



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 30 No. 09

SEPTEMBER '25

Welcome September

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TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Calendar

Facility Closure:

November 11, 2025

Fun Day Out (Youth)

October 6 and 7 from 8:30AM-6:00PM \$5 (Pre-Registration Required)

Creepy Glow Climbing

October 17 from 6:00PM-7:30PM \$5 (Pre-Registration Required)

Spooky Spikes Volleyball Night

October 25 from 5:00PM-9:00PM Free

Senior Fall Craft Class

September 15 and 22 from 1:00PM-2:00PM \$5

STEM for Toddlers

October 7, 14, and 21 from 2:00PM-2:30PM \$5

Bad Art Bonanza

September 26 from 6:30PM-7:30PM \$5

Afterschool

Monday-Friday from 3:00PM-6:00PM



Is it Cake? Adult Edition

October 29 from 5:30PM-7:30PM \$5 (Pre-Registration Encouraged)

Pick-Up Basketball

Sundays from 3:00PM-6:00PM (Tuesdays from 6:30PM-8:30PM Return November 4)

Pick-Up Volleyball

Fridays from 10:00AM-2:00PM (Thursdays from 6:30PM-8:30PM Return November 13)

Aerobics w/ Karen Griffin

Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00PM-7:00PM

Adult Archery (Ballfield)

September 11, 18, and 25 from 10:30AM-12:00PM \$15 (Pre-Registration Required)

Climbing Wall Belay Clinic

October 9 from 5:30PM-7:00PM \$5 (Pre-Registration Required)

Little Monkeys (Toddler Climbing w/ Guardian)

Thursdays, October 23-November 20 from 10:00AM-11:00AM \$25 (Pre-Registration Required)

Fly Fishing 101: Introduction to Fly Fishing

October 1 from 10:00AM-12:30PM \$5 (Pre-Registration Required)

Fly Casting for Beginners

October 7 from 10:00AM-12:00PM \$5 (Pre-Registration Required)

Fly Fishing Skills: Knot and Rigging

October 25 from 10:00AM-12:00PM \$5 (Pre-Registration Required)

Bocce League

Mondays, September 8-October 27 from 2:00PM-4:00PM \$10 (Register at www.avlrec.com)

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](#)



She Kills Monsters

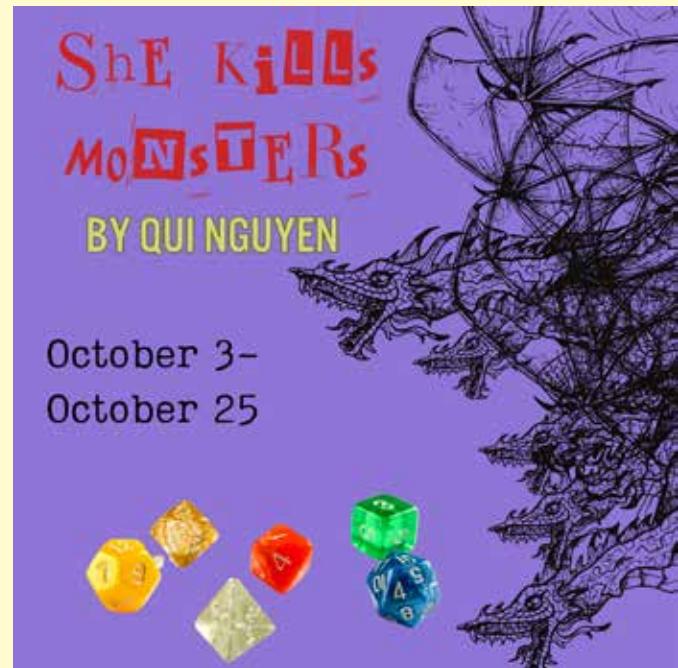
Directed by Deanna Braine Smith,

October 3- October 25

Friday, Saturday and Sunday @ 7:30pm

Montford Park Players, an Asheville theatrical tradition, is proud to announce their upcoming production of ***She Kills Monsters*** by *Qui Nguyen*. All performances will be held at the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre at 92 Gay Street in the heart of Asheville's historic Montford District, from October 3- October 25th on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7:30pm. Tickets are available at montfordparkplayers.org and are, as always, FREE.

