



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 30 No. 02
FEBRUARY '25

The Montford Garden Tour Returns!

Just the good news we've been waiting for!

While Helene may have diminished our tree canopy and threatened to undermine our spirit, the Montford Neighborhood is rallying together to bring back its beloved garden tour. Eight luscious gardens will celebrate the resiliency of Asheville and the Montford community. Local bands will provide entertainment in gardens throughout the day, and talented plein air artists will capture the glory of each garden on canvas.

The biennial garden tour has become a favorite community fundraiser, along with the Holiday Tour of Homes. Unfortunately, the home tour had to be canceled in the wake of the storm, so the garden tour will be our sole fundraiser in over a year. The date is **Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** No rain date is scheduled, but organizers trust that the garden gods will produce fair weather.

The Historic Montford Garden Tour makes a memorable outing for residents and their friends and families, so mark your calendars. Proceeds from this year's event will go toward improvements to the neighborhood's playgrounds along with other projects.

More 2025 Historic Montford Garden Tour details and updates will be posted to <https://montfordgardentour.org/> starting in mid-February, and tickets will go on sale through the website in March. A call for docents will go out in late April and will earn you a ticket to the gardens, so save the date!



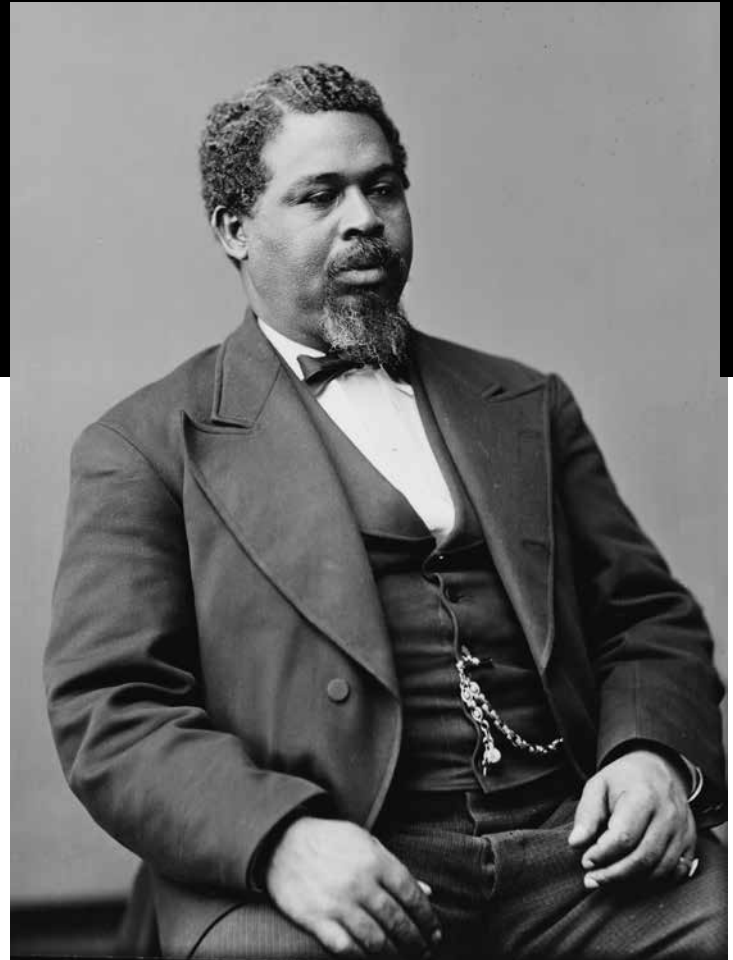
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Robert Smalls War Hero *From slavery to the US House of Representatives*

Editor's Note: Living in Savannah, we sometimes visited Beaufort, South Carolina, and traveled down the Sea Island Parkway. This took us into the Gullah Geechee culture of Saint Helena Island, where we learned the story of this amazing man.

According to available information, Robert Smalls' relatives in Frogmore, South Carolina, would primarily be descendants of his first wife, Hannah Jones Smalls.

Robert Smalls (April 5, 1839 – February 23, 1915) was an American politician who was born into slavery in Beaufort, South Carolina. During the American Civil War, the still enslaved Smalls commandeered a Confederate transport ship in Charleston Harbor and sailed it from the Confederate-controlled waters of the harbor to the U.S. blockade that surrounded it. He then piloted the ship to the Union-controlled enclave in Beaufort–Port Royal–Hilton Head area, where it became a Union warship. In the process, he freed himself, his crew, and their families. His example and persuasion helped convince President Abraham Lincoln to accept African-American soldiers into the Union Army.



