

# **I-26 CONNECTOR PUBLIC FORUM**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 7:00 pm New Isaac Dickson Elementary School Auditorium 125 Hill Street



# Mark Your Calendars:

Public Meeting on I-26 Connector 4B Alternative Tuesday, September 20, 7pm

# Suzanne Devane

With the decision earlier this year by NCDOT to move forward with the 4B Alternative as its preferred option for Section B of the I-26



Connector proposal, the project that never actually happens appears to be back on track and poised for construction. Because the MNA took a broad position on this project in 2009 that has not been adequately responded to in the 4B Alternative, the MNA Board is convening a community forum on Tuesday evening, September 20, so we can hear directly from NCDOT officials about the project and its ramifications not

# Natural Neighborhoods: Front Gardens

. . . . .

## Lisa Wagner

Green comes in different forms in our urban landscapes, from street trees and public parks to hidden back gardens. All of these bits of green are important threads in the fabric of the natural world as it exists in our city.

Among the green spaces that I've been enjoying most recently are front gardens, which are experiencing a renaissance here only to Montford, but also to Asheville's western front door to downtown. (For the MNA position in 2009: montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/I-26-Montford-Position-7\_18.pdf)

The goal of the meeting is to provide residents of Asheville—on the east side of the French Broad River living or working

continued on page 14...



in Montford (and elsewhere in Asheville), as gardeners are invigorating their gardening efforts with a variety of annuals, perennials, shrubs, ground-covers, and small trees, often including edibles in the mix. There's been a distinct uptick in front yards that are truly "gardened," not simply maintained, resulting in a patchwork of small gardens to appreciate as I walk in the neighborhood.

I've particularly noticed this in smaller front landscapes, flanking small cottages and bungalows, where previously uninspiring

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# Montford Neighborhood Association Meetings

• August 16 (Community Center) and September 20 (New Isaac Dickson School auditorium)

All residents are welcome. Everyone in Montford is a member of the neighborhood association.

# Community Recreation News

# Mondays

- Table Tennis 5:30-8pm FREE
- Ukulele 6-8pm FREE

## Tuesdays

• Homeschool Ed programs begin Sept 6; pre-reg required

# CALENDAR

- Cheerleading all signups begin Sept 13
- Martial Arts 6:30-8pm \$10 per class

#### Wednesdays

• Community Volleyball 6-9pm \$5 per person begins Sept 14

## Thursdays

- Badminton 5:30-8pm FREE
- Developing Future Male Leaders Sept 29-Oct 27; pre-reg is required
- Learn to Climb Classes pre-reg required

# Saturdays

- Badminton 9-11am FREE
- Community Basketball 9-11am (2nd-4th Sat) - FREE
- Open Climbing Wall 9-11am (first Sat of month)
- Capoeira 10am-noon \$6 per class

• Table Tennis 11am-2pm FREE

#### Sundays

- Community Basketball 5:30-7:30 FREE (begins Sept 18)
- Hot August Night 5K Saturday, August 26 at 7pm
- Community Yard Sale Saturday, September 10 8am-1pm Tables \$5 each; will fill up quickly

# Contact Kim Kennedy Montford Center Director

34 Pearson Drive Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 253-3714

kkennedy@ashevillenc.gov www.ashevillenc.gov/parks

Check us out on facebook keyword Asheville Parks and Recreation

# **Baseball & Flag Football**

Asheville Parks and Recreation will run several Fall sports

programs for youth. WNC Fall Baseball is for youth ages 4-17. Registration is \$75 per child and will be accepted August 6 & 13, 10am-2pm at Oakley Recreation Center.

The Flag Football program is an NFL co-ed program for youth K-8th grades. Teams practice once/week and have one game/week on Saturday mornings. This program is partnering with Biltmore Baptist league. Games will be played at Memorial Stadium and Biltmore Baptist fields.



