



# MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD  
Vol. 29 No. 08  
AUGUST '24

## Welcome August Sunshine



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## 26th Montford Holiday Tour of Homes!

*Saturday, December 14, 2024*

We are excited to be bringing back the Montford Holiday Tour of Homes for the 26th year! The Tour is a fundraiser for the Montford Neighborhood Association (MNA), a non-profit community organization that strives to keep our neighborhood progressive, verdant, safe, and fun.

Details coming soon to <https://montfordtour.com/>  
 Email Cate Scales with questions: [catescales@gmail.com](mailto:catescales@gmail.com)

From last year's Tour - 296 Montford Avenue

### TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

#### Calendar

##### Science of Eating

Friday, September 13 from 6-7 pm  
 Age: 13-17  
 Free

##### Toddler Outdoor Craftin'

Wednesdays, September 4 and 25 from 5-6 pm  
 Ages: 2-4 accompanied by parent/guardian  
 Free

##### Girls Girl Brunch

Saturday, September 21 from 12-3 pm  
 Ages: 16 and older  
 Free (Pre-Registration is required)

##### Teen Leadership Afterschool Program

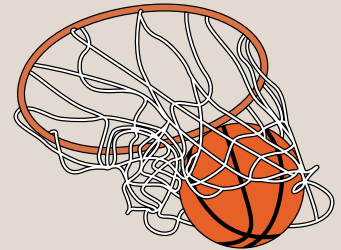
Monday-Friday from 3:30-6 pm  
 Starts: August 26, 2024  
 Contact staff for program and registration information.

#### Tempie Avery Montford Center After School Program

Monday-Friday from 3-6 pm  
 Starts: August 26, 2024  
 Contact staff for program and registration information.

##### Pick-Up Basketball

Sundays 4-6 pm  
 Thursdays 6-9 pm  
 (October 30-December 19)



##### Pick-Up Volleyball

Mondays and Fridays  
 from 10:30-2:30 pm  
 August 26-December 20  
 (schedule may vary certain weeks due to scheduling)



#### For more Information Contact:

Seth T. Jackson, Recreation Facility Manager | 828-253-3714  
 Tempie Avery Montford Recreation Center | 34 Pearson Dr, Asheville, NC 28801  
[www.ashevillenc.gov/parks](http://www.ashevillenc.gov/parks) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)



**Did you know that the Preservation Society offers free technical support?**

The Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County is a local nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of our historic built environment through the promotion, education, and advocacy of our region’s historic resources.

PSABC offers a variety of resources that can help you with the stewardship of your property. We provide free technical support to property owners of structures that are 50 years or older. This can include consultation on repairs and rehabilitation projects, recommendations for contractors and tradespeople that work on historic properties, historic research, and determination of any existing historic designations. We also have tools that can help you permanently protect your property.

PSABC also provides preservation grants from \$500 to \$5,000 and can be used for a project that is in one of three

categories – bricks and mortar; public education; and planning, survey, and designation. When reviewing grant applications, we consider:

- The preservation impact of the project - at the street or community level, in urban or rural environments, and furthering public knowledge or appreciation
- Diversity of projects funded within the grant program – seeking projects representing various ethnic, economic, and geographic groups
- Financial need
- Ability to complete project within proposed time frame
- Time sensitivity

Contact us anytime at 828-254-2343 or by reaching out directly to our staff members:

Jessie Landl, Executive Director – [jessie@psabc.org](mailto:jessie@psabc.org)

Amanda Moore, Director of Historic Preservation – [amanda@psabc.org](mailto:amanda@psabc.org)

Jamie Moody, Director of Development – [jamie@psabc.org](mailto:jamie@psabc.org)

Amy Hornaday, Office Manager – [amy@psabc.org](mailto:amy@psabc.org)

Want to support these programs and our work around the county? Consider becoming a member of PSABC today at PSABC.org!

