



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 20 NO. 12

DECEMBER/JANUARY '15

20th Annual Montford Holiday Tour of Homes

Saturday, December 12, 2015

1-5 pm

Tickets \$25

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Tour of Homes—A Little Background

Montford is showcasing the 20th annual offering of home tours and holiday cheer. Explore eclectic architecture that has been lovingly restored or carefully constructed to reflect the neighborhood's historic beauty. Enjoy homes both old and new. Edible treats and entertainment will be on offer, thanks to neighbors who donate time and talent.

continued on page 15...

Community Recreation News

Kim Kennedy, Community Center Director

Holiday Donation Drive

Help make a child's holiday a little brighter by making a donation to the Montford Community Center. Each year we try to help make sure our youth have a nice Christmas with a new backpack full of supplies, warm mittens for the cold weather and a toy or two. This year we have 36 youth in our afterschool program which is our largest group yet. Please bring all donations to the Montford Center by **Tuesday, December 15**. Thanks in advance for your support!

continued on page 4...



THE 2015 MONTFORD

What You'll See



78 Flint Street

This is new house, a Griffin award winner in 2015, owned by Andrea Vahti and Jody Kuhne. Jody grew up in Asheville, moved away, and returned as an adult. He has restored several houses in Montford, including their previous home on Starnes Avenue, which was on the Montford tour a few years ago. The property at 78 Flint adjoins their previous property on Starnes.



Abbington Green B&B, 46 Cumberland Circle – Refreshment Stop

Built by D.L. Jackson, the home became known as the Wythe Peyton House and was the residence of Wythe and Flora B Peyton. Mr. Peyton was a district engineer for the State Highway Commission and later served as Asheville's Postmaster. Designed originally by Richard Sharp Smith, its 1993 Griffin Award-winning renovation transformed it from a group rental property into this thriving B&B. Brimming with holiday décor, it is a perfect stop to enjoy refreshments and entertainment.



175 West Chestnut Street

You have to see the transformation of this home that went up for auction a couple of years ago. It had been sitting vacant except for vagrants, for years. The neighbor who lived across the street bid highest. He renovated the house, afterward commenting, "With our second son less than a year old and a business to run, it was the dumbest and most difficult thing I've ever done. . . but now I can say rewarding. Would I do it again? Hell no." This single-family home, built in 1925, has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, and 1,171 square feet. It sits on a 3,920 square foot lot.



52 Cumberland Circle

This is a beautifully remodeled single-family Arts & Crafts home with lots of charm. Classic details like period light fixtures, beautiful molding, great foyer, and large covered front porch blend well with an updated kitchen and bathrooms. The home is striking for the amount of natural light in its interior, with 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths.

HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES



149 Flint Street

This single-family home, built in 1924, is one of the two on this year's Tour that is for sale. It's a 3-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-story Craftsman-style home. The lot is 6,969 square feet.



47 Short Street

This single-family home was built this year. It's a 2,772 square foot interior with a partially finished basement, on a 4,792 square foot lot. Back and front porches, and interior wooden, cork, and tile floors.



The Gudger House, 89 Montford Avenue

This is truly great example of how a run-down house can be brought back to life. Henry Lamar Gudger, the Asheville postmaster, purchased this property at the gateway to the Montford District in 1890. In 1895, Gudger constructed a rambling classic Queen Anne Victorian frame house with gables and towers. This ornamental variation has sometimes been called "Steamboat Gothic." The home remained in the Gudger family until the 1950s, then fell into disrepair and was condemned (see page 15). In 1978 the home was acquired by the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County, was restored, and then sold to Pisgah Legal Services with covenants to the property protecting its future and its historic presence in our neighborhood. In 2014 The Ehrmann Law Group purchased the home, and after another extensive renovation, gave new life to this Montford treasure as their offices.



37 West Chestnut

This new addition to Montford was constructed by Jade Mountain Builders and features industrial modern interior with four stories. Cedar shake, stucco, and brick exterior. The chimney and front entry were built by a local brick artisan. Spacious, open floor plan with master on main and finished garage/studio/bike room. The home features black walnut cabinetry, tulip poplar accent walls, white oak floors, and open stairwell with ash stair treads and custom metal work. It has five bedrooms plus a finished attic, 4.5 baths, and a one-car garage. It is currently for sale.

Community Recreation News

Continued from front page...

Holiday Camp

When youth are out of school, we are open for fun! Program meets at Montford Center weekdays, Dec 21-31 (not December 24 or 25) from 8:30am-5:30pm, \$40 per child. Register at any of the recreation centers by Thursday, December 17 or online at ashevillenc.gov/parks.

We are always looking for neighbors to sponsor a Montford child to attend this program.