After the Civil War, Smalls returned to Beaufort and became a politician, winning election as a Republican to the South Carolina Legislature and the United States House of Representatives during the Reconstruction era. He authored state legislation providing for South Carolina to have the first free and compulsory public school system in the United States. He was a founder of the Republican Party of South Carolina and the last member of that party to represent South Carolina's 5th congressional district until the election of Mick Mulvaney in 2010.

February 1998 Montford Newsletter

Read the full issue https://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/mont_feb_98.pdf

Happy Valentine's Day!

MONTFORD

VOL. 3 NO. 5

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

FEB. 1998

NHS Honors 'Good Neighbor'

by Nelda Holder



St Ola Mapp
1915 - 2009

St. Ola Mapp, a Montford community leader for more than half her nearly 83 years, was the recipient of Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) first annual Good Neighbor Award. NHS board president Dora Dawkins presented Mrs. Mapp with the award at last month's NHS annual meeting.

Mrs. Mapp, or St. Ola — as so many Montford residents know her — has lived in the Magnolia & Flint Street area for more than 50 years. She was one of the originators of the Flint Street Neighborhood Club, which is Montford's (and perhaps the City's) oldest neighborhood organization. It was founded in 1947 and still meets monthly. Also the neighborhood historian, St. Ola fondly remembers the original founding members of the Club (now passed on): Fannie Kilpatrick, Mabel Bolden, Katie Bolden, Gatha Waters, Corrie Mayfield, Bell Knuckles, and Carrie Putnam.

Filling their wonderful home with six sons, two daughters, and a host of friends, St. Ola and her (late) husband Walter offered many a neighborly hand to their community across the years. And, though she is retired now from her work with the Council on Aging, St. Ola has never stopped caring for and about people around her.

In recognizing her for her tireless efforts, NHS proclaimed that "St. Ola is both a neighborhood treasure and mentor. By her caring and her deeds, she lives the meaning of the word 'neighbor.'"

In her own words, St. Ola talks about many of the activities she has undertaken in Montford, often through the Flint Street Community Club. "We see that our sick neighbors are taken care of. We get together and give to ABCCM (Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry). If any (club) members have to go to the hospital, we give them a donation when they come out."

She adds, "Each time a new neighbor moves in, we visit and make them know they're welcome and tell them what we're doing ... that we try to keep our neighborhood cleaned and half-way decent. We will be there if there is a death. We help each other in the neighborhood. My husband was the plumber or electrician. They'd call and he'd do that. We'd do small jobs like take trash out for old people, or get a list and go to the grocery store ... drive people."

Doing the things that make a neighborhood a community has always been second nature to this tireless woman, who has also had time to keep a yard full of beautiful flowers. In her younger years, she would even rake all the way around her block.

St. Ola believes that to build a neighborhood full of good neighbors, "you have to involve them." And she can tell wonderful stories of how she has managed to engage and involve the young and the old around her.

She is an example to all of us. Congratulations! And, thank you St. Ola for your many years of volunteerism!

TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Calendar

Pick-Up Basketball

Ages 16+ Sundays from 4-6 PM
February 9, 16, and 23
March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30



Pick-Up Volleyball

Ages 16+
Fridays from 10:30-2:30 PM
February 7, 21, and 28
March 14, 21, and 28



Golden Era Movie Magic

Tuesdays from 12:45-2:30 PM
February 11 - Foxy Brown
February 18 - Sunset Blvd
February 25 - The Wiz

Sticky Situations Slime Making

Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 PM
Ages 11-14
February 11 - Magnetic Slime
February 18 - Fluffy Slime
February 25 - Crunchy Slime

Seussville Creations

Wednesdays from 5-5:30 PM
Ages 2-4 w/ Adult
March 5 - Green Eggs and Ham
March 12 - Horton Hears a Who
March 19 - Cat in the Hat
March 26 - The Lorax



Cozy Chapters Bookworm Club

Thursdays from 6-7:30 PM
March 6-27
Ages 19+



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 | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)



H A P P Y
Valentine's Day
from the
Montford Neighborhood Association

Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

For the next few months, the Green Corner will interview some of our wonderful local, sustainability-minded businesses who could use your support!

Our first feature is Heather with [To the Brim Refill Store](#), located at 117 Sweeten Creek Road, Suite 16, Asheville, NC 28803.

Hours as of 1/25/25 are:

- Friday: 11 AM–5 PM
- Saturday: 11 AM–5 PM
- Sunday: 11 AM–5 PM
- Monday: 12–7 PM
- Tuesday through Thursday: Closed

Q: What is the origin story of To the Brim?

A: Four years ago, the original owner of To the Brim was planning to move to Greenville, SC and needed to sell or close. My friend was a loyal customer and mentioned the store to me. I thought it was such a cool concept and really liked the mission, so we dove in!

