



# MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD  
Vol. 28 No. 12

DECEMBER '23/JANUARY '24

Happy Holidays  
Montford  
and Best Wishes in the  
Coming Year

## **INSIDE**

**Holiday Tour of Homes (page 2) and  
Montford Lights (page 6) Recap**



# The Montford Holiday Tour of Homes

It was a wonderful return for **the Montford Holiday Tour of Homes!** After a 3 year hiatus we completely sold out. Between ticketed guests, volunteers and sponsors, **we hosted over 650 people raising more than \$17,000 for MNA community projects.** On the Tour there were eight stunning properties to explore, from the Historic to the newest additions. There was plenty to see and experience along the way! Many neighbors joined in, and we even had guests from as far away as Oregon. All the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, as many of these folks had been hoping for the return of this festive event. Each home was beautifully staged for the day, and the homeowners were beyond gracious in opening up their homes. They were a true pleasure to work with in planning this event. The homes all had a different story to tell, and were full of special touches for the occasion. Hornaday Design, Inc. created our lovely commemorative Tour poster with hints of IYKYK elements. We have extras available for \$10 each. Please contact me if you would like one!

Tour-goers were able to experience the newest homes in our community. Lillian and Trevor Payne at 281 Pearson shared their brand new light-filled, Griffin Award winning home, with a delicious Christmas punch provided by Tall John's Neighborhood Tavern. Another incredible design by neighbor Michael McDonough! Judith and Dan Sanford's home by architect Rusafova Markulis at 103 Pearson, built by JAG Construction, was 3 levels of absolute perfection! Both homes blend beautifully into our Historic neighborhood.

History lives here! Hazel & John Robinson's family home at 246 Cumberland, Founders of the Montford Park Players, is now the home of Chris and Kelly Dunbar and family. It was a treat for all to experience! A beautiful example of how to maintain the history of a home while making it functional for modern needs. The former Bed of Roses B&B at 135 Cumberland, now owned by





Lauren Clarke and Eric Karjala and their daughter, has had a wonderful renovation that mixes old and new with loads of fun and whimsy! Ashima Nair's home at 230 Montford was very warm and inviting. Her thoughtful renovations, with nods to her family history and travels woven in, has truly elevated this unique Neoclassical Revival home.

We had festive music throughout the day as well. Andrew Fletcher, Asheville's finest jazz piano player, was on the beautiful piano in Diane Jortner's stunning home at 170 Cumberland. Her careful curation of this home's history is next level, and learning how much of the restoration she did with her own two hands is nothing short of inspiring! The Cat Dragons, including Waneta St. residents Ben & Emeline Scales, were rocking around the multiple Christmas trees at the beautiful 1900 Inn on Montford and even landed on the WLOS news coverage with bassist Craig Kellberg. If you're staying at the Inn on a Saturday, this mixed bag of musicians (whoever the cat drags in) is on tap for social hour every week with gracious hosts Willy and Shawnie Gruber. Merissa Walkenstein from Panola St. provided her talent with a violin duo at the Black Walnut B&B, an enchanting accent to this elegant B&B. It felt like a step back in time! Alicia Wilson has embraced and elevated the B&B experience for her guests, and is a wonderful steward of this property. Outfitted by Trinity Smith Keel, costume designer for the Montford Park Players, two bands of Carolers roamed the streets singing much loved holiday tunes. I am so grateful for all the neighbors who jumped in to walk about and sing for us; Denise Mills and her choir of friends, Tracy and Len Levy, Keely Carlisle, and Tod Leaven and family!

Cate Scales  
Tour Director





# The Montford Holiday Tour of Homes We Appreciate Our Sponsors

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# Montford Lights!



What a wonderful evening.  
Let's do this again next year!





**The 3rd annual Montford Lights is in the books! Kudos to the following folks for it's success:**

The Montford Neighborhood Association for the funding & board members past & present for the distribution of 1,000 door hangers in Montford.

John Russell & The Montford Park Players for getting the festivities started and the Asheville High School Drum line for keeping the beat and leading the parade. Rodney Workman, band director & Jaquan Wiley, assistant director for their fantastic leadership & Rita Hayes for organizing the flute players.

