



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 21 NO. 2-3 FEBRUARY/MARCH '16

Tiny Busker on the Avenue

Late in 2015, the Montford Listserv got this email in its inbox: "Hi Montford, My seven year old is hoping to earn some money today (to buy a book he really wants). He thought playing his violin might be the answer. Of course no pressure (we aren't homeless or hungry) but feel free to drop the little guy a quarter if you see him!!" Katie from Watauga was writing for her son Lucas.

The book was a *Star Wars* Lego book that Lucas had seen at his school book fair (he's in first grade at Jones). He had taken his own money to school, but had come up \$4 short. He approached his mom after school with not only the problem, but also the solution--he proposed he could play his violin downtown for money.



Downtown seemed like a lot to Katie, but she remembered the Tour of Homes so they tried to find a good spot on the route and ended up in front of Chiesa. Katie wrote that Lucas was a little nervous when people approached but did a great job. "Most people gave him big smiles and kind words, a few people gave him money, and a few others averted their gaze."

Work Well Done, Lucas Earns His Prize

Some of their dear friends dropped a \$5 bill into the violin case and another threw him a quarter out the car window! "After a half hour of mostly continuous playing, his arms were tired and we packed up. All in all it was a very positive experience and he will be able to get the book with some to spare. He has already asked if I will take him again tomorrow."



Katie ended with: Please thank our Montford neighbors for making a little boy's day!



New Sign Grant Program

By Sue G. Russell

At its first meeting of 2016, the Montford Neighborhood Association (MNA) Board voted unanimously to invest in the neighborhood by reaching out to our business community with a cool new program. And, yes, there is a business community here, with more depth and diversity than you might think. A recent Listserv request to help identify Montford businesses resulted in quite a response. Whether you want a management consultant, an architect, a make-up artist, a lawyer, an interior
continued on page 15...



Thank You Tour of Home Sponsors

(NOTE: My apologies to Jeff Stewart of Keller Williams for leaving his name off the last newsletter.)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Jeff Stewart for Keller Williams | Town and Mountain Realty | Gray Line Trolley Tours of Asheville |
| Sunburst Realty | Samsel Architecture | Square Peg Construction, Inc. |
| LaZoom Comedy Tours | Bionic Man Painting | Jenn Ritchie-Eller for Trillium Properties |
| Frugal Framers | Lenoir Rhyne University | |
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☾ CALENDAR ☀

Montford Neighborhood Association Meetings

- Third Tuesday of every month, Montford Community Center, Pearson Drive.
- Next meeting: **Tuesday February 16, 2016**, 7pm. Watch the listserve for agenda items.

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

Community Recreation News

Kim Kennedy, Community Center Director

Fun Day Out

Feb 22, 8:30am-6pm, \$5 per child (day of fun when youth are out of school) Pre-reg required

Spring Break

March 28-April 1, 8:30-6pm, \$40 per child + field trip fees (register early, this program fills fast)

Developing Future Male Leaders/ Diamonds In the Rough

Fridays thru May 27, 5:30-7pm \$5 per season (youth learn leadership skills)

Community Basketball

Youth – Thursdays 3-5:30pm, free
 Adults – Tuesdays noon-2pm and Sundays 5:30-7:30pm, FREE

Bug Buddies



Saturday, Feb 20, 10am-noon, \$5 per child (youth explore bugs through games, stories, crafts), pre-reg required

Cheerleading

Tuesdays thru May 24, \$8 reg fee; \$7 per class. Times vary by age group

Adapted Tennis

Sundays, March 6 – April 3, 2:30-3:30pm; \$45 per child, pre-reg required

Lucky Leprechauns

Saturday, March 12, 10am-noon, \$5 per child (youth play games, stories and crafts); pre-reg required.



