



# MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD  
Vol. 30 No. 03

MARCH '25

## Montford Welcomes March

*Celebrate The Spring Equinox Thursday, March 20  
and Saint Patrick's Day, March 17*



## Historic Montford's June 7 Garden Tour

### *Features Great Gardens for a Cause*

Less than a year after Hurricane Helene the Montford Neighborhood Association will celebrate Asheville's resilience by hosting its biennial garden stroll to raise funds for community improvements. The 2025 Historic Montford Garden Tour takes place Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

Tickets are \$30 each and are available online at [www.montford.org/garden/tour/](http://www.montford.org/garden/tour/) or in person at the Asheville Visitors Center gift shop, 36 Montford Ave., with cash or check. Tickets will be available through the website April 15 – June 6.

In years past the neighborhood association raised funds for projects such as playground equipment and youth programming, school and park landscaping, bus shelters, emergency food distribution, and solar panels at Isaac Dickson Elementary School. The 2025 garden tour proceeds will be earmarked for various neighborhood improvement projects. Results of a recent survey on the Montford listserv indicated that tree canopy replacement after Hurricane Helene is a high priority among residents. The 2025 garden tour will feature live music and plein air artists at each of the eight gardens to make the

tour a uniquely Montford affair. And new this year, an information fair at Montford Garden will be a great opportunity to connect with native plant specialists and learn more about local garden venues.

### **New This Year!**

### ***Garden Information Fair at the Historic Montford Garden Tour***

Are you wondering how to use native plants and trees now that Helene has changed your landscape?

Are you wanting to install a pollinator garden and/or a meadow in your newly sunny yard?

Are you needing advice on how to re-invigorate, prune or replace your plants and trees?

Are you interested in learning about and supporting the many gardens and wildlife havens in our area?

Are you curious about the architectural history of our beautiful neighborhood homes?

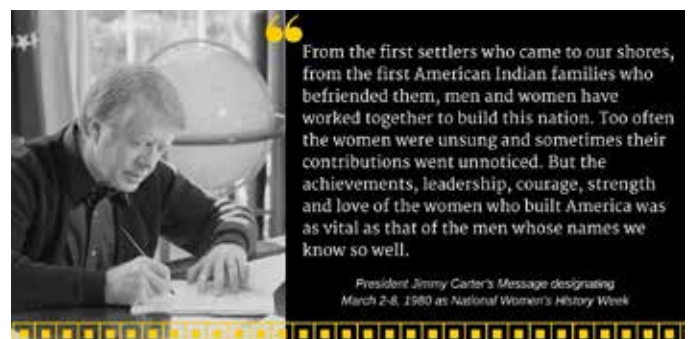
If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, then visit our first ever Information Fair, at Montford Garden, during the tour. The fair will be a great opportunity to connect with specialists and learn more about local garden and nature organizations from the following participants:

continued on next page...



## Women's History Month

Every year, March is designated Women's History Month by presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. Did You Know? Women's History Month started as Women's History Week . . .



- Master Gardeners: Plant Clinic to answer gardening questions and address concerns
- Bountiful Cities: Learn about sustainable agriculture, food security and visit Pearson Garden at 408 Pearson
- Carolina Native Nursery (Bee Native): Info on using native plants in your landscape
- Mountain Native Landscape Design: Info on Design with Native Plants
- Wild Bud Natives: Info on Meadow Design and planting
- Bee City USA - Asheville: Pollinator Garden and Butterfly Trail Info, Events and Education
- Asheville Botanical Gardens: Info, Events, Classes and Membership
- NC Arboretum: Info, Events, Classes and Membership
- Friends of WNC Nature Center: Info, Programs, Membership and new Pollinator Garden

In addition, visit the Montford Neighborhood Association table to purchase an "Architectural Guide to the Historic Montford Neighborhood". This brochure provides a history of our neighborhood, its landscape and architecture, and a walking tour of over 100 historic homes. Your purchase will support our post-Helene neighborhood improvement projects.

As you stroll the Montford Garden Information Fair, you can enjoy a yummy treat from The HOP Handcrafted Ice Cream.

Montford Garden is located at the intersection of Montford Ave. and E. Waneta St. Our gardening experts will be available from 10 am until 4 pm.

## 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



#### 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](http://www.ashevillenc.gov/parks) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

## 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)



## The Latest Dirt

### *News from the Asheville Botanical Garden*

**Cherie Morris**

#### **Welcome to the Latest Dirt**

**update!** The Asheville Botanical Garden is now fully open for the season! The trails are still showing evidence of Hurricane Helene, but the dangerous trees and hanging branches are almost gone. The garden will be closed for what we hope is the final cleanup on March 24 and April 1 (no foolin'!) The visitor's center and the Garden Path Gift Shop are open 10-4, and the shop is fully stocked with the usual interesting items. We hope, if you have an Easter basket to fill for some lucky youngster or adult, you'll stop in and check out our suggestions.

