



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 20 NO. 11

NOVEMBER '15

Montford Tour of Homes 2015 Coming Soon!

20TH ANNUAL
HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES!

MONTFORD
CIRCA 1893

SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 2015 1-5PM
TICKETS \$25
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Saturday, December 12, 1-5 pm the annual Tour of Homes is happening, much to the delight of everyone who participates. We've seen it happen sunshine or snow, and it's always memorable. This year, tickets are \$25. Last year we sold out, so don't wait for the day of the event. It's too good to miss.

Looking for Docents and Other Volunteers

And we need a couple more houses! Everyone remembers the houses from the past. It's a great excuse to get a couple projects done and open your home.

You can volunteer to bake home goods, help decorate, or be a docent (don't worry, you'll be versed in everything you need to do by the homeowner—great way to meet neighbors and be helpful).



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CALENDAR

Montford Neighborhood Association Meetings

- Third Tuesday of every month, Montford Community Center, Pearson Drive.
- Next meeting: **November 17, 2015**, 7pm. Watch the list serve for agenda items.

All residents are welcome. Everyone in Montford is a member of the neighborhood association.

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 enjoy 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—our largest group yet. Please bring all donations to the Montford Center by **Tuesday, December 15**. Thanks in advance for your support!

Holiday Bazaar

Begin the holiday season with a walk through the 2nd annual Montford Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, **November 14, 10am-4pm**. Over 40 vendors will be sharing their homemade craft items including papercrafts, pottery, knitted items, ornaments, etc. and a few commercial vendors selling items like Faith Girl Paraphernalia, Scentsy candles and Paparazzi jewelry. Craft demonstrations, raffles, and food round out the fun. Very few vendor spots left—deadline to enter is November 6 (\$15 per vendor).

Holiday Camp

When youth are out of school, we are open for fun! Program meets at Montford Center weekdays, Dec 21-31 (not Dec 24 or Dec 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



127 Tacoma Circle Burns

Sue G. Russell

It's a nightmare, the smoke alarm's screaming and there is smoke, there are flames and that unmistakable smell. And, you're asleep but not anymore, now you are wide awake and sometimes, it's only a really bad dream. But sometimes it's not, and it was not on September 26 at 127 Tacoma Circle.

In the early morning hours, while the five residents slumbered, a dying candle started a fire on the front porch. It grew in strength until its heat cracked a living room window and it rolled into the house. And, once it did, it triggered a smoke detector. Four of the five residents got out on their own; the Asheville Fire Department lifted the fifth out via ladder.



By 6am, it appeared that nearly all of Asheville's redoubtable fire department had come to the rescue, their vehicular equipment stretching around the circle. The Department extinguished the blaze, stopping the spread to the nearby houses while anxious neighbors watched. By sunrise, this sweet little vintage house that has stood proud since the 1920s, had become a burned shell, brick still standing but those things combustible turned to blackened remnants.

Co-owner Joe Sulock says he bought the house some 35 years ago, during a period when many others were selling. He felt it would be a good investment and it has been, providing shelter for both tenants and family members over the years. It is with sadness that Mr. Sulock talks about the house and his relief that the tenants escaped unharmed. What's next? It's complicated he says. There are a number of options from re-building to selling as is. Something will happen at the house and sooner rather than later he says, but for now, exactly what is still being determined.

And the most important takeaway as you are reading this: do your smoke detectors work? Are the batteries fresh, are the detectors in strategic places? If one had not gone off in this house, who knows how much worse this entire thing could have been.

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How to Research the History of Your House

Part Two

Joe Newman

Last month we discussed getting your research started by talking with neighbors and looking up your house in *Asheville City Directories* and Buncombe County property records. How's it going so far?

When you're ready to take the next steps, here's a survey of other resources—many of them online—that can help you find out more about your house and the people who've lived there. You'll soon begin to see how the house history you're uncovering fits into a broader context: the stories of how Montford developed as a neighborhood and Asheville grew as a city.

The North Carolina Room

The Pack Memorial Library downtown is full of useful material. Head downstairs to the North Carolina Room and explore the resources of the North Carolina Collection. If you haven't already done your groundwork in the *Asheville City Directories*, start there. Then use one of the computers in the NC Room to trace the owners of your house in county property records.