Jessie Landl  
Executive Director She/Her  
828-254-2343



Daniel Creft  
828-747-9293  
[r7paint@icloud.com](mailto:r7paint@icloud.com)

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Pressure Washing  
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[www.r7painting.com](http://www.r7painting.com)



**Order your Montford Banner**

Three colors to choose from: red, green, and mustard yellow. They are available at the Asheville Visitor Center, 36 Montford Ave. (828) 258-6101

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

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

### **Asheville Police Department – Officer Carrie Lee**

Community Resource Officer Carrie Lee ([clee@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:clee@ashevillenc.gov)) shared information on crimes reported, arrests made, and other police activities in Montford. Significant crimes reported included 2 known assaults in which the attacker and assailant were known to each other and three burglaries. Carrie took questions and comments from the neighborhood. These included traffic and pedestrian safety issues near All Day Darlin' and around the playground on Gay Street. Carrie said that she would take steps to increase monitoring of these locations and consideration of whether signage, lack of speed bumps or other conditions needed to be addressed.

She repeated her advice from prior meetings that we lock our cars and keep valuables out of sight. She urged us to use the Asheville App to report conditions reportable from it and the Asheville Police Non-Emergency Report Line (828-252-1110) for things not significant enough for 911 or not requiring rapid response. She invited us to contact her if we have questions or concerns.

### **Asheville Neighborhood Co-Ordinator – Trey Irby**

Trey Irby ([tirby@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:tirby@ashevillenc.gov)) introduced himself as the new neighborhood coordinator having charge over, among other things, the neighborhood matching grant program. As to neighborhood concerns, he described himself as “the Asheville App part II.” When things reported on the App seem to be falling through the cracks, taking too long or not being addressed we should contact him. There was discussion of the conditional zoning application at 99999 Hill Street and he said that he would circulate more information July 25.

### **Financial Report – Susan Eggerton**

This was informational reporting only minor changes from the prior report. Susan handed out a P and L statement January 1 through July 24, 2024 which she submitted to our Dropbox.

### **Reed Creek Greenway/Kudzu Control Update – Karen MacNeil**

Board Member Karen MacNeil reminded the neighborhood that the MNA received a \$5,000 matching grant from the city last year to help with the removal of kudzu. The city will not approve a grant for anything too similar to the prior grant, so ideas are welcome as to beautification and other improvement along the Reed Creek Greenway with emphasis on the area off Cauble Street. She reminded everyone to donate to our ongoing work on this area through the website and to respond to calls for volunteers.

### **Montford Garden Tour – Lynn Raker and Dan Rogers**

Dan is running the tour this year. They are looking at properties to find 8 to 10 gardens to put on the tour. Please contact Dan or Lynn to offer your garden. The tour date will be June 7, 2025. Mark your calendars.

### **Home Tour Update**

We were reminded that the Montford Tour of Homes will be December 14, 2024.

### **Montford Lights**

We were reminded that Montford Lights will take place December 7, 2024.

### **Our Natural Habitat – Lynn Raker, Karen MacNeil and Phyllis Stiles**

The diversity of species and 50% tree canopy percentage (versus Asheville city cover of 44%) are an amazing and

unusual treasure so close to a busy downtown. Asheville's tree loss was 6.4% between 2008 and 2018, a figure which our urban forester is planning to update. Montford's diversity of vegetation, including trees, is critical to the impressive biodiversity of our neighborhood.

To support Montford's tree canopy, the Montford Neighborhood Association offers a 50% matching grant up to \$300 to owners and tenants (with landlord approval in writing) for planting trees on private property or (with City permission) in the public right of way. Each matching grant requires approval before planting and expense covered may include labor, though not the labor of the applicant.

Mature trees are crucial to managing stormwater. They can absorb up to 40,000 gallons annually of which they utilize 10% and transpire the rest into the atmosphere. The resultant atmospheric rivers carry as much volume as rivers to the sea. Mature trees provide habitat and are placemaking. Karen described from her nursing experience the noticeable positive effect of trees and green space on patients. Their macro effect is on public health.

Native species of trees and other vegetation are crucial as food sources and other things for native species, including pollinators. So, in making our choices to plant we should choose native species. Local keystone trees include oaks and black cherry in Appalachia.