Indoor Climbing Wall

Tuesdays, 5:30-8pm and Thursdays 1-5pm, also first Saturday of the month 9-11am, \$5 per climb

Adult Martial Arts

Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm, \$10 per person

Community Volleyball

Wednesdays, 6:30-9pm, \$5 per person

Co-ed 4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament

Sunday, February 21, \$40 per team; registration deadline Feb 17

Men's 2-on-2 Volleyball Tournament

Sunday, March 20, \$20 per team; registration deadline Mar 16

Disc Golf Indoor Play

Fridays thru Feb 26, 5:30-8pm, \$5 per person

Table Tennis

Mondays 7-9:30pm, Wednesdays 11-2pm, Saturdays 11-1:30pm, FREE

Badminton

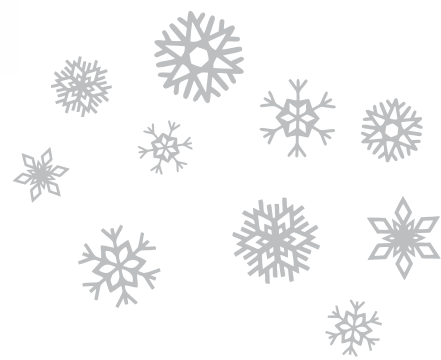
Thursdays 7-9:30pm and Saturdays 9-11am, FREE

Ukulele

Mondays, 6-8pm, FREE

Montford Community Yard Sale

Saturday, April 9, 8am – 1pm, Free to shop; \$5 for table rental (this fills fast)



Breaking News on the Brews

Mitch Russell

Guess what Montford? Another brewery and taproom has just opened, and it has lots of neighborhood connections. Not only that, but it's going to have amazing food to go with its own creative beers, brewed on premises, and a lineup of local favorites as well.



Bhramari: Sanskrit Word for Bee

Bhramari Brewhouse is located right behind the Orange Peel. The taproom will feature 25 taps and dishes developed by Josh Dillard, of Zambra fame, that will complement the Bhramari beers, brewed

by Gary Sernack. Josh Bailey, owner of Asheville Brewery Tours, will oversee overall operations.

Montford Connections

The beautifully renovated building used to be the old Charlotte Street Computers, owned by someone who grew up in Montford, became Biblio, with employees who live in Montford. Bhramari Brewhouse, like Biblio, has employees that live in Montford too.

I was there back in the summer as they were doing demolition, but had some test batches going for beer. I was blown away by one of the beers and how different the space looked compared to its previous iterations.

Connect with Bhramari Brewhouse in person, 101 S Lexington Ave or online at bhramaribrewhouse.com, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

95 CHERRY STREET NORTH
DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE
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The December-January 2015 newsletter issue had a photo error, a house at 35 Cullowhee. I'd taken a newer photo, and was astonished how different the houses were, and rightly so, since the old photo was of the old Montford Avenue School, and not the same house at all. Thanks and apologies to Zoe Rhine from the North Carolina Room, Pack Library.

The older photo was one of many amongst a 1908 photograph album from Chan and Miegan Gordon. The house was built in 1896 and has had two additions since. Zoe had written that the Gordons are the owners of the home and might be the only people who would have recognized the older photo as being of their home now.



Understanding the Role of the Historic Resources Commission

Sent by Staff of the HRC

The Historic Resources Commission (HRC) of Asheville & Buncombe County was created in 1979 through a local ordinance adopted by both the City of Asheville & Buncombe County pursuant to the North Carolina General Statutes. The HRC has also been certified by the State Historic Preservation Office with the concurrence of the National Park Service to carry out the purpose of the National Historic Preservation Act at the local government level.

The Commission serves the community in a number of ways. The HRC is responsible for the evaluation of historically significant neighborhoods and individual sites and recommends their designation as local historic districts or local landmarks to the City Council or County Board of Commissioners. The HRC also administers design review of new construction or rehabilitation within these locally designated areas. The HRC also serves as a community resource for information on architectural history and preservation practice.