Q: What kinds of products do you carry?

A: We carry bulk laundry and dish detergent, shampoo, conditioners, and body wash / hand soaps that customers can refill their own or borrowed containers with. We also carry low to no waste pre-packaged personal care products, bulk toothpaste tablets, and plant based sustainably made household products.

Q: How do you select what products to carry?

A: We look for small batch products that are US made. NC or locally made products are a plus! Our current inventory is based on products that are most sought after, most effective and have a favorable price point for us as a small business as well as our customers.



Q: What products are most popular and which are your personal favorites?

A: Rustic Strength laundry detergent, toothpaste tablets, and Konjac sponges are all popular options.

My personal favorites are our unscented lotion and dishwasher pods.

Q: Any favorite customer interactions or stories?

A: Just last week, a customer shared that in having her septic tank serviced, the company performing the service told her that she had one of the cleanest septic tanks they had ever seen and to keep doing what she was doing! (The customer uses our laundry and dishwashing detergents, shampoo, conditioner, and body wash)

Q: How did the hurricane impact your business?

A: We temporarily closed shortly after the storm due to the planned exit of our previous lease. My previous business partner experienced significant mudslides on their property and, as a result, resigned from the business. This has been a tremendous loss.

Q: Where can readers follow you or stay up to date?

A: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @tothebrimrefill or on our website www.tothebrimrefill.com.

Let me know what other local businesses you would like to see interviewed at montfordgreencorner@gmail.com.

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Asheville

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



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: leslieinmontford@gmail.com

Ashima Nair: ashimanair@gmail.com

Using the Montford Group Listserv

Judith Sanford

Once you are a member of the Montford Group Listserv, these tips will make it easier to use:

HELPFUL HINT: If you are accessing Montford Group on your smart phone, turn your phone to landscape so that you can see the full menu options such as the **+** **New conversation** button and **Reply** options.

The web address of the group is <https://groups.google.com/g/montford>

Navigating the Google Group Menu

The **Menu Button** (☰) is located on the top left side of the screen. Clicking ☰ will show you options you may take including:

- Reading the **Conversations** (postings) within the Group
- Posting/Starting a new conversation topic using the **+** **New conversation** button
- Configuring your **Membership settings**

Posting/Starting a New Conversation Topic

- Emailing montford@googlegroups.com will start a new conversation. Conversations are moderated and have to be approved. As a result, lost/found pet and bear sighting notifications will not be timely. We apologize in advance for the delay you may experience.
- Start a new conversation by clicking the **+** **New conversation** button on the top left of your screen.
- Enter a short but descriptive Subject line. Attach photos and files as you would with any email.
- **DO NOT** start (author) a new topic by replying to a previous conversation topic.

Replying to Conversation Topic

Before replying to the conversation, consider if your reply is appropriate for everyone to receive or should just go to the author of the posting.

- Choose the **Reply to Author** option to answer author's requests for information or to personally acknowledge their post. This will start a direct email conversation within each of your personal emails.
- Choose the **Reply All** option only if your reply contains pertinent and/or interesting information for the rest of the Montford Group. Thanks in advance; this saves a lot of folks from getting overwhelmed.

Managing your Inbox

The default setting for Montford Group will send an individual email to your inbox for every posting made by members of the group. You can adjust this easily by changing your **Membership Settings**:

1. Sign in to Google Groups.
2. Click the name of our group (Montford)
3. On the left, click **My membership settings**.
4. **For Subscription**, choose an option:
 - **Each email**—Messages are sent individually as they're posted to the group.
 - **Digest**—Up to 25 complete messages are combined into single emails and sent daily.
 - **Abridged**—Summaries of up to 150 messages are combined into single emails and sent daily.
 - **No email**—Messages from the group are not sent.
5. Click **Save changes**.

You may review any and all postings at any time by logging into the group (even if you choose **No email**) or by clicking on a message within the summary email. The Conversation History is kept for the Montford Group

MINUTES - MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (MNA) QUARTERLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Odyssey School - Wednesday, January 22, 2025

The meeting to order at 6:33 PM. There was a good turnout of about 40 neighbors.

Asheville Police Department – Officer Isaiah Senyak

Community Engagement Officer Isaiah Senyak (isenyak@ashevillenc.gov) shared information on crimes reported, arrests made, and other police activities in Montford. Significant crimes reported included an assault in which a resident allowed someone to sleep on his porch and was later attacked, larceny of a motor vehicle, 9 burglaries from motor vehicles and one theft of a package from a porch. Isaiah reported that citywide there were reductions in all categories of crime in 2024 from 2023; violence was down 4% and property crime down 13%.

