



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 28 No. 8

AUGUST '23

*Greetings Montford,
August is Here!*

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TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Calendar

AfterSchool Program Youth and Teen

Monday-Friday from 2:30pm-6:00pm - Program runs through June 7, 2024

Fresh Start Kindergarten Camp

August 28-September 1 from 9:00am-2:00pm Fee: \$25

Montford Car Show

Saturday, September 9 from 5:00pm-7:00pm Fee: FREE

Art & Soul

Fridays, September 1 & 22, October 6, November 3 & 17, and December 15 from 6:30pm-7:30pm Ages 50 and older Fee: FREE

TAM Game Nights

Fridays, September 15, October 20 & December 8 from 6:30pm-8:00pm - Fee: FREE

Toddler Craftin' Through the Season

Wednesdays, September 6 & 20, October 4 & 18, November 1 & 15, and December 6 & 20 from 5:30pm-6:30pm Fee: FREE

3v3 2k Pro AM Tournament

Saturdays, September 23 & 30, October 7 & 14 from 6pm-7pm Ages-16-25 Fee: \$10

Teen Cuisine

Fridays, September 8 & 29, October 20, December 1 & 22 from 6:00pm-7:30 pm Ages- 13-18 Fee:\$10/per class

Book Tok

Tuesdays, September 5, October 3, November 7, and December 5 from 6:00pm-7:30 pm FREE

For more Information Contact:

Anice Smith
Recreation Facility Supervisor
Tempie Avery Montford Center
Asheville Parks and Recreation
(828) 253-3714-office
(828)575-4532-cell



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I have clients who are enchanted by Montford and are searching for a spacious home (or ability to add-on). Please contact me for a confidential conversation if you are considering selling your home. These folks are willing to wait for the right place, so a lease-back is also possible!



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Montford Neighborhood Association Community Meeting 7/26/23

President Leslie Humphrey called the meeting to order at 6:37pm. Thanks to Archetype Brewing Company for hosting our event. 48 neighbors attended our meeting.

- APD had Lt. Jonathan Brown and Officer Dennis Pace attend the meeting. Carrie Lee is on light duty due to her pregnancy and she will resume the Community Resource Officer role and meet with us after delivery. Some details: they suggest persons utilize the community intake form for issues; they have had 108 requests since July 1. Speeding was discussed and detection is limited due to qualified radar operators being understaffed. A speed board was put on Montford Avenue for seven days northbound and seven days southbound. Data certainly shows a speeding concern. Northbound saw 27K vehicles 18 excessive speeds (over 60mph) and Southbound showed 18K vehicles w 11 excessive. High speeds also occurred between midnight and 3 am. APD had 19 traffic stops with 10 citations on July 1. Seven vehicles had smashed windows. Remember to lock vehicles and don't leave keys in car. Camera deployment happening downtown with Sheriff deputies but are not allowed in neighborhoods. They will investigate the alleged drug house on Cherry Street.
- Meredith Freidheim with City of Asheville (COA) discussed the neighborhood grant process (MNA received \$5000 to deal with invasive plants - kudzu) and the grant system will receive applications on a rolling basis starting January 1, 2024. She did announce that the City will have a neighborhood festival at MLK Jr Park on September 30 from 10am - 4pm. Many neighborhoods will be represented at the festival. The new Broadway Street fire station should have a late August completion and will have a late September ribbon cutting event. Meredith also said paving will be occurring near Tempie Avery Center so be on the lookout for that. Pack Square Visioning was discussed and there are opportunities for input. The 60 day downtown safety initiative has made a positive impact and is likely to continue in some way.
- Randy Hall discussed the Montford Garden Tour and deemed it a success. We sold 785 tickets with others complimentary to docents, etc. The net proceeds were around \$16,500 with the bulk of that to go towards improvements at Montford Garden on Montford Avenue. Lynn Raker is the outgoing chair and we ask for a volunteer to chair for 2025 (Lynn will assist).
- Karen MacNeil detailed the matching grant status and the third of four events is August 19 beginning at 10am. The Botanical Gardens is partnering with Montford for this one.
- National Good Neighbor Day is September 28, 2023. Tom Fehsenfeld (MNA board member) wants to spearhead a Meet Your Neighbor Night and is looking for volunteers to make it happen. Nine good volunteers signed up to assist and he will reach out and coordinate a zoom meeting to discuss options!
- Postcards announcing our July 26 meeting and other Montford info was received around July 21 or so. A fairly inexpensive way to get information to our neighbors.
- Revisions to HRC standards was led by Susan Eggerton (MNA board member). Much discussion ensued and has been a key topic on our neighborhood Listserv. It appears that HRC revisions is a tedious process and the City HRC resources are stretched thin currently. Offsets, fences, solar panels and other topics were discussed.
- Marc Voorhees led the discussion with assistance from Jeff Thomas with Ken Putnam (Asheville Director of Transportation) and Chris Collins (Planning & Development Manager) about transportation in the city and specifically Montford. Ken states that about 4 or 5 years ago Asheville got a bad designation for pedestrian and bicycle safety on a per capita basis. Since that time COA meetings occur monthly about pedestrian and bicycle safety. One example of a positive impact is Fairview Road got sidewalks built after two

