



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 27 No. 6

JUNE/JULY '22

Montford Timeline

Coming soon to a Montford Avenue bus shelter—*Montford History at a Glance*.

The Montford Neighborhood Association noticed the poor condition of the bus shelter on the north end of Montford Avenue near Bulldog Drive. Residents and board members—Lynn Raker and Randy Hall—worked with the City and successfully replaced the bus shelter. Then they developed a plan to include a historical panel for the shelter. The panel will be a timeline showing the history of Asheville's most historic neighborhood.

Watch the Listserve and Montford.org for installation and ceremony dates.

Timeline

8000 B.C. (or before 1783) - The Anigiduwagi, more commonly known as the Cherokee, had sole claim to the land west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

After 1783 - White settlers could apply for land grants. The Woodfin, Rankin, Patton, Courtland, and Pearson families, among others, acquired large tracts of land. Portions of their tracts encompassed Montford. Many of these families increased their wealth using the labor of enslaved people.

1848 - The Rankin-Bearden house/plantation at 32 Elizabeth Place, was constructed on 75 acres. It is the oldest house in Montford today.

1865 - The Battle of Asheville took place on April 6 along Montford's Broadway Street border (near the UNC Asheville Botanical Garden). Confederate Camp Jeter was located along Cherry and Flint Streets.

1871 - Nicholas Woodfin and family gave land to midwife Tempie Avery whom they had formerly enslaved. The vibrant

Stumptown community developed adjacent to Tempie's home (32 Pearson Drive). See the panel at Montford and Cullowhee for more information.

1885 - Riverside Cemetery Company was incorporated by a group of investors, including politicians, businessmen and community leaders. Men and youth in Stumptown provided labor for digging graves and landscape maintenance.

1890 - Asheville Loan, Construction and Improvement Company (ALC&I Co.) purchased 1,000 acres of land to be subdivided into residential lots and include parks and lakes with streets and electric cars running through the area. 300 acres of the property was developed as Montford.

Academy Street was renamed Montford Avenue, which was the family name of Richmond Pearson's ancestor Lord Montford. The name is of French and English (Norman) extraction.

1893 - The ALC&I Co. went bankrupt even though they had created and established the most popular residential neighborhood in Asheville. The area was incorporated as Montford. James Rumbaugh was its one and only mayor.

1894 - George Willis Pack purchased the development of Montford Park (that included land on the other side of the French Broad River) on the courthouse steps.

Children's Theater Group

1900 - Despite Jim Crow segregation mandates, sections of Montford included homeownership by Blacks. The first Hill Street School, an early school for *Negros, was located at 71 Hill Street. By 1914 a larger building was constructed, still inferior to the white schools.

1905 - Montford was annexed by the City of Asheville.

1911 - Dr. William Green Torrence opened a hospital for Blacks at 91 Hill Street.

1916 - Riverside Park, a large recreation complex, flooded and was not rebuilt. It was the destination of the trolley.

1920s - Montford Hills was developed as "The Suburb in the City". Its deeds included a racial covenant prohibiting the sale or lease of land to *Negros.

1929 - The stock market crash caused the beginning of a downturn in Montford. Boarding houses and sanatoriums sprang up in the neighborhood.

1937 - Government maps marked Stumptown and adjacent Black sections of Montford red, meaning they would not be eligible for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance loans. Redlining, as it is known, was a discriminatory practice in which services (financial and otherwise) were withheld from residents of areas that had significant numbers of Black and other ethnic minorities, and low-income residents.

1938 - Flint Street residents, concerned about the construction of a commercial garage in their area, urged the city to adopt a zoning ordinance.

1950s - In 1955, Asheville's Urban Renewal Commission was established, and a year later, the Metropolitan Planning Board was designated the local physical planning agency. On Nov. 20, 1959, Leonard Thompson of 72 Hill St. received the first certificate for housing relocation under the renewal program. Additional houses, churches and businesses were

demolished or burned for the Crosstown Expressway (later becoming I-240). A Montford community club was organized, but only included a portion of the neighborhood.

1965 -1974 - Montford was included in the Federal Model Cities Program funding meant to fight the "war on poverty." Stumptown leaders, including Phyllis Sherrill, protested insufficient sanitation services in their neighborhood as compared to other parts of the city.

1969 - Montford Community Club brought the entire neighborhood together to combat crime. The Montford Newsletter started soon after and is still published monthly.