The fee is \$50 per child and you can register now through July 22 online at ashevillenc.gov. For more information on these programs please contact Kim Turner at 232-4526 or at kturner@ashevillenc.gov

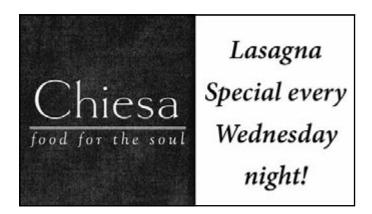
# **Afterschool Adventures**

Registration begins Monday, August 1 for Montford Center Afterschool Adventures. We meet after school until 6pm and work on homework, play active games, provide snacks, make crafts and have extra fun on "no homework Fridays." Weekly fee \$50 for the first child; \$40 each additional (City of Asheville residents receive a \$10 per child discount). Reduced fees for those on the free/reduced lunch program at school. This fee also includes any Fun Day Out programs for teacher work days and several holidays. Holiday Camp and Spring Break are regular weekly fees. Register by filling out the application and paying the first week of the program. We have only 25 spots, so enroll today. For more information contact Kim Kennedy at 253-3714 or at kkennedy@ashevillenc.gov



As a followup to the July 14th workshop on changes to the city code to allow for more small-scale residential infill, the Planning and Urban Design Department will hold a second public workshop on Thursday, August 11th, at the U.S. Cellular Center (2nd Floor Banquet Hall), 5:30-7:30pm.

If you have specific questions about the proposal, you can contact Vaidila Satvika, city Urban Planner, at vsatvika@ashevillenc.gov





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# **TOUR OF HOMES**

# Montford Holiday Tour of Homes

# December 10 @ 1pm - 5pm, \$25

The 21st annual holiday house tour takes place in our very own Montford, Asheville's most historic neighborhood. Explore eclectic architecture lovingly restored or newly constructed. Experience all the holiday warmth that Montford has to offer. Treats and entertainment will be featured, thanks to neighbors who volunteer time and talents.

Purchase tickets December 1-10 at the Asheville Visitors Center Gift Shop, 36 Montford Avenue, Asheville, 258.6101



# **Calling All Introverts, Extroverts, Creative, Droll, Responsible Docents**

Saturday, December 10 Tour of Homes

The Montford Holiday Tour of Homes could use your help. You might help make this Tour a true success, and all of us who coordinate the event will be grateful! We are getting



**Docent Eating Croissant** 

an early jump on planning this year, and would like to know if any of you are interested in participating this year as a docent.

Shifts are 1-3pm or 3-5pm. We are in the works for a docent gathering before the Tour, and of course we will have the after party on Tour day. Let us know if you can join us. Thank you.

If you have neighbors, friends, or family who you think might be interested in helping, please have them contact us. Joan Miller and Suzanne Devane are coordinating our docent schedule this year, so please email Joan if you can help out. JoanAdrienne@gmail.com. Let me know if you have a preference: first or second shift.







# Montford Park Players

William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure

Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre—FREE Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Nights @7:30pm, August 5-27 Hazel Robinson Amphitheater 92 Gay Street, Asheville, NC

*Measure for Measure* was last performed by Montford Park Players in 1997; it is a great opportunity to catch this after a long hiatus from the Amphitheatre stage. Directed by Montford Park Players Artistic Director, Scott Keel, who last helmed the wildly popular *Much Ado about Nothing* in June of this year. The play will star Michael MacCauley as

Angelo. MacCauley will be coming off his directing of July's *Titus Andronicus* for Montford.

*Measure for Measure* is one of Shakespeare's "problem plays," in which there is much ado about mistaken identities, double dealings, and unseemly conduct. Although played for laughs, the story is rich and filled with wonderful scenes into which an audience can really sink their teeth. The show originally premiered in 1604 and, although not as produced as many of the Bard's other comedies, has become somewhat of a cult favorite for many familiar with the entire canon. Montford Park Players urges both their regulars and the curious to not miss out.

The show also stars Trinity Smith, Devyn Ray, Jason Williams, John Mendenhall, and many other. 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 reserve seats: montfordparkplayers.org, or 254-5146.





828.215.4349 Ireese@beverly-hanks.com beverly-hanks.com





# LOCALLY OWNED COMMUNITY MINDED



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# An Invitation to the 30th Asheville Greek Festival

September 23, 24, & 25 Friday & Saturday 11am – 9pm, Sunday 11am – 4pm Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 227 Cumberland Avenue

# **Greetings Neighbors!**

Once again it's Greek Fest time in Montford. There will be lots to learn, see, do, and definitely eat!