Globally there are 3 billion fewer birds than in the 1970's. 40% of insect pollinator species are at risk of extinction. 90% of territorial birds rely on butterfly or moth caterpillars as a food source. We need to be intentional in planting native trees and other plants that support them. Bee City USA started by Phyllis in our neighborhood on Cortland Street is now in 47 states. Our gardens may be certified as pollinator habitats by Bee City USA. Phyllis distributed literature on the certification program. A native plant list, larval hosts, and the local nurseries and landscapers who can provide, plant and maintain these crucial plants is provided at [beecityasheville.org/native-plants](http://beecityasheville.org/native-plants).

## Asheville on Bikes – Mike Sule

Mike Sule, executive director of Asheville on Bikes, repeated that Asheville led North Carolina in pedestrian and bike collisions with motorists. He said that decades of bad design were to blame. With pictures and explanations, he showed redesign on Merrimon and Coxe Avenues. The redesign of Merrimon reduced collisions 23% with an increase of travel time of only 2 to 4 seconds in the reconstructed part of that avenue. On Coxe the recorded high speed dropped from 89 to 41 mph.

President Randy Hall asked what can be done to make Montford safer. Mike said that the answer was corridor specific. Montford Avenue, by way of example, is a good candidate for street calming.

Mike pointed out that bike routes for events can be created, as they have been in Montford, to further the use of bikes in, say, going from house to house on the Montford Tour of Homes. He also pointed out that making routes bike safe served the additional function of introducing us to our roads, that our view, our appreciation of them is different on a bike.

After a request by Randy Hall for any new or old business, the meeting stood adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Bill Eakins, Acting Secretary  
- At the Request of Secretary  
Tom Fehsenfeld who had to be  
out of Town.**



**Paul Dixon**  
828.215.7772  
PDIXON77@YAHOO.COM

COMMERCIAL ■ RESIDENTIAL ■ INTERIORS  
EXTERIORS ■ LICENSED

## 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](mailto:sanford.danielj@gmail.com)

Judith Sanford: [sanford.judith@gmail.com](mailto:sanford.judith@gmail.com)

Leslie Humphrey: [leslieinmontford@gmail.com](mailto:leslieinmontford@gmail.com)

Ashima Nair: [ashimanair@gmail.com](mailto:ashimanair@gmail.com)

### Welcome Packets Judith and I have delivered so far this year, to new Montford neighbors. Here are some highlights:

- 43 new residents so far this year, mostly new home owners but also a few renters.
- 4 homes are undergoing major renovation or reconstruction and are not lived in yet.
- 15 moved from out of state or outside of Asheville
- 10 moved from within Asheville area
- 11 were left a letter so we could drop of a package later or did not respond to the letter.
- 3 were just recently sold and not moved in yet



### 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/>

## Join Us for the 2024 Asheville Greek Festival!

Are you craving fresh feta, spanakopita, baklava, or other delicious traditional Greek fare? Get your taste buds ready for the fabulous cuisine served at the Asheville Greek Festival! We are excited to host this popular community event once again at our church in beautiful Montford.

Immerse yourself in Greek culture: practice your Greek, join in the dancing, tour the Church, shop for unique goods in our traditional agora, and explore a wide range of offerings from local vendors. Enjoy the festive atmosphere and live

traditional Greek music with friends and family.

For neighbors who want to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the preparations this summer, please consider donating your time to help us.

Our talented teachers and parents have guided the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church children as they learn authentic Greek dances. The kids are eager to perform in colorful traditional costumes to the inspiring tunes played by amazing musicians.

To make arrivals and departures more convenient, we have arranged for a shuttle bus to transport festival-goers to and from nearby municipal parking lots. Stay tuned for more details in the September issue of this newsletter.

Mark your calendars for September 27th and 28th, and come celebrate Greek culture with us!

Links:

<https://www.facebook.com/avlgrkfest>

<https://www.avlgreekfest.com/>



# RIVERLINK



## Where Does All the Rain Go?

In light of the recent rain storms, we're reminded of the awesome power that water has in our mountains. Water rushes down our driveways and streets, while local streams like Reed Creek become swollen and muddy.