1970s - Stumptown was all but demolished as part of Asheville's Urban Renewal program. Streets with historic African American homeownership remained: Gray, Ocala, Harrison, Short, and Young among them.

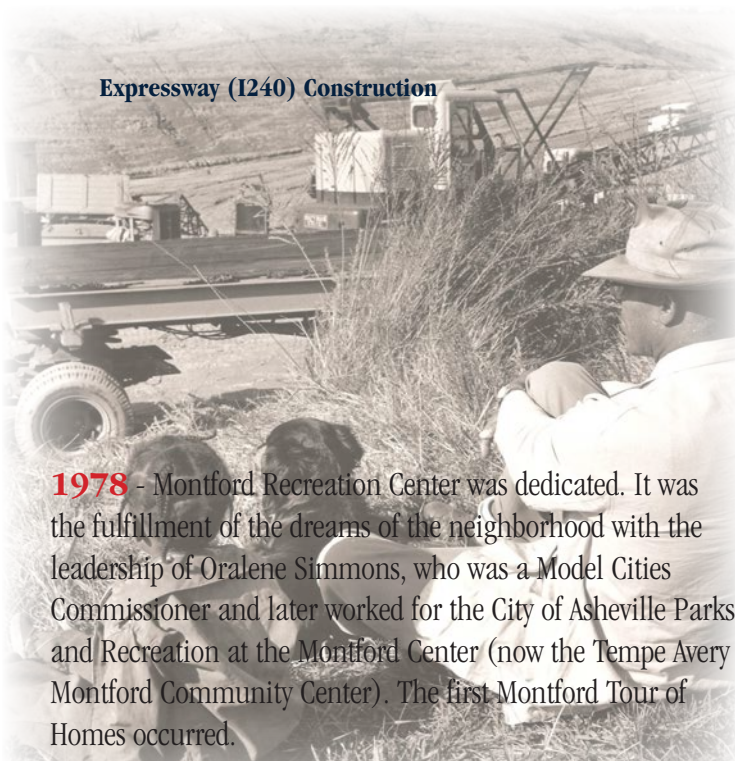
1973 - The Montford Park Players was founded by Hazel Robinson. Early performances were in Montford Park.

1974 - Klondyke Apartments opened despite Montford homeowners, both Black and white, opposing construction, contending it would devalue their homes.

1976 - The Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County was formed, sparked by the U. S. Bicentennial and in response to threats to local buildings and sites. One of these threats was a proposal to turn Montford Avenue into a through street connecting downtown to U.S. 19/23 (future I 26).

1977 - Part of Montford was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Federal and state tax credits became available for income producing properties and private homes through the National Preservation Act of 1966.

Early Montford Park



Expressway (I240) Construction

1978 - Montford Recreation Center was dedicated. It was the fulfillment of the dreams of the neighborhood with the leadership of Oralene Simmons, who was a Model Cities Commissioner and later worked for the City of Asheville Parks and Recreation at the Montford Center (now the Tempe Avery Montford Community Center). The first Montford Tour of Homes occurred.

1980s - Bed and Breakfast owners converted some of the larger homes to inns. This encouraged restoration and renovation by property owners.

1981 - The Asheville City Council designated a portion of Montford as a local historic district, the first of four local historic districts to come under the jurisdiction of the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) of Asheville and Buncombe County.

1983 - Hazel Robinson Amphitheater was built to house the Montford Park Players, the longest running free Shakespeare company in North Carolina.

1985 - Head of Montford development plan was created to include residential and commercial buildings (located across from the current Asheville Visitor Center).

1987 - Montford Redevelopment Plan is adopted by City Council to improve living conditions in Montford and increase property values.

1990 - Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) was started by neighbors to give loans to residents for home repairs. Later the NHS built affordable housing but did not protect it with covenants.

1993 - The Asheville Police Department located a substation at 235 Montford Avenue in the Montford Resource Center. The



Montford Park Players

center served as a location to organize and effect change. The neighborhood paid half the rent. The Community Club had split into the Montford Resource Center and Historic Montford (which included residents of the historic district). Historic Montford was established as a separate organization for those in the historic district.

1995 - Despite protests, the North Carolina Department of Transportation expanded Broadway Street resulting in the demolition of homes on both sides of the street.