Please come and enjoy the sounds of Nick Demos & Greek Islanders. Experience a world of dance as you watch our youth groups and adult teams performing in authentic costumes.

Tour our church where you can learn about the rich 2000-yearold religion of orthodoxy, the cornerstone of Greek culture and tradition. Join us for Vespers service Saturday, September 24 at 5pm and Divine Liturgy service Sunday, September 25 at 9am.

Shop in our Agora (marketplace) where you can take a little piece of Greece home with you. There you will find imported Greek





jewelry, luxurious silk Pashmina wraps, Pysanky Easter eggs, Greek sailor hats, religious icons, and other Greek items and gifts.

Love the food at the festival? Enjoy live cooking demonstrations. Stock your pantry with Greek food items from the Bakaliko (grocery store), which includes Greek cheeses, imported olives, olive oil, spices, and other imported delicacies.

Finally, allow the scents of oregano, garlic, and cinnamon to take you away on a culinary excursion to the Mediterranean, and feast upon a cornucopia of the best cuisine outside Athens, Greece. Each area you visit offers a different surprise form tangy tzatziki-topped gyros, to the Arni (lamb shank), spanakopita, pastichio, and moussaka inside at the traditional food line, to decadent handmade pastries, such as baklava.

For information on everything about the festival go to holytrinityasheville.com/greek festival, Facebook us at Asheville Greek Festival, or call 253-3754.

We at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church are so grateful for the support you, our fellow neighbors, have given us during our Greek Festival over the past 60 years! We invite you back again and thank you for allowing us to hold our three-day party at our home in the heart of Asheville's Most Historic Neighborhood!

Sincerely,

Constantine "Dino" Zourzoukis Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Asheville Greek Festival 2016 Chairman

Dawn "Pebbles" Stucker Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Asheville Greek Festival 2016 Co-Chairman

## VOLUME 21 NO. 8-9

# MONTFORD

#### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER '16



Ira Friedrichs, OWNER New# ► 828.545.5503 irafriedrichs@gmail.com smartfellertreeworks.com

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DESIGN Asheville



# Sid Border

Broker ABR, GRI, Green **ERA Sunburst Realty** 

Sid is a Montford resident and a long-time supporter of the annual Montford Tour of Homes and the Montford Music & Arts

Festival. His specialty is historic homes and he has participated in the sale of over 20 Montford homes and many others in Asheville's historic neighborhoods. If you are thinking of buying or selling a historic home, experience counts.

AshevilleHistoricHomes.com 828-230-4054

Contact Sid for details about marketing, researching your homes's history, references, or to receive updates about new listings and recent sales in Historic Montford.





# Grove Park Sunset Mountain Neighborhood Tour Of Homes Sunday, September 11, 11am-5pm

The Grove Park Sunset Mountain Neighborhood will hold its annual Tour of Homes.

A celebration of 10 homes in the Grove Park historic area. Come get ideas for your own home or just appreciate what others have done to theirs. All Tour proceeds go directly to the restoration and maintenance of the 3 historic and important parks in our neighborhood: E.W. Grove Park, Sunset Parkway, and the Griffing Rose Garden.



Advance tickets are \$20 on sale August 15 at Metro Wines, Avenue M, Mobilia, Four Corners Home in the Grove Arcade, Home Source on Charlotte Street, and

City Bakery Charlotte Street. Advance tickets also available via Paypal at gp-smna.org on August 15

Day of Tour Tickets are \$25 at the Grove Park Inn Country Club at the intersection of Country Club Road and Clubview. (Free

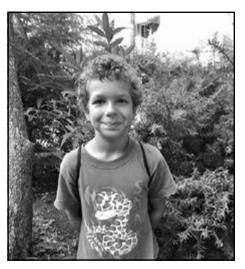


440 Montford Avenue | Asheville NC, 28801 828-285-8777 | 877-285-7537 www.starksfinancial.com parking.) Continuous trolley between all stops included in the ticket price provided. Parking available at Grove Park Inn Country Club (Intersection of Country Club and ClubView Road).