Don't be shy about asking for help from Zoe Rhine, head of the North Carolina Collection, or one of her staff members. These helpful folks can put the resources you need in your hands and tell you about the more than 15,000 historical photographs and postcards in the collection, many of which are available online.

Before you go in person, get a head start by visiting the website at ncroom.buncombecounty.org. You can search the online database by address to see, for instance, whether the library has any photographs of your house. Using the Advanced Search function, choose "Selected Items" and then "Image." On the "Geographic Locations" line, type in the name of your street—Cumberland Ave., say—always using address abbreviations such as "Ave.," "St.," "Dr.," and "Rd." Hit

search, and you'll see every house on the street for which the library has a photograph.

One of the first books you should examine in the NC Room is *Asheville's Historic Montford District* by Michael T. Southern and Mary Jo Brezny (Asheville: Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1985). This well-written and well-illustrated volume, also available in the Pack's circulating collection, is a must-read introduction to the history of our neighborhood.

Continue your introduction with *Historic Montford Neighborhood: Architectural Guide* (Montford Resource Center, 2000), cataloged as MAP401.2. Often called simply "the Montford map," this guide takes you street-by-street through the Montford Historic District with information on the original owner, date of construction, and architectural features of selected houses. You may be able to purchase a copy of the map at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center.

The reference librarians can also assist you with microfiche of local newspapers and with clippings and other material in the vertical file. Obituaries are one of the best sources of information in old newspapers. Your research may lead you to former residents of your house or their descendants who may have memories and photos to share.

UNC Asheville's Ramsey Library

The Special Collections and University Archives at the D. H. Ramsey Library of UNC Asheville offer still more resources. The rich website at toto.lib.unca.edu provides online access to books, pamphlets, manuscripts, photographs, oral histories, and a wealth of other material.

The oral histories in the Ramsey Library are a strong suit. You can read online summaries of interviews with such Montfordians as noted architect Anthony Lord, who grew up on Flint Street, and others who've lived in our neighborhood or worked on its behalf. Another highlight is the collection *Jewish Life in Western North Carolina*, which includes the history of the Lipinsky family that resided on

Montford Avenue and Cumberland Avenue and the Jacob Rosen family that lived on Cumberland.

Extensive photographic archives, including the E. M. Ball Collection, are yet another strength of the Ramsey Library's holdings. Western North Carolina Heritage, a collaborative effort of UNCA and several other institutions, offers a "collection of digital collections" featuring 150,000 photographs, 5,000 of them online. Visit the WNC Heritage website cdm15733.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm, enter "Montford" in the search engine, and stand back. Then refine your search.

The Preservation Society

The Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County maintains a website at psabc.org that describes the society's valuable work. It provides links to other preservation websites and to articles that have appeared in the newsletter *Pebbledash*.

Riverside Cemetery

Visit the city of the dead online! Riverside Cemetery, the resting place of many Montford residents, has its own website at cityofasheville.github.io/riversidecemetery/Main/index.html. Some of the people who've lived in your house may well be slumbering in Riverside, and the search engine on the website will help you find them. Knowing exactly when they died will help you locate newspaper obituaries and learn more about their lives.

Insurance and Panoramic Maps

Want to see a sketch of your house in its early neighborhood setting? Sanborn Fire Insurance maps allow you to see the footprint of your house and a bird's-eye view of the other structures on your street. Available online through the Buncombe County Public Libraries and NC Live, these maps cover our entire neighborhood from 1917 into the 1920s. Go to nclive.org, enter Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps in the search engine, and select "Sanborn Maps North Carolina" under Databases by Title. You'll need to enter your Buncombe County Public Library card number to gain access.

Panoramic maps, popular throughout the nation during the late 1800s and early 1900s, may offer you an artist's sketch of your house—another bird's-eye view—drawn as if the artist were hovering above the city in a hot-air balloon. In fact, panoramic artists walked the streets of the city and made detailed (and generally accurate) sketches, which they pieced together and transferred to large maps. The American Memory website of the Library of Congress features panoramic maps of Asheville drawn in 1891 and 1912. You can find them by going to memory.loc.gov/ammem/pmhtml/panhome.html and browsing by Geographic Location. Clicking on one of the maps lets you move around and zoom in on your house.

