



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 29 No. 05

MAY '24

Welcome May



May Day • Cinco de Mayo • Mother's Day • Armed Forces Day
National Maritime Day • Memorial Day • Elizabeth's Birthday
and many others to numerous to mention.

<https://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/may.htm>



TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Tempie Avery Montford
Car Show
May 11
Montford Community Car Show
FREE | Saturday | 5/11 | 3 - 5pm
Age: 16 years and older to show car; open to all ages to view cars
Join us for a pavement shaking fun filled time filled with classic, muscle, and sports cars at the 2nd Montford Community Car Show. We are back with even more ethanol fueled excitement, perfect for car enthusiasts of all ages. Car owners will be on site showing off their amazing rides and answer questions.
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THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

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PARKS & RECREATION
THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

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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Minutes Montford Neighborhood Association (MNA) Quarterly Community Meeting *Odyssey School, Wednesday, April 24, 2024*

The meeting to order at 6:33 PM. There was a good turnout of about 50 neighbors.

Asheville Police Department – Report

Community Resource Officer Carrie Lee (clee@ashevillenc.gov) shared information on crimes reported, arrests made, other police activities in Montford, and recent developments within the police department. A copy of her report can be found at the end of these minutes. Carrie invited us to contact her if we have questions or concerns.

She also provided a contact sheet with many city services and departments. This is provided as an attachment to the email. Please print it out or save a copy for future reference

Treasurer's Report – Susan Eggerton

The MNA had a balance of \$61,011.13 in its bank account as of 4/14/24.

The Board approved a budgeted loss for the year of \$26,660. There are two key reasons for this: 1) our largest money earner, the Montford Garden Tour, is a biennial event and this is an off year, and 2) we used \$15,000 of funds earned in previous years to upgrade the Montford Garden pocket park at the corner of Montford Ave. and E. Waneta St.

A copy of a spreadsheet showing three years of financial history and our current budget is attached to this email.

Annual Election of Board Members and Officers

President Humphrey announced the nominated slate for the Board and officers during the period May 2024 – April 2025:

President: Randy Hall

Vice President: William Eakins

Secretary: Tom Fehsenfeld

Treasurer: Susan Eggerton

At Large Members: Lynn Raker Marti Boyles, Karen MacNeil, Susan Loftis

Ex Officio: Ross Terry

There were no additional nominations from the floor and this slate was approved unanimously.

There is one unfilled opening on the Board and President Humphrey invited others to step forward if they would like to be nominated at a later date.

Our thanks to Dan Rogers and Leslie Humphrey – the two members who are rotating off the Board after many years of dedicated service! Please thank them personally if you see them.

Reed Creek Kudzu Control Update

Board Member and project leader Karen MacNeal reported about the ongoing removal of kudzu on the Reed Creek Greenway. The MNA received a \$5,000 grant from the City last year to help with the removal of this invasive species. We were able to remove much of it with a combination of professional services and well-attended volunteer events in the last twelve months. To continue with the removal process this year, we have contracted with the a service that provides goats to eat the plants down to the ground level. There will be volunteer events later to dig up its root systems. Because the City's support was a one year grant, expenses this year will be covered by the MNA, a contribution by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, and contributions from neighbors (like you) through a Donate button on the Montford website.

Montford Garden Update

Since our project leader Lynn Raker was absent, Leslie Humphrey reported that the work contracted for the

continued on next page...

garden park has been completed. She discussed future thoughts about encouraging neighbors to donate benches and plantings in honor of loved ones.

Asheville Climate Resilience Study

Guest Cassie Whiteside introduced the Elevate AVL project to improve climate resilience in Asheville's neighborhoods. In 2019, the City made a resilience plan to help everyone cope with the shocks that climate change could bring. Elevate AVL will be working to make this plan more well-known and more user-friendly. They will be publishing a survey on the Montford Listserv and Cassie requested that everyone fill it out.

Downtown Improvement District Proposal

Guest Hayden Plemmons made a short presentation about a proposal the Asheville Downtown Association is making to set up a special tax district for downtown property owners. This district would collect an additional tax on downtown properties. This tax revenue would be used for projects that improve the downtown. More information can be found at <https://downtownashevillebid.com/>.

Reappraisal of Property in Buncombe County

Buncombe County Tax Assessor Keith Miller gave a presentation on a reappraisal of property that will take place this year. This will affect tax assessments in 2025.

Key points in Keith's presentation:

- The Assessor's Office maintains all property records and values all real property, personal property, and automobiles in the county
- They reassess real estate every four years to establish its "market value." The last assessment was 2021.
- By law, they cannot change a property's assessment between these years.
- They do not value property with onsite studies of individual properties as a real estate appraiser would.
- Instead, they rely on basic data such as age of buildings, square footage, amenities, type of construction, and the selling prices of comparable

properties.

