



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 29 No. 02

FEBRUARY '24



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<https://nationaltoday.com/february-holidays/>



TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Calendar

Art in the Park

Friday, April 12 from 5-7pm. \$10 for Ages 40+. Location: Montford Park.



Pizza and Trivia Teen Night

Friday, March 15 from 6:30-8pm. \$5 for Ages 14-18.



Montford Teen Fun Nights

Fridays, February 23, March 22, and April 26 from 6:30-7:30pm. Free for Ages 12-16.

Lil' Picasso's Toddler Art

Wednesdays, April 10, 17, and 24 from 1:30-2 pm. \$5/ class for Ages 3-5 accompanied by parent/guardian.



Blast for the Past Adult Game Time

Sunday, April 14 from 2-4 pm. \$5 for Ages 20-50.

Toddler Craftin' Through the Season

Wednesdays, March 13 and April 10 from 6-7 pm. Free for Ages 3-5 accompanied by parent/guardian.

For more Information Contact:

Seth Jackson - Recreation Facility Manager - Tempie Avery Montford Center - Asheville Parks and Recreation Office: 828-253-3714, Business Cell: 828-337-2403, Email: sjackson@ashevillenc.gov

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Montford Community Meeting Minutes

1/24/2024 at Odyssey School

Leslie Humphrey called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Approximately 35 persons in attendance. Thanks to the Odyssey School for allowing us to utilize their venue for our meeting.

APD Community Resource Officer Carrie Lee detailed some facts. First she shared that she is the proud Mom of a three month old daughter. Car window break ins have been occurring and she shared that APD does have some vehicles of interest to allow a future arrest hopefully. She reminded all of us to lock our car doors and hide valuables out of sight. If one parks on the street try to park where lighting is present. Light porches and around ones property if possible. Ring or camera doorbell devices allow identification of perpetrators if face image or clothing can be seen. Three walk ins of houses, three cars stolen and two assaults have occurred recently. She detailed the Hyundai defects that allow theft and offered up a steering wheel lock availability.

Meredith Freidheim from the City of Asheville (COA) offered neighborhood updates. She encouraged citizens to submit a budget survey to guide the upcoming COA budget planning. There is an affordable housing plan open house this Saturday, January 27. She detailed how COA now has a new Fire Chief, an Equity and Inclusion Director, an interim Transportation Director (Ken Putnam retired), and an interim Police Chief.

Susan presented our financial report. The recent Home Tour netted over \$13k and the 2023 Garden Tour netted over \$16K with the bulk of that designated to upgrade

the Montford Garden. We have around \$78K balance and continue to strategically plan for neighborhood improvements.

MNA Board was discussed. Leslie Humphrey and Dan Rogers will rotate off the board and 2 at large member spots will be up for reelection. Please forward any nominations to any board member by March 1. Individuals may nominate themselves if desired. Vote will be at the April 24 community meeting, likely at Odyssey School at 6:30.

Dan Sanford updated the Directory efforts. More than 130 persons have signed up and numerous potential clubs are in the works such as supper club, book club and others. Reminder that the Directory will be managed as a private directory for safety concerns.

Karen MacNeil updated us on the Reed Creek Greenway kudzu removal efforts. In 2023 we obtained a COA \$5K matching grant and had four volunteer events facilitated by Kudzu Culture which allowed elimination of 20 large trash bags as well as over 200 kudzu root crowns (root crown removal is the most important effort to eradicate the kudzu). With funds from the matching grant in 2023, Montford contracted with Raven Invasive Plant Management for invasive plant removal. We are thankful for our neighborhood volunteers and partners including Asheville Botanical Gardens for hosting our most recent volunteer event. For 2024, MNA has submitted a proposal for an additional COA matching grant and use of goats to eat kudzu allowing access to root crown removal. These efforts are focused on the properties adjacent to the Cauble Street/Reed Creek Greenway intersection.

