

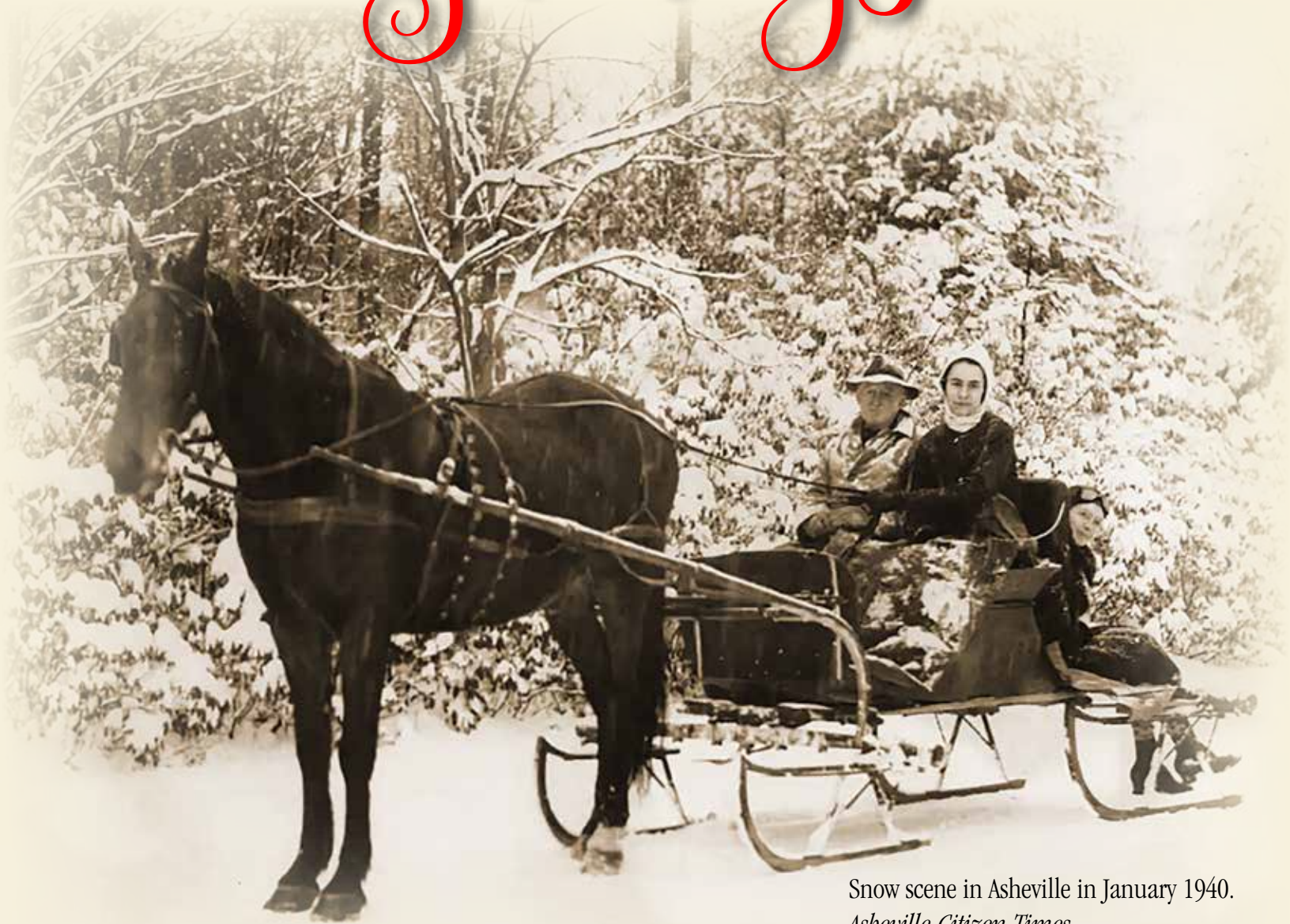


# MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD  
VOL. 29 No. 12

DECEMBER '24 / JANUARY '25

## SEASON'S Greetings



Snow scene in Asheville in January 1940.  
*Asheville Citizen Times*

*from the Montford Neighborhood Association,  
the staff, and contributors to the Newsletter.*



## Green Corner

**Erin Hiatt**

In the time that has passed since the storm, our community has shown up for one another in countless amazing ways. As we approach a time of year that at its best channels generosity, kindness, connection, and renewed motivation, it can be a great time to think about the role volunteerism could start or continue to play in your life beyond the storm, if you are able.

Volunteering comes in so many different forms that you may be surprised how valuable almost any amount of time and ability level could be.

