabled dormer on north elevation.

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.

Forever Montford

GO AHEAD - PLANT THAT TREE

And the MNA will give you up to \$300 to do it.

The Montford 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.

Since September 2019, the MNA has helped fund 63 trees, awarded \$3,400 for tree planting, and leveraged over \$15,000 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.

Although “fall is for planting”, spring is a fine time too!

Find additional information and the grant application at Montford.org.

Click “Links” then “Tree Grant”

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



MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY MEETING

April 27, 2022 at Archetype Brewing on Broadway Ave.

15 neighbors in attendance

Dan Rogers (MNA Board secretary) calls meeting to begin at 6:33pm: Welcome everyone.

The Board now consists of 9 members and 1 ex-officio.

Treasurer's report: ~ \$60k in bank. We have two neighborhood contenders who have answered the call for a CPA to do our organization's taxes in the future, 2023 and beyond.

Report from Seth Jackson, Director of **Tempie Avery Montford Center**: Many activities and events on the calendar. He will post often to share the dates and details in the listserv. Also, check into <https://www.ashevillenc.gov/department/parks-recreation/community-centers/> (scroll to the bottom for Tempie Avery Rec Center) for information about Open Basketball, Open Climbing, Table tennis and Badminton schedules, Special programs for adults, women, toddlers, Art, Volleyball and Summer Camps. The gym will be closed for the floor and stage to be re-finished May 30 – June 5.

KUDZU: Report from Karen MacNeil about Kudzu Long Term project, the event in April was a success with many people involved at the Greenway location where volunteers dug Kudzu crowns out of the ground to reduce overgrowth. Karen is helping to spread the word on Kudzu culture and is building collaboration and partnerships with Parks and Recreation, Greenway Commission (as part of the City of Asheville). Look up <https://www.kudzuculture.net> for more information.

CAN (Coalition of Neighborhoods): Dan Rogers reports there are open seats on their volunteer board to work with and engage the city with our neighborhoods and specific projects and concerns. Look up online. <https://www.asheville-can.org/>

MNA Home Tour: Ellen Nutter reports that the committee postponed the annual event in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid19. Many months of planning are involved

each year and there is not confirmation we can hold the event in December 2022. Decision whether to hold tour must be made before August. Volunteers, please make contact through <https://www.montfordtour.com>.

Montford Lights: Ellen also reported on this annual event to be held early December 2022 (date tbd) at Montford Community Garden, the corner of Montford Ave and Waneta St. This is outdoors, for all our neighbors with music and cheer and togetherness. Our first occasion in 2021 lighting the tree was very well attended, with all of us happy to be able to gather (at some safe distance) and celebrate the season.

Tree Grants: Lynn reported that MNA has helped our neighbors plant over 63 trees with money available (up to \$300 per property) as matching grants. Native trees are encouraged. Please apply before you purchase. Money can be used for tree and labor to install. Find the application form at http://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TreeGrant_2019_1209.pdf.

Bus Shelters: The new one is in place at the north end of Montford Ave. Effort by MNA board members Randy Hall and Lynn Raker to involve the Verge Apartments and the City of Asheville for all the funds required to replace the dilapidated former shelter and add a trash receptacle. MNA is developing history panels to enhance the unit, similar to those found on our other bus shelters. Amy Wortham is also putting forth ideas to involve current residents to contribute art and narratives to make the panels more dynamic for the residents using the bus shelters.

MNA board is working on a strategic plan, to set financial goals and clarify the MNA mission. Will hold a planning session in May or June.

NEW BUSINESS: Neighbor Cherie Morris reported about a second house fire on a property at the head of Montford Ave. Flames were 2 stories high Sunday night, midnight on April 24. A big issue brought to our attention is the

implication of egregious neglect by property owners, causing public safety issues (as well as unattractive entrance to our beloved neighborhood). Residents and visitors no doubt see and become curious about making an intervention to prevent further destruction of property. Barbara Driscoll, another neighbor on Short St. has been communicating with our fire chief and she has initiated a legal process with the city to investigate protecting safety on those four properties falling into disrepair. Burnette has said he is willing to attend and report to our next MNA meeting (July 28, 6:30pm). Cherie and Barbara recommend we all write to City Council members about our concerns for enforcing the responsibility of property owners to maintain safety and appearances for the entire community.