You will notice a lot of renovation activity happening. The glass "greenhouse" on the front of the building has been removed, and there are plans afoot to add a patio with tables and chairs for resting after your stroll through the garden. You'll also see the railings along the front steps are in the process of replacement with some decorative but sturdier ironwork, courtesy of Iron Maidens, a team of women metal workers! Our community space, the Butler Room, has been fully renovated complete with an up-to-date audio/visual system.



With the loss of 45 old shade trees, the garden itself will be adding new plantings, some designed for our unexpected additional sun and others for streambank reparation. If you have lost any trees at home, you may get some helpful ideas for your property. Of particular interest might be the layered, multi-species native evergreen shrub border planned along Broadway. It will provide a great "privacy fence" to distract from the traffic noise while offering a home for our bird population. Fences make for good neighbors, but they don't necessarily have to be wood or metal!

Speaking of birds, the Bird Garden, located between our two major bridges, will be completely redesigned. With so many nesting sites destroyed, we plan to optimize the bird-watching experience for our guests! Landscaping for wildlife habitat is a guiding principle for ABG. Bird nerds are invited to join Dr. Andrew Laughlin on March 30, 8:30 - 10 am for a Spring Bird Walk. Details and registration information are listed along with other classes on our website: <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.square.site/classes>.

Save the date for the Spring Plant Sale on Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3. By the next edition of this column, things will be blooming!! YAY!



## Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

For this month's Green Corner, we are interviewing another one of our wonderful local, sustainability-minded businesses who could use your support!

Our second feature is Rhea with [Second Gear](#), now located at 52 Westgate Parkway, Asheville, NC 28806.

### Hours as of 2/20/25 are:

- Monday - Thursday 10am - 6pm
- Friday - Sunday 10am - 7pm

### Q: What is the origin story of Second Gear?

A: In 2004, before Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace, our founder, Russ Towers, was exploring cycling as a new hobby. He quickly realized there wasn't an affordable way to buy used gear. Facing high costs for new equipment, Russ believed outdoor adventures should be accessible. So, he started Second Gear to help his community. Now, 20 years later, we're still here, helping folks find affordable gear for their outdoor adventures!

### Q: What kinds of products do you carry?

A: We offer a wide selection of new and gently used gear and apparel, with constantly changing inventory! Featuring quality brands like Patagonia, Prana, Arc'teryx, Kelty, and more... Hiking, biking, camping, climbing, paddling – we've got the gear you need at an affordable price! Also, all consignment items go on deeper discounts the first of every month, with even more savings when combined with Sale discounts, up to 70% off!

### Q: Can you share with us more about your Consignment program?

A: Consignment is a mutually beneficial partnership. You bring your gently used gear, we'll inspect it to ensure they meet our quality standards, and then our team establishes a fair selling price and neatly displays them within our store. Once your item has sold, we split the profits and pay

you out by direct bank deposit or give you back a larger portion in store credit. This makes it easy to trade up in gear, or try out something new. In 20 years we have made our 16,000 consignors over 6 million dollars and saved thousands of pounds of gear from ending up in landfills!

### Q: How did the hurricane impact your business?

A: After Hurricane Helene destroyed our store in the River Arts District, Second Gear's community came together to help us rebuild. Thanks to incredible support and teamwork, we've reopened back in West Asheville, ready to continue offering affordable outdoor gear and supporting our local adventure seekers. Our community's love overwhelms us each and every day.

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

A: You'll stay up to date about our sales and new arrivals by following us on instagram at @secondgearwnc - or learn more about us and sign up for our newsletter at [www.secondgearwnc.com](http://www.secondgearwnc.com)

Let me know what other local businesses you would like to see interviewed at [montfordgreencorner@gmail.com](mailto:montfordgreencorner@gmail.com).



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From the Archives March 1996 — See the complete Newsletter at:  
[https://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/mont\\_mar\\_96.pdf](https://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/mont_mar_96.pdf)

# MONTFORD

VOL. 1 No. 6

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MARCH 1996

## UPCOMING

- March 12. Beijing: A Call to Action. Carolyn Wallace will share with Montford residents her experiences at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held last September. She will show slides and lead a discussion. Potluck supper begins at 6 p.m. at 118 Cumberland Ave.
- April 6. Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your kids to the Montford Park at 11 a.m.
- April 10. Historic Montford Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Greek Center on Cumberland Ave. Jim Barrett, director of Pisgah Legal Services, will talk about the services offered to Montford neighbors.
- April 18-28. Asheville Heritage Celebration of Place. (See related story in this newsletter to find out how Montford is involved.)
- April 20. Earth Day Clean Sweep and Cookout. Pick up trash bags at the MRC. Clean up is all day. Get with neighbors and friends and "adopt" an area to make a clean sweep. We need everyone to participate so that we can rid Montford's sidewalks and vacant lots of unsightly trash. Cookout is at the Montford Park at 4 p.m.
- May 5. Community Flea Market from 8 a.m.-Noon at the Cumberland Ave. Baptist Church parking lot. Donate clothes, appliances, sporting goods, nick-nacks, furnishings — whatever — to help raise money for the neighborhood Citizens on Patrol efforts and the Montford Legal Fun.