Penland Creek  
Photo courtesy of River Link

Before our region was developed, rain fell on natural areas where it soaked into the ground nourishing plant life and replenishing groundwater. Over the past century, we have added roads, buildings, and parking lots that have changed the natural landscape. These hard surfaces prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground, transforming an essential natural resource into a source of pollution: **stormwater runoff**.

### What is Stormwater?

In developed areas, rooftops, roads and parking lots are designed to carry a large volume of water as quickly as possible into storm drains or ditches that convey it **untreated** into the nearest stream and eventually the French Broad River. A 1,000 sf roof over the course of year can generate over 30,000 gallons of stormwater. Now multiply that by all of our roofs!

## Why Should We Care About Stormwater Runoff?

- **Causes Flooding:** Stormwater contributes to flooding, especially during intense downpours.
- **Erosion and Sedimentation:** Too much stormwater causes soil erosion, resulting in property loss and destruction of aquatic habitats.
- **Source of Pollution:** When stormwater flows over roads and parking lots, it collects pollutants and delivers them to our waterways.
- **Common Pollutants:** Sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and other substances that harm aquatic life and even pose human health threats.

## Don't Run Off: Be a Part of the Solution

What can we do about stormwater runoff? The good news is that our urban areas have naturalized landscapes that allow rain to soak into the ground. Lawns are a great example! We just have to be mindful of where and how our runoff flows. Rainwater from rooftops, patios, and sidewalks can be directed onto lawns or other vegetated areas to soak in. Harvesting rainwater in rain barrels can reduce runoff and provide free water for outdoor watering needs.

Next time it rains heavily, grab an umbrella and investigate where your roof runoff is heading. Look for opportunities to keep runoff on site where it can soak into the ground. Do the gutters on the roof of your home or business drain to the street or directly into a storm drain? Can you redirect your roof runoff into a rain barrel or rain garden instead?

For more information and inspirational stories on rainwater management, see [RiverLink's Reduce Rain Runoff campaign](#).



## Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

If the past several weeks have been any indication, yard flooding prevention can be a smart consideration for homeowners in Montford.

Strange weather will become more common and [climate change may even reduce soil's ability to absorb water](#). And beyond causing moisture issues in home foundations and washing away yards, [runoff is also a huge source of a variety of pollutants](#) entering our waterways.

Addressing it can save money, support water resources, add attractive greenery to neighborhoods, help cool the air, and build overall climate resiliency.

### Here are a few approaches to consider:

1. **Absorb rain at your property.** When water is kept where it falls rather than redirecting it into streets and city drains, it reduces both pollution and flooding as well as helps replenish nearby bodies of water and groundwater.
2. **Level or adjust the slope in your yard** to prevent settling, including a gradual slope away from the house.
3. **Use permeable materials** in your yard instead of concrete or asphalt hardscaping for leisure areas, like permeable pavers, gravels/rocks, or mulch.
4. **Install a rain barrel** to collect gutter downspout water for use in your garden.
5. **Plant a variety of native plants** with water needs that are appropriate to our region and your yard's layout and topography. They will require fewer fertilizers or pesticides to thrive, that would otherwise wash into waterways.



6. **Consider adding more absorbent soils**, which contain minerals that help act as water reservoirs to the benefit of both of soil remediation in your garden and flooding prevention. Avoid soil compaction.
7. **Add a french drain**, which uses a combination of an underground trench and a water permeable pipe surrounded by gravel to ease water away while helping it soak into the soil. Yard drains into dry wells can also help water more slowly seep into the soil.

### And inversely, a few things to try to avoid:

1. **Sloping yards** that direct water towards your home, which can cause flooding and erosion.
2. **Unnecessary hardscape paving** that exacerbates surface flooding.
3. **Yard overwatering** such as from not adjusting sprinkler schedules during times of heavy rain.
4. **Predominantly grass lawns.** While grass' fibrous roots do help hold soil and thereby improve drainage and slow water flow, lawns often don't actually absorb water that well, particularly during heavy rains.
5. **Clogged gutters** that can cause water to gush or empty too close to your home.