Jingle Bell Run

Put bells on your shoes and antlers on your head and get signed up for this year's Jingle Bell run/walk. The event will be held at Montford Center on Saturday, December 5. Register at jbr.org/Asheville

Kim Kennedy, Montford Center Director
253-3714/montfordr@ashevillenc.gov.



News From the North Carolina Room

Zoe Rhine

The North Carolina Room recently received a 1908 photograph album from Chan and Miegan Gordon. The album features Riverside Park, photos of the Rumbough house on Zillicoa, the George W. Pack home that was on Merrimon Avenue, and several other images believed to be in the Montford neighborhood (see November issue page 7, Mystery Houses). One of the photographs is of a house at 35 Cullowhee Street built in 1896. Chan and Meigan Gordon, owners of the home, are probably the only people who would have recognized the house as it is shown prior to two later additions.



**Montford Park
Players Performs
Brand New
A Christmas Carol
(December 10 – 23)**

John Russell

The Montford Park Players, North Carolina's longest-running Shakespeare Festival, will open the 39th annual production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* December 10.

Dwight Chiles' Fresh Adaptation

This year's *A Christmas Carol* is excitingly conceived. Dwight Chiles has adapted a new script directly from the novel, using only six actors. It stars some of Asheville's favorite talent including Badi Mirheli, Rachel McCrain, Jenni Robinson and Dwight Chiles. We are also introducing two new actors to the Asheville Theatre scene, Christine Caldemeyer and Emma Heisey. Director Chiles wanted to go back to the family tradition of Christmas, which is why he decided to use such a small cast. He wants the audience to feel like they are sitting in their living room after Christmas dinner, listening to family members read *A Christmas Carol*.

Dickens' One-Man Readings

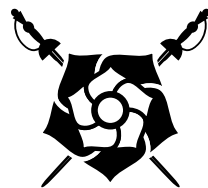
The mood is set with pj's, hot cocoa, cozy blankets, and the fellowship of family and friends. Dickens himself would go around London giving a one-man reading of his novel



every year around Christmas time. That is where Dwight got the idea of one actor playing multiple roles. We are also going to have lots of dancing and singing this year, choreographed by the incomparable Kristi DeVille. We can't wait to share this wonderful Christmas tradition with all of you!

A Christmas Carol is on stage December 10 - 23 at Asheville's historic Masonic Temple, 80 Broadway Street. Free parking at Home Trust Bank. Opening night, Dec. 10 is *Pay What We're Worth Night*. See the show, and then pay what you think we're worth.

For tickets and information, visit montfordparkplayers.org. Season ticket holders should call the box office at 254-5146.



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MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Asheville Police Chief Tammy Hooper will be attending the **December 15th** MNA meeting.

Montford Community Center • 34 Pearson Dr • 7pm

See you there!

Mystery Houses Discovered

Last month's newsletter, the November issue page 7, showed two houses Zoe Rhine and her colleagues in the North Carolina Room, Pack Library, thought might be in Montford, but weren't sure. Several keen neighbors emailed me to let me know they'd spotted these "mystery houses." Thanks to Colleen Webster, the Backers, Jody Kuhne, and a few other neighbors for writing.

Mystery House #1 is the bright blue house at 311 Montford Avenue.
House #2 is 37 Watauga, owned by Derek and Jennifer Backer.

Jennifer was kind enough to send this description:

We call our home The Bernard-Glenn house. It was designed by local architect Richard Sharp Smith for Alfred S. Bernard (Mayor of Asheville) in 1905. The home was finished in 1906. The home was later sold to Eugene Byron Glenn, a prominent physician noted for his work with tuberculosis. He was also friends with Thomas Wolfe and was the inspiration for Wolfe's character, Dr. Hugh McGuire.



Mystery House #1 - 311 Montford Avenue



Mystery House #2 - 37 Watauga



How to Find Your Cat

Sue G. Russell

You've taken great care of your cat, kept her inside, loved that inscrutable fur ball to the max. But one day, it happens. One day, a window was left open, there was a hole in the screen, a door stayed open a nanosecond too long and boom, out goes Muffin Toes, whose only world has always been the security of your home. It's horrible. Your cat's gone missing. What's your cat going to do but more importantly, *what are you going to do?*



Judging from the number of sad, utility pole-posted signs in Montford, this happens more often than you would like to think. But, wait a minute. We live on the information highway, right? The world's at our fingertips. You wonder — could there be some collective wisdom, a click away? Well, guess what? There is, and here's some of the best advice:

Act quickly. First, make sure your cat's not just simply hiding in the house. If not, contact your neighbors, ask them to look out. Recently, my own cat Tilson (aka Criminal) slipped out but a quick-thinking neighbor let me know she had seen him heading toward Westover. Roped him in. Organize a search party in your immediate area, assigning search areas to different people. Leave a door open. Your cat might just come back in. Leave an object (a favorite cat blanket, bed, toy, etc.) on the porch to help your cat identify the correct house by smell.