He reported that there are vacancies in the upcoming spring Citizen's Police Academy and suggested contacting him to apply. It will be held Thursday nights from 5:30 to 9 and dinner will be provided.

He 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. He invited us to contact him if we have questions or concerns.

He and two colleagues emphasized that most crimes are crimes of opportunity. They urged us to lock our cars and homes.

Asheville Neighborhood Co-Ordinator – Trey Irby

Trey Irby (tirby@ashevillenc.gov) reported on Asheville restaurant week, ongoing debris pickup and the various bureaucratic coordination planning and executing our area's post-Helene recovery. He said that the Asheville City Government had become expert in FEMA's processes and requirements and that a lot of repair and rebuilding had

to work back from what FEMA would do and pay for. The City is trying to utilize FEMA and other outside funding to the extent possible so approved bond funds can be used most effectively.

RiverLink Watershed Resources Manager – Renee Fortner

Renee spoke about reducing stormwater runoff. She pointed out that drainage into our streets goes down our storm drains, into Reed Creek and the French Broad. Use of rain barrels and avoiding channeling water into the street were recommended. She suggested extending downspouts at least 10 feet from outer walls to avoid harming foundations.

Asheville Climate Resilience Team Member – Cassie Whiteside

Cassie called attention to the Helene support groups she has been organizing and circulating on our ListServe. She said that the City's guide to resilience is being revamped.

Financial Report – Randy Hall for Susan Eggerton

Current financials were circulated and in line with budget.

Montford Garden Tour – Lynn Raker

Dan Rogers is chairing the tour this year. We have 8-10 gardens on the tour and are working with the owners on their concerns about storm damage. The tour will focus on the resilience of the neighborhood and the Asheville community. As in our previous garden tours, we will have local bands in each garden, staggered throughout the day. And we are adding a plein air artist in each garden as well. More information will be upcoming on the Garden Tour webpage. This will be MNA's only fundraiser in more than a year, so let's support it.

Board Members – Bill Eakins

Bill reported that the Historic Resources Commission has returned to its normal monthly schedule for meeting and applications for certificates of appropriateness.

When Helene struck, the Executive Committee of the HRC was about to meet on the topic of the 4 changes in Montford Design Standards that several members of our community had proposed. Given the demands on the entire Planning Department after Helene, Alex Cole told Bill that a meeting on the proposals would be at least another two months in the future.

The Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County expanded its grants budget by \$100,000 after Helene to assist in preservation and repair of historic (that is 50 years or more old). They also vigorously fund raised for additional grants and donations dedicated for this purpose, raising another \$200,000 or more. Grant applications are processed quickly – as soon as they or the funding comes in. See PSABC’s website or call 828-254-2343 for information how to apply.

Tempie Avery Montford Community Center

Facilities Manager Jackson reported that Tempie Avery has returned to normal programming and schedules.

President – Randy Hall

Randy reported that nominations are open for 2 open MNA board seats and that nominations should be submitted by March 1.

After a request by Randy Hall for any new or old business, the meeting stood adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Eakins, Acting Secretary for Tom Fehsenfeld who had to be out of town.






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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

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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.

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



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A group of seven people, six in orange safety vests and one in a grey hoodie, standing in front of a red truck labeled "SMART FELLER TREEWORKS". The truck has a phone number "828.545.5503" on the side. To the left is a logo for "SMART FELLER TREEWORKS" featuring a silhouette of a person climbing a tree. Below the photo are three certification logos: "CERTIFIED", "ISA", and "MEMBER".

828.545.5503 smartfeller treeworks.com


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A detailed woodcut-style illustration of an owl perched on a branch, surrounded by a dense forest of mushrooms. The owl is the central focus, with its feathers intricately detailed. The background is filled with various types of mushrooms, creating a textured, forest-like scene.

Downtown Books & News
67 North Lexington Avenue
www.dbnbooks.com

FRUGALFRAMER



A photograph of a modern interior space, likely an art gallery or studio. It features a black leather Eames-style chair and ottoman on a light-colored wooden floor. The walls are white and decorated with several framed artworks, including a large red letter 'D', a landscape painting, and a framed list of addresses: "CONGRESS ST", "BROADVIEW", "ROBSON PK", "ALBERT PL", "LOCKWOOD AV".

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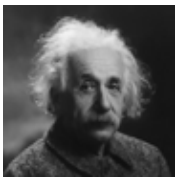
Join The Montford Listserve

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/>



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.

Montford Convenience Store

Your local neighborhood store

Hours:
Monday thru Saturday - 8am to 11pm
Sunday - 9am to 10pm

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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.

Contact Editor Kelly Ross Terry at krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com, 230-7439 for more information.