Whether dealing with another dry spell or flash flood, have a safe August!

Have a topic you'd love to see covered in the Green Corner? Let me know at [montfordgreencorner@gmail.com](mailto:montfordgreencorner@gmail.com).



## Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

### Montford Action Agenda 06/12/24

**Members Present:** Sioux Oliva (Chair), Will Hornaday (Vice-Chair), Amy Moxley, Alexander Ellenbogen, Celesta Gorman, Shannon Watkins, Annie McDonald, Maria Delsasi

**Members absent:** Claire Thomas, Sara Groce, Jenny Bowen

**Staff Present:** Alexandra Cole, Madelyn Stone, Jannice Ashley

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

### Item, Summary and Action

**6 Danville Place** - Construction of new one-and-a-half story, 3,600 square foot primary structure and a new one-story 795 square foot accessory structure.

**Action**—Approved

**174 West Chestnut Street** - Removal of existing, non-original shelving on front porch and installation of new wood porch railing.

**Action**—Approved

**182 West Chestnut Street** - Replacement of existing metal shingle roof with new asphalt shingle roof.

**Action**—Approved

## HRC Application Portal

The city is now accepting HRC applications digitally via the Development Portal at this address:  
<https://develop.ashevillenc.gov/>



## Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

### Montford Action Agenda 07/10/24

**Members Present:** Sioux Oliva (Chair), Will Hornaday (Vice-Chair), Amy Moxley, Annie McDonald, Sara Groce, Cecil Holt, Jenny Bowen

**Members absent:** Shannon Watkins, Celesta Gorman

**Staff Present:** Alexandra Cole, Madelyn Stone, Jannice Ashley

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

### Item, Summary and Action

**197 Cumberland Avenue** - Subdivision of existing 0.338 acre parcel into one (1) new 0.212 acre parcel and one (1) 0.126 acre parcel.

**Action**—Approved

**246 Cumberland Avenue** - Repave existing gravel driveway with pervious pavers.

**Action**—Approved

**135 Cumberland Avenue** - Enlarge two (2) existing window openings on north elevation.

**Action**—Approved

## HRC Application Portal

The city is now accepting HRC applications digitally via the Development Portal at this address:  
<https://develop.ashevillenc.gov/>

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**NEST REALTY**



FOR INFO AND TICKETS  
[WWW.PSABC.ORG](http://WWW.PSABC.ORG)



**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 170 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](mailto:montford.directory@gmail.com)

## Blackberry Cobbler

This blackberry cobbler has a light and fluffy cake-like topping instead of the traditional biscuit-style. My fiancé said this blackberry cobbler was the best she's ever had. Serve warm with heavy or whipped cream.



Prep Time: 15 mins  
Cook Time: 55 mins  
Total Time: 1 hr 10 mins  
Servings: 10  
Yield: 1 9x13-inch cobbler

### Ingredients

#### Berries:

- ½ cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 6 cups fresh blackberries
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted

#### Batter:

- 2 ½ cups all purpose flour
- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups milk
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

### Directions

- 1 Gather the ingredients.
- 2 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.
- 3 Prepare the berries: Whisk sugar and cornstarch together in a small bowl. Place blackberries into a mixing bowl and drizzle with melted butter. Sprinkle cornstarch mixture over top, then toss until evenly coated.
- 4 Spread into the prepared baking dish.
- 5 Make the batter: Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together in a mixing bowl until evenly blended. Stir in milk, melted butter, and vanilla until combined but still slightly lumpy.
- 6 Pour over berries in the baking dish.
- 7 Bake in the preheated oven until berries are tender and the crust is golden brown, 55 to 60 minutes.

### 8 Enjoy!

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/218009/barons-blackberry-cobbler/>



Monty taking a break from stopping traffic on Montford Avenue to check out park improvements.

MK

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## Resource Directory

### Historic Walking Tours

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

- 777-1014.