Responsibilities

The Commission is dedicated to the important contribution that preservation plays in sound planning and environmental sustainability. In addition to the obvious benefits of preserving our community's heritage and sense of place, historic preservation is also inherently sustainable. For example historic structures can easily be adapted for new uses and retrofitted with modern efficient energy systems. This leads to maximization of existing infrastructure, saving energy embodied in existing structures, reduction in the consumption of new materials, and saving energy through avoiding demolition, as well as reducing material that would otherwise enter into the waste stream.

All properties located within the designated historic districts (Biltmore Village, Albemarle Park, Montford and St. Dunstan's) or designated as a landmark must receive a Certificate of Appropriateness before any renovation or change is made to the exterior of the building or on the grounds of the property. Applications are reviewed at two levels, Major Works and Minor Works. The Commission will hear all Major Work applications at the regularly scheduled public meeting. Minor work applications are reviewed at staff level.

Membership

The Commission consists of 12 members: six appointed by City

Council and six appointed by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. All members have equal voting rights and serve three-year terms. No member may serve more than two terms. Officers of the Commission are elected among themselves.

Application Process

Applications for Minor Works are accepted at the Development Services Center, 161 S. Charlotte Street, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5 pm. All Major Work applications are reviewed by the Commission in a public hearing. Application deadlines are typically three weeks before the Commission meeting. Applications must be complete with all information requested as outlined on the checklists before the project review can begin.

Contact HRC staff to discuss your project and determine the level of project review and required information for your application.

Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month on the first floor of City Hall at 4pm. Property owners within 200 feet of the property requesting the Certificate of Appropriateness will be notified by mail with information on the request and the public hearing date and time.

Applications the Commission May Hear

Major Work applications include:

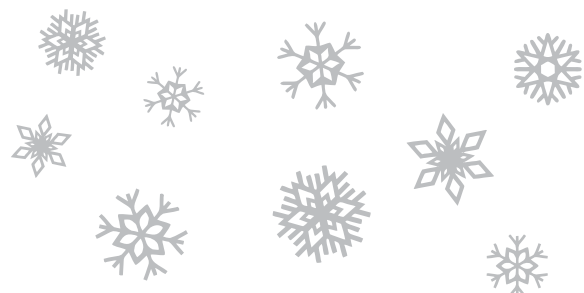
- New construction or additions
- Demolition or relocation of structures
- Changes to major character-defining features such as roofs, windows or doors
- Replacement of architectural detail involving a change in the design or original materials

Contact Information

For applications, deadlines and agenda information, visit ashevillenc.gov/hrc

Stacy Merten, Director
828-259-5836, email: smerten@ashevillenc.gov

Alex Cole, Historic Resources Specialist
828-259-5638, email: acole@ashevillenc.gov



Updates On Stories We Reported...

127 Tacoma Circle September 26, 2015 was a sad and dramatic night for those neighbors living near 127 Tacoma Circle. The residence caught fire and has sat since then, sad, vacant and charred. But, good news often follows bad. The owner at the time of the fire, Joe Sulock, has sold the property. The new owner is a local builder and plans to restore the house, keeping the exterior walls and rebuilding the interior. He must have a lot of faith in his work because rumor has it that he's moving in after completion. Welcome to the neighborhood, sir!

OWL Bakery Susannah Gephardt, who baked for a while at Jennifer and Neal Thomas's Montford Bakery, will be opening her own shop soon. All remember Susannah fondly and were sorry to lose her and even sadder when reading that her first prospective bakery location in West Asheville collapsed in on itself! Fortunately, she had not yet signed the lease. Her new location, 295 Haywood Road, should be up and running by the end of March. Good luck, Susannah, and we Montfordians will be heading over your way for sure.



MONTFORD

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MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS

The Montford Park Players would like to thank our friends and neighbors in Montford for the fabulous support you gave us in 2015. We welcomed over 10,000 guests during the year, and look forward to seeing you again in 2016! Once again, we ranked in the top three in attendance among North Carolina outdoor theatres, behind The Lost Colony and Unto These Hills.