She Kills Monsters is a heartfelt, humorous, and fight-heavy story about Agnes, who discovers her late sister Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons campaign.



As she navigates Tilly's fantasy world, Agnes uncovers hidden truths about her sister's life, grief, and their bond, blending fantasy adventure with real-world emotions.

Resource Directory

Historic Walking Tours

Stroll the neighborhood or downtown. Walking tours of historic Montford, Riverside Cemetery, Biltmore Village and downtown Asheville.

• 777-1014.

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

Clean Energy Tax Credits Expire in 2025

While we are saddened by the decision to end the clean energy tax credits available to residential homes in 2025 by the “Big Beautiful Bill”, we would like to take the time to thank everyone who fought to keep the incentives making clean energy more accessible and affordable in place.

In addition to the tax credits currently available, Electrify Asheville-Buncombe has partnered with the [North Carolina Clean Energy Fund](#) and [Self Help Credit Union](#) to provide a low interest loan for those looking to finance electrification projects. You can learn more on our [financing page](#). Luckily there is still time to take advantage of these credits before they expire. See the timeline for clean energy tax credits.



Tax Credit	Expiration date
Heat Pump Water Heater	December 31st, 2025
Heat Pump Heating and Cooling	December 31st, 2025
Used Electric Vehicle	September 30th, 2025
New Electric Vehicle	September 30th, 2025
Rooftop Solar Installation	December 31st, 2025
Battery Storage Installation	December 31st, 2025
Energy Audit	December 31st, 2025
Panel Upgrade	December 31st, 2025
Weatherization	December 31st, 2025



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The Latest Dirt

By Cherie Morris

Autumn is in the air, and that means planting time! The Asheville Botanical Garden will host their fall plant sale on Saturday, September 13, 9-3. We have nine vendors participating, and we have ordered nice, sunny weather. Remember that members receive a discount on both plants grown by ABG and in our gift shop. Fall is an excellent time for getting in your new trees, shrubs and perennials so they can spend the dormant season developing a strong root system. If our rain or snowfall is light, don't forget to water. Planning to use fertilizer when planting? Make it a granular, slow-release, low nitrogen, high-phosphorus product.. You want to promote root growth, but not the tender new greenery that might be damaged by the cold. When you visit the plant sale, please stop by the Garden Path Gift Shop to check out our new products and get a jump on holiday shopping. Our volunteer buyers have been busy! Bargain hunters, be sure to peruse the used book section for some great deals. Who doesn't love a bargain? Need to make space on your shelves? Our book buyer and bibliophile Jan will happily accept donations of your cast-offs! While the leaves aren't turning colors just yet, there's still plenty to enjoy along the trails. Fall blooms and colorful vegetation are everywhere, and the squirrels and birds are very active with winter preparations. If you stop at the kiosk just outside the visitor center, there are photos of what's



flowering and where to find them. Come across something you can't identify but would love to grow it in your own yard? Take a picture, and our volunteers will help figure you out what it is, and what growing conditions it needs. Our resident bears are in foraging mode now too. Remember to keep your distance and please, please don't feed them. A fed bear is a dead bear. It's all about living in harmony with our fellow critters. We have spotted many monarch butterflies amongst the milkweed this summer and even some of their bright yellow and black caterpillars. A sharp eyed guest may even see one of their shiny green and gold tinged chrysalises hanging from a leaf or branch with a developing adult inside, ready to break out and fly off! No wooly bears, or wooly worms if you prefer, have yet to make an appearance. Keep looking because we all need to know our winter weather forecast. Happy Trails!



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Michael Logan

828.707.8877

michael@ashevillerestoration.com

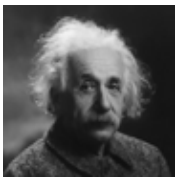
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**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LIBRARIES**

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.







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Forever Montford



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.

For the first six months we had **24 new neighbors** move into Montford. 11-were from out of state, 5-were from the AVL area or in state, 8-were left an introductory letter, but did not ask for 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

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.