And while volunteering is obviously a good thing for its direct beneficiaries and our community overall, it also yields numerous benefits for the helpers, too. A [September 2024 VolunteerHub article](#) cites research linking volunteerism to:

- Interpersonal connection
- A sense of purpose
- Stress reduction
- Mental acuity
- Self-confidence
- Improved mood/lower rates of depression

Volunteering can also be associated with lower blood pressure, decreased chronic pain, and improved heart health

### Where can you get started?

Volunteering can mean so many different things, so consider what gets you the most excited to find the right opportunity: Is it working with a particular population or community in need or animals or nature? Would



you prefer to do physical volunteering or help from the comfort of your own home? Would it be fun to volunteer alongside a friend or family member?

Consider these resources to explore some of the breadth of opportunities available:

- [www.handsonasheville.org](http://www.handsonasheville.org) continues to be a great central place to learn about volunteer opportunities in the community
- <https://www.asheville.com/directory/local/volunteer-ops/>
- <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>
- <https://www.volunteer.gov/>

### Do you need help?

Maybe you don't have the capacity to help and actually still need help yourself in the wake of such a challenging time. It can feel awkward or embarrassing or scary, but [studies show people typically want to help more than you think](#). And whether [hurricane-related needs](#) or not, the very same organizations found through the resources above can connect you with the very people who are looking for the opportunity to help.

We can take care of ourselves by taking care of each other and asking for help when we need it.

Take good care, everyone, and wishing you and yours Happy Holidays!



### Get 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) 210-2726

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Asheville

## TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

### Calendar

#### Pick-Up Basketball

Free - Ages 16+  
Thursdays - 6-9 PM  
December 12 and 19  
Sundays - 4-6 PM  
December 1, 8, 15,  
22, and 29  
January 5, 12, 19, and 26

#### Pick-Up Volleyball

Free - Ages 16+  
Fridays - 10:30-2:30 PM  
December 13 and 20  
January 10, 17, 24, and 31  
Mondays - 10:30-2:30 PM  
December 9 and 16



#### Holiday Camp

Youth & Teen  
8:30-6:00 PM  
December 23, 27, 30, and 31 and January 2-3  
\$40 (must pre-register)

#### Vision Board Vibes

Friday, January 3  
5:30-7:30 PM  
\$5 - Ages 20+

#### Little Adventurers

Mondays/Wednesdays  
January 6, 8, 27, and 29  
Free, Ages 2-4 accompanied by an adult

#### Golden Years Gallery

Fridays  
January 10 and 25  
5:30-7:30 PM  
\$5 - Ages 55+

#### 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](#)

## MONTFORD SCHOOL GETS OLD NAME BACK

The William Randolph name has officially returned to ACS' Montford Avenue campus.

The board voted unanimously to rename the former home of Montford North Star Academy the William Randolph Campus at the Nov. 12 meeting. The campus is home to the district's new alternative school.

The board voted to close Montford North Star Academy — a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) middle school — in March and merge the population

with the larger Asheville Middle School. Before it was a middle school, the campus hosted an alternative school for 10 years known as the Randolph Learning Center.

The location has a long history as a school dating to the 1800s. It was first renamed for William Randolph, the first secretary of the Asheville school board, in the 1930s, according to an ACS presentation.

Along with the name change, the school will get a new logo, complete with a cougar to signify its status as a feeder school for Asheville High School, whose mascot is also the cougar.

Greg Parlier — *Mountain Xpress*



## The Latest Dirt

### News from the Asheville Botanical Garden

#### Cherie Morris



Welcome to the first installment of ***The Latest Dirt*** from the Asheville Botanical Garden! We have finally reopened after Helene destroyed more than 45 trees and thousands of smaller plantings. Although cleanup continues, most of the trails and the gift shop are now open.

First, for any newcomers, the Garden is located on Weaver Blvd, just off Broadway and right next to the campus of the University. There is no fee to park or enter the Garden, but we ask that you please leave Rover at home. We all love dogs, and most of the staff own at least one, but like all parents, we often find our furbabies can be a bit obstreperous! Since we have many unique or rare plant colonies, we must restrict the grounds to just the human species and hope they behave!

We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3), and we operate without federal, city, county, state or university assistance. Our funding is through memberships (and we would love to have you join us!) donations, sales from our gift shop, and more recently, grants. The Garden Path Gift Shop is open daily from 10 to 4, and we have a wide selection of fun and educational items for both adults and children. We're particularly proud of our book department! Recently we've put a focus on local artisans and items made in the US. The gift shop takes a seasonal break for inventory, cleaning, repainting, and reordering. This year we will be open until December 21 for holiday gift shopping and then reopen in March. If you bring the kiddos, remember to ask the visitor center host about our treasure hunt game. This plant, mammal, bug, and bird safari will keep them busy looking for surprises in nature.

