

MONTFORD

PREMIERE ISSUE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

OCTOBER 1995

UPCOMING

• October 10, Semi-Annual Bake Sale/Fund-raiser. Please call the Montford Resource Center if you would like to donate baked goods or your time, 255-4946.

• October 11, Historic Montford Meeting at the Greek Center on Cumberland Ave. at 7 p.m. Irby Brinson, director of Parks and Recreation, will talk about the parks in Montford and take suggestions on landscaping and playgrounds. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

• October 28, Young Artist Contest, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Montford Resource Center. Lunch will be served to participants. Children are to bring their own colored pencils, crayons, or paints. The Resource Center will supply paper. Certificates will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The theme is "Spooks, Spirits, and the Supernatural." The age categories are: Under 3; 4 - 6; 7 - 9; and, 10 and Older.

• October 31, Resource Center Spook House on Montford Avenue, 6-8 p.m.

MONTFORD, HOW DO YOUR COMMUNITY GARDENS GROW?

If you've ever passed by the community garden on Montford Ave., or the one on Pearson Dr., and wondered, "How does that work?", you're not alone. Both of these garden programs are coordinated by MAGIC, which stands for Mountain Area Gardens In Communities.

The site on Montford is a true community garden in that anyone in the neighborhood can pay \$20 to reserve a plot of land for one year. On that plot you can plant flowers, vegetables, fruits, or herbs. According to Roberta Greenspan, executive director of the non-profit organization MAGIC, "This garden is operated on an honor system. Occasionally people will take stuff out of it who aren't paying for a plot, but we've experienced very little of that."

Chip Smith, who resides at 91 Elizabeth, put his green thumb to work this year enhancing the exterior landscape of the Montford garden. He planted an abundance of perennial and annual flowers. "My goal is to have all sorts of things blooming throughout the spring, summer, and fall. I used to have a gigantic garden—one that was bigger than the plot of land that my house currently sits on. I just like to grow things. When I'm working in it people come by and tell me how much they enjoy looking at the flowers. That's rewarding. Montford's got all sorts of pretty things here and there, and the garden is

just one more thing that adds to the character of the neighborhood."

The land at the north end of Pearson is designated as a Youth Market Garden. In coordination with the Asheville Housing Authority's Youthful Hand Program, youths living in Asheville Public Housing are growing food and selling it back to their communities. This enables them to learn about gardening, marketing produce, sharing labor, and themselves, says Greenspan. MAGIC works with school systems, low-income populations, youth shelters, homeless shelters, and handicapped groups.

"People think 'Gardening, that's nice,'" she says, "but many don't realize that gardening can create a sense of accomplishment for individuals"

For more information or to reserve your plot in the Montford Ave. garden, call MAGIC at 251-5666.

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P.A.C.T.

POLICE & COMMUNITY TOGETHER

At the request of the Montford Resource Center (MRC) founders, the City of Asheville Police Department stationed a community policing team at the MRC on Montford Ave. P.A.C.T.'s mission is to resolve community based problems while relying heavily on community participation. P.A.C.T. is active in handling resident's complaints, attending neighborhood meetings, and initiating Neighborhood Watch Programs.

The MRC facilitates this partnership with the following activities:

- training of residents in observational skills and reporting of illegal activities;
- training of volunteers to complete incident reports for the Asheville Police Department; and,
- maintaining a daily log of resident's complaints and neighborhood problems.

Since it was put in place earlier this year, P.A.C.T. — along with MRC volunteers — has sponsored a community Easter Egg Hunt and picnic, a community clean-up day and barbecue, and a Young Artist contest/luncheon/clean-up. There are ongoing plans for future community oriented activities.

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To maintain the Montford Resource Center, all it takes is for everyone in Montford to donate \$2 and two hours of their time each month. Call 255-4946 to learn how you can be supportive.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Let us know what's on your mind. Drop articles or comments by the MRC.

NEWS & VIEWS

• **NEWS:** The residents of Flint St. are forming a Citizens on Patrol effort to rid their street of the unwanted criminal elements. For information on how to get involved, call the Montford Resource Center at 255-4946, or Fairfax Arnold at 252-5809.