deaths occurred. COA had no budget money for traffic calming and that has caused a serious backlog of projects. Options are speed humps and speed cushions; cushions are preferred by the Fire Department and the new station on Broadway will need to offer input on response times to allow Montford Ave speed cushions to advance. Red light cameras are not allowed due to a High Point lawsuit. Ken stated that partnerships are crucial with his group and he is pleased that Montford has worked with him for awhile. He believes that speed cushions on Montford Avenue appear likely in the future. He thinks the cushions would be from Courtland Ave to Klondyke. Reducing the speed limit to 25mph was discussed and would fit with having speed cushions in place. It is a case by case basis but he would be for the change. Trenching was discussed and Public Works would not support due to potential water damage. Ken states that humps and cushions are the only two realistic calming measures at this time. Oakley is West Asheville is a big success while Hazel Mill Road is considered the least successful. Ken was asked about the COA GAP plan which is driven by ADA compliance. Greenways for pedestrians and bikes are key. COA master plan on bikes needs to be updated. The traffic signal at Soco, Cullowhee and Montford is a time light now vs sensor activated light due to Cullowhee detection device needs repair. Repair timing is TBD. Additional crosswalks were discussed and Ken requested that Marc be the point person to obtain neighbor's requests and prioritize. HRC guidelines can be a hindrance for curbcuts. Pedestrian flashers were

discussed as an alternative option. He believes Charlotte St is a good example of success with revisions. Ken can forward the street repaving timetable (to Marc?). I 26 was discussed and Ken states that the design build process will be awarded in February 2024 and the winning team will proceed. Sections B (Haywood to Broadway) and D (Riverside Drive) are slated to be first. Ken estimates that construction will begin around 18 months after Feb 2024 although he believes that delays may make that time longer. An aesthetics committee did great work and got the flyover bridges lowered to lessen the impact on Riverside Cemetery and Montford.



Great discussions during this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Rogers - Secretary

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**Join the
Montford
listserv.**

The Montford listserv is a neighborhood discussion list. This is a place where you can exchange news about the neighborhood. Visit Montford.org to learn more.

August Zucchini Bread

by [Catherine Boeckmann](#)



Although there are many zucchini bread recipes around, this one might just be our favorite! It's easy and fast and freezes well.

What's great about zucchini bread is that it doesn't taste like vegetable bread. Don't say anything to those picky vegetable people until afterwards!

Ingredients

3 eggs

2 cups sugar

1 cup vegetable oil

2 cups unpeeled, coarsely grated zucchini

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

3 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 tablespoon cinnamon

1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts



Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease two 9x5x3-inch loaf pans. In a large bowl, beat the eggs until light and fluffy. Add the sugar, oil, zucchini, and vanilla extract, and mix lightly but until well blended.

In a separate bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, and cinnamon, and mix well. Stir the flour mixture into the egg-zucchini mixture, stirring until well blended. Fold in the nuts.

Divide the batter evenly between the two pans and bake for 1 hour, or until a knife or toothpick inserted in the middle of one of the loaves comes out clean.



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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



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MONTFORD 2023 PSABC GRIFFIN AWARD WINNERS! THIS PLACE MATTERS!