### Raven Invasive Plant Management

Saving trees and native plants from non-native invasives. Raven IPM is a local, organic, woman veteran-owned business specializing in mechanical removal of invasive plants. No chemicals, just hard work. • (828)866-3200 • [RavenNC.com](http://RavenNC.com)

### Smart Feller Tree Works

Down trees got you down? Contact us for all your tree removal and pruning needs! We are locally licensed and insured. Please call for free estimates. Montford references available. Thanks.

- 828.545.5503

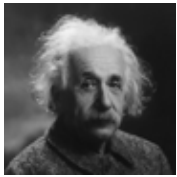
### Square Peg Construction Inc.

Add beautiful custom woodwork to your historic home: New upgrades like wood paneling, built-in cabinetry, trim, doors, stairs and railings. Small details add big impact! Montford references.

- Call your neighbors, Leslie and David Humphrey 277-5164



## 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.

SQUARE  
PEG

We're Different



828-277-5164

FINISH CARPENTRY  
CABINETS  
DESIGN

▣  
Asheville

## SHADE FOR SAFE PLAY

**Lynn Raker**

Thanks to resident Jo Hogan for initiating a robust discussion on the listserv about the need for shade for the playground at Tempie Avery Montford Recreation Center. The discussion led to a mid-July meeting with 7 residents along with Pete Wall, Assistant Director of Parks & Rec, and Seth Jackson, Recreation Facility Manager at Tempie Avery Center.

We met at 2 pm at the playground, taking shelter from the hot July sun under one of several river birch trees. While we were there, just a couple of parents and their children were using the playground – far fewer than might be expected on a summer afternoon. The parents were gathered at a table under another birch tree and the one suspended shade sail while their kids braved the few pieces of play equipment that were not too hot to touch.

As you might imagine, the initial concern (need for shade), morphed into a broader discussion of off-hours noise and criminal activity in and around the play area, traffic safety issues, and shade deficits at other parks.

Although we did not necessarily agree on solutions for each concern, we all seemed in agreement that we need a plan. We were told staff does not currently have the resources, time, or money to develop the plan but will assist the neighborhood in the effort. A bond referendum will be on the November ballot and, if passed, more resources should be available to Parks & Recreation in 2025.

Our plan to move forward now is to develop the plan. Below is an abbreviated summary of concerns and suggestions for how to address them, some of which will move forward with the planning process:

### **1. Playground gets too hot to use in the late morning and afternoon – need shade.**

- Develop a plan to include additional trees outside the rubber-surfaced area – this may or may not include relocation of some of the parking bays to allow for trees.
- Investigate with the play equipment manufacturers the possibility of retrofitting existing equipment to add shade structures.

- When the rubber surface is replaced (should be every 10 years or so), consider the possibility of adding trees and or shade sails where feasible within the primary play area.
- Investigate adding shade sails now (such as the small one currently over the tables), although topography, construction details, and high cost may be prohibitive.

### **2. Children wander out of area creating potential safety issues (conflict with vehicles, etc.)**

- Plan to include additional fencing and/or vegetative buffer. Adding a rock wall section was also suggested.
- Look at what could be done to draw play away from the street, including possible extension of the play area on the basketball court side.
- Improve signage around the play area.
- Consider traffic-calming for Gay St (will require participation of City Traffic Engineer.)

### **3. Children need to experience independence but stay safe.**

### **4. Need green barrier between park and homes on Gay St, but do not block the view to west.**

### **5. Gates are left unlocked and drug dealing in the parking lot has resumed.**

- Locking of gates to be addressed.
- Criminal activity is a police issue and may require another meeting and/or task force to address more thoroughly. Adjacent residents could help oversee gate locking.

### **6. Adults trespass at night. Again, PD issue to be addressed.**

### **7. Need for shade at Magnolia playground. Per Pete Wall, all City playgrounds need more shade. Magnolia playground may be addressed along with Tempie Avery.**

More updates on progress with the plan will be forthcoming.