• **VIEWS:** *In many ways, this is one of the most beautiful neighborhoods I've ever lived in, yet the abundance of trash thrown on the sidewalks, streets, and in vacant lots and parks leads me to believe that many residents have little pride for their community. Every time I go out walking, I come home carrying bags of trash. I'm not certain what the solution is to this overwhelming problem. I can only encourage every resident to 1) pick up daily around their*

homes; and 2) to participate in neighborhood trash cleanups. Do you have a solution? I'd like to hear what you think. — Deena C. Knight, who resides at 50 Cumberland Ave.

• **NEWS:** Two new businesses have opened in Montford. First, A Bed of Roses Bed & Breakfast has opened on Cumberland Ave. Owner and operator Caroline Logie, whose roots are in Asheville, recently moved from Massachusetts where she ran a B&B for seven years. In addition, equestrian Fairfax Arnold has started the Asheville Carriage Company, which offers 25-minute, horse-drawn carriage rides, Wednesday-Sunday, through Historic Montford.

MONTFORD RESOURCE CENTER UPDATE

The Montford Resource Center opened its doors to the community on January 31, 1995.

It is operated entirely by volunteers. MRC is headed by the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, whereby representatives of all six active Montford community groups meet to prioritize and focus on overall community concerns.

Though still in its infancy and evolving daily, some of the issues the MRC has concentrated on thus far include illegal drug activity, prostitution, excessive littering, and traffic control. Other concerns

focus on the historical preservation of the Montford community; keeping City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission responsive to community needs; promoting the positive aspects of our community; and, facilitating interaction between neighbors.

To remain in operation, the MRC needs volunteers to run it, funds to maintain it, and the neighbors to use and benefit from its services. You are encouraged to report neighborhood problems, offer feedback on neighborhood issues, and utilize the myriad of informational materials available inside the Center.

I REMEMBER WHEN ...

Mary Gilbo has lived in the yellow house at 5 Cumberland Place since 1940. Now a spry 88 and active in a local community center, Mary likes to share her memories of

Montford and how it has changed in 55 years. For several decades she says she contributed to the family income by working as a housekeeper and cook at 90 Cumberland Ave. for the Pollard family.

Mary remembers when there were grand homes in many of the vacant lots that now dot Montford's neighborhood landscape. She can vividly recall how many of the houses met their demise, usually by

fire or neglect. She also has memories of Montford Ave. before Hwy. 240 was constructed. Stores and fruit & vegetable stands lined the road up to the top of hill. She mostly misses the small A&P where she did all of her grocery shopping.

Mary says the neighborhood was thriving and beautifully kept when she arrived in 1940, but she has seen Montford go through a period of decline. However, she says it's refreshing to see so many people renovating and moving into the remaining homes—where people she knew and have long since passed away once lived. She is hopeful that the neighborhood will continue to improve so that her only son, who lives with her, can enjoy it for years to come.

What's your "I remember when ..." story about Montford? Drop it by the Resource Center.

WHAT'S COOKING?

"Dutch Babies"

Preheat oven to 450°.

Serves 3-4

Ingredients:

3 Jumbo Eggs or 4 Large Eggs (room temperature) 1/2 cup milk

2/3 cup all-purpose flour 1/2 teaspoon salt

Beat eggs in large bowl. Beat in 1/2 cup of milk. Sift 2/3 cup all-purpose flour and 1/2 teaspoon of salt into egg mixture 1/5th at a time. Use a wire whisk to vigorously blend in each portion of the sifted mixture.

Pour into fluted or regular baking dishes that have been thoroughly sprayed with cooking oil. Cook for 10 minutes. Serve immediately in baking dish. Serve with pure maple syrup, jams, or traditional way: on a plate with confectioners sugar and slices of lemon.

Recipe courtesy of The Black Walnut Bed and Breakfast Inn on Montford Avenue.

CONSTRUCTIONS & RENOVATIONS

On behalf of the Neighborhood Housing Services' Board and staff, I would like to bring you up to date on what's ahead for the fall. For the first time, NHS will build new houses in Montford. We have received a \$125,000 HOME Program Grant from the City of Asheville for this venture. Our goal is to build four affordable homes on sites throughout the community. Our first home will be a two-bedroom cottage, built on a lot at 41 Short St. We are in the process of locating the remaining three sites. Our houses will be compatible with the neighborhood, and we will let our future neighbors know of our plans well in advance.