For more information, Suzanne Escovitz at sescovitz@charter.net or 254-4400.

# **Kid's Corner**

Hi friends. Are you looking for a person to hire? Well I'm your guy. My name is Damon Simerly. I have a goal to save \$100. And I love to help people. And do lawn work. I am very hard-working. And I won't give up until the job is done. And if you need a reference here's David's phone number 215-5847 (he is my neighbor). And if you need Damon to come and help just call 275-7525.





# Call to Artists, Designers, and Craftspeople of Montford

Do you make art, crafts, or design? Do you work in your home or a studio in Montford?

Would you be interested in taking part in the first annual Montford Artwalk on **October 29th?** 

A dozen artists have already responded. If you are interested in participating, send an email to Mary McDermott at maryangelamcdermott@gmail.com.



open studios October 29 — 12 until 5pm

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 PM, Montford artists, designers and crafts persons will open their studios for the first annual Montford Artwalk. Enjoy an autumn afternoon strolling through Historic Montford viewing art, crafts, and design, and meeting the people who make it. The Montford Artwalk is free to all. Maps will be available at the Montford Recreation Center at 34 Pearson Drive and at the Asheville Visitor Center at 36 Montford Avenue on the day of the event.

Sponsored by the Montford Neighborhood Association

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# ARE YOU ON THE MONTFORD LISTSERV?

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#### VOLUME 21 NO. 8-9



# Northern Mockingbird, Defensive Tackle

# **Cherie Morris**

It's a sunny springtime morning on my front porch in Montford, and I'm enjoying the breeze as I read the newspaper. Birdsong seems to be everywhere — chirps,



trills and crystal clear single note calls and multi-note melodies. Unexpectedly, with a flash of white wing and tail feather, an inconspicuous gray bird alights on the porch rail. Cocking its head, it eyes me with a mix of curiosity and boldness, then to my great surprise, it lets loose a mixed concerto of all the avian music of the past 20 minutes! Welcome to the world of Mimus polyglottos, the "many tongued mimic" commonly known as the Northern Mockingbird.

With a huge range from Canada to Central America, mockingbirds are frequent nesters in WNC. Not only can they mimic other songbirds but also many insects and amphibians. Besides their musical talents, they are known to be fiercely defensive of their



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211 Charlotte St., Asheville 828.252.2100 www.rosesgardenshop.com On the way to the Grove Park Inn Winter Hours: Wednesday thru Saturday 10-6 For spring hours please check our website nesting sites. My neighbor's cat is a frequent target of their divebombing skills. They are so unafraid that humans may not be exempt from attack and my friend has taken up defending her front porch and pets with a squirt gun.

Mockingbirds are very intelligent and appear to be able recognize individual people. I have had many a conversation with a garrulous visitor planted only feet away as I weeded, stirring up tasty bugs as we moved together through the garden. Another neighbor sits on her porch as the same local attack mockingbird dines unperturbed inches away on service berries and blueberries.

But ask the mail carrier in Tulsa, Oklahoma and she will tell you a different story. An unhappy mockingbird followed her for several months, from house to house, along several streets of her route, diving relentlessly at the hapless woman. The bird was so persistent that the USPS was prompted to write a warning letter, usually reserved for snarling dogs, to alert homeowners to the potential danger! But the mail lady staunchly carried on with her deliveries, while neighbors had a little fun with a wanted poster, describing the vicious attacker as "armed and dangerous" and even going so far as to suggest building a fence to prevent "additional unwanted avian migrations."

The moral of the story: if you encounter a nesting mockingbird near a tree in your yard, perhaps it is safer to avoid that area during the child-rearing season or prepare to defend your home and family! Maybe consider setting out a conciliatory bowl of fruit as a peace offering. Where is Homeland Security when you need them?



# **NEWSLETTER AD RATES**

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Size	RATE
Classified	\$15
Business Card	\$35
1/4 Page	\$60
1/2 Page	\$100
Full Page	\$200

Contact Ross Terry (KRT Graphic Design)at ross@krtdesign.com or 230-7439 to place an ad. Layout and ad creation are also available from Ross.