REHABILITATION:

62 CUMBERLAND CIRCLE (APPLEWOOD MANOR) - STEPHEN & ROBIN COLLINS

83 WEST CHESTNUT - KATIE SKINNER

THE HANDS OF SEAN PERRY

152 MONTFORD AVENUE (TALL JOHN'S) - TREVOR PAYNE

265 CUMBERLAND AVENUE - ANDY & JENN AYALA

162 WEST CHESTNUT STREET - J. BLANDING HOLMAN AND SUSANNAH R. KNOX

INFILL CONSTRUCTION:

283 PEARSON DRIVE - LILIAN & TREVOR PAYNE, MICHAEL McDONOUGH ARCHITECT

PRESERVATION HEROES: ROSS TERRY & SHARON FAHRER



CATE SCALES - Broker/Realtor
cell: 828.280.1576
339 Merrimon Ave.

NEST REALTY



Splash Pool Part 2

Ross Terry, editor.

Last month I wrote about the splash pool that existed in Montford Park. In the 1930s the City used it for a time to raise fish to stock local streams—all part of the effort to restore the local economy with tourism. Later it served as a playground wading pool for children enjoying Montford Park.

Enter Hazel Robinson

I knew there was a connection to the pool location with the early Montford Park Players, but I did not have the complete picture. The following thesis from a UNCA student shed light on the history:

Excerpt from *Shakespeare on a Shoestring: A History of the Montford Park Players* by A. Suskauer, November 20, 2015.

https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/unca/f/A_Suskauer_All_2015.pdf

“Hazel Robinson is by all accounts a remarkable woman. At the age of eighty-nine, she still possesses an overwhelming amount of vitality and sharpness of intellect, especially for a woman of her years. It is this same vivacity and force of will that led to her succeeding in forming a theatre company which has succeeded where so many others have failed. Indeed, not only have the Montford Park Players managed to stay afloat and in the black for forty-three years, but they have now managed to attract the third-most attendees of any outdoor theatre in North Carolina per season for the last two years, behind Manteo’s *The Lost Colony* and Cherokee’s *Unto These Hills*, while managing to beat out Boone’s *The Horn in the West*. To get to that point was no mean feat, however.

A number of factors converged prior to the summer of 1973 that convinced Robinson that Asheville needed a Shakespeare company. The catalyst for Hazel and John Robinson to start their endeavor occurred when the two took a vacation to Minneapolis in the summer of 1972 to visit John’s family. While there, they went to a production

of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* in a municipal park. That experience, coupled with Hazel’s observations that nobody in Asheville performed Shakespeare, led others to suggest that Hazel start a Shakespeare company of her own. The only other theatre companies at that time were Asheville Community Theatre, which primarily put on Broadway shows, and Tanglewood Youth Theatre, which was associated with the former; Hazel was involved with both.¹³ In spite of having several conversations with those close to her in which her husband and others urged her to consider using the local Montford Park to start a company of her own, Hazel did not entertain the thought of acting on the vacuum of Shakespearean performance in Asheville until a New Year’s Eve party at the dawn of 1973. John Cram hosted this party, incidentally. Cram is now the owner of several businesses in downtown Asheville and Biltmore Village, including the Fine Arts Theater and New Morning Gallery. Hazel fondly recollected the moment in which she finally gave in to the notion of creating a Shakespeare company. At the party, a man whose name neither she nor Ray Kisiah, at that time Director of Parks and Recreation in Asheville, can recall approached her and asked about the idea while offering his acquaintance of Kisiah as assistance, and, as she put it,

‘if I had not had three strawberry daiquiris (which I have never touched since), I would have said no...but I thought well, this current’s just too strong. I’ll go with it. So I said, “sure!” The next day...he called me and said “Ray loves the idea! Can I set you up an appointment?” That was when I knew I was lost.’

In spite of her initial reluctance, Hazel gathered her friends and family, contacts from Tanglewood and ACT, and hammered out a



Hazel Robinson - Courtesy Buncombe County Special Collections.

working relationship with Kisiah and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Before Robinson could gather actors and other volunteers to start getting a play underway, they had to secure a location in which to work.

Montford Park had been a part of the Montford community since the turn of the 20th century, and proved to be an ideal location for the emergent company. George Willis Pack, who was also the benefactor of the library in downtown Asheville, donated the land for the park.¹⁵ It had been suggested as a location by John Robinson, Hazel's husband, due to its proximity to their home. It was also suitable owing to its steep-sided hills forming a bowl around what would become the playing area, where there was a wading pool for children. In the spring of 1973, Parks & Rec furnished the newly-dubbed Montford Park



Park Stage - Courtesy Suskauer Thesis

Players with some greenwood boards to place over the top of the pool for a small two-tiered octagonal stage, which the Players constructed themselves. This was not an ideal solution, since the stage had to be frequently lifted off to make way for its original function, and since the wood was untreated, it would warp every year. To compensate, the company members would flip the boards at the beginning and ending of each season; this would ensure that they stayed at least moderately even.”



MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS

Support Free Theatre for All!

Over 50 years, no one has ever missed out on a night of high quality, family-friendly performances because they couldn't afford the price of admission. Amazing, right?! How could that be possible? It's simple – your contributions make it possible for the show to go on! MPP is federally-recognized, 501(c)3 not-for-profit. That means the free theatre our community depends on is made possible by tax-deductible gifts from seasonal audience donations and annual fund gifts from individuals, businesses, and foundations. You can make a difference in our community. Take a look at how your gift can bring free theatre to the lives of thousands.

<https://www.montfordparkplayers.org/>



Community Through Kudzu Blossom Harvest

**Saturday
August 19
10am - 1pm**

Kudzu Culture, Urban Forest Alliance, Montford Neighborhood Association, and Botanical Gardens at Asheville invite neighbors and friends to join in kudzu removal initiatives along the Reed Creek Greenway.

In this workshop, we will learn how to identify and harvest kudzu blossoms to prevent spread. We'll also learn how to make tea and jelly with the blossoms!

Held in the classroom at Botanical Gardens at Asheville

To register, at no cost, please email: KudzuCulture@gmail.com

More information: KUDZUCULTURE.net

Resource Directory

Historic Walking Tours

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

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

NEWSLETTER AD RATES

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

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Resource Directory	\$15
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1/4 Page	\$60
1/2 Page	\$100
Full Page	\$200

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Pedestrian & Bicyclist Safety *Potential Quick Wins*

**Marc Voorhees, 332 Montford Ave
to the Montford ListServ**

We had an excellent discussion at the MNA meeting this past Wednesday with representatives of Asheville's Transportation Department and we have the chance for some quick wins on Montford pedestrian & bicyclist safety.

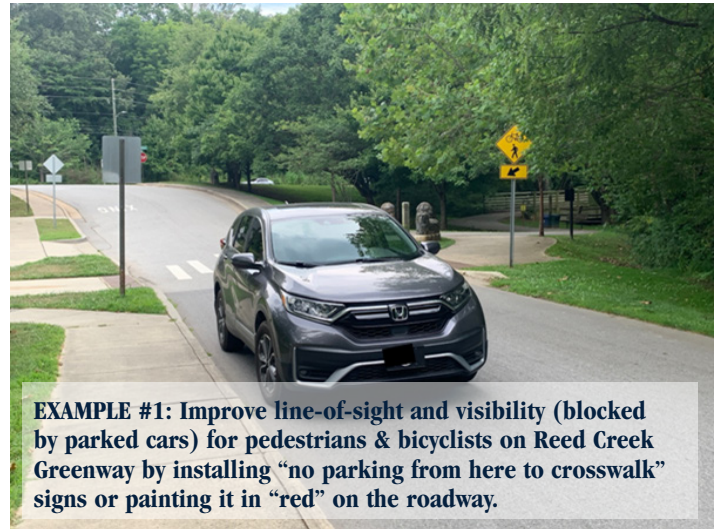
This is not about speed cushions, speed limits, police enforcement, etc. These were very positively discussed at the MNA meeting and will be summarized in the Montford Newsletter (*See Montford Neighborhood Association Community Meeting 7/26/23, page 4.*) It is also not about potholes or street repaving... that is a different process with the City's Public Works department that will be explained separately. This is about things like additional crosswalks, improved crosswalks, better signage and removal of pedestrian line-of-sight obstructions within Montford. Montford has the opportunity to give the Transportation Department (at their request) a list of these types of improvement ideas... and that is the purpose of this email...to ask for your input.

Once we have our list, there will be another step...likely involving an online community survey...to prioritize our list for the most impactful requests. We will definitely not get everything (far from it). But if we don't ask, we know the answer. This was the Transportation Department's idea, so let's strike while the iron is still hot.

Send me your suggestions...by either posting publicly to this ListServe email thread...or emailing me privately (mvoorhees@gmail.com).