Your Montford House in Its Historical Context

The 1891 map of Asheville, a section of which is reproduced here, shows the tract of land that would soon be known as Montford. The panoramic artist who created the map could see quite a few houses as he strolled along Cherry Street, Short Street, Starnes Avenue, Bearden Avenue, and Blake Street, and the upper stretches of Montford Avenue and Cumberland Avenue. Hill Street and the steep downslope on the west side of Pearson Drive were also well-populated and predominantly African American. But as the artist walked along West Chestnut Street and looked north (left on this map) down Montford Avenue and Cumberland Avenue, he could see that both thoroughfares still ran through a thick forest. In 1891, no houses were in view. Magnolia, Cullowhee, and Soco Streets, recently laid out through the forest, likewise had no houses. Pearson Drive had only a few.

The year 1891 was pivotal in Montford's history. As Zoe Rhine explains in a series of articles written for the *Montford Newsletter*, the Asheville Loan, Construction and Improvement Company (ALCI) was busy developing 400 acres of land north of West Chestnut. Built as a *streetcar suburb*, a planned community connected to downtown Asheville by an electric rail line, the new neighborhood was originally called Montford Park.

The ALCI's ambitious plans called for developing all the land between Main Street (later renamed Broadway) and Riverside Drive.

Although these plans were never fully realized, the electric streetcar line, three miles of new streets, most with sidewalks, and other

infrastructure were all in place by the end of 1891. A total of 36 house lots were sold. The Montford we know was on its way.

Rhine tells this story in rich detail in part four of "Rediscovering Montford's Early History," *Montford Newsletter* (November 2013), at www.montford.org/?p=4189. Back issues of the newsletter, fully searchable with Google, are available at www.montford.org. Just follow the Newsletter Archive link in the right column.

So grab a cup of coffee, tea, or another favorite beverage and enjoy browsing some of the online sources we've discussed. Before you know it, you'll be ready to share what you've found out about your house. Why not write it up for the newsletter?



The Davis-Dutton House (c. 1891) at 170 Montford Avenue was one of the first houses built in the streetcar suburb that the Asheville Loan, Construction and Improvement Company started developing in 1891.

Montford Neighborhood Association Meeting

David Patterson, Board (But Never Bored) Secretary

The Montford Neighborhood Association held the 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, Susan Eggerton, Treasurer, David Patterson, Secretary, and at-large board members Ellen Nutter and Joan Miller. Also in attendance were Asheville Police CRO Todd Brigman and new CROs Lucas Lovelace and Sean Davis.

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

Safety and Security

Asheville Police Officer Brigman give an update on police matters in Montford and introduced Montford's new Community Resource Officers Lucas Lovelace and Sean Davis. The new officers are a result of shuffling police districts in Asheville. Officer Brigman reported on attempted breaking and entering on Gray Street, and 5 or more cars being keyed on Rosewood, but reported that activity in Montford had been quiet. Montford was again urged to use the "NextDoor" app to communicate with police and community.

It was also agreed by the group to invite new Asheville Police Chief Tammy Hooper to an upcoming MNA meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Eggerton, Treasurer provided a financial report showing current MNA expenses and account balance. There was also a brief discussion regarding difficulty in obtaining liability insurance as required by the City, for the Waneta garden beautification project.

Tour of Homes


Ellen Nutter gave an update on the upcoming Tour of Homes scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12th. Nutter reported they have 5 of the need 9-10 participating homes and businesses. Volunteers are needed to help as docents and with refreshments. Tickets are \$25. More info, contact Ellen Nutter: elnutter@aol.com or Cate Scales: scalesfamily@charter.net

I-26

The group discussed the recent release of the draft Environmental Impact Study for the proposed I-26/I-240 interchange and widening of 240 in West Asheville. A public meeting is scheduled for Nov. 16, 7 pm @ the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Asheville.