Invoice questions: Contact Susan Eggerton at s.eggerton52@roastedgarlic.net.

Please help us with budgeting, saving paper, and reducing postage costs by prepaying several months of advertising.



# Dog of the Month: Scout, Prince of Montford...

Sue G. Russell



This vision of canine beauty reminds you of a walking horse because he doesn't so much walk, as prance. And, while most of us have never seen him at full throttle, Scout, son of a champion field trial dog, can speed along at 40 miles an hour, and keep it up. Scout is a Vizsla, (say "Vish' Law"), a breed originating in Hungary and bred

to work in field, forest, and water. In distances over a half mile, the Vizsla is the fastest dog in the world. Prized by Hungarian royalty, the Vizsla started arriving in the U.S. by the late 1940s. Interest in the breed grew and in 1960, the Vizsla became the 115th breed recognized by the American Kennel Club.

Scout lives with Cindy and Dave Van Gorder in a home that was once the Welfare Baptist Church. His two good humanoids make

sure he gets what he needs most movement—and that's why he is such a fixture on Montford. As Dave tells the story, one vet told him, yep, Vizslas finally run out of energy about 6 months after they expire. Wow, that's strong.

But for all his jaw-dropping beauty and grace, Scout's a good dog, humble, unaware of his beauty. No snob Scout, he'll always give you a sniff and then take a pet. And, in



addition to humans, he shows friendly interest in small mammals. For example, there's Obi, a Watauga-based cat that visits. Together, the two share porch time and maybe that's why, when he's not moving, Scout's curled up on his memory-foam bed, just like a cat. Good dog, Scout.

(Note: Montford is made up of people, old houses and of course, our dogs. If you have a canine you want to suggest for Dog of the Month, email suegrussell@att.net)

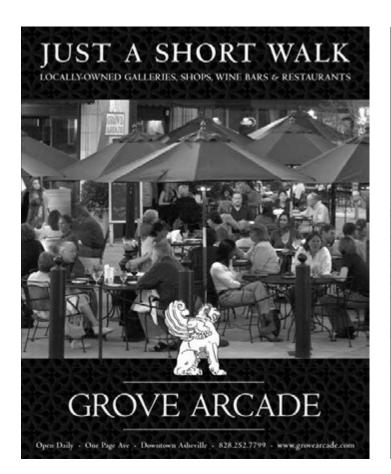


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# Do You Know About These North Carolina Property Tax Breaks?

# (Source: NOLO.com)

Elderly, disabled, and other persons may qualify for various exemptions from North Carolina property tax. North Carolina allows for reduced property taxes if you meet certain requirements.

**Homestead exclusion for elderly or disabled.** If you're 65 years old or older, or you're permanently disabled, you are eligible for a partial exemption. It's \$20,000 or 50% of your home's appraised value. You qualify only if your income is below a certain level. The level is adjusted yearly for inflation.

**Circuit breaker deferral for elderly or disabled.** Some North Carolina homeowners are eligible for a property tax deferment program. It places a ceiling on how much tax the owners must pay. The tax amount above the ceiling is deferred until a disqualifying event occurs—typically when the home changes hands. To get this tax break, you must be 65 years old or older, or be permanently and totally disabled. In addition, you must have lived in the home for at least five years, and have income below a designated level.

**Homestead exclusion for disabled veterans.** A \$45,000 exemption is available to a disabled veteran, or his or her surviving spouse. The veteran must first be certified as being totally and permanently disabled because of military service. If you take this exemption, you can't receive any other property tax break.

Although North Carolina laws set statewide property tax rules, your local government handles the administration and levying of the tax. You'll want to contact the county tax assessor for complete details on property tax exemptions. Be sure to ask about any forms you need to complete, and the deadline for filing those forms. The Buncombe County Tax Collector's Office is at 94 Coxe Avenue, 250-4920.

In addition to the property tax which is based on the assessed value of your home, your tax bill may include special assessments. Typically, these assessments are made to pay for improvements such as street paving or repaving in your neighborhood. Depending on the complexity of your situation, you may want to seek legal help to reduce your North Carolina property tax. Attorney Richard J. Maita, at 35A Montford Avenue, is available to answer questions. rich@ maitalaw.com or 236-1888. If you have neighbors you think will quality for one of these tax breaks, please be sure they see this story!