Marti Boyles detailed the success of the Montford Lights, the third annual effort. Thanks to John Russell and the



Montford Park Players, Rodney Workman (Asheville High music director) for the drumline, Rita Hayes whose students performed at the Montford Park, Smart Feller Tree Works who donated and hung the lighted globes, Lynn and Steve Raker who obtained the tree, Steve Raker, David Humphrey and David Boyles who erected and strung the lights on the tree, Ross Terry for the design of the door hangers and the people who distributed all 1000 of the doorhangers, and lastly kudos to the APD officers who helped ensure our safety.

Thanks to Cate Scales for her leadership on the Home Tour, dormant after the pandemic hit. She does ask for a volunteer to assist in asking for sponsorships for 2024 Tour.

Susan Eggerton introduced and Marc Voorhees detailed four changes they and their working group advocate and intend to propose to the Historic Resources Commission on Fences, Additions, Solar energy collectors and Windows and Doors. They had prepared these proposals and

were seeking comment as they had previously done by repeatedly circulating their survey on List Serve. Comment and discussion was lively and varied, particularly as to their proposal on Windows.

Jennifer Cathey with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office detailed how one can achieve Rehabilitation Tax Credits for Owner occupied properties and Tax Incentives for income producing properties. Contact Jennifer at 828.250.3113 or visit the website a www.hpo.nc.gov.

Next community meeting April 24, 2024 with Keith Miller, Tax Assessor, scheduled to present details on the upcoming tax assessment updates. A topic which touches all of us in Montford.



Respectfully submitted,
Dan Rogers - Secretary

Introducing the Montford Neighborhood Directory

Would you like to get in touch with your neighbors more easily?

Do you have hobbies or special interests that you would like to share with others?

Do you want to be more involved in the Montford community?

If you answered yes to any of the above, the Montford Neighborhood Directory is for you. The Montford Neighborhood Association has created an online directory, making it easy to do all of the above. It is a secure directory which is stored on Google Docs, so you will need a Google account to access the directory. No Gmail is required, just a Google account. No Google account? No problem, it is a few easy steps to create one and you can keep your old email address.

To date, we have 130 neighbors who have signed up, and we invite you to join as well. Neighbors have already started forming social groups using the Directory. They have expressed interest in Book Clubs, Supper Club, Wine Club, Hiking, Yoga, Tennis, Gardening, Crafts, Cooking, Baking, Woodworking, Painting, Playdates and more. If you would like to join, simply send an email to montford.directory@gmail.com





Black Montford & Stumptown Family Reunion
October 21, 2023 at the Tempie Avery Montford Center

It is a testament to the depth of community love when neighbors still want to gather after years living in different places. This kind of love was demonstrated on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at the Black Montford & Stumptown Family Reunion. Held at the Tempie Avery Montford Center, over 100 people were in attendance. Present were current and former residents of Stumptown, Montford, Hill Street, Hillcrest, and Klondyke.

We gathered to remember and dream. It was a joyous day, with delicious food and nostalgic music. There were all ages in attendance, an affirmation that our story is not only one of the past, but also of future generations. While not part of dominant neighborhood narratives, our large presence was a reminder of the fact that all of Montford (census tracts 2 and 3) was majority Black from the late 1960s through the early 2000s.

Speakers included Dr. Darin Waters, Deputy Secretary, Office of Archives and History of the State of North Carolina. He affirmed the importance of gatherings such as this to help bring invisibilized histories like ours to light, and offered the ongoing support of his office.

Thomas Priester and Kimberly Jones, the Stumptown representatives on the Asheville Buncombe Community Reparations Commission shared updates on the reparations process.

In addition to the proposals named by the focus area working groups, Stumptown’s requests, which have been presented to the commission, include:

- 1.) to be recognized for the harm our community experienced
- 2.) for signage to be installed in Stumptown
- 3.) that the city-owned properties on Jersey and Morrow Streets be included in the Stop the Harm audit
- 4.) for Stumptown legacy community members to be able decide what happens with those properties.

