

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, 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!

## SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERISM ...

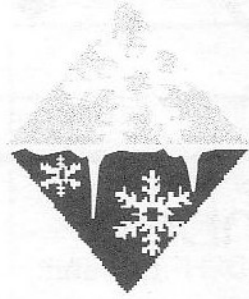
If you have been keeping up with the news lately, you won't be surprised to learn that our U.S. President and the N.C. Governor are pushing "volunteerism." It has been touted as the "key" to the success of schools, organizations, and communities.

As Montford residents, we know the importance of volunteerism. Were it not for neighbors banding together, this neighborhood would not have a first-rate community publication, would not have a Resource Center, and would not have a new park. Just a few weeks ago, in fact, a dozen or so residents donated a few hours of their Saturday to give the Montford Resource Center a much needed fresh coat of interior paint.

The problem is, whenever volunteerism is needed in Montford, typically the same residents — again and again — are willing to volunteer. In order to keep this neighborhood on the right track, we need to see new, energetic faces. Volunteering can be a lot of fun. It's a great way to meet neighbors. And, it typically only requires a few hours of your time monthly.

Since the same people have been compiling and distributing the *MONTFORD* newsletter for three years now, new volunteers are being sought for these duties. We are also looking for volunteers to organize some upcoming events: Easter Egg Hunt, Street Dance, Halloween Haunted House, Culinary Tour, and Welcoming Committee.

If you are interested in volunteering in any of these areas, please call the Montford Resource Center at 255-4946. Your volunteer efforts will be well appreciated!



### FYI

- The Montford Community Club board met recently and decided to turn over its remaining balance of \$600 to the Montford Resource Center. The MCC officially disbanded a few years ago. THANK YOU!
- The 3rd Annual Culinary Tour of Homes, which took place in December, generated over \$1,000, which helps pay for neighborhood events, and the maintenance of the Resource Center. Thank you to all who participated!

### WCA Needs Volunteers!

The Western Carolina Alliance (WCA) for the mentally ill is anxious to get the word out to families who might benefit from this organization and also to interested citizens who would like to join WCA with its work. WCA sponsors support groups, provides education, as well as sponsors "Family To Family," which is a 12-week, one-night-a-week course for family members. WCA holds meetings at Mountain house (across the street from Fuddrucker's) at 225 E. Chestnut Street on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m.; and the second Tuesday night at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to anyone. Call 253-5439.

### Nature Curriculum Underway

Working in conjunction with the US Forest Service, Quality Forward, Mountain Area Gardens in Community (MAGIC), and neighborhood associations, Issac Dickson Elementary School has implemented a project that is intended to instill the values of preservation and conservation in its largely urban and poor student body. Several acres of meadow, mixed hardwood forest, and stream habitats that surround the school will serve as a neighborhood resource for environmental education. Extensive garden projects are already underway. For more information, call one of the listed organizations.

### What's Cooking?

#### "Best Buttermilk Pancakes"

2 cups all purpose flour  
 2 tsp. baking powder  
 1 tsp. soda  
 1/2 tsp. salt  
 3 TBS sugar  
 2 large eggs, lightly beaten  
 3 cups buttermilk  
 4 TBS unsalted butter, melted; plus 1/2 tsp. butter for griddle.

Heat griddle. Whisk together first 5 ingredients. Add eggs, buttermilk and butter. Batter should have small to medium lumps. Brush 1/2 tsp. butter onto griddle. Cook until golden brown on both sides.

Recipe compliments of Martha Stewart





## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- February 4 at 7 p.m. First Montford Jam Session. Bring your instrument and be prepared to have some fun. You don't have to be a professional musician! Meet at MRC. Call 255-4946 for more information.
- February 11, 7 p.m. at the Greek Center on Cumberland Ave. HISTORIC MONTFORD MEETING and Raffle Drawing. Call Jim Knight, 252-5572 if you would like to be included on the agenda.

## P.A.C.T. REPORT

Effective November 20, 1997, Lt. Jon Kirkpatrick was assigned as the P.A.C.T. Team commander. This position was created because of the expansion of the P.A.C.T. Team responsibilities. P.A.C.T. now handles all the crime prevention, community relations, and vice related activities for the Asheville Police Department. Lt. Kirkpatrick has been with the Asheville Police Department for 18 years. He started in 1979 as a patrol officer and worked Vice/Narcotics for four years as a detective, in Criminal Investigations for five years as a detective, and was a supervisor of a platoon of uniformed officers for five years prior to being assigned to P.A.C.T.

"I am looking forward to working with different communities in the attempt to solve problems together. The officers assigned to P.A.C.T. are hard working, veteran employees and I am pleased to be able to say that I work with them."

In addition, the contractors have finally started the renovation project that will drastically change the interior of the municipal building where the Police and Fire Department have been stationed for many years.

The project is scheduled to be completed in 2 1/2 years. During that time, all employees have to be relocated so that construction can be done. The P.A.C.T. office at the Montford Resource Center is now accommodating additional officers because of the lost space at the Police Department; they are Tim Splain and Joe Palmer. During construction, parking will be quite scarce at the Police Department, however arrangements are being made so that the public will have ready access to the records division so reports can be obtained without too much difficulty. All of the Criminal Investigations Division will be temporarily moved to the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office in Biltmore. The Chief and Professional services will also be relocated, but to a location that has not been determined as of yet. So, if you need to go to the Police Department, bear with us as construction is underway.

## THANKS TO ANONYMOUS 'GOOD NEIGHBOR'

A few months ago, MONTFORD published a letter from a discouraged resident who had a jade tree stolen from her front porch. The jade tree had meant a great deal to her teenage sons, who had the tree for many years. After the letter was published, a jade tree appeared on their porch a few weeks later with this letter:

*"Hello. I know this is not your missing jade tree, but please think of it as yours. I realize that it cannot replace the years of history associated with your family jade tree. Perhaps, though, you can start a new history with this tree. If, by chance, your jade tree has been returned, and I hope it has, please feel free to do as you wish with your new jade tree. I think it is wonderful that your family cares so much about its special plants. Please enjoy your holiday season."* — A Montford Neighbor

The family would like to respond to this anonymous good neighbor with these words:

*"At first I wished to know your identity. But, after some reflection I realized that your act was more potent with its mystery intact. My teenage sons will probably never forget your gift of kindness and generosity towards us with the arrival of the new jade tree on our doorstep. The tree resides next to our dining room table with your note tucked between its branches. Thank you for changing a very negative and hurtful event into something wonderful — and for being, by example, a positive influence on the character building of my sons."* — Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your neighbors at 83 Elizabeth St.


# THIS ISSUE SPONSORED BY:

Historic Resources Commission's Application Deadlines are: January 27th for the February 11th meeting and February 24th for the March 11th meeting. HRC meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m. at the Asheville City Hall, 5th Floor.

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