The tree was obtained & delivered by Steve & Lynn Ryker. It was securely set up by Steve, David Boyles & David Humphrey who also strung the lights. Traci & Len Levi provided the Menorah & Smart Fellers donated & placed the lighted globes in the treetops. APD provided 2 officers to ensure a safe, secure environment & even the weather held out! Most important of all was everyone in this great neighborhood who decorated their homes & joined in to make this a joyful community event!

Happy Holidays!

Marti Boyles, Montford Lights Chairperson



From my NEST to your's...

# Happy New Year!

Celebrating 21 years of living, working, and playing in Montford. Our family is grateful to call this community home!



CATE SCALES | REALTOR

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## Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

*December holidays are upon us!*



### Gift Giving

In past editions, we've naturally touched on many of the practices and characteristics you can leverage when gift-giving, to both minimize negative and maximize positive impacts when voting with your dollar. You might shop local at one of the many delightful makers markets around, buy second hand, and/or look for certified environmental or social impact credentials.

Inspired in part by the "Happier Holidays: How to Give and Receive the Perfect Gift" episode of The Happiness Lab Podcast about the psychology of gift giving in general, here are a few other considerations to keep in mind:

- **Avoid knick-knacks and purely novelty gifts.** Ask yourself: is this something they will be glad to have a week from now? If not, save them the clutter and avoid contributing to the demand for cheap items that will inevitably end up in the trash. If you need stocking stuffers, consider treats or recyclable items over plastic tchotchkes.
- **Get them what they want.** If you know what someone wants, don't risk missing the mark - unwanted physical gifts not only mean faked enthusiasm but they can have a big environmental footprint whether the recipient throws it away or if it's too risky or challenging to resell once returned to a retailer. If the lack of surprise makes it seem less special, build a different emotional connection. For example, if gift cards feel uninspired, you can ask them to tell you about what they end up spending it on and why.
- **Gift experiences.** The joy we get from a gift can be multiplied if it builds excitement from anticipation of a future event and helps build new memories.

### Gift Wrapping

- **Consider reusable gift wrapping.** The "wrapping" could be part of the gift itself or just a great gift bag that can be reused for years to come.
- **Minimize plastic tape.** Building recyclable origami gift boxes or learning tapeless or furoshiki wrapping techniques can be its own holiday activity.
- **Opt for recyclable or compostable ribbon and tags over plastic.**
- **Ensure your wrapping paper/bags are actually recyclable.** Most wrapping paper and many bags can't be recycled, so if you do use glossy or glittery varieties, make sure it ends up in the trash.

And as we approach the end of the year, if living more sustainably will be one of your New Year's resolutions, take it one step at a time! Building new habits and routines is challenging and the science shows being compassionate with yourself when you do new, hard things is the best way to avoid giving up.

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You can find past Green Corners on the [Newsletter Archive page](#).

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Paul Dixon  
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# 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## How Baby New Year became a thing!

<https://www.cnn.com/2015/12/29/living/baby-new-year-origin-feat/index.html>

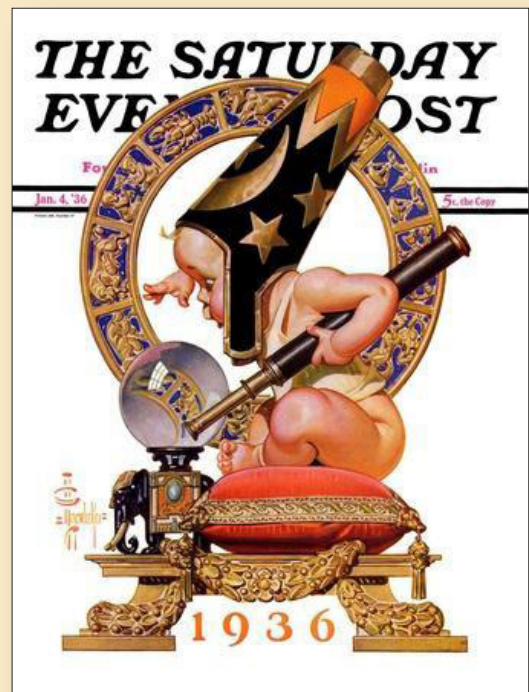


Illustration: Joseph Christian Leyendecker

### NEWSLETTER AD RATES

Contact Ross Terry at [krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com](mailto:krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com)  
or call 230-7439 to place an ad.