Attendees learned more about the Montford & Stumptown Fund, a fund of the Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust designed to protect and create permanently affordable housing for Black residents. It is one strategy for repairing the harm caused by displacement due to urban renewal and gentrification.

STM Multimedia had their youth documentary team document the event and record video interviews. Buncombe County Special Collections was set up to scan photos, and photographer Benjamin Porter took a panoramic photo similar to one from the 1997 Stumptown reunion.

Thank you to the Buncombe County Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE) Department and Garnet Prose + Projects for helping to organize the event, and to the Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County and Montford Neighborhood Association for their donations.



★ *Celebrating* ★
BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Top left to right

Granville Woods: Prominent inventor and electrical engineer and known as “Black Edison.”

Katherine Johnson: NASA research mathematician.

Lonnie Johnson: NASA engineer who invented the Super Soaker.

Mae Jemison: NASA astronaut and the first black woman to travel into space.

Marc Hannah: Global pioneer in computer graphics.

Bottom left to right

Mark Dean: American inventor and computer engineer.

Otis Boykin: His inventions include electrical resistors used in computing, missile guidance, and pacemakers.

Patricia Bath: Invented laserphaco cataract surgery.

Roy Clay: Founding member of the computer division at Hewlett-Packard.


Shirley Ann Jackson: Theoretical physicist and the first African American woman to receive a doctorate from MIT.

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PSABC'S Historic Home Tour Comes to Montford - February 17 & 18

The Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County is proud to once again participate in the National Arts & Crafts Conference held



at the Grove Park Inn with their Historic Home Tour Feb 17th & 18th from 1-5pm. This conference draws Arts & Crafts enthusiasts from all over the country for a weekend of seminars, group discussions, demonstrations, selling shows and PSABC's Home Tour featuring Montford this year!

Planning for the Montford Neighborhood we know today began in 1889 as Asheville's first electric streetcar suburb by the Asheville Loan, Construction and Improvement Company. Development proceeded slowly until business tycoon George W. Pack took over the enterprise. The sprawling and irregularly shaped residential neighborhood grew to include a collection of houses representing a variety of architectural styles from the early twentieth century. Four unique properties are included on this year's tour:

- 35 Bearden Ave.
- 179 Montford Ave.
- 138 Cumberland Ave.
- 170 Cumberland Ave.



For more information & tickets, or to join PSABC as a member, visit www.PSABC.org

Thanks to Nest Realty and Gray Line Tours for sponsoring this year!

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OF ASHEVILLE

Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

For this month's Green Corner, we're spotlighting the amazing work the WNC Repair Cafe has planned for this year. The greenest product is most often the one you already own, and last year the WNC Repair Cafe organized over a dozen free repair events hosted by the Asheville Tool Library and Buncombe County libraries.

This year, the WNC Repair Cafe is again partnering with the Asheville Tool Library for six general repair events, on bimonthly intervals, each on the first Thursday of that month. All events are from 5:00-8:00 PM. At these events, they will be fixing nearly anything you might find in your house: small appliances, lamps and other electrical items, tools, furniture, heirlooms, some electronics, small engines, bicycles, and more.



Additionally, Buncombe county libraries will continue to host mending events. The schedule is more ad hoc – see more information in the image below. Here, they will fix anything that can be mended with thread - think clothing, stuffed animals, household textiles, etc.

If you have a skillset that could be useful at one of these events, email WNCRepairCafe@gmail.com to learn more about volunteering.

The latest information on these events is always available at <https://wncrepaircafe.blogspot.com/> and be sure to follow them on social media @WNCRepairCafe. Happy repairing!

You can find past Green Corners on the Newsletter Archive page.