2001 - The newly formed Montford Neighborhood Association (MNA) composed a 2025 Vision Plan, the first neighborhood to submit one to the city.

2002 - The first Montford Music and Arts Festival was held to encourage visitors to the neighborhood and increase pride. The MNA helped to develop the Reed Creek Greenway plan and later partnered with UNC Asheville and Riverlink to fund a section.

2004 – Present - MNA became a nonprofit. Today the MNA sponsors events and raises funds for neighborhood improvement projects, such as refurbishing the playground at Klondyke and donating funds to the Tempie Avery Recreation Center for their programs. The MNA sponsors a Holiday Tour of Homes, the Montford Music and Arts Festival, garden tours, studio tours and more.

2009 - The Montford Listserv began to improve neighborhood communication.

Bus shelter committee:

Lynn Raker and Randy Hall

Panel concept and design:

Sharon Fahrer of History@Hand
and Ross Terry of KRT Graphic Design.

TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Summer Camp Has Begun!

Montford Summer Camp

Monday-Friday from 8:30-6:00pm
Runs through August 18

Afterschool Sign-Ups

Registrations open on July 11

Community Access Art Nights

July 8 - 6:00-8:00pm - Modern Art Focus
July 22 - 6:00-8:00pm - Contemporary Art Focus

Roll for Initiative

Saturdays - 6/18, 7/2, and 7/16 - 2:00-6:00pm - 16 and older
Beginner friendly program to teach the basics of Dungeons and Dragons. Will run through the first chapter of "Lost Mine of Phandelver"
Contact Holly for more details @ 828-253-3714

Montford Toddler Water Days

Saturdays - 6/4, 7/2, and 8/6 - 10:00am -12:00pm
Drop-in opportunities for families to bring out their little ones to enjoy loads of water fun.

Be on the lookout!

Fresh Start Kindergarten Camp
8/29-9/2 from 9:00am -2:00pm
\$10

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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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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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Update for June 7, 2022

In Buncombe County, there have been a total of 56,424 COVID-19 cases since the pandemic's start. Like many counties in the state, Buncombe County Community Level is now Medium (Yellow). The recommendations at this level are:

- Stay up to date on vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- If at high risk for severe illness, consider wearing a mask in indoor public spaces

“While the Community Level has been elevated, we actually saw a decrease in the COVID-like illness surveillance activity and a decrease in the case rate from the week prior,” said Public Health Director Stacie Saunders. “The epi curve is showing a potential plateau at this time, but I am cautiously optimistic in this trend given that we just celebrated the Memorial Day holiday and it is typically associated with large gatherings.”

Last week, the case rate was 306 per 100,000 compared to 270 per 100,000 this week. Hospitalizations have seen an increase in the last few weeks but remain relatively low. This wave of cases does not seem to be translating into high hospitalization rates or ICU burden as seen with the previous seasonal surges.

Similarly, the death rate has remained low and relatively flat for the last two months. There have been 585 COVID-19 related deaths among Buncombe County residents, including one additional death since last week.

There continue to be three main areas of COVID-19 response and operations: Vaccine, Testing, and Treatment. While there has not been any meaningful change in the proportion by age that has received COVID-19 vaccine, Buncombe County sees total numbers increase each week. The group with the largest increase week over week is the 3rd/Booster dose group.

Recently, children ages 5-11 years old became eligible for boosters. In the coming weeks, vaccine authorization is anticipated for children 6 months up to 5 years. It's expected that on or around June 15, the FDA Vaccine Advisory Committee will review Moderna Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) EUA for 6 months through 5 years and the Pfizer EUA for 6 months through 4 years. Shortly after EUA, the CDC Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is expected to review, which is typically followed by the CDC Director recommendation. If all goes as anticipated, then we could see vaccine for this youngest group ready for administration on or around June 21, 2022.

When authorized and recommended, the vaccine for anyone six months or older will be available at the Buncombe County Health Department. Families can also check with their pediatrician for vaccine.