I am looking for a picture of what/where your suggestion would be and a very brief description of the what/why of your suggestion. We'll leave this initial "request line" open for 10 days. Please share this email with neighbors who may not be on ListServe.

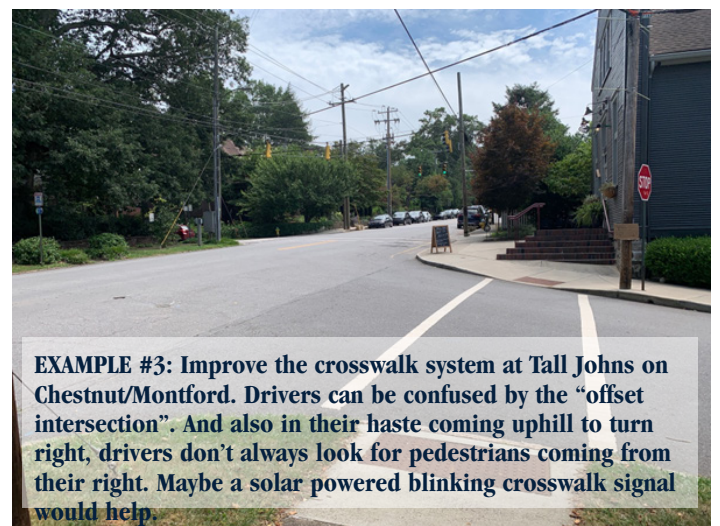
I have attached several examples to show what we need for each suggestion.



EXAMPLE #1: Improve line-of-sight and visibility (blocked by parked cars) for pedestrians & bicyclists on Reed Creek Greenway by installing "no parking from here to crosswalk" signs or painting it in "red" on the roadway.



EXAMPLE #2: Install a crosswalk across W. Waneta and Montford Ave. Cars drive too fast downhill on Waneta to Montford and don't always look for pedestrians.



EXAMPLE #3: Improve the crosswalk system at Tall Johns on Chestnut/Montford. Drivers can be confused by the "offset intersection". And also in their haste coming uphill to turn right, drivers don't always look for pedestrians coming from their right. Maybe a solar powered blinking crosswalk signal would help.



Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 08/09/23

Present: Chair Sioux Oliva, Maria Delsasi, Chris German, Sara Groce, Amy Moxley, Annie McDonald, Claire Thomas

Staff Present: Alex Cole, Jackson Marks

Item, Summary and Action

246 Cumberland Avenue - After the fact approval request to replace metal picket fence surrounding swimming pool in rear yard with brick walls.

Action—Continued

134 Flint Street - Construction of new door opening and crawl space/basement access doors on north elevation.

Action—Approved: Unanimous

185 Pearson Drive - Modifications to rear elevation, including demolition of small section of exterior wall and construction of a new enclosed porch and deck; modifications to several windows on side and rear elevations.

Action—Approved: Unanimous

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.

Headed Outdoors? Bear Safety Tips

Whether you’re going for a day hike, out for a jog or bike ride, headed to a campground or into the backcountry, or just taking your dog for a walk, being BearWise outdoors will help you have fun, stay safe and keep bears wild.



It’s Better Together

Walk, hike, jog, cycle and camp with others when possible. You’ll have someone to share the fun with and pitch in and help out if something unexpected happens.

Through the Eyes of Children

There’s nothing quite like seeing the great outdoors through the curious, wondering eyes of a child to make us grownups stop and really appreciate the wild world around us. Keep kids close by and within sight, and make sure they each have a safety whistle just in case. Talk to them about what cool animals bears are and what to do if they see a bear. Then practice before you go.

Leave No Trace

Double-bag food and snacks, or pack in a dry bag. Be sure to include a bag you can use to pack out all food and trash; don’t leave anything behind, including seemingly harmless things like apple cores, banana peels and trail mix. Food or trash left along the trail teaches bears and other wildlife to associate trails with food. Plus, many snacks formulated for humans contain levels of sodium and other ingredients that can be harmful or even lethal to wildlife. Read more here:

<https://bearwise.org/headed-outdoors-bear-safety-tips-part-one/>



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We appreciate Archetype Brewery offering a vibrant setting for the Montford Neighborhood Association meetings.

You may ask yourself “Why is Montford Avenue so wide.” Read this article taken from The Montford Newsletter, November 2013, to find out.