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GO LOCAL LOVE ASHEVILLE

Primary on March 15

Simplifying Our Montford Precinct

Susan Presson

The most important thing we can do right now to help our neighbors and, frankly, the country, is to **VOTE**. Much is at stake. I'm writing as the new Democratic Precinct Chair for Montford (Precinct 2.1) so this article is admittedly partisan, but most of this information will help everyone in voting.

Candidates for presidency, US Senate and statewide offices will appear on all ballots.

In Montford these are our voting districts:

- US Congressional Elections: District 10
- NC State Representatives: District 114
- NC State Senators: District 49
- Buncombe County Commission Elections: District 1

The Primary election for all party candidates is Tuesday, March 15. Winning candidates go on to compete in the General Election November 8. Voters may select the Democratic or Republican ballot. Precinct 2.1 residents vote at Isaac Dickson Elementary (Randolph) School both March 15 and November 8. To vote March 15 one must register by February 19. Local residents can register online at buncombecounty.org/vote or any of the following: the Board of Elections at 77 McDowell Street, any of the libraries, the DMV, Social Services, as well as other places.

Early voting is March 3-12. **There is same-day registration during early voting.** Here are the Early Voting sites. Check with the Board of Elections at buncombecounty.org/vote for hours:

- Buncombe County Administrative Building, 200 College Street
- Asheville Mall
- Asheville Outlets
- Black Mountain, Fairview, Leicester, North Asheville, South Buncome, and West Asheville libraries
- New Hope Presbyterian Church
- Weaverville Town Hall

Important Dates To Remember

2/19 last day to register to vote in the Primary

3/3-12 early voting at 11 sites with same-day registration

3/15 Primary Election at your precinct

7/18-21 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio

7/25-28 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, PA

11/8 General Election

What You Need To Know About Voting

- A photo ID is required if you're voting onsite (as of today people who claim hardship in acquiring a picture ID will still be allowed to vote without one. There are on-going legal battles, which could impact these rules, so check before you vote).
 - * NC driver's license, ID card issued by the NC DMV, US military or veteran's ID, US passport, enrollment card from a federal- or NC-recognized tribe.
 - * Address on the ID doesn't matter, but the name should be the same as your voter registration name,
 - * Expired license or passport cannot be used, except if it is current when a person turns 70. Then it is good for life.
 - * An out-of-state license is only good for 90 days after one registers.
 - * Student ID's are not acceptable.
- No photo ID is needed for a mail-in ballot or curbside voting.
- Absentee Voting—get a mail-in ballot by going to: buncombecounty.org/vote or a near relative may request an absentee ballot at the Board of Elections.
- There is no Straight-ticket voting. Vote for each office separately.

At this date there is no sample ballot. So here are your options:

President

Republicans – 28 contestants

Democrats – 3 contestants

US Senate

Republicans – Larry Holmquist

Paul Wright

Greg Brannon

Democrats – Ernest Reeves

Kevin Griffin

Chris Rey

Deborah Ross

US House of Representatives, District 10

Republicans – Patrick McHenry

Albert Lee Wiley

Jeffrey D. Gregory

Democrats – Andy Millard is the uncontested Democratic nominee

NC Governor

Republicans – Pat McCrory
Charles Kenneth Moss
C. Robert Brawley

Democrats – Ray Cooper
Ken Spaulding

NC Lieutenant Governor for the Democratic Nomination

Holly Jones
Ronald Newton
Robert Earl Wilson
Linda Coleman

NC Attorney General

Republicans – Buck Newton
Jim O’Neill

Democrats – Josh Stein
Marcus Williams

**Chairperson of Buncombe Co.
Board of Commissioners**

Republicans – Chad Nesbitt
Miranda Debruhl

Democrat – Brownie Newman is
unopposed

**Buncombe County
Commissioners District 1**

Jasmine Beach Ferrara
Isaac Coleman
Gordon Smith

Note: If Brownie Newman is elected Chairman of the County Commissioners in November, the Buncombe County Democratic Executive Committee will choose a person to fill his position in District 1 in December when he is sworn in.