**Montford Park Players  
Premieres**

***Muse of Fire: Shakespeare's Wars of the Roses***

Friday, Saturday and Sunday @ 7:30pm  
Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre  
92 Gay St. Asheville, NC

**Theatrical Performance**

Montford Park Players, an Asheville theatrical tradition, is proud to announce their upcoming 2024 season. All performances will be held at the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre at 92 Gay Street in the heart of Asheville's historic Montford District, from May 10th through October 27th on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7:30.

Starting August 30, 2024, the Montford Park Players, North Carolina's longest running Shakespeare theatre, and one of the oldest community-based Shakespeare theatres in the United States, will present *Henry VI, 1.2.3.*, the sixth and seventh plays of our *Muse of Fire: Shakespeare's Wars of the Roses* season. This season is a once-in-a-generation event celebrating the nine Shakespearean plays recounting the English Wars of the Roses.

Shakespeare's "*Henry VI*" trilogy chronicles the turbulent reign of King Henry VI of England. "*Henry VI, Part 1*" focuses on the loss of English territories in France and the rise of Joan of Arc. "*Henry VI, Part 2*" delves into the internal strife and political machinations leading to the Wars of the Roses, featuring the power struggles and infighting between the noble factions of York and Lancaster as they grub for power and the crown. "*Henry VI, Part 3*" continues with the brutal civil war, depicting battles, betrayals, and shifting allegiances as the Yorkists and Lancastrians vie for the throne, ultimately leading to the rise of Richard III.

Under the co-direction of Glenna Grant, who previously directed MPP's "*Hamlet*" in 2022, and Ariel Robinson, a first-time director and seasoned Montford actor, the challenging task involved condensing an original script of 8,759 lines from three plays into two plays, each running approximately 2.5 hours. Grant emphasizes, "History makes for a hell of a story. This particular story- of political maneuvering & polarization, civil unrest, of larger than life characters' mercurial shifting between hero and villain- is closer to the bone than ever." Robinson further explains, "This exploration of human nature and the consequences of power struggles remains compelling, highlighting the universality of Shakespeare's themes and their relevance to modern societal issues."

Mars Mignon takes on the lead role as Henry VI, supported by Montford heavyweights Jon Robinson, Paula'O Brien, and Eric Vik, portraying Richard III, Duke of York, and Duke of Gloucester, respectively.

An anarchic, gleefully theatrical, and urgent iteration of *Shakespeare's War of the Roses*. MPP's "*Henry VI*" is the Elizabethan ancestral mashup of Game of Thrones and Succession, with guest spots by the Muppets. Comedy is balanced with tragedy, war with diplomacy, and the grim effects of political jockeying are all too familiar to modern audiences.

All of our shows are, as always, FREE.

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## Montford: Home since 1935

### Author: Friend of Montford

*These are some thoughts of long time Montford resident, Franklin Alger Warner as related by a friend.*

I arrived at my home in February in 1935 having just been born. My parents knew that the architect from England, Richard Sharp Smith's company, built our house in 1916. They also knew the family that lived here before them.

As I grew older, I'd begin my walks through Asheville. One walk took me over to Haywood Road where my father was a shopkeeper. Most Saturdays I'd sweep the store and then climb the stairs entering a world of my very own fantasy. By standing on some boxes, I could reach the skylight looking over rooftops of West Asheville. In my imagination I scaled those rooftops and created stories about the people below them.

A mystery to me was the outline of another building against the second story brick wall that was no longer there. Sherlock Holmes stories entered my fantasy.

Mother and I often went shopping in downtown Asheville. We'd walk hand in hand up Montford to Lexington. We'd stop at the Farmers Market. Across the street the farmers hung rabbits, chickens and sold fresh eggs. We'd then continue across the street to Ladds Seafood,

We shopped at T.S. Morrison's for seeds for mother's planting. We'd go to Pack Square to purchase hardware at Greene's Hardware. Mr. Ottis Greene was our neighbor. Mother always told me to be respectful to him as he was our mayor during what was called, The Great Depression.