Joan Miller editor, Joe Newman co-editor, and Zoe Rhine of Pack Memorial Library.

A “Rustling Company” Develops a Streetcar Suburb Part Four of Rediscovering Montford’s Early History

Asheville was the first city in North Carolina to have an electric streetcar (sometimes referred to as a trolley) system, and Montford was likely the first electric streetcar suburb in the state.



Images courtesy of Special Collections, The North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library

Streetcar suburbs, defined as planned communities built around a streetcar line, represented a unified development rather than a city growing out one lot at a time. Created by one developer, they often contained wide streets which were often shaped to the contours of the land. Houses with prominent front porches facing the street created a close-knit neighborhood.

Trees and sidewalks gave a feel to the community that survives today. It is my sense from reading the known reportage about the early development of Montford that by the end of 1891, the streetcar suburb of Montford Park

was basically established with a large part of the property laid out as initially planned. It is amazing to think how progressive the Asheville Loan, Construction and Improvement Company (ALCI) officers must have been.

Laying Out Streets

Called a “rustling company” by the *Asheville Daily Citizen* because it moved so energetically on its plans, the ALCI got right to work developing the suburb after the purchase in June 1890. An October article announced that active operations on the property were about to begin. It corrected the originally published acreage of 1,000 acres to 600 acres total, with 400 being on the Asheville (east) side of the French Broad River. An Asheville city map of 1886 shows the only streets—all about one block long—that were laid out in the area before the ALCI’s involvement: Flint Street running from Haywood Street to Cherry Street, Mulberry Street (later Cumberland) running off Cherry, Short Street parallel to Cherry, and then Academy Street, the only road of any length.

By October 1890, ALCI had already advertised for bids for developing the first three miles of streets, which were to be built in the next 30 days. Included were an extension and two branches of the principal thoroughfare, Academy Street, which became Montford Avenue, Pearson Drive, and Cumberland Avenue. All were set at 70 feet in width.

ALCI announced the publication of the plat of its property in the *Daily Citizen* of December 3, 1890, dating an important document that

was undated on the original. The plat was drawn by Nier and Hartford, engineers from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Along with the notice of the plat map, the company announced the sale of their first four lots, three of which were on Montford Avenue—the first published use of the new name. Under agreement with the company, each purchaser agreed to erect a dwelling to cost not less than \$3,000 and to complete the work within six months.





Two drivers standing in front of the Montford Avenue-Santee Street street car. 1917. Image courtesy of Special Collections, The North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library

Building Infrastructure and Selling Lots

A company ad placed January 3, 1891, advertises broad avenues being constructed, a complete water and sewer plan, and an electric street railway running through the property. The contract for the streetcar line was announced April 2, 1891.

J.G. White of New York City was to lay 1.75 miles of rails for \$20,000 to be completed by June 1 of that year—in just two months.

On May 25, 1891, the *Citizen*, accompanied by the president of the ALCI, George S. Powell, took a trip to look at the work of the “rustling company out at Montford Park” and reported that the work was quite advanced. Montford Avenue ran right through the center of the company’s property, and by this time the gutters were paved and 250 Norway maple trees had been planted along the edges of the sidewalks. The street railway was then being constructed down West Chestnut Street from the Montford Avenue intersection.

Cumberland Avenue, West Chestnut Street, Magnolia Avenue, Cullowhee Place, Iola, Panola, Watauga, Soco, Ocala, Tacoma, and Santee streets, Ocona Circle, Hibriten Drive, and Riverside Drive were all being laid out by the time of the May 1891 article, varying in width from 50 to 62 feet. The company had spent over \$35,000 on streets, water, and sewerage.

Twenty lots had been sold. The following month the ALCI would sell 40 acres on the west side of the river to Major Robert Bingham for the location of the Bingham Military School. Development was going well. The May 1891 article in the *Asheville Daily Citizen* summed it up:

To describe all the work of beautifying the property that has been done by this company of prominent

Asheville men would take columns. This much is sure, Montford park and drives will long be among the city’s most attractive resorts. Visitors will go there for rest and enjoyment, and residents will go to praise the work and foresight of the pushing company that has made the improvements.

