

MONTFORD

VOL. 1 No. 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

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

The 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.

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P.A.C.T

POLICE & COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Following is a rundown of some of the recent activities that have taken place in our community:

- Jan. 11th.: 27 Soco St. — Charged owner (Norman Wingate) with running a "liquor house," which is the sale of alcohol without the applicable A.B.C. permits.
- Jan. 10th: Finished and presented a proposal for "abatement of public nuisances." This was given to Chief Annarino and the city's legal department. The Chief gave additional copies to the City Manager. The P.A.C.T. Team is writing a pre-application for a state grant to fund a nuisance abatement team. This would cover properties used for prostitution, gambling, alcohol sales, drug possession and sale, and where numerous instances of breach of the peace occur.
- Currently writing a proposal for a landlord/tenant education and training program designed to cover nuisance situations, drug offenses in rental properties, screening of applicants, identifying warning (problem) signs, property inspections, eviction etc.
- Public hearing for the condemnation of 33 Starnes Ave. held Feb. 1. Continued until Feb. 22 so owner can have a contractor evaluate fire marshal's claims and assess cost involved in renovating property.
- Feb. 2: Served a search warrant at the new Ritz Cafe, 42 South Market St. (The Block). Made arrests for the possession with intent to sell marijuana, possession of crack cocaine, possession of gambling paraphernalia; and, seized approximately \$1,300 in gambling money and \$450 in drug money.
- Sale of 177 Flint St. is still on schedule. New Owner (Gene Dugger) will take control of the property at the end of Feb.

NEWS & VIEWS

VIEW: On January 23rd, Bill Coolidge and Karen Day — who reside at 118 Cumberland Ave. — hosted their first "Sweets and Stories" activity, which enabled neighbors to get to know one another and learn more about the past, present, and future of the Montford community.

Participants talked about why they were drawn to the Asheville area and chose to reside in Montford, as well as shared what they knew about the history of the neighborhood's people and houses.

Someone who attended "Sweets and Stories" commented on how Montford seems to have a soul, and that people from all walks of life connect with the energy of

the neighborhood in different ways. Usually they fall in love with a particular house or sense the community and family spirit that is present here.

Because it was such a great success, Bill and Karen say they plan to host future "Sweets and Stories." Look for these dates to be included in the "Upcoming" section of this newsletter.

NEWS: Several Montford residents were recognized at the Asheville Police Department's Annual Awards Banquet. Allen Roderick and Gerald Green were honored with Exemplary Citizen Awards, and Fairfax Arnold received the Community Service Award.

WHAT'S COOKING?

"Cranberry Orange Scones"

2/3 cup buttermilk	1 large egg
3 cups all-purpose flour	4 tsps. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda	1/2 tsp. salt
8 TBS (1 stick) cold butter	1 cup fresh, frozen, or dried cranberries
1/2 cup granulated sugar	1 tsp. freshly grated orange peel
1 TBS butter, melted	

Heat oven to 375°. Measure buttermilk into small bowl; beat in egg with a fork. Put flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt into a bowl and stir to mix well. Add the eight TBS. butter and cut in with a pastry blender until the mixture looks like fine granules. (I use a food processor for this; much faster and easier!).

Add cranberries, sugar, and orange peel; toss lightly to distribute evenly. Add buttermilk mixture. Stir with a fork until a soft dough forms.

Turn out dough onto a lightly floured board and give five or six kneads, just until well mixed. Form dough into a flat ball (approximately 8" or 9" around) and cut into 10 wedges, placing them onto an ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 20-25 minutes, or until lightly browned. Brush with melted butter and place on a wire rack to cool.

This recipe contributed by The Wright Inn, 235 Pearson Dr.

MONTFORD GETS INVOLVED WITH HERITAGE WEEK

Started as an annual event around 18 years ago, Asheville Heritage Celebration of Place is a celebration of the architectural, scenic, and cultural heritage of the city. The 10 days of festivities, begins April 18 and ends April 28.