Get more information here:

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/countycenter/news-detail.aspx?id=20055>

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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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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 05/11/22

Present: Chair Emily Kite, Vice-Chair Emily Spreng, Gail Lazaras, Will Hornaday, Sioux Oliva, Shannon Watkins

Absent: James Vaughn, Sara Groce, Stephanie West, Shelly Jackson

Staff present: Alex Cole, Avery Tew, Jannice Ashley

Item, Summary and Action

156 Cumberland Avenue (PIN 9649132093) - Replace four existing wood awning windows on front elevation.

Action—Approved

99999 Gudger Street (PIN 9649111627) - Construct new one-and-a-half story 2,548 square foot primary structure.

Action—Approved with conditions

HRC Application Portal

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

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

Please refer to the website (www.ashevilenc.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



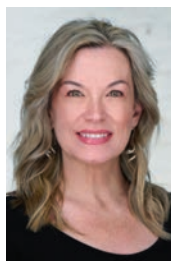
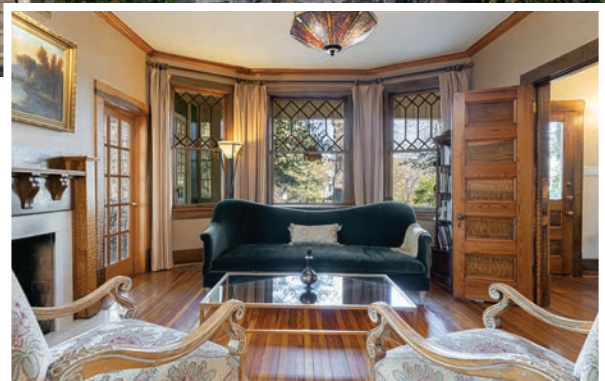
SOLD IN HISTORIC MONTFORD

Premier | **Sotheby's**
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Congratulations

to Angela and David on the sale of 254 Cumberland Avenue!
Wishing them health, happiness and prosperity. And a warm
Montford welcome to Shari, the newest steward of the Judge
Henry B. Stevens House!



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You're Invited to a Montford Paint & Sip



Jenny Pickens

Calling all Montford residents! Join us for an afternoon of painting, sipping, and conversation as we discuss Montford's past and future, and how to make homeownership accessible to all. July 16, 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

This event will feature an interactive art activity led by artist and former Montford resident Jenny Pickens. We'll create together while sharing stories of home.

Tickets are \$50 each. Paint supplies, appetizers, wine, and beer are included. Parents and caretakers, you can bring your kids. Childcare will be provided by neighborhood teens.

Use this QR code to RSVP via Eventbrite:

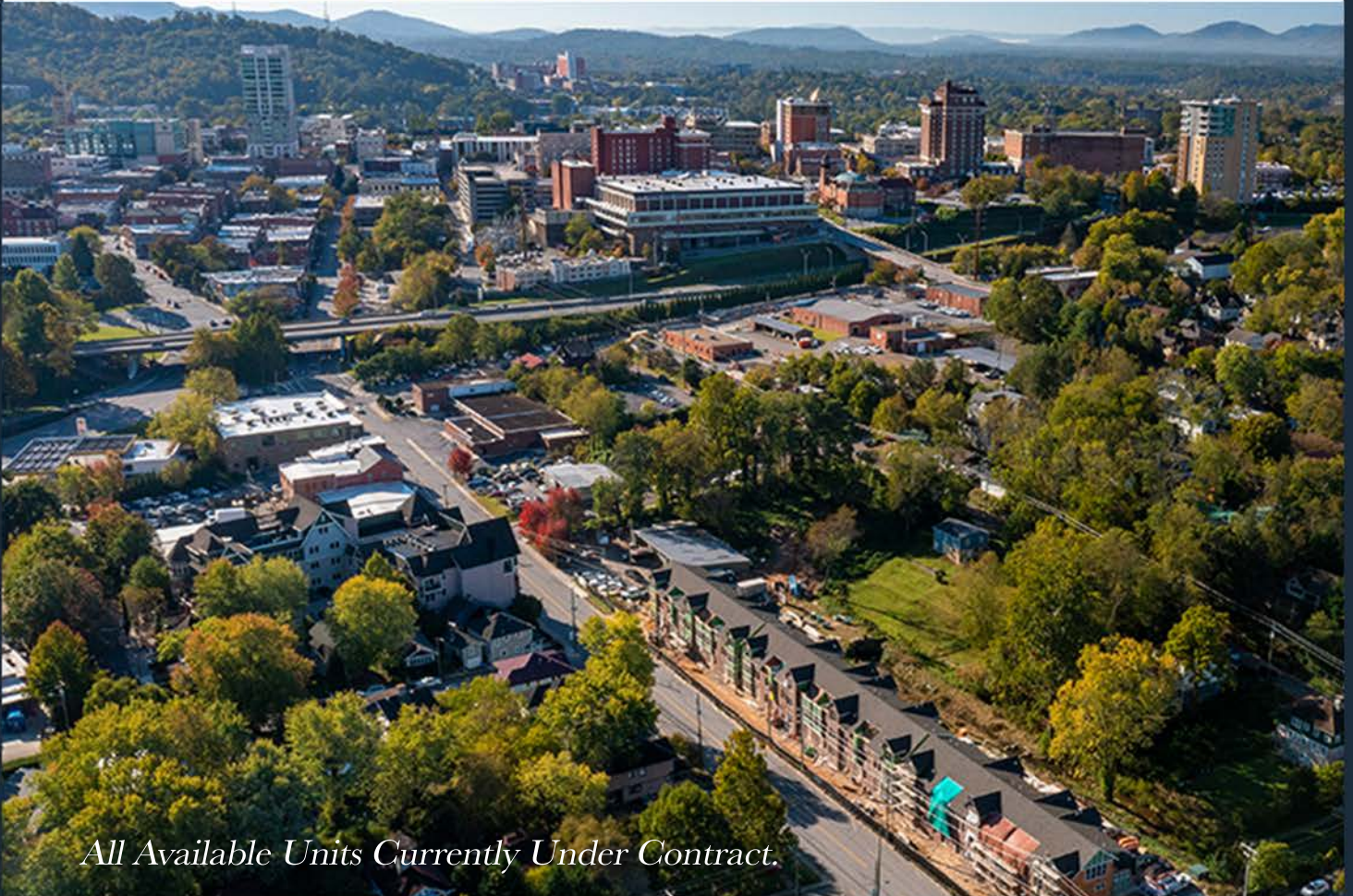
Hosted by the Montford & Stumptown Fund of the Asheville Buncombe-Community Land Trust (ABCLT), and the Montford Community Club.