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



*Forever Montford*

**WELCOME PACKET**

**Dan & Judith Sanford**

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, 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.

Dan Sanford: [sanford.danielj@gmail.com](mailto:sanford.danielj@gmail.com)

Judith Sanford: [sanford.judith@gmail.com](mailto:sanford.judith@gmail.com)

Leslie Humphrey: [leslieinmontford@gmail.com](mailto:leslieinmontford@gmail.com)

Ashima Nair: [ashimanair@gmail.com](mailto:ashimanair@gmail.com)

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## Pack Memorial Library 67 Haywood Street in downtown Asheville

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

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

- **Over 150,000 items available for browsing and lending.** These resources include books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, and research materials. The library also participates in statewide resource sharing and offers inter-library loans.
- **Free internet access, public computing, and Wi-Fi.** Photocopy and printing services are available for a small fee.
- **Free laptop and hotspot lending program.** Laptops and hotspots are now available for a free 30 day loan with a library card.
- **Free tickets to local attractions.** Use your library card to sign up for Zoom passes, which are free tickets to local attractions like the WNC Nature Center, the NC Arboretum, or the Asheville Museum of Science.
- **Free digital audiobooks, e-books, magazines, and movies.** The Libby app from Overdrive provides downloads of these items to your smart phone, tablet, or computer. It’s like an Audible subscription service, but free with your library card.

- **A vibrant and inviting children’s library.**

The library has books for all ages and reading levels, and board games, and sporting equipment available to lend.

- **Thousands of unique local historical records, photographs, maps, and memorabilia.**

The Buncombe County Special Collections Library provides researchers the resources and expertise they need to understand and interpret the history of Western North Carolina.

- **Bookends Used Bookstore offers bargain prices for a wide variety of books and media, including vintage and collectible materials and bestselling fiction.** Proceeds from the sales benefit the library programming.

For more information, visit the library or their website:

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/library/branch-locations/pack-memorial.aspx>

Parking in the Civic Center parking ramp is free for the first hour. The library is also walkable from the Montford neighborhood.

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## Resource Directory

### Historic Walking Tours

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

- 777-1014.

### Raven Invasive Plant Management

Saving trees and native plants from non-native invasives. Raven IPM is a local, organic, woman veteran-owned business specializing in mechanical removal of invasive plants. No chemicals, just hard work. • (828)866-3200 • RavenNC.com

### Smart Feller Tree Works

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.

- 828.545.5503

### Square Peg Construction Inc.

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



## Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

### Montford Action Agenda 11/08/23

**Present:** Will Hornaday (Vice-Chair), Amy Moxley, Sara Groce, Emily Kite, Annie McDonald, Maria DeSasi, Claire Thomas, Shannon Watkins, Chris German

**Staff Present:** Alexandra Cole, Haley Mahoney, Jannice Ashley

### Item, Summary and Action

**372 Montford Avenue/5 Watauga Place (PIN 9639945784)** - Modifications to existing door and window openings, replacement of windows and construction of new porch on existing non-contributing accessory structure.

**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](http://www.ashevillenc.gov)) for the full approved minutes after the following month's meeting.



## Join The Montford Listserve

The Montford listserv is a neighborhood discussion list. This is the place where you can exchange news about the neighborhood.

Visit <https://montford.org/montford-listserve/> to join.



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

*The Montford Newsletter* is published online by the Montford Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 7181, Asheville, NC 28802, for the residents of Asheville's first historic neighborhood. We welcome articles and advertising by the 20th of the month.

Note: Opinions expressed in this newsletter by contributing authors do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the MNA. Contact Editor Kelly Ross Terry at [krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com](mailto:krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com), 230-7439 for more information.