Meeting adjourned 7:25pm

Minutes submitted by
Leslie Humphrey, MNA Board VP

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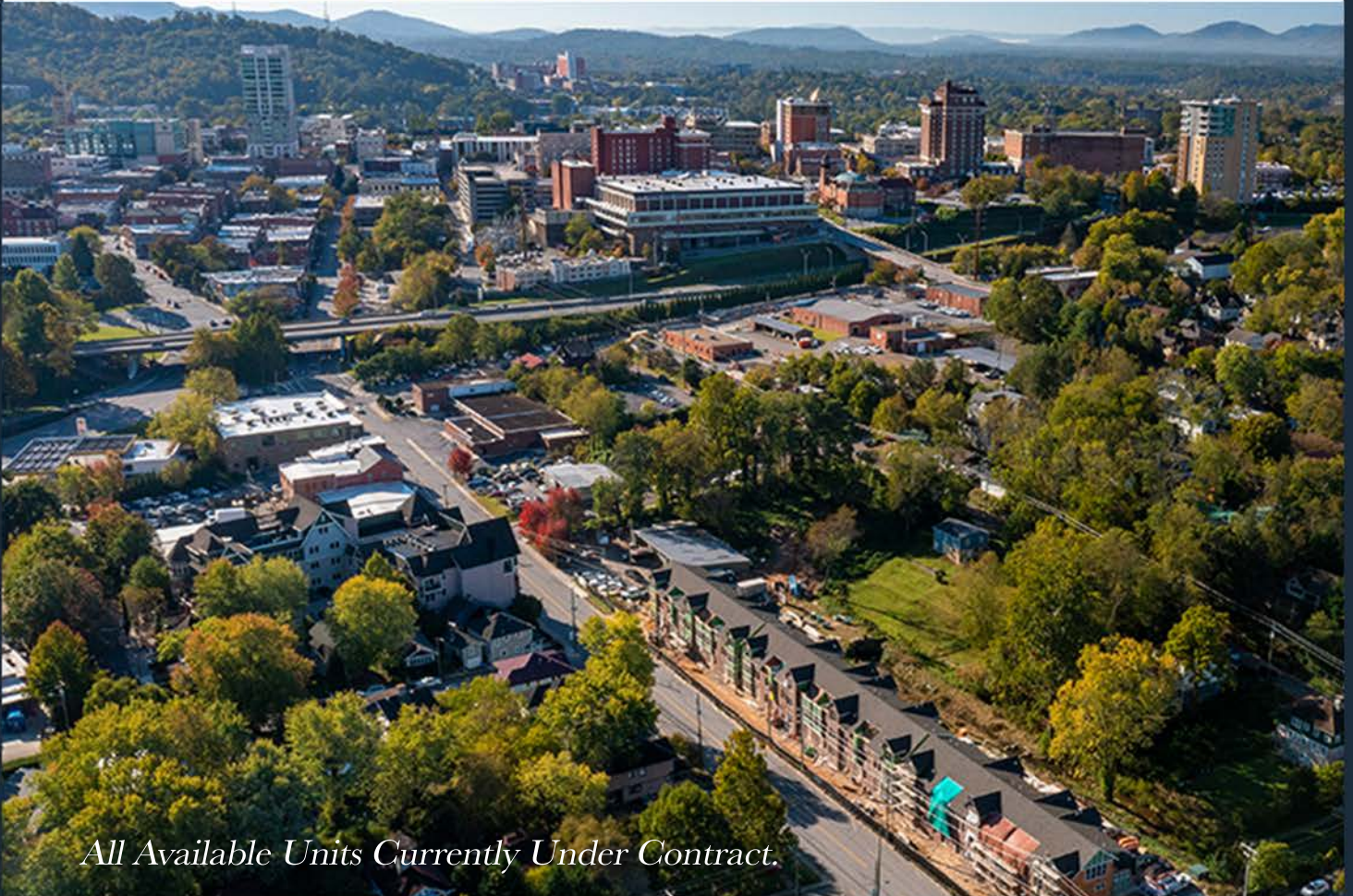
Locust Winter



Some progress is being made with the Montford Avenue sinkhole. All concerned are looking forward to the system connections being completed. Stay tuned.

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≡ **B** ≡

Stumptown Representatives Appointed to Reparations Commission

By the Montford Community Club

On July 14, 2020, Asheville City Council passed a Resolution supporting community reparations for Black Asheville. Buncombe County Commissioners followed suit in August. In their Resolutions, each body names, apologies for, and resolves to “make amends” for policies and practices that have negatively impacted Black residents from slavery through the present day.