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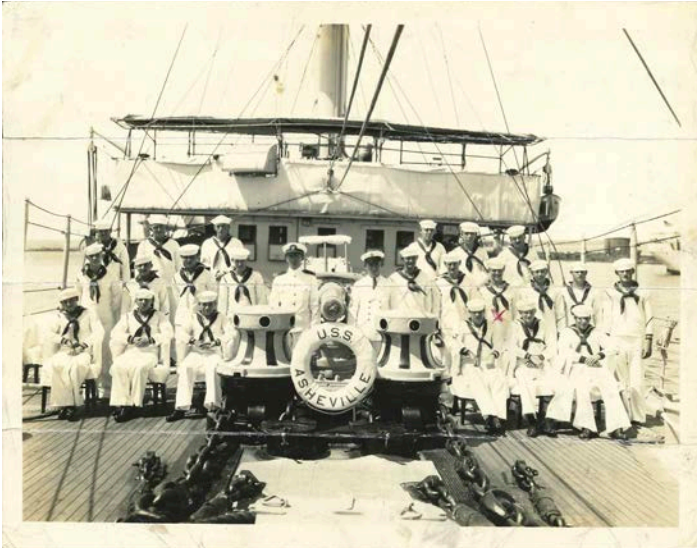
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AFTER

USS Asheville PG-21 Memorial Dedication on March 3



USS Asheville PG-21. Taken in China. Late 1930s.

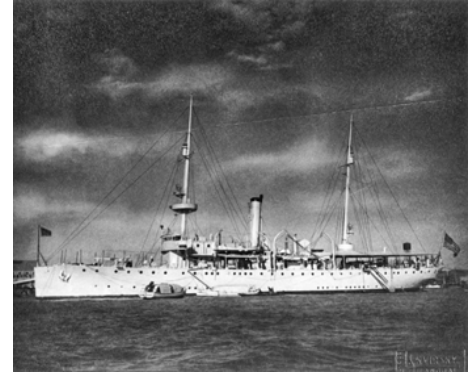
The North Carolina Submarine Museum Foundation, in partnership with the City of Asheville, will host the USS Asheville PG-21 Memorial Ceremony at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2024. A monument commemorating the crew of the PG-21 will be unveiled at **Riverside Cemetery** at 53 Birch St. in the historic Montford neighborhood.

Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox USN (Ret.), director of the Naval History and Heritage Command at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., is the keynote speaker for the event. City of Asheville Vice Mayor Sandra Kilgore will speak on behalf of the city.

On March 3, 1942, the USS Asheville PG-21, a single-screw, steel-hulled gunboat, encountered three Japanese warships returning from the attack on Pearl Harbor. The out-gunned Asheville and her entire crew of 166 were lost in the South Java Sea after a desperate, yet valiant, fight.

Since the loss of the first USS Asheville, there have been three additional Navy ships named in memory of the PG-21 and the City of Asheville, including the current USS Asheville (SSN-758), a Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered Fast Attack Submarine patrolling the Pacific and South China Sea from her homeport in Apana, Guam.

Although not forgotten by its citizens, the monument at Riverside Cemetery will be the first permanent memorial for the PG-21 in Asheville, North Carolina.



The USS Asheville, ca. 1937. Courtesy of Walter F. Ashe, Asheville.



USS Asheville Crew. Taken in China. Late 1930s.



In the late 1930s author Richard McKenna, later a resident of Chapel Hill, served on the PG-21, where he was introduced to various accounts of the Chinese Revolution (1925-27) that he incorporated in his nationally acclaimed book *The Sand Pebbles* (1962), which was made into a motion picture in the mid-1960s. In December 1940 the PG-21 was sent to the Philippines for inshore patrol at Manila, but by May 1941 it was back in Chinese waters. After experiencing engine trouble in early July, it was towed to the Philippines for repairs.

Learn more here > <https://www.ncpedia.org/asheville-uss>

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

Judith Sanford: sanford.judith@gmail.com

Leslie Humphrey: leslieinmontford@gmail.com

Ashima Nair: ashimanair@gmail.com



828.712.2400

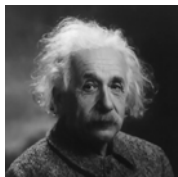
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**Pack Memorial Library
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downtown Asheville**



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

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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, 230-7439 for more information.