



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 20 NO. 10
OCTOBER '15

This Winter, Break Out and Get Involved

From the Editor

We need some neighbors to get involved. Many of you have given untold volunteer hours over many years. Currently, there are a lot of people donating time to make Montford a cool, involved neighborhood. And now we need more involvement.

Your Karma Is Your Own Doing

Please give a call or write an email if you're willing to help. A neighborhood is made of boundaries and people renting or buying within those boundaries. A community is made from people doing more than that. Here are a few volunteer opportunities available:

- Newsletter deliverers (just walk a route, it takes less than an hour 10 times a year—We ask only that you don't put the newsletter in a mailbox, you deliver within one week of receiving, and you call us if you can't deliver in that timeframe).
- Backup newsletter deliverers (when someone can't do a route—you fill in).

And we can always use contributors to the newsletter. Articles on seasonal gardening, wildlife, history, the local cemetery, construction, HRC, human interest—anything Montford related is fair game.

Call or write if you're willing.

Joanie Miller
650-966-1957



City directories and county property records show that 144 Montford Avenue was built c. 1907 for Walter F. and Edna M. Swiggett. Mr. Swiggett was a dealer in general merchandise. This house was featured on the 2013 Holiday Tour of Homes.

How to Research the History of Your House

Part One

Joe Newman

Writing your own chapter of Montford history is easier than you think. Here's a two-part, user-friendly guide to finding out more about your house and the people who've called it home over the years. In the first part we'll focus on the two best resources you can use to get started: Asheville City Directories and Buncombe County property records.

Start with Your Neighbors

But before you delve into any records, you can point your research in the right direction by talking with your neighbors. The people on your street continued on page 11...

☾ CALENDAR ☀

Montford Neighborhood Association Meetings

- Third Tuesday of every month, Montford Community Center, Pearson Drive.
- Next meeting: **October 19, 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

Fall-O-Ween

As the fall of the leaves and Halloween season comes, so comes Montford Center's annual Fall-O-Ween event Friday, October 30, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Bring the kids for games, music, activities, and a great picture booth for a keepsake.

This event will be free to all, but the Developing Future Male Leaders and Diamonds in the Rough programs are asking that each child to bring in a canned food or non-perishable item to help Manna Food Bank. This will be a great, safe, and family-friendly event provided by the Montford Recreation Center and Montford Neighborhood Association.

Zombie Mania

Zombie Mania is back and this year we have Asheville Face and Body Art conducting a presentation on drawing

zombie faces and how to apply that to face paint. Zombie games and snacks round out the fun. The program will be held Saturday, October 24 9am-noon for \$10. Pre-registration is required.

What To Do When the Teachers Are Out

Youth Fun Day Out programs are held on most teacher workdays and holidays. The cost is just \$5 plus field trips. Program runs 8:30am-5:30pm. Preregistration is required. Montford Center is hosting dates on October 26 & 27 and November 11 & 22. We also have a Holiday Camp during the winter break December 21-23 and 28-31 for \$40 per child. This program will fill, so sign up early.

Co-ed Volleyball

Volleyballers, grab some friends and come play in our first co-ed 4-on-4 tournament on Sunday, October 18, 9am-4pm. \$40 per team. Registration deadline October 14.

For more information on the Montford Community Center, contact Kim or William at 253-3714.



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We Can't Help You If We Can't Find You!

**Kelley Klope, Public Information Officer
Asheville Fire Department**

The Asheville Fire Department would like to send an important message to the Montford Community, one that could save your life.

We're Trying to Get There--Fast

AFD responds to emergency calls daily and we normally reach our destinations quickly. However, several avoidable factors often slow us down. One way residents can assist in lessening that response time is to help us find you.

We Don't Want to Guess

Your house number is what we are looking for and if it is hidden or not displayed this will slow us down. No matter if it is a fire, a medical emergency or a child locked in a car, seconds count. So



Bad House Number

please be sure your house has numbers which are visible from the street.

AFD recommends numbers to be at least 6 inches high and contrast with their background. If

your house is set back from the road, be sure your house number is displayed on a mailbox or a sign in your yard. We thank you ahead of time for your cooperation!

.....
It may be a bitter sweet that Asheville Fire Department is sending out fall season fire safety messages as we prepare to say goodbye to summer! As we do prepare for the changing of the season, the Asheville Fire Department would like to send out helpful fire safety reminders.

Home Heating

Soon you may need to fire up the furnace. It is important to have your system professionally inspected, cleaned, and serviced. Filters need to be changed or cleaned, and make sure combustibles are stored at least 3 feet from the furnace. Have alternative heating sources checked out as well, such as fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. Creosote buildup can cause heat buildup and can cause a house fire.

Space Heaters

Before plugging in your space heaters for the first time be sure

to inspect the cords to be sure there is no frayed wire. Keep space heaters away from combustibles and out of the path of children and pets. Space heaters need space and it is recommended to keep a 3-foot distance around a space heater.