Montford Newsletter

The newsletter is in search of a new editor as well as another backup distribution manager. Montford will soon be without a newsletter if suitable replacements are not identified. Please forward inquiries to Joan Miller: JoanAdrienne@gmail.com



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A Puzzle—Two Mystery Houses

Zoe Rhine from the NC Room, downstairs Pack Library, sent some intriguing photos of horse ferries crossing the French Broad River in 1908. We will include some of those in the next newsletters.

For now, we have these photos of a couple of houses we would love to have identified by Montford residents. Write to me if you know or suspect which houses these are (we don't know), and next month I'll include these same photos, with updated ones of the current residence.

Write to JoanAdrienne@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.



Mystery House #1



Mystery House #2

3rd Annual Montford Park Players Masquerade Ball

Saturday November 14, 7-10pm.

John Russell

The Montford Park Players continue to bring great entertainment to the neighborhood with a glimpse into the world of William Shakespeare. Now they offer a chance to experience the fun and excitement of a Grand Masquerade Ball with all the flair of Venice. Local resident David Baker will provide the dancing atmosphere with music from his band Fritz Beer and the Crooked Beat.

Beer, Wine, Hors d'Oeuvres Included

An evening of fun wouldn't be complete without refreshments, and all Ball goers will be treated to beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening; and all included in the ticket price. No need to worry about masks to join in the fun. Special decorated Venetian style masks will be available to wear during the evening and then keep as souvenirs. They can be ordered in advance with tickets or purchased at the door. Special Patron Tables will be available as well.



This year's Masquerade Ball gives the public a means to help the Montford Park Players raise funds and have a great time. In addition to the Ball, a special silent Auction will take place with some great items as, four Hopper Pass Tickets to Disneyworld and a Medieval-Renaissance Dinner for eight paired with beer and wines along with costumed entertainment.

The newly renovated Masonic Temple, 80 Broadway downtown Asheville, will provide the backdrop for the evening. The time of the Ball is **Saturday, November 14, 7-10pm**. Doors will open at 6pm to preview silent auction items. Tickets are \$45 per person, Venetian Masks \$15, and Patron Table Ticket \$100 per person. Complete details and tickets can be found at montfordparkplayers.org.

Closing out a season of 42 years of free Shakespeare in the Park, the Montford Park Players are embarking on a new season and with it a challenge of many additions including: upgrading the stage, making seating more handicap accessible and the basic monetary needs of producing next year's plays.

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Bioneers Resilient Communities Network Event

*Lenoir-Rhyne University,
November 6, 11, and 13*

Theresa Marie



Asheville Bioneers is a local, self-organized Bioneers Resilient Communities Network Event. This year we are focusing on Spirituality and Healing; Adaptation and Resilience; Food, Race, and Justice; and Climate Change. We will have some incredible speakers beamed in from the national conference as well as individuals from many local organizations. It's a **FREE** event and we would love to have lots of our Montford neighbors in attendance! At Lenoir-Rhyne University, 36 Montford Avenue (Asheville Chamber of Commerce).

To learn more, visit any of these links:

LRU site: asheville.lru.edu/AVLBioneers

Bioneers site: Bioneers.org

Facebook: facebook.com/events/192880674376341/

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How to Contact the Asheville Police Department

- 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

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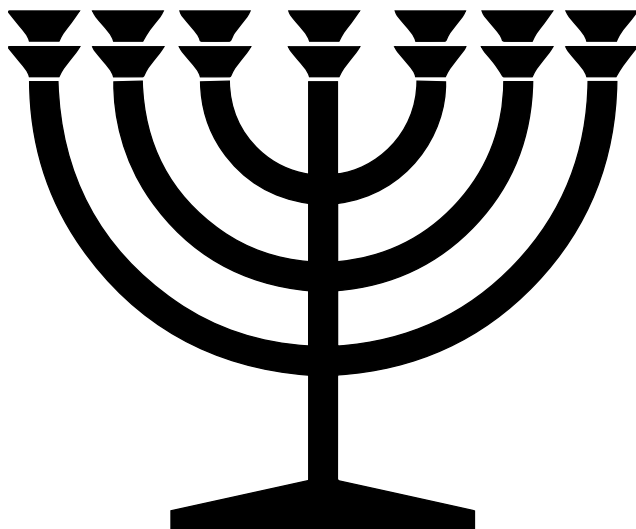
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Send a brief description (30 words or less) and contact information. **More than 1,500 newsletters** are distributed monthly throughout the neighborhood and are also available on the **Montford website** and at the Pack Memorial and North Asheville Public Libraries. Call 258-2207 for more information.