In March of this year, the City Council and County Commission each appointed five representatives to a Community Reparations Commission. The Commission is charged with developing recommendations to repair the harm done by decades of racial discrimination and systemic oppression against Black Asheville residents. The City also announced representatives “appointed by the historically impacted African American neighborhoods.”

Kimberly Jones and **Thomas Priester** have been named as the representatives chosen by Stumptown.

Congratulations to them both!

Jones is an Asheville native, with close ties to Montford and Stumptown through her family and in-laws. She is the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Asheville City Schools and serves as the Clerk to the Asheville City Board of Education. She is married to Leonard Jones, Jr. and the couple has two sons, Elijah and Jeremiah. Her mother’s family moved to Montford from South Carolina in the 1960s. “It was a time when many black families moved from SC to Asheville for work in areas like hospitality and manufacturing,” she says. “I was always told growing up that Asheville was a hub for black people as Western North Carolina was growing.”

“I am excited to be serving on the Community Reparations Commission representing Stumptown,” Jones shares. “There is so much work that requires urgent attention in our city to repair the harm caused by urban renewal. I am honored to be a support in this important undertaking for people who were affected and are still being impacted today in Asheville.”



Priester is also an Asheville native who takes “great pride in being a champion of the people.” He grew up in Montford in Klondyke Apartments and on Blake Street where his mother still lives. Currently, he works for the Housing Authority supporting homeownership and family self-sufficiency programs. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director of YTL (Youth Transformed for Life). He has also worked as a Student Specialist for Children First and a Behavioral Specialist for Buncombe County Schools. His extensive volunteer community service includes mentoring youth and serving on numerous committees including the Success Equation Housing Team.

“I joined the Reparations Commission to share my experience of being a native and growing up in Asheville,” says Priester. “I’m intrigued about the actual unfolding of the plans and process of Asheville providing reparations to the people of past, present and future.” As their representative, he plans to bring the perspectives of Stumptown elders to the table, with the intention “to be a part of the discussions/decisions of making things right.”

In April, current and former Stumptown residents had their first official meeting with Jones and Priester, where the group also designated Ami Worthen as Community Ally. Worthen, a writer and long-time Montford resident, will be supporting the group’s documentation and storytelling.

Visit montfordandstumptown.com for ongoing updates on the reparations process as it relates to our neighborhood, video interviews and written histories of Stumptown, demographic data, and related resources.



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.



Magnolia Park Update

Hello! I am writing to share some updates from Asheville Parks & Recreation, but first I would like to introduce myself.

My name is Kristina Israel, and I am the new Community Engagement Manager for the City of Asheville. (You may know that my predecessor, Brenda Mills, continues to serve with the City as our Director of Equity & Inclusion.) It is my honor to lead the Neighborhood Services Division of the Communication & Public Engagement Department.

My previous experience includes time spent with two great, local nonprofits, the Council on Aging of Buncombe County and Four Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care. I've joined an excellent team with great support at the City and look forward to connecting with you and your neighbors.



Magnolia Park - 51 Magnolia Ave

We're excited to share updates on the redevelopment of Magnolia Park. This well-loved community park is getting a modern facelift and work begins soon. Please share this information with your neighborhood as parts of the park will be inaccessible during construction.

- Demolition of the restroom and storage building is scheduled to begin on May 23 and last for five days. Depending on weather, it could start later and/or last longer, but the City of Asheville is dedicated to as little disruption to surrounding properties as possible.
- Replacement of the playground, trike track, basketball court, benches, picnic tables, water fountain, and trash

and recycling receptacles begins later this year. This phase of the project also includes new lighting and an ADA-accessible entry.

- The City of Asheville continues to work with Bountiful Cities and North Carolina State University's Horticulture Department to ensure as many of the edible trees, shrubs, and vines in the park are preserved. Recently, a community work day involved neighbors pruning and training muscadine grape vines for increased structural stability and productivity. If any fruit and nut bearing trees are relocated, efforts will be made to keep them in Magnolia Park rather than another location.

For more info and updates, visit the project page:

<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/projects/magnolia-park/>

Please note that door flyers will be delivered to properties adjacent to the park on the morning of May 12; yard signs with a QR code and URL for the project will also be onsite by May 23 for passersby.

Thank you so much!

Kristina

MAGNOLIA PARK



View larger image at this address:

<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Magnolia-Playground-Exhibit-Oct21-scaled.jpg>

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

Ashima Nair: ashimanair@gmail.com

Lynn Raker: lynn.raker@gmail.com



Redbud Winter

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@krtdesign.com, 230-7439 for more information.