Best of all is when we walk up Patton past the Cigar store with the big Coca Cola sign on top. We'd shop at Kress Five and dime store and then, right next to it was Eckard's Drug store and lunch counter. We'd have a grilled cheese sandwich or maybe pimento cheese on toast. Then the best of all happened! One of the waitresses, mother's favorite, would tell mother that she was getting off in a little while so would it be alright if she took Franklin across the street to the Paradise Movie house for the Saturday matinee? She'd bring him home right

after it was over. Imagine my joy when mother said it was all right.

She'd buy me a bag of popcorn all for myself. After the show we'd cross back over to Eckerd's, and she'd treat me to a Chocolate ice cream soda. We'd then walk home. I wish I could remember her name.

I learned to play piano on our big upright. It was a lot like the one in Thomas Wolfe's house which I saw when "Old Kentucky Home" opened for tours. That inspired my great love of music. As I played Mozart and Debussy I was transported to another world. I loved Mozart the best of all the great masters. Over the years I collected as much of his recorded work as possible. Still, every time I played the piano or listened to Mozart I was whisked away to the great concert halls and courtly palaces of Europe.

I remember my neighbor across the street, Mrs. Effie Green. Even at 104 her maid would hold her by the waist as she planted and weeded her flowers.

Imagine the excitement when the Asheville Art Museum opened in Montford. The basement became a photography center. Paintings, statues, handcrafted jewelry and so many objects of art brought this culture center into Montford. Children came daily for art lessons taught in the garage which became their classroom. Christmas was always exciting as trees of all types of the season were decorated bringing the world to Asheville.

I loved to make miniatures as a hobby. My joy was to recreate the entire Bible scene. I would display it all through the house at Easter and at Christmas.

Books were yet another world that transported me to places of my dreams. Little did I realize that someday I would actually walk those very streets, ride their European trams in the city and trains from country to country, but it did happen.

World War two had ended and we entered a troubled peace especially with the deadlock in Korea. I along with all others of my age were drafted into service of our nation. My MO (military term Modus Operandi) was that of an office clerk with typing and other secretarial attributes. Thus, I became clerk to a US Army general in Germany.

The general was so pleased with my work that he even sent home a letter to my mother praising me. I had a

buddy in Germany, and we traveled throughout Europe on special programs offered to GI's by the USO. (My nieces now have all those slides of these wonderful memories.)

Not only did the general appreciate my work but other officers did as well. There I was, a simple enlisted man, yet I was invited to the officer's club on special evenings. The officers sat and talked and drank and I'd dance with all their wives. I guess the men didn't want to dance and their wives were always nice to me telling me that I was a good dancer.

When I returned to Asheville, I settled in at home with my widowed mother. I tended our garden and mother raised plants in the sunroom.

I first worked as a secretary for the Dutch firm, America Enka. We had a huge flood and spent months drying files and putting them on something called microfish. That company then sold the west Asheville plant to BASF of Germany and my job was eliminated. I then was hired as a temp and worked for various lawyers. My last job before retirement was as a clerk with the ABC board where I managed all receipts and secretarial work in this position.

Over the years our neighborhood began to show its age. Downtown Asheville moved to the mall and urban sprawl began creeping up the surrounding mountains.

It took some time and the effort of many to pump resilience into both areas. With the onset of the Bed and Breakfast properties neighbors began taking more pride in beautifying their own. Standing ever taller, the Montford Community Club of the 1980's hosted the first Martin Luther King breakfast in Asheville. Two of the keynoters were Congressman Lamar Gudger and Asheville mayor Roy Trantham.

After mother died at age 95, I had my little dogs as companions and loved to work in my yard. My sister often came to stay with me for several days at a time. She cleaned the house and prepared meals for her "baby" brother. But then one day Celest entered a special care facility. We talked often on the phone. Now I am the last of my generation.

As age took my little dogs I entered deeper into the comfort of my music, my books and my memories. And then the unthinkable occurred, through an accident at home I punctured my eye and lost sight. Over the years vision in my other eye could no longer sustain the strain and I lost total vision. And now, 89 years since that February day in 1935, in my mind's eye I review the passing scene of my neighborhood from boyhood through the hourglass of time and the glorious swing of the pendulum to revival.



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