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House Histories

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Historic Walking Tours

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

Montford Action Agenda October 14, 2015

Item And Summary and Action

20 Woodlawn Avenue – rehabilitation of existing house, including rebuilding of foundation wall, removal of existing aluminum door and two windows, and installation of two new wood casement windows at basement level, removal of chimney

..... Approved with conditions

24 Woodlawn Avenue – construction of one-story rear addition
..... Approved with conditions

186 Pearson Drive – construction of one-story addition to existing accessory structure..... Approved with conditions

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

Montford Tentative Agenda November 11, 2015

Public Hearings – Certificates of Appropriateness

New Business

34 Pearson Drive..... Rehabilitation of facility, including removal of 13 mature trees, replacement of existing sidewalk, construction of new retaining wall, fencing and signage, installation of new surface parking

70 Magnolia Avenue..... Reconstruction of existing rear addition

51 Starnes Avenue..... Rehabilitation of existing building and construction of rear addition



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Unity Healing Arts Two-Year Anniversary

Continued from front page...

Brady Preyss

Unity Healing Arts, 15 Zillicoa Street, is celebrating its two-year anniversary and developing a leading reputation in massage therapy and bodywork treatments. Unity Healing Arts business of nearly a dozen therapists was recently recognized as one of Asheville's top three alternative healing centers in the Best of WNC voting sponsored by the Mountain Xpress.

Community Focus

"It's exciting to see the relationships we are building in this community," says Unity Healing Arts owner and therapist, Brady Preyss. "We've been focusing on providing top-notch therapy and really incredible healing treatments of all sorts, and I'm happy to see that we are reaching a growing number of community members. We've definitely been focusing our marketing efforts on connecting with the local folks in our community because we are interested in building ongoing relationships that keep people healthy."

Variety of Massage Choices

Unity Healing Arts offers a wide range of massage therapy modalities including some unique options. "We've recently added massage therapy cupping to our treatment rooms in addition to the staff training required to provide this service. It's extremely helpful for working with chronic pain, injuries, athletic performance, surgery preparation or rehab, and a lot more," says Preyss. "We're also the only studio in town that offers ashatsu barefoot style massage, which is where the therapist stands on top of the table and uses their feet for the massage work while supporting themselves with bars suspended from the ceiling. People love the combination of depth and soothing compression in this style," says Preyss.

Unity Healing Arts is open 7 days a week from 8:30am to 8:30pm. For more information visit unityhealingarts.com or call 225-5825.



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New Community Resource Officers

Continued from front page...

We welcome our two new Community Resource Officers (CROs). CROs work as a liaison between the Asheville Police Department and the community. They assist with public education, crime prevention, and neighborhood-specific issues. Below find their names, contact information, brief bios, and photographs. They invite you to feel free to email or approach them with issues. Their personal information is below, and the office number is 251-4078.

We thank Todd Brigman, our past CRO, who will continue his good work in another district. Officer Brigman has been an approachable, responsive, and awesome officer.

Lucas Lovelace



I began my law enforcement career with the Asheville Police Department in October of 2010. I graduated from Brevard College with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. I have been a Community Resource Officer for the past 10 months. Prior to CRO I worked patrol days in Central-South Asheville and nights in West Asheville. I have lived in Western North Carolina since 2002. I enjoy going to sporting events and hanging out with my wife.

llovelace@ashevillenc.gov
230-5084

Sean Davis



I have been employed with the Asheville Police Department since 2007 and I'm currently a Community Resource Officer. I attended Western Carolina University and completed a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. I am a native of Western North Carolina and after college spent 14 months in Montana before returning to Asheville. I have a passion for the Appalachian Mountains and spend the majority of my free time hiking and biking the mountains.

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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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