Can you help with this primary and November election? We need people to canvas door-to-door, phone bank, register voters, **get people to vote**, talk to neighbors about voting, and to donate money.

Please come to our Precinct meeting Saturday, February 27 to strategize about getting out the vote. This meeting will be 10am-12noon at the Dr. Wesley-Grant Southside Center. Come help Democrats get elected! Contact Susan Presson at 4pressons@gmail.com about getting involved.

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MONTFORD
Music and Arts
FESTIVAL

Jerry Connor

The Montford Music and Arts Festival is already gearing up for 2016 with an exciting change.

This will be the 13th year of community bonding and providing a glimpse into our wonderful neighborhood through music and the arts.

Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

In the beginning, the festival was rather small with a few tents in front of the buildings that now house Nine Mile. Each year it grew larger until it stretched from Waneta to Cullowhee with one stage. Four years ago, the festival took on a new life with the addition of a second stage, more vendors, and a food truck court all on Soco. Now, the festival has come full circle with the entire festival being moved to one street, Montford Avenue.

There Will Be No Foolish Wand Waving or Silly Incantations In This Class

The new layout is very exciting as the festival will stretch down Montford Avenue, beginning at Chestnut and ending at Waneta. The expanse will allow more ease for festival goers, special sections and a larger regional and international food truck court with more options.

Fine Arts and Crafts

Many award-winning artists and crafts persons have already reserved spaces and every day more applications are being uploaded. You can follow the progress by going to the website, montfordfestival.org and view the quality of art and crafts that will be presented at this year's festival.

The layout will be divided into sections with the different types of vendors in each section as well as a juried art area for gallery quality works to be displayed and judged.

Children's Booths, Plant Sales, Music

There will be something for everyone and every taste. Our children's section will be anchored again by the Montford Rec booths and other vendors with a few surprises for the kids. Festival goers remarked how much they liked the plant booths last year; so in response, a larger plant section will be available. Vendors of plants, flowers, and native mountain plants will be here to answer questions and provide sales.

... And We're Gonna Have A Party

Last but not least, both stages of music will be back with continuous music to entertain everyone from the start of the festival at 10am to the end at 7pm. Mark your calendars for Saturday, **May 21** and plan on attending our biggest "block party" ever.

** The festival is a big undertaking and volunteers are needed. If you can give a few hours during the festival, please go to the website and sign up. www.montfordfestival.org

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One Click Fix

Montford native Greg Mayer has opened One Click Fix, a computer repair business, at 438 Montford Avenue just north of Highland Office Park.

Greg grew up on Pearson Drive and, loving the neighborhood, was thrilled to find a convenient location for his all-around computer repair. He started his computer business in 2002 on Charlotte Street in the tiny storefront (where Ultimate Ice Cream resides).

Contact Greg at 828-200-0059. Hours: 10am – 5pm every weekday with onsite (at your home or business) services available 24/7.

How to Contact the Asheville Police Department



- For emergencies, call 911.
- For nonemergencies and to report suspicious activity, call 252-1110.
- For the Crime Prevention Division, call 259-5834.
- For Police Dispatch, call 259-5888.
- For Montford’s Community Resource Officers Sean Davis or Lucas Lovelace, call 251-4078

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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.com

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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

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

Montford Action Agenda, December 9, 2015

Item And Summary and Action

70 Magnolia Avenue – Reconstruction of existing rear additionApproved

23 Harrison Street – Retroactive approval for installing metal roof over existing asphalt shingle roof..... Continued

Montford Action Agenda, January 13, 2016


Item And Summary and Action

23 Harrison Street – Retroactive approval for installing metal roof over existing asphalt shingle roof; roof will be painted medium to dark in colorApproved

Montford Tentative Agenda February 10, 2016

New Business

333 Montford Avenue—Construction of new wood porch stair with wood railings on side elevation



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*.