The Council on Aging, 277-8288, can help folks with this process as well.





Photos by Tamy Kuper.

Tod's Tasties outdoor barbeque night. Friday, July 22. Find them on Facebook for the next one. Live music by *4th Quarter*.











#### Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Public Hearings – Certificates of Appropriateness Tentative Agenda July 13, 2016

#### **New Business**

94 Pearson Drive-Enclosure of rear deck.

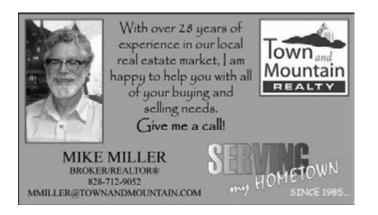
170 West Chestnut Street—Replacement of sleeping porch windows; replacement of front porch stair; installation of stone steps in front yard.

#### Tentative Agenda August 10, 2016

#### **New Business**

83 Starnes Avenue—Construction of new one-story 397 sq. foot rear addition

Montford/Soco Intersection—Installation of two new bus shelters at east and west sides of intersection



# **Resource Directory**

#### Advertise in the Resource Directory

Send a brief description (30 words or less) and contact information. More than

**1,500 newsletters** are distributed monthly throughout the neighborhood and are also available on the **Montford website** and at the Pack Memorial and North Asheville Public Libraries. Call 258-2207 for more information.

#### **Daoist Traditions College of Chinese Medical Arts**

- 382 Montford Avenue 225-3993 (school)
- 253-8669 (student clinic)
- www.daoisttraditions.edu

Low cost acupuncture care at our student acupuncture clinic. Call for more information.

#### **House Histories**

Learn the story of your house. Who lived there, who owned it and what they did for a living.

• For more information call Sharon at 777-1014

#### **Historic Walking Tours**

For by-appointment walking tours of historic Montford, Riverside Cemetery, and downtown Asheville, call 777-1014. A self-guided CD or downloaded MP3 tour of Riverside Cemetery is available online at www.history-at-hand.com Cemetery tour CDs are also available at the Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center or by calling the number above.

#### **Hansen Stiles And Associates**

• 117 Cherry St • Asheville, NC 28801 • 255-5227 Montford Residents Investment Company on Cherry Street—Financial Planning Consultants, Investment Securities

#### **Smart Feller Tree Works**

• Ira Friedrichs • 545-5503 (NEW cell) • irafriedrichs@gmail.com Down trees got you down? Contact us for all your tree removal and pruning needs! We are locally licensed and insured. Please call for free estimates. Montford references available. Thanks.

## **Square Peg Construction Inc.**

Add beautiful custom woodwork to your historic home: New upgrades like wood paneling, built-in cabinetry, trim, doors, stairs and railings. Small details add big impact! Montford references.

• Call your neighbors, Leslie and David Humphrey 277-5164







# **I-26 Connector**

Continued from front page ...

north of the Bowen Bridge—with a realistic understanding of whether any potential design adjustments can be made to remedy the negative impacts that will accompany the construction of 4B. The MNA Board has asked the Department of Transportation to send officials who will be able to answer design and mitigation questions with specific, detailed answers.

Many people think the 4B Alternative is the design conceived by the Asheville Design Center in 2008, but that's wrong—it's radically different. As a result, a great deal of clarification is needed to ensure people understand the consequences of building 4B as presented by NCDOT. The MNA I-26 Connector Committee has asked NCDOT to provide the following:

- A detailed Project Design including height elevations (from highest to lowest points) for the 5-story tall I-26 structures and the I-240 flyovers; number and location of lanes relative to the current highway structures; a primer of the issues that NCDOT took into consideration in designing the 4B Alternative presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and what the Department will need to take into consideration when determining the final overall height, width, location, and number of lanes.
- An updated list and location of residential and commercial properties that will be impacted by the project in terms of full or partial eminent domain takings; as well as an indication of which residences, businesses, and historical/cultural landmarks will likely suffer negative visual impacts from the elevated highways and the construction of any sound walls.
- A discussion of noise impacts including how many homes will experience noise level increases at varying points from the elevated highways, including a full explanation of the exact locations where any potential sound walls could be built, as well as the identification of and explanation for locations where they would not be feasible or effective.
- Clarification as to where additional lanes of I-26 would be built relative to Riverside Drive because the land at the entire western edge of Montford poses a high or moderate hazard in terms of land stability and is a potential debris flow pathway. It is critical to know what NCDOT will do to ensure the structural integrity of the homes situated above.
- Discussion of air pollution impacts on the children going to school at the new Isaac Dickson Elementary School and living in Hillcrest due to the major increase in commercial vehicles

and cars that will be traveling in proximity to these two sensitive areas.

We urge all concerned residents to mark their calendars and attend this forum while there is still time to have a say on a project that will change the face of Asheville forever. Mayor Esther Manheimer, Council members Cecil Bothwell and Gordon Smith, as well as State Representative Susan Fisher have all committed to being at the forum. We will be handing out cards for written questions from the audience, so please come prepared to participate! You can view the full list of issues we've asked NCDOT to address at: http://montford.org/?page\_id=5870



# **VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE TOUR!**

Contact Cate Scales at 280-1576



# **Front Gardens**

# Continued from front page ...

lawns and a sprinkling of foundation plants have been replaced by artistic arrays worthy of the term "garden" rather than yard. But I've also seen these transformations in larger landscapes, too, as attention has turned to truly gardening outside spaces, choosing plants of textural diversity in foliage and flower color. Gardening the strips between sidewalk and fence, wall, or building has been another trend that I've noticed, and appreciated, whether with small sedums or tall flowering perennials. Another trend includes a much broader array of plants than was typical in the past, perhaps driven by simple availability.

Gardening is an activity that quickly can become captivating, whether it's adding perennials that support pollinators in sunny spots, or adding shade-loving plants to a shady nook, or growing some of your own vegetables.

As a longtime garden educator and naturalist, I've encouraged newbies and experienced gardeners alike around a diverse array

of gardening activities, from gardening for pollinators, birds, and nature to growing vegetables. A fundamental part of my message has been that garden-making is a creative and enriching activity, with the gardens we create being an expression of how we connect with the natural world.

The gardens that result are diverse; some of us enjoy a naturalistic style where others are more orderly. Color and texture preferences vary dramatically, from vibrant to calming.

These variations in gardening styles enrich the fabric of our neighborhoods, as well as expand the diversity of plants and wildlife, whether we add native or non-native plants, trees or shrubs, or vines.

There's always room for planting something new; as we lose plants (or decide it's time for them to go), it's an opportunity for adding something that will enrich your garden, whether for pollinators, the table, landscape interest, or habitat. Let's get gardening!





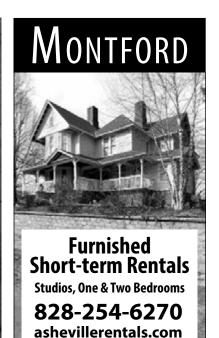


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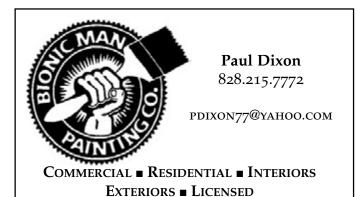




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Amy Giles Broker/REALTOR® Montford Resident with 10+ Years Experience in Buying & Selling Real Estate

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"It takes truly exceptional service for me to write a referral ... and this is how I describe my recent experience with **Amy Giles** as our Realtor ... exceptionally good service. We were looking for a Realtor who understood our Montford neighborhood, the unique value of our historic home, and was able to clearly communicate a detailed marketing strategy. Amy (a long-term Montford homeowner, a WNC native, and experienced Asheville Realtor) used an evidence-based approach to help us establish a listing price and collaborate on an effective marketing strategy. We received a full price offer the first week our house was available to show. It was painful enough to leave Montford ... but at least the experience of selling our house was painless. Throughout the entire process, from the first interview to closing, Amy was on top of every detail. A truly exceptional experience."—*Paul Zmick*