## ABCRC: BUILDING GOOD COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**T**he main purpose of the Asheville/Buncombe Community Relations Council (ABCRC) is to handle discrimination problems relating to housing and employment. However, as Director Bob Smith will tell you, ABCRC is much more than that.

"We're about people working it out and communicating, and about feeling good about your community," he says. Smith has been the director for the past 12 years and oversees a staff of four. There are trained investigators at ABCRC who delve into a variety of issues. If someone is not being treated fairly by a landlord or was fired for an unknown reason, ABCRC will check into it.

ABCRC is funded by the City and the County. Overseeing the Council is a board of about 20 people from the City, the County, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Some of ABCRC's most noteworthy programs directly involve communities:

- Annual Essay and Poster Contest, which is open to young people throughout the County. Children express their views concerning brotherhood in writing, or visually. The winning essay or poster becomes ABCRC's theme for the year.

- Woman of the Year, which recognizes an outstanding citizen of Buncombe County.

- Fair Housing Program, which draws national speakers to address issues of fair housing.

Smith lives in Montford on Tacoma St. and says that this neighborhood "is a fine example of what (ABCRC) would like

the whole community to be like." He adds:

"Montford is the most diverse neighborhood in the county. There are low-income families living next to moderately wealthy families. There are black, white, Hispanic, and Asian people getting along. You're always seeing people talking on porches and kids playing together. There are good human relations happening here, and Montford is a very special area to us."

Since ABCRC also offers trained mediators, Smith says he would like to see this service utilized when such issues arise as the one involving the Montford store and sales of alcohol. "We're here to help neighbors work it out."

ABCRC, located at 70 Woodfin, will make house calls to people who are disabled and will provide a Spanish translator if necessary. For assistance or additional information about ABCRC's community services, call 252-4713.

*"You're always seeing people talking on porches and kids playing together. There are good human relations happening here, and Montford is a very special area to us."*



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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

### **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





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## Montford Convenience Store

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### Hours:

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Sunday - 9am to 10pm

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## ASK CLAN O'LEARY

### Dear Clan O'Leary,

I'm a celebrity hiding out in Asheville this March. I'm thinking about checking out St. Patrick's Day locally. Got suggestions???, - "Greengrass"

### Dear Greengrass,

Be sure and wear your dark glasses and a green hoody—lots to do here in the "Land of the Sky".

**15 Mar**-Asheville St Patrick's Day Bar Crawl  
Sat, 1-8pm, Urban Orchard, 24 Buxton Ave

**16 Mar**-Irish Nonsense, wee silly St. Patrick's Day comedy, Sun, 6:30-8:00pm, Catawba Brewing Company South Slope, 32 Banks Ave

**17 Mar**-Asheville Official St. Patrick's Day Bar Crawl, Mon, 5-11pm, Urban Orchard, 24 Buxton Ave

**16 Mar**-The Official Lucky's St Patrick's Day Bar Crawl, Sun, 4pm, Catawba Brewing Company South Slope Asheville, 32 Banks Ave

**16 Mar**-St. Patrick's Day Drag Show—Tickets start at 25, Sun, 11am-12am, Ella Asheville, 49 Broadway St Ste 204

### More here:


<https://allevents.in/asheville/saint-patricks-day#>

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2025/03/05/st-patricks-day-2025-events-for-asheville-area/78390239007/>



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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/>





## Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

### Montford Action Agenda 02/12/25

**Members Present:** Vice-Chair Will Hornaday, Cecil Holt, Shannon Watkins, Amy Moxley, Celesta Gorman, Leslie Humphrey, Robert Mays

**Members absent:** Chair Sioux Oliva, Jenny Bowen, Sara Groce

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

### Item, Summary and Action

#### 255 Cumberland Avenue (PIN 9649046297)

- Installation of Tesla solar roof-mounted solar system.

**Action**—Continued to March

#### 103 Cumberland Circle (PIN 9649043984)

- Site work, including driveway and walkway resurfacing and installation of new fence in front and side yards of a corner lot.

**Action**—Continued

#### 175 Flint Street (PIN 9649230150) -

Installation of solar panels on west and south facing portions of roof.

**Action**—Approved

#### 200 Flint Street (PIN 9649137360) -

Installation of new fence in front and side yards of a corner lot.

**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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*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](mailto:krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com), 230-7439 for more information.