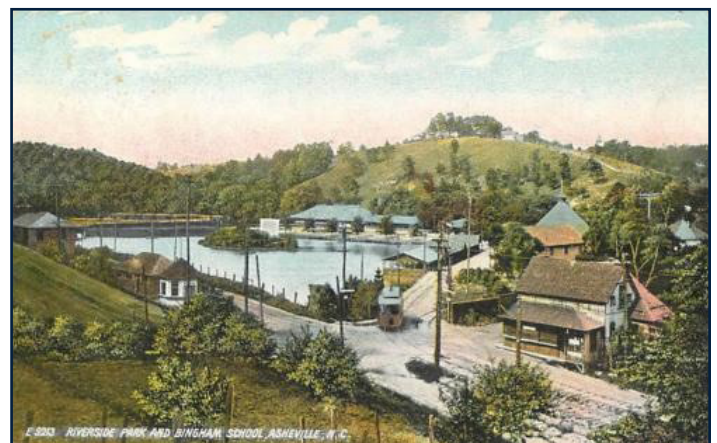
Riding the Electric Railway

The regular schedule for the Montford Avenue electric railway was announced July 14, 1891, and the *Citizen’s* reporters were not about to miss it. Returning to Montford Park to try out the new streetcar line, they rode from the city down Montford Avenue to West Chestnut and on to Cumberland, ending at this point in time at Zillicoa. The cars were built by the Gilbert Company of New York and the track, the reporters noted, was well built with top-of-the-line Johnson girder rails.

As David Bailey concluded in *Trolleys in the Land of the Sky*, “Montford Park became the place to live and the foremost influence on the civic and social life of the city, remaining so until the ‘crash’ of 1929.”



In 1901 Riverside Park opened on the French broad River. Tracks were added to the streetcar line reaching this extraordinary amusement. But that is a story for another day.



Images courtesy of http://www.imaginerding.com/2017/06/29/riverside-park-in-asheville-nc/#google_vignette

Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

Greening Your Home Part 1



Asheville has a wealth of delicious restaurants who benefit from local patrons both dining in and taking out. However, with the convenience of takeout comes the downside of takeout packaging, which is a challenge to our local recycling programs in almost every form. Not only are these items typically not recyclable, but even if they are, their potential high contamination means they need to be well-cleaned and dried before they can be recycled.

Here's how to handle a few common forms of takeout containers, according to the [Asheville Waste Wizard tool](#):

- **To-go paper coffee/drink cups:** Plastic lid and cardboard sleeve can go in the recycling; the cup itself should go in the garbage container.
- **To-go plastic iced coffee/drink cups:** Garbage container.
 - Evidently, this is the case even if they are #1 plastic (example image shown on the Wizard is a Starbucks cup, which is #1)
- **Plastic straw:** Garbage container
- **Plastic takeout containers** (e.g., black container with a clear lid): Garbage container
 - Note some plastic takeout containers are marked as certified compostable (not simply bio-based). If your container has this marking, drop it off at one of Asheville's [several compost dropoff sites](#) but do not put in your backyard compost unless it is explicitly labeled as Backyard Compostable (most compostable plastics are not).

- **Paper takeout containers:** The Waste Wizard says backyard composting or garbage container but . . .
 - Keep in mind if the paper is plastic lined and does not say it is compostable (chances are they'd tout it if it is), you should default to throwing it in the garbage.
 - Packaging labeled compostable can likely go in your backyard compost or of course at one of Asheville's [several compost dropoff sites](#).
- **Aluminum foil:** Garbage container
- **Styrofoam (clamshells or cups):** If clean and dry, drop off at a local [Publix](#) or [Hard 2 Recycle event](#).

If you're frustrated by the limited options, the company Terracycle does offer [Kitchen Separation boxes](#).

While some cities are piloting reusable takeout container programs, I was not able to find any in Asheville (let me know if I am mistaken!), so I decided to ask a few of the restaurants that are in Montford/closest by how they feel about customers bringing their own to-go containers for beverages or food.

I didn't hear back from everyone I reached out to, but check out this [Response Link](#) to see what High Five, Tall John's, and Taco Billy were able to share. The answers indicate it's clearly tricky to navigate, but cafe settings and drinks seem to lend themselves to "Bring Your Own" more easily.

Want to see what your favorite restaurant would say? Feel free to send them this [Survey Link](#) and the Response Link above will auto-update with any new responses.

Let me know what other suggested topics you'd like covered at montfordgreencorner@gmail.com.

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