Organize a new search party between 5 and 8 pm. Cats hunt at night, dislike noise, and are more apt to come out when all quiets down. Take a flashlight — your cat's eyes will reflect in the beam, making it very visible. Have you ever associated sounds with feeding? I always tap on glass bowls with a knife. My cats come to that sound. Is there any other sound the cat responds to, a cat toy, perhaps? If so, use it.

Publicize your search. If your cat is gone for more than a few hours, hang posters that include a color picture of your cat and its name, your name, the date and location it disappeared from, a phone number and an email address.

Use the power of the internet. Cats usually stay in the area where they live but can occasionally travel further. Use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and, of course, our own Montford Listserv to spread the word.

Offer a reward. This might encourage people to look for your cat actively.

Contact animal charities. Your cat might have been found and taken to a shelter. Call local veterinarians. They might have your animal, too.

When you find your cat. Be careful. Your cat might be afraid or wounded. Look for potential escape routes and try to anticipate its movements. Approach slowly and, if possible, offer food. Let the cat sniff your hand and give it time to realize it's you. Gently take the animal in your arms.

Take your cat to the vet. If your cat was out for a few days, you might consider heading to the vet. Injuries, such as rib fractures, are not always easy to spot. And, your cat might have picked up a skin disease or fleas.

So, back to you. Now you know what to do. Has your indoor cat ever gotten out? Was he or she successfully found? Got a story? Let our editor know at JoanAdrienne@gmail.com We want to hear from you.



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**Thank you
to all our
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deliverers**

Keeping Gift Wrapping Ever-Green

Margot Sutton

Since being environmentally friendly is a big part of our community (Montford and Asheville residents alike), I thought it might be helpful and fun to share some ideas on how to be green with your gift wrapping this holiday season (and for years to come)!

Wrapping Paper in the Landfill

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Americans produce about 25% more trash than they do the rest of the year. About nine billion dollars is spent yearly on gift-wrapping supplies in the U.S., according to the Wall Street Journal. And four million pounds of wrapping paper were sent to the landfill, since laminates and dyes make the paper non-recyclable.

Try Something Old This Year

But don't fret! We can all make a contribution to help lessen the negative impact we humans make on the forests, landfills, and atmosphere. Think domestic: what around your house can you use to wrap your gifts? Maybe you have an out-dated map or blueprint you no longer need? How about using a cool article you like from a Mountain Express? Old scarves, table cloths, or fabrics look fancy and can be very easy to reuse since they won't rip or tear when you unwrap them!

Brown Paper Bags Dressed to the Nines

If you have any brown paper bags from the grocery store, you can use the backside of them to wrap treasures for your loved ones. This allows for a great canvas to let your true creativity shine! To decorate this brown wrapping you can stamp the paper with your favorite paint and stencil or sponge, as well as glue postcards, photos, or a page from a book on the front and back. You can also make it fabulous by using clippings from your favorite evergreen or even use some small twigs or pinecones. Old buttons, old children's bows, and seashells also provide a unique twist to this green party we call eco-wrapping! You may also consider buying gifts that don't require any wrapping! Items like tickets to concerts, museums, sporting events, and conventions offer memories for a lifetime. House plants, seeds for next season, or a 'gift certificate' towards a big-ticket item a friend has been saving for, such as a trip or a kayak, are all great gifts.

Feeling pressure from family and friends can skew our actions and sometimes make us turn mainstream when it comes to gift-giving during the holiday season, but don't forget how good it feels to be crafty and creative; usually the most cherished gifts fall under this category. And to be honest—and quote The Beatles—*All you need is love.*



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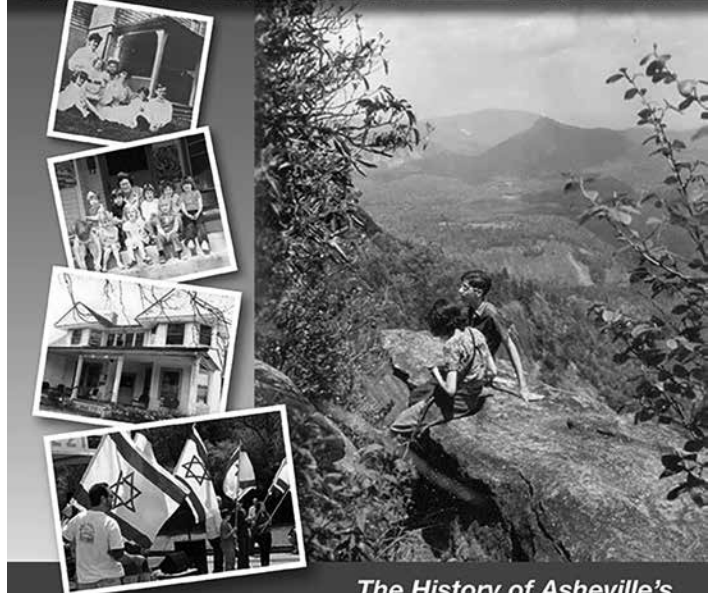
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A Home in Shalom'ville



*The History of Asheville's
Jewish Community*

BY SHARON C. FAHRER

History of Jews in Asheville

Long-time Montford resident Sharon C. Fahrer has a new book out on the history of Jews in Asheville, *A Home in Shalom'ville*.