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-montford-paint-sip-tickets-368618888017>

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MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS

Montford Park Players, an Asheville theatrical tradition, is proud to announce their upcoming production of the children's classic *The Little Prince*. All performances will be held at the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre at 92 Gay Street in the heart of Asheville's historic Montford District, from June 10th through July 9th on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7:30pm. In order to keep things safe in the wake of Covid, only those with tickets will be allowed at each performance. Tickets are available at montfordparkplayers.org and are, as always, FREE.

The story of *The Little Prince* is simple and somewhat odd at face value, but teaches valuable lessons about loneliness, friendship, love, and loss. The little prince of the title leaves the solitude of his home planet in order to explore the universe. Before arriving on Earth, he meets many adults, all of whom inadvertently teach him something about himself and about people. The novella the play is based on has sold over 140 million copies around the world and is considered one of the most beloved works of the 20th Century.

Director Jason Williams, who has worked with Montford Park Players for over 20 years now, has long been a fan of the book. He says, "I really like the bittersweet nature of the story, and I saw lots of opportunity to present the show in a very visual and theatrical manner." Coming off last year's repertory productions of *Pericles* and *Macbeth*, Williams is never one to shy away from a challenge. "I'm approaching the production in a presentational way," Williams says. "I want to explore many different forms of storytelling including puppetry, movement, and audience interaction."

True to form, Williams has assembled an all-star team of Montford regulars for his cast and crew. He has Mandy Bean creating costumes, Kristi Deville doing the choreography and he's taking on the set and lighting

design himself. On the cast side, will be Kai Strange and Eli Hamilton alternating weekends in the titular role, and they are ably backed by Paula O'Brien, Bobbi Williams, Lateasa Bond, Heather Rudzenski, Dakota Mann, Eric Vik, Blaine Weiss, Genevieve Levine, David Mycoff and Willow Garrison.

In the hands of Williams, *The Little Prince* promises to be visually stunning while also being funny, poignant and thought-provoking. In addition to hoping that the audience has a great time, he also wants them to hear what the book is ultimately trying to say. As he puts it, "I hope they leave the show feeling a little better about the world."

Montford Park Players has been presenting Shakespeare and other classical works to the Asheville community since 1973 and has since grown to be one of Western North Carolina's most beloved and well-known cultural attractions.