Holiday Fire Safety

November, December, and January account for a larger percentage of residential structure fires than any other months. Take care when cooking, keep kids and animals away from the stove/oven. Keep decorations away from open flames and keep exits clear of obstructions.

Smoke Alarms

Having working smoke alarms in your home give you precious time for escaping a home fire alive. Tips regarding smoke alarms:

- Replace the batteries twice a year.
- Clean dust from smoke alarms with a vacuum attachment.
- Replace units that are over 10 years old.
- Push the test button monthly to ensure proper operation.
- Have an outside meeting place where your family will meet in case of a fire. Practice home fire drills.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon monoxide, or CO, alarms are an important part of your home safety plan. They detect unburned gases that may leak from gas-burning appliances. They must also be tested monthly and have batteries replaced annually. CO is an odorless deadly gas.

Candles

Candles are popular during holidays. Unfortunately, candles can lead to home fires when they are left unattended and ignite nearby combustibles. Candles were responsible for the very recent fire on Tacoma Circle that gutted the house.

Use sturdy candle holders that are large enough to collect candle wax and are resistant to tipping over. Keep candles up and out of the reach of children.

Kelley Klope
Public Information Officer Asheville Fire Department
Office 251-4011





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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 Officer, Todd Brigman, call 251-4043 or email tbrigman@ashevillenc.gov



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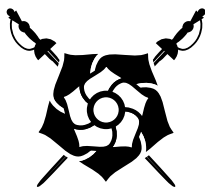
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Montford Park Players Heading Indoors

Greetings from the Montford Park Players, North Carolina's longest running Shakespeare Festival, as we prepare to close another outstanding outdoor season of free Shakespeare under the stars!



**MONTFORD PARK
PLAYERS**

King Lear opens October 8 at Asheville's historic Masonic Temple, downtown at 80 Broadway Street. Tickets are now available and remember that October 8 is our "Pay What We're Worth" Night. *King Lear* will play Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, with Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm, through October 25. Tickets can be purchased at montfordparkplayers.org/events/king-lear-2-2015-10-09/

Annual Masquerade Ball

Also, we'd like to invite you to celebrate with us at our 3rd Annual Masquerade Ball held Saturday, November 14, 7 – 10 pm, also at the Masonic Temple. Tickets are available at <http://www.montfordparkplayers.org/events/the-3rd-annual-montford-park-players-masquerade-ball/>

Come have fun with us and bid on some great Silent Auction items!

Lineup for 2016

(all dates subject to change)

- *Dark Lady of the Sonnets* (Shaw) and *The Upstart Crow* (Dowling) – an evening of Shakespeare-themed drama (March)
- *The Asheville Shakesperience* (May)
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (June)
- *Titus Andronicus* (July)
- *Measure for Measure* (August)
- *Pride and Prejudice* (adapted from the novel by Jane Austen) (September)
- *Julius Caesar* (October-November)
- *A Christmas Carol* (December)

Summer Attendance Up

This has been a great summer – our attendance is up over 16% from last year and we've had great reviews for all our shows.

John Russell
Managing Director



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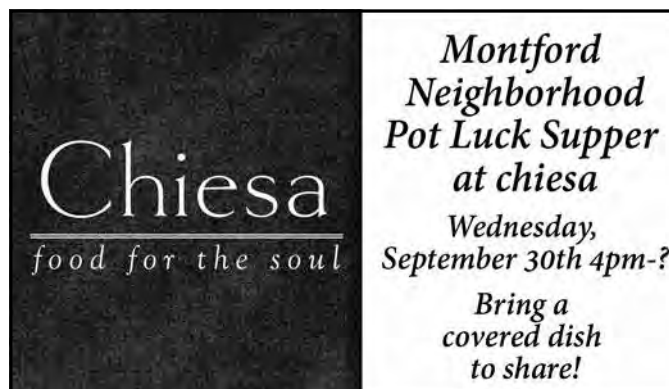
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Belinda Boscardin Psy.D, L.P.
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**Come to the MNA Meeting
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Resource Directory

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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House Histories

Learn the story of your house. Who lived there, who owned it and what they did for a living.

- For more information call Sharon at 777-1014

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 September 9, 2015

Item And Summary and Action

286 Cumberland Avenue – Reconfiguration of window openings on rear addition and installation of new wood windows.....Approved

19 Birch Street – Construction of new single family house..... Approved with conditions

230 Pearson Drive – Construction of addition on existing accessory building; modification of rear stair; modification of rear basement entry and installation of new door; construction of new stair along north elevation Continued

181 Flint Street – Construction of one-story accessory building..... Continued

11 Arborvale Road – Construction of two-story addition..... Approved with conditions

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

Montford Tentative Agenda October 14, 2015

Public Hearings – Certificates of Appropriateness

Old Business

230 Pearson Drive—Construction of addition on existing accessory building; modification of rear stair on primary structure; modification of rear basement entry and installation of new door; construction of new stair along north elevation

New Business

24 Woodlawn Avenue—Construction of one-story rear addition
20 Woodlawn Avenue—Rehabilitation of existing house, including rebuilding of foundation wall, removal of existing aluminum door and two windows and installation of new casement windows at basement level, removal of chimney
186 Pearson Drive—Construction of one-story addition to existing accessory structure