Our community room, the newly renovated Butler Room, accommodates 50 people and is available to rent for meetings, classes and lectures. We also offer courses

that will begin next spring. We are especially pleased to partner with Bee City, USA to repeat a monthly series of classes to become a Certified Pollinator Advocate. Classes in 2025 will begin in January and continue every month on the second Tuesday, 6-7:30 p.m. Take one class or all 12. More information on this and all our upcoming courses will BEE available on our website at [www.ashevillebotanicalgarden.org](http://www.ashevillebotanicalgarden.org)!

Very shortly, renovation will begin on our gazebo, the perfect spot for a small wedding or vow renewal! If you're planning a happy event, give our director of operations, Kaita Collier, a call at 828-252-5190. Also, if you would like to join a friendly group of volunteers, Kaita is accepting applications for front desk hosts. No experience is necessary, and shift times and days are flexible. A smiling face and friendly conversation are always an advantage for welcoming our guests from around the world!

So our next article will come when Spring is just around the corner, and everything is starting to "green up." Meanwhile, stop in, enjoy a walk and bask in some nature before our winter hibernation. Introduce yourself as a Montford neighbor and pick up the most recent copy of the ABG newsletter, *The New Leaf*. We look forward to visiting with you! Happy holidays! .



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**Cherie Morris -  
Asheville Botanical  
Garden Volunteer**

## Golden Agers: Garden is volunteer's happy spot

*Posted in the Mountain Xpress on November 9, 2024*

*by Carol Kaufman*

In 2013, when Cherie Morris and her husband, Randy Omark, decided they'd had enough of the chilly Pocono Mountain winters, they sold their home and headed south to Asheville to enjoy their retirement...**Read the full article here:**

<https://mountainx.com/news/golden-agers-garden-is-volunteers-happy-spot/>

## Montford Community Helene Support Group

We have all been deeply affected by Hurricane Helene and the many ways she has changed and continues to change our beloved Western North Carolina. In response to Helene, the City of Asheville's Elevate AVL program is supporting a series of three Helene Support Groups.

The free series will take place on January 14, January 21, and March 4 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Tempie Avery Community Center. Childcare and snacks will be provided. Leslie Mackinnon and Cassie Whiteside will be offering this support group. (Not a therapy group.)

If you're interested, please sign up at this [link](#). The expectation is that you'll attend all three sessions because we will be getting to know each other, and each session will build on the one before it. We only have space for 10 participants so that everyone has enough time and space to share. We'll be offering skills to help you stay centered in difficult times and will also just support each other with all we've been through.

Because the goal of Elevate AVL is to strengthen neighborhoods' resiliency to climate change, this group is only open to Montford residents. Other groups will be offered in other neighborhoods.

Please call or email Cassie Whiteside at (828) 215-5971 or [whitesidecassie7@gmail.com](mailto:whitesidecassie7@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.





## Forever Montford



**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)

## 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)



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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





# Montford Lights!



What a wonderful evening.





## The 4th annual Montford Lights went ahead despite the storm.

*Montford Lights, started in lieu of the annual tour of homes, in the midst of a pandemic; has since taken on a life of its own.*

We're grateful for the many folks who were instrumental in pulling this all together: The Asheville High School Drumline for keeping the beat and leading the parade. Rodney Workman, band director & his assistants for their fantastic leadership. Rita Hayes for organizing the flute players & this year played right along with them. Ben Scales provided & set up the amplification. The tree was obtained & delivered by Steve & Lynn Ryker. It was securely set up by Steve & David Boyles. William Saupe & Daniel Boyles helped to string the lights. Traci & Len Levi provided the Menorah honoring Chanukah which begins 12/26/24. Smart Feller Tree Works generously donated & placed the lighted globes in the treetops. APD provided 2 officers to ensure a safe, secure environment & even the weather held out!

Most important of all was everyone in this great neighborhood who decorated their homes & joined in to make this a joyful community event!

Thank you, Marti Boyles and all her elves for making it a success once again.

Happy Holidays!





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Western North Carolina has suffered unimaginable loss and destruction from Hurricane Helene. As we all work through recovery and restoring our mountain home, **we are unable to host the 2024 Holiday Tour of Homes**. This is one of our largest fundraisers for the Montford Neighborhood Association, so in lieu of purchasing a ticket, we hope you'll consider donating to help with neighborhood needs. Any amount helps.

Whether Montford is your home or you look forward to visiting us again soon, know we are grateful for your support!

Donate Here: <https://www.zeffy.com/donation-form/db4f1ac4-f098-4f04-856d-b2144af685b6>

Cate Scales

*The Montford Newsletter* is published online by the Montford Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 7181, Asheville, NC 28802, for the residents of Asheville's first historic neighborhood. We welcome articles and advertising by the 20th of the month.

Note: Opinions expressed in this newsletter by contributing authors do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the MNA.

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