For more information or to obtain tickets, go to montfordparkplayers.org, or call at (828) 254-5146. provoking. In addition to hoping that the audience has a great time, he also wants them to hear what the book is ultimately trying to say. As he puts it, "I hope they leave the show feeling a little better about the world."

For more information or to obtain tickets, go to montfordparkplayers.org, or call (828) 254-5146.



Mooseman's Records Block Party

By Montford Community Club

We had a wonderful time with neighbors and friends at the Mooseman's Records Block Party on Saturday, May 22, 2022 in Magnolia Park. We celebrated the memory and music of one of Montford's cultural treasures, Cleo "Mooseman" Shivers, with his son Damion "DJ Supaman" Smith. It was a delightful day!



Here are a few photos from the event, you can see more at montfordandstumptown.com.



Get 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



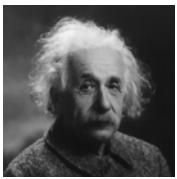
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Pack Memorial Library 67 Haywood Street in downtown Asheville



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

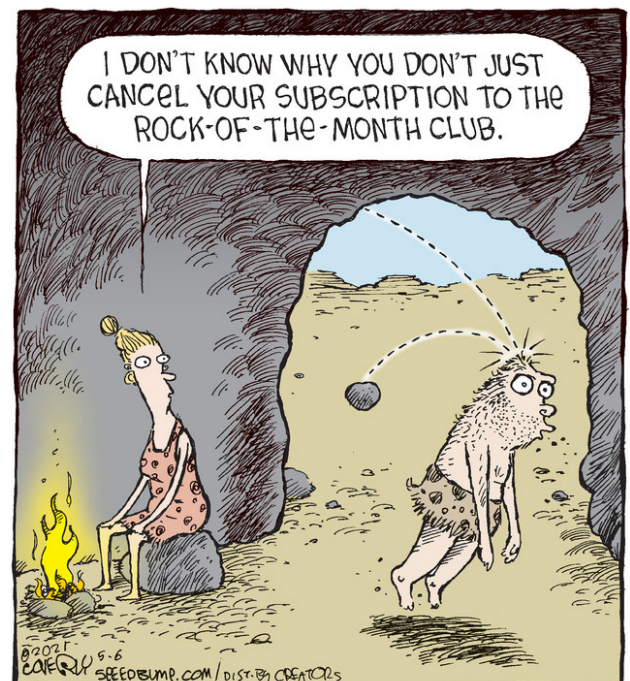
Are you new to the neighborhood or has it been a long time since you last visited Pack Memorial Library in downtown Asheville? There are endless resources to explore or to discover:

- **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.



Green Corner
Mitch Russell



I recently vacationed in several European countries after a two-year delay due to COVID lockdowns and surges. We did lots of walking, 5+ miles daily, and saw various parts of Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Bratislava (Slovakia), and several smaller towns in Austria, the Czech Republic, and Germany.

I imagine that many of us will be traveling more this summer and fall since the pandemic phase of COVID is waning and vaccines are more widespread here as well as in other countries. With more traveling emissions from those travels also increase.

Almost every time we drive, ride, fly, cruise, etc. we are utilizing fossil fuels, therefore, upping emissions. What can we do about it? Google now has emission rates for flights when you search routes. Type in your route like AVL-EWR, Newark, NJ into the search box and click flights. Under the type of flight, round trip, one-way or multi-city you'll see the

emissions as a - or +. The - flights emit fewer emissions. If you must have a rental car, rather than taking mass transit or walking, get a fully electric, plug-ins, or hybrid vehicles.

As for cruises, contact the company to see if they are implementing the following, suggested by International Council on Clean Transportation to reduce emissions:

Low-sulfur marine gas oil

Use shore power when in port

Invest in non-methane alternative-fueled ships that use energy like green hydrogen and methanol rather than liquified natural gas

Finally, "reduce" any emissions by purchasing offsets from a company like Terrapass or CoolEffect. Terrapass and CoolEffect are easy to use.

Enjoy your summer travels guilt-free and know that you're doing all you can to keep the Earth and your travels green.



NEWSLETTER AD RATES

Contact Ross Terry at ross@krtdesign.com or call 230-7439 to place an ad.

SIZE	RATE/ISSUE
Resource Directory	\$15
Business Card	\$35
1/4 Page	\$60
1/2 Page	\$100
Full Page	\$200

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.