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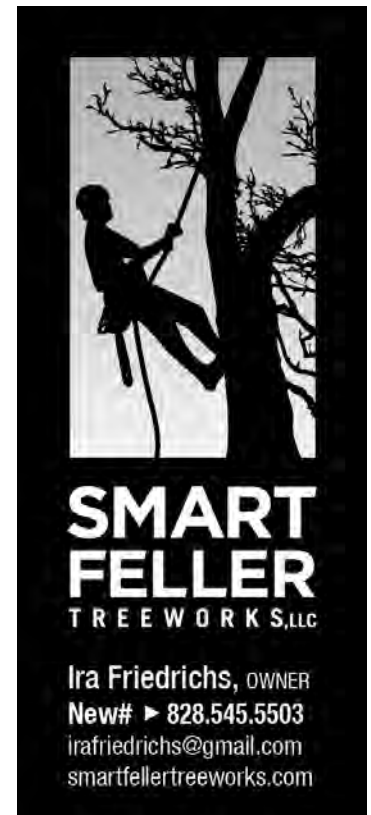


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History of Your House

Continued from front page...

and especially your block may be able to give you all sorts of valuable information. At the very least, they can help you estimate when your house was built. Such websites as Zillow.com also provide approximate construction dates for many houses.

Keep in mind that Montford came to life as a neighborhood between 1890 and 1930. As a general rule, the houses closest to downtown Asheville—those between Cherry Street and West Chestnut Street—were built before those located farther north. A few of the houses in this older section predate 1890. The biggest burst of development in Montford took place between 1900 and 1920 within the rectangle bounded by Pearson Drive on the west, Zillicoa Street on the north, Broadway (formerly Main Street) on the east, and West Chestnut on the south.

The development of Montford Hills began in the 1920s, the Courtland-Arborvale-Houston area in the teens, and the Stumptown neighborhood at the turn of the 20th century and earlier. Next month in Part Two, we'll look further into this fascinating local history.

Using City Directories

With an approximate date of construction for your house in mind, your next step is going to Pack Memorial Library at 67 Haywood Street downtown and walking downstairs to the North Carolina Collection in the North Carolina Room (ncroom.buncombecounty.org). The NC Room staff members are friendly and helpful. Don't let any bad memories of research assignments in high school or college hold you back. Here's a project you're going to enjoy.

You can begin with the Asheville City Directories. In the days before almost every household had a telephone and a telephone book, city directories were the best source of information on who lived where, and when. The oldest directory in the Pack Library's collection is from 1883, and except for a few missing early volumes, the library has a complete rundown to the present. City directories are also available online from DigitalNC and other providers, but I've found they can be difficult to use because of slow-loading pages and similar issues. Holding the original volumes in your hands not only speeds up back-and-forth browsing, it's also good, clean historical fun.

So go ahead and visit the NC Collection and select a directory close to your house's estimated date of construction. You'll see the volume is divided into two lists of all adult residents: one alphabetized by last names, the other organized street-by-street. Start with the street-by-street section because it shows, for the year you've selected, who

lived at every address on every street in the city. Keep looking in the directories for different years until you locate the earliest listing for your house, which is a fairly accurate indication of when it was built.

Once you've learned who was living in your house in a particular year, you can look up the resident in the alphabetical section of the directory and find information on the spouse (if any), occupation, telephone number, and, in later directories, whether the resident owned the house. Using the full run of directories, you can trace who lived in your house from the time it was built to the present.

Finding the Deeds

If city directories tell us who lived where, and when, Buncombe County property records reveal who owned what, and when. Here you can opt for doing your research either in the Buncombe County Register of Deeds office located downtown at 35 Woodfin Street, Suite 226, or online at the Buncombe County website. I can recommend both options.

If you have reasonably good computer skills, you can conduct this stage of your research on the Register of Deeds website, www.buncombecounty.org/rod. About halfway down the home page, click on the "Real Estate" circle. I strongly recommend that you watch the 2:46 video tutorial on working with property records online.


Once you familiarize yourself with the services offered on the website, use the "Quick Name Search." If you're the current owner of the house, you were the buyer or "grantee" in the last sale. Enter your name in the search engine to view a digital image of the deed you signed with the person(s) who sold you the house—in legal terminology, the "grantor."

Now you drill down into the history of your house. By entering the name of your grantor in the search engine, you can find the deed that was drawn up when your house was sold one transaction earlier—that is, when your grantor was the grantee who bought the house. By repeating this process, you can trace ownership, deed by deed, all the way back to the time when your house was built.

As you get comfortable with the online Register of Deeds, you'll discover other ways to conduct searches. And if online research in property records doesn't work for you, go to the Register of Deeds office in person and ask the knowledgeable staff for help using the original deed books.

In Part Two, in next month's newsletter, we'll discuss other resources you can examine to find out more about your house and its occupants over the years. For now, why not have a talk with your neighbors and then take a look at those city directories and county property records?

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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