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.

Sunburst Realty
www.AshevilleHistoricHomes.com
828-230-4054

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Horses Crossing the French Broad

Edited by Joan Miller

[From April 17, 1907 *New York Times* article, page 7]:

ASHEVILLE, N.C., April 16. — The annual Spring horse show, which is the big society feature of the Asheville season, was opened at Riverside Park this afternoon. The classes were well filled and the attendance large. There are between 200 and 300 entries, George W. Vanderbilt showing some fine horses from his Biltmore stables.

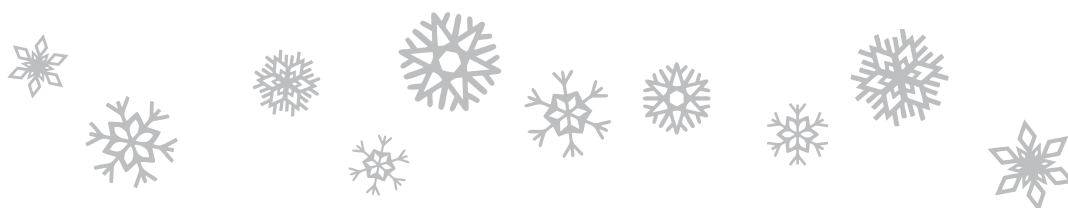
In the *HeardTell* blog, from Pack Library's North Carolina Room, Zoe Rhine posted this: So how would one who lived in Montford in 1908, get their horses across the river to the Riverside Park Horse Show?

By ferry was one way, as evidenced by some photographs in the 1908 photograph album from Chan and Miegan Gordon, owners of Captain's Bookshelf in Asheville.

FS Sondley in *A History of Buncombe County North Carolina*, explains they used a flat-boat ferry, propelled across the river by a pole but usually pulled over by a rope stretched at some feet above the surface of the water from an object on one bank to an object on the other bank and securely fastened at both ends. Sometimes the flat-boat was connected to the overhead rope, then by turning the front of the boat so that the current of the stream would strike angularly against the boat's upper side and the boat would be impelled slowly by the force of the current from one bank to the other.

Continuing in *HeardTell*, Zoe wonders why they wouldn't have just used the old Pearson Bridge. Someone guessed the people could have frightened horses who might be inclined to jump. Or it might have been too long and narrow for horses, though the bridge shown here (from the NC Room collection) seems to have horses in the background, behind the people at the foreground. Another person thought the equines might be mules, whose disposition might have been better suited to a long, tall bridge over a river.

If any of you have guesses, send them my way and I'll pass them on to Zoe Rhine.



New Sign Grant Program

Continued from front page...

designer, a seamstress, Italian and Caribbean food, or just good old American chow, you can get it here. This commercial element complements our neighborhood by providing goods and services often within walking distance. Our neighborhood is more vibrant, more attractive and really, just more fun to live in because of it.

Design Assistance and Matching Grants

The new program will assist business owners and operators by providing design assistance and matching grants for the creation of tasteful signage. The Board appropriated funds for Phase I which will focus on those businesses with a Montford Avenue address. After its successful completion, Phase II will begin spreading throughout the Montford neighborhood. The cost of business signage will be matched dollar for dollar via a reimbursable grant of up to \$1,000 per business for signage.

Help With HRC Permitting

In addition to dollars, help will be provided in developing signage appropriate to our historic district as well as help with the City's permitting process. And, yes, while the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) will have to be consulted, it will do so via

“administrative review” with no hearing before the Commission. Interested? Don't miss this great opportunity for a little assist from your neighborhood association and a chance to make Montford more beautiful. Application forms are available at www.montford.org or by calling 778-7747.



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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*

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