"Sharon Fahrer's *A Home in Shalom'ville* will both teach and delight. Whether you're a native or a newcomer, you'll learn much, as I did, about Asheville's colorful Jewish past. Artfully formatted and amiable written, this book is as friendly as the community it describes." *Leonard Rogoff, Historian for the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina*

The design and layout was by another Montford resident, Ross Terry of KRT Design.



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*...to Our Neighbors
from the Newsletter
Staff*

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- 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

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.

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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.

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

Montford Action Agenda November 11, 2015

Item And Summary and Action

51 Starnes Avenue – rehabilitation of existing building; construction of rear addition and small accessory building.....Approved

70 Magnolia Avenue – reconstruction of rear addition.....Approved

34 Pearson Drive – rehabilitation of facility, including removal of 13 mature trees, construction of new retaining wall, sidewalk, fencing and signage; installation of new surface parking

..... Approved with conditions

Visit ashevillenc.gov for the full approved minutes after the following month's meeting.

Montford Tentative Agenda December 9, 2015

Old Business

70 Magnolia Avenue—Reconstruction of existing rear addition
..... (Alex Cole)

New Business

23 Harrison Street—Retro-active approval for installing metal roof over shingle roof (Stacy Merten)



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.

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Montford Neighborhood Association Meeting

David Patterson, MNA Board Secretary

The Montford Neighborhood Association held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7pm at the Montford Community Center on Pearson Drive. In attendance were MNA Board members Brian Elston, President, Michael McDonough, Vice President, David Patterson, Secretary, and at-large board members Ellen Nutter, Joan Miller, Ross Terry, and Leslie Humphrey. Also in attendance were Asheville Police CRO Sean Davis and APD District Commander Lt. Gary Gudac. Various neighbors were also in attendance.

Brian Elston, President, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Safety and Security

Asheville Police Officer Davis gave an update on police matters in Montford. Of note were the attempted robbery on Pearson Drive and a stolen vehicle (also on Pearson). Officer Davis reported that there was a good turnout for trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Residents asked that police start more rigorous enforcement of parking at the Montford Convenience Store.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Eggerton, Treasurer (not in attendance) provided a financial report showing current MNA expenses and an account balance. There was also a brief discussion regarding difficulty in obtaining liability insurance for the proposed Waneta Garden Space as required by the City. Suggestions for spending ideas were also requested.

I-26

Michael McDonough gave a detailed update on the I-26/240 connector project. To date there are still four options on the table. MNA will continue working with Mountain True in the hopes of helping to guide and define the impacts of the project on Asheville neighborhoods

Tour of Homes

The upcoming Tour of Homes is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12th. To date, two more homes on the tour would be ideal. Volunteers are needed to help as docents and with refreshments. Tickets are \$25. For more information, contact Ellen Nutter: elnutter@aol.com or Cate Scales: scalesfamily@charter.net

Duke Energy

Mayor Manheimer attended the PTO meeting at Isaac Dickson School and assured the group that the proposed Duke Energy substation near the new school is not supported by the City. Efforts to find an alternate location continue.

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A Little Background

Continued from front page...

Self-Guided Tour

This is a self-guided tour. You'll see dozens of neighbors walking to each house (in no particular order). With your ticket you receive a map to all tour locations, and information about individual tour properties.

Proceeds benefit the Montford Neighborhood Association for neighborhood improvement projects and programs for youth at the Montford Recreation Center.

For more information, visit montfordtour.com, or contact tour coordinator Cate Scales, 280-1576.



Gudger House in disrepair



Gudger House renovated

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Montford is published monthly by the Montford Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 7181, Asheville, NC 28802 for the residents of Asheville's first historic neighborhood. The newsletter is distributed by more than 50 volunteers.

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Circulation Manager—William Saupé, aws@anchorlaw.com, 907-952-1809.

We welcome articles emailed by the 20th of the month to Joan Miller. We also welcome advertising arranged with Joyce Thornburg and emailed by the 20th of the month to Ross Terry. Thanks to Jim Parker for distribution help.



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Amy Giles
Broker/REALTOR®
Montford Resident with 10+
Years Experience in Buying
& Selling Real Estate
(828) 273-1270
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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*

Lawn Care
Landscaping & Hardscaping



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