The biggest challenge is raising the required 25% local match, which is mandated by Federal regulations. To build four houses, we need to raise almost \$30,000 in cash or donated materials. Our fund-rais-

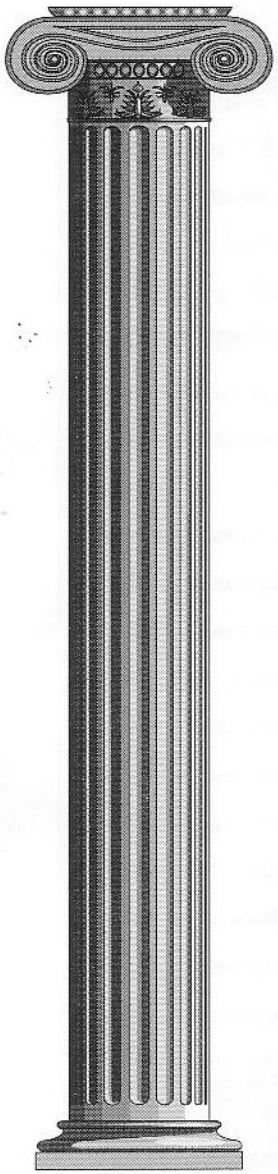
ing committee is working to meet this goal. You will be hearing more about this as the program gets started.

We plan to have an active year with our CottageWorks and home rehab loan programs. Contractors are at work demolishing the house we own at 358 Cumberland Ave. We hate to lose an older house, but the structure was too far gone for a sensible rehabilitation project. We plan to market the lot for one of our new construction houses. Work is also under way to rehabilitate the house at 7 Crescent St., our first venture in our expanded "Eastern" target area.

Feel free to drop by our office and share your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. We look forward to working with you to make Montford an even better place to live.— JERRY LEE WOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NHS.

THIS NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

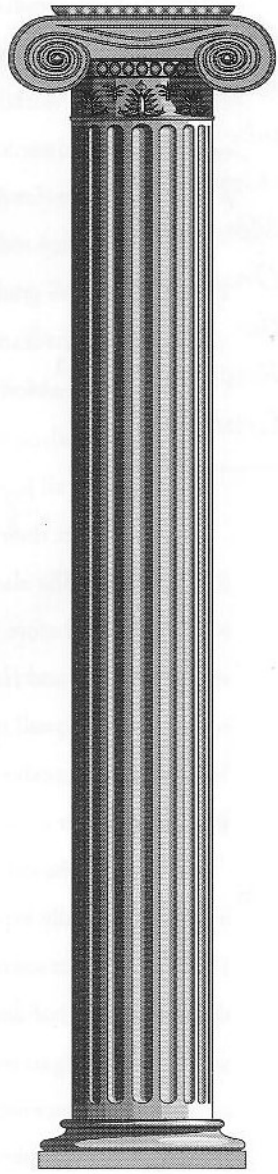
- **New Business in Montford.** Asheville Carriage Company presents Fairfax Arnold and Gypsy Bell for carriage rides through historic Montford. Call for reservations: 254-9890.
- **Thirteen years of writing and editing experience.** Knight Freelance Service will write your brochures, newsletters, flyers, press releases, catalogs, etc. Call 252-7175.



There are many exciting developments taking shape within the Montford community. We're getting crime under control. We're cleaning up our streets and restoring our historic properties. We're building an atmosphere where service-oriented businesses can thrive. And, most importantly, we're creating a neighborhood that offers quality of life for our families.

This newsletter is an attempt to link neighbor to neighbor, as well as provide consistent information about issues important to

Montford residents. In order to pay for this newsletter's monthly production and printing charges, the Montford Resource Center needs the support of area businesses. For only pennies, you can support MONTFORD, while at the same time send your message to 1,000 in your target market. Or, as a supportive community member, your contribution of a few dollars a month can help keep this newsletter in production. For more information, call Gerald Green at 253-9729 or the Montford Resource Center at 255-4946.



Sponsor Message Rates:

Full back page: \$300 (\$.30 per ad based on a distribution of 1,000)

1/2 back page: \$150 (\$.15 per 1,000)

1/4 back page: \$75 (\$.08 per 1,000)

Sponsor mention: \$25 (includes two boldfaced lines in prominent boxed section on the back page of the newsletter.)