And, since Montford is the city's most historic neighborhood, it is only appropriate that some of the events take place here. Following is a list of activities that include Montford:

- Friday, April 19: Architectural Highlights of Asheville Tour, 1-4 p.m. A guided bus tour will include drives through many of Asheville's historic neighborhoods. Cost is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members. Call 253-1392 to reserve your spot.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CITY COUNCILMAN ED HAY

Edward Hay has been actively involved in community service for many years, but he says his role as a new City Council member really gets him in the "middle of things." A partner in the law firm Whalen-Hay-Pitts-Hugenschmidt-Master-Devereux, he says he has really been enjoying himself so far and is "excited and optimistic" about the prospect of positive change in the community as a result of the new City Council.

Having just attended what was supposed to be a weekend retreat, but was cut short by the snow and ice storm, Hay says there was a lot of discussion about Asheville's neighborhoods. "A lot of what we like about Asheville is expressed by our neighborhoods," he says, "so we need to do what we need to do to take care of them."

Hay adds that Montford has become a sort of model for other neighborhoods in the

- Wednesday, April 24: Griffin Awards Luncheon, 12-2 p.m. Annual awards typically include homes in Montford. \$15 per person. Call 254-2343 for reservations.

- Saturday, April 27: Victorian Tea and Carriage Rides in Montford, 2-5 p.m. Afternoon tea at the Inn on Montford followed by a carriage ride to the Rumbough House. Guided tours of the house. \$15 per person. Call 254-9569 for reservations before April 25.

- Sunday, April 28: Garden Tour of Asheville, 12:30-5:30 p.m. \$25 per person. Call 254-1776 for reservations.

To get a complete schedule of events, call Sybil Bowers at 253-1392 or the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County at 254-2343.

city. The City Council is impressed with how Montford has distinctly defined itself with the establishment of such things as the Resource Center and the MONTFORD newsletter. "We look at Montford as a fine example of the residents coming together, organizing, and laying a foundation for a worthwhile community. It's nice to see this happening because Asheville would be a poorer place if Montford were lost."

Hay is no stranger to Montford. He once served as director of Pisgah Legal Services, and he is very much in favor of the preservation of historic properties. His law firm, in fact, is housed in a renovated house at 137 Biltmore Ave. that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Hay, who currently specializes in bankruptcy law, was also instrumental in the formation of HelpMate, a support service for battered women, and Building Bridges, an education program

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

This is a new section that is intended to provide interested residents with information concerning homes that are not currently occupied and could be available to be purchased and restored. If you have information concerning a vacant home on your block, please call the MRC at 255-4946.

- 3 Cumberland Pl. Dutch Colonial with a gambrel roof line. Architecture reportedly copied from the house on 50 Cumberland Ave. that was supposedly designed by Richard Sharp Smith. Current owners are Sadie and Kathryn Houston at 107 Wedgewood Place in Parkersburg, W.V. Tax value is \$23,300.

- 179 Flint St. Owned by heir Lucille S. Rogers. Write to c/o Mildred Madrey at 227 E. New England Ave., Worthington, O.H. 43085.

- 175 Flint St. Owned by Ruby Hudson Cox at P.O. Box 61, Mars Hill, N.C.

aimed at overcoming racism.

Some of Hay's goals as a City Council member are to see that a city-wide curbside recycling program is in place sometime this year; enhance neighborhood parks; and, work to bridge the education gap between whites and minorities that is occurring within the Asheville school system.

"Overall, we're interested in taking a new look at what's happening in Asheville," says Hay. "We're looking forward to working with the community and empowering people to get involved."

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THIS NEWSLETTER SPONSORED BY:

• The HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION'S Application Deadlines are: February 27th for the March 13th meeting, March 26th for the April 10th meeting, and April 23rd for the May 8th meeting. HRC meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m. at Asheville City Hall, 5th Floor.

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