- They try to be transparent about the basis for their estimate of "market value" for properties. They welcome owners to examine their data and call errors to their attention.
- Later this year, they will launch a data campaign by sending mailings to owners with requests for information.
- They will send out the new assessments at the end of January in 2025. Everyone has the right to appeal if they have data that varies from theirs. The appeal process can start with an informal discussion and comparison of data in their system with data the owner provides. If the owner and assessor do not agree after the informal discussion, there are several levels of formal appeals that can be made.
- An increase in assessed market value does not necessarily result in increased taxes. The county is obligated by law to publish how much tax rates should be lowered to compensate for higher assessments. At that point, it is a political decision for the county to either lower the rate to be "revenue neutral," or to leave them at a somewhat higher rate to capture more revenue. Call your county commissioner if you want to influence the process.
- Tax rates are enacted in June to be effective July 1.
- Much more information about the reassessment process is available at the website <https://tax.buncombecounty.org/>

Montford Community Policing Report – Officer Carrie Lee

Activity since our last quarterly meeting:

- 4 assaults reported
- 1 communicating threats arrest
- 4 breaking and entering with two arrests
- Possession stolen vehicle 1 arrest
- Larceny 5
- 3 Damage to property, one was gunshots on Hawthorne

- Larceny from a vehicle 3
- Larceny of a vehicle 1
- Trespass 2, one arrest
- Recovery of stolen phone
- 1 subject was arrested for three of the above incidents and has been in jail since 4/16

Proactive Activity:

- 15 hours of crime prevention

Other Updates

- Michael Lamb has been appointed Chief of Police. He is an Asheville native and has served in the department since 1998.
- Current cadet and BLET classes: 6 in FTO, 7 in the academy, next academy starting in June
- Staffing numbers: still down 43 patrol positions, an overall 28% vacancy rate, but this is an improvement
- There will be a Citizen's Police Academy with openings in the fall. You can sign up at this link.
- The Department will be launching a Jr. Police academy 14-18 year olds – more information is available at <https://www.ashevillenc.gov/service/junior-police/>

- Many concerns about our homeless population are not criminal matters. To report non-criminal concerns related to homeless people or a homeless camp email: helpendhomelessness@ashevillenc.gov. This will activate an assessment and services by city staff and non-profit partners

SPO Carrie Lee - Community Engagement Unit - CRO for North and East

Office # 828-259-5834

CEU Joint Line 828-271-6145

Asheville Police Department

100 Court Plaza

clee@ashevillenc.gov

apdcommunityengagement@ashevillenc.gov

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Tom Fehsenfeld,
Secretary



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Now let's do ours! Please join us for a workday to dig kudzu root crowns on **Saturday, May 25th from 9-11:00 am**. We will work on the area at the intersection of the Reed Creek Greenway and Cable Street. Many hands make lighter work! And remember that you can contribute to the Kudzu Eradication effort using this QR code.



Climate Questionnaire:

The City of Asheville is trying to bolster the ability of Asheville residents to deal with the challenges we face as our climate changes. Through surveys like this one, the City is gathering information about what different neighborhoods are doing to strengthen resiliency to climate change and what resources are needed.

[Please answer these questions in relation to your neighborhood.](#)



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***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.



**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 these questions, 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

Earth Day Spruce-up Mitch Russell

On Saturday April 20th, almost Earth Day, there were 16 Montfordians who participated in the spring Spruce-Up. They worked diligently to remove trash in the following areas: around the corner store, the island across from All Day Darling, in and around Magnolia and Montford Parks and along the Reed Creek Greenway. Not only did they remove trash, but they also pulled weeds and cut back dead flowers and basal leaves at: the island across from All Day Darling, the corner store and the garden at Waneta.

All of these areas look 100% better than prior to the Spruce-Up. This would not be the case without the efforts

of these dedicated neighbors. Also thank you to KickIt Events for lending safety vests for the Spruce-Up.

Participants included:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Meera Brown | Jim Jasper | Dutch O'Connor |
| Sarah Brown | Leslie Humphrey | Daniel Rodriguez |
| Cathi Culver | Karen MacNeil | Sarah Rosenfield |
| Erin Dickinson | Cherie Morris | Cassie Whiteside |
| Susan Eggerton | Steve Nilsen | |
| Michael Hill | Marc Nishino | |

Thank you!! Look for future Spruce-Up dates this summer and beyond.



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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: lesleinmontford@gmail.com

Ashima Nair: ashimanair@gmail.com

Montford Residents to Receive Griffin Award.

Trudy Terry

Each year The Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County (PSABC) presents awards to outstanding projects and individuals that further the goals of historic preservation in Asheville and Buncombe County. Join us **Thursday, May 23, at 5:30 pm at THE HIDEAWAY, 49 Broadway, Asheville NC 28801**

This year Ross Terry of Montford Avenue and former longtime Montford resident Sharon Fahrer will be included in the Preservation Society's 2024 Griffin Award presentations. Each will receive a Griffin Award for a collection of work that consists of more than thirty historical interpretive panels. These panels have been installed in various locations, including UNCA, bus shelters, and various outdoor sites

View the panels > <https://www.history-at-hand.com/>



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FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



MAY 23 2024

PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF ASHEVILLE & BUNCOMBE CO.

PSABC is honored to recognize outstanding preservation projects and individuals who make preservation happen in Asheville and Buncombe County at our annual Griffin Awards. Join us for dinner and drinks as we celebrate this year's winning projects and the dedicated property owners, creative architects, skilled contractors and craftspeople, and insightful historians and authors who made them happen.

**THURSDAY
MAY 23, 5:30PM**

THE HIDEAWAY
49 Broadway, Asheville NC 28801

TICKETS ARE \$40 FOR PSABC MEMBERS AND \$50 FOR NON MEMBERS. BUY TICKETS AT PSABC.ORG OR BY CALLING 828-254-2343.

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UP NEXT: PRESERVATION SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING



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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 04/10/24

Members Present: Sioux Oliva (Chair), Will Hornaday (Vice-Chair), Amy Moxley, Sara Groce, Alexander Ellenbogen, Celesta Gorman, Shannon Watkins

Members absent: Jenny Bowen, Annie McDonald, Claire Thomas, Maria Delsasi

Staff Present: Alexandra Cole, Madelyn Stone, John Maddux

Please refer to the website (www.ashevillenc.gov) for the full approved minutes after the following month's meeting.

Item, Summary and Action

112 Pearson Drive - After the fact approval request to modify existing door and window openings on rear, side and front elevations. Roof replacement and painting of brick masonry.

Action—Approved

450 Montford Avenue - Rehabilitation of existing accessory structure, including adding a new window opening, garage and pedestrian door replacement, roof and stairway replacement, and addition of a mechanical unit.

Action—Approved

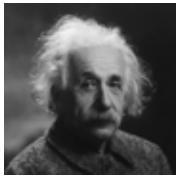
HRC Application Portal

The city is now accepting HRC applications digitally via the Development Portal at this address:

<https://develop.ashevillenc.gov/>



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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Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

For this month's Green Corner, I asked folks on the Montford listserv to share sustainable practices and products they've considered to be "win-wins".

Consider one of these upgrades that might be well worth the effort:



- "Something I do that I'm not sure others have thought of is to **save my "warm-up" shower water**. It takes a couple of minutes for hot water to reach our second floor bathroom. I keep a couple of 2 gallon buckets in the shower to fill with the water that would otherwise go down the drain. I'm able to water all my houseplants and some outdoor pots with this water. It's a little thing but I feel better about reusing that 4 or 5 gallons a week!" - Roxanne
- "**I stopped "wish recycling"** I only put in the bin plastic identified as 1, 2 or 4. These are the only plastics that actually have a market for recycling. The rest need to be sorted out or in most cases they contaminate the entire recycling truck and everything just ends up in the landfill. If we could get more people to follow this we could reduce waste management cost and actually recycle what has a market." - Mary Kay
 - > **Tip:** Revisit this [Supplemental Recycling](#) resource from the October 2022 Green Corner for several places where you can recycle items that can't go in your curbside bin. When in doubt about curbside, check the [Buncombe County website](#).
- "We at Pinecrest **compost** with Compost Now. Tried backyard but it was a bear buffet. Our guests love the fact that table scraps come back as soil." - Daniel
 - > **Tip:** If you don't mind transporting your compost, sign up to use any of the free [Buncombe County drop off sites](#). The March 2023 Green Corner also talks about composting and preventing food waste.

Here are a few I've discovered:

- **Razors:** Over 5 years ago I splurged on a [Leaf Razor](#) after getting frustrated with how quickly even nice disposable razors get dull. It works so much better and the blades last so much longer. It has easily paid for itself; I haven't even used all of the original blades it came with yet.
- **Cleaning:** Nancy Birtwhistle of Great British Bake Off fame has [authored several sustainable living books](#) that I can confirm have excellent natural DIY cleaner recipes for many home cleaning projects from furniture to laundry stains.
- **Partial Mask Reuse:** I still wear N95 masks in certain circumstances and, before recycling the filter portion via Terracycle, I now cut off the ear or head elastic portion to tie off to reuse as two hair ties or rubber bands.

Have a tip you haven't shared yet? Let me know at montfordgreencorner@gmail.com.

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



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Bus Shelter Repair

Randy Hall

The two bus shelters located at Montford/Soco/Cullowhee intersection have now been repaired and look great. With the front overhang now flush with the frame, any opportunity for accidental damage should be greatly minimized.



Resource Directory

Historic Walking Tours

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

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Full Page	\$200

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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.