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

To date, we have 200+ neighbors who have signed up, and we invite you to join as well.

TREES FOR MONTFORD: PLANTING FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Lynn Raker

Thanks to a successful 2025 garden tour, the MNA has been able to purchase trees to help replenish the canopy compromised by Hurricane Helene. In fact, replacing lost tree canopy with native trees was the top choice in a survey of members on how best to use garden tour proceeds. Now we're looking for good homes for a limited number of beautiful native trees: white oak, black gum, and red maple. These are large-growing canopy trees that will provide shade, wildlife habitat, and beauty for decades to come.

The MNA is delighted to provide both the trees and professional installation at no cost to property owners who have the space and commitment to nurture these trees as they grow.

Did you lose a beloved shade tree in the storm? Notice your home was harder to keep cool without the sheltering canopy? Miss the songs of birds that once visited your yard—or the way they helped keep mosquitoes in check? Or do you simply long for the majesty and beauty of a mature shade tree? Whatever your reason, this is your opportunity to restore shade, cooling, fresh air, and natural beauty to your property.

If the trauma of Hurricane Helene has made you hesitant to plant again, take heart: a tree planted properly and in the right location can provide decades of beauty, comfort, and value. Choose a site with plenty of space—set back from your home, away from future driveways or underground utilities, and positioned to welcome afternoon shade. With thoughtful placement, your tree will grow safely and become a source of lasting enjoyment for generations to come.

TREE SELECTION

We have a limited number of these species available on a first come, first serve basis:

- **White Oak** (*Quercus alba*) - size at planting: 30 gal, 2-1/2" caliper, 13 feet tall
- **Black Gum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*) - size at planting: 30 gal, 2-1/2" caliper, 11 feet tall
- **October Glory Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum* 'October Glory') 20 gal, 8-10 feet tall

Please read more about each species to determine if there is a tree for you. Check the mature size, habit, and unique features of each species before deciding.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*): <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/quercus-alba/>



The long-lived white oak is one of the most important trees for wildlife in our region. It provides food and habitat for countless species—supporting butterflies, moths, small mammals, and a wide variety of songbirds. Montford is special among urban neighborhoods for its rich diversity of wildlife,

but the loss of so many white oaks during Hurricane Helene left a noticeable gap in our local ecology.

White oak is a large, stately tree,

but if you have space, please consider planting a white oak as a gift not just to yourself, but to generations of people, birds, and wildlife.

Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*): <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/nyssa-sylvatica/>

The black gum is another outstanding choice for supporting wildlife in the landscape. Remarkably resilient, it tolerates drought, heat, both dry and wet soils, and even stands up well to wind and ice. With its graceful form, it makes an excellent shade tree or specimen tree.

In autumn, its foliage turns brilliant shades of red, orange, and purple, bringing spectacular seasonal color to your garden.



October Glory Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'October Glory') <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/acer-rubrum/>

The red maple is a versatile and popular choice. The cultivar 'October Glory' is prized for its attractive, uniform shape and brilliant fall color. Red maples are fast-growing and provide quick shade and seasonal beauty.

One thing to keep in mind: maples develop surface roots that can outcompete most other plants beneath their canopy, so be thoughtful in selecting a location that allows the tree to flourish without crowding nearby plantings.



HOW TO APPLY

If you would like a tree for your property, please send an email by September 30 to:

Lynn.raker@gmail.com

Subject line: Trees for Montford

In the email, please indicate your choices for first, second, and third, if you would accept a second or third choice.

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

Also, please let us know why you want this tree. Is it to replace a lost tree? Is it just to shade your house? Is it to attract more wildlife? Is it just to add a tree to your property? (This information is for our records only and will not be used as criteria for awarding trees.)

If your request is approved, someone will contact you to visit the location and schedule a planting date. Because the trees have large root balls, we will arrange for underground utilities to be marked before any digging begins. Each recipient will receive written instructions for proper tree care. Please note that the trees are not warranted—it will be your responsibility to provide the ongoing care they need to thrive.

mnemonic *Mother Goose*

*Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November. All
the rest have thirty-one, Excepting
February alone, And that has
twenty-eight days clear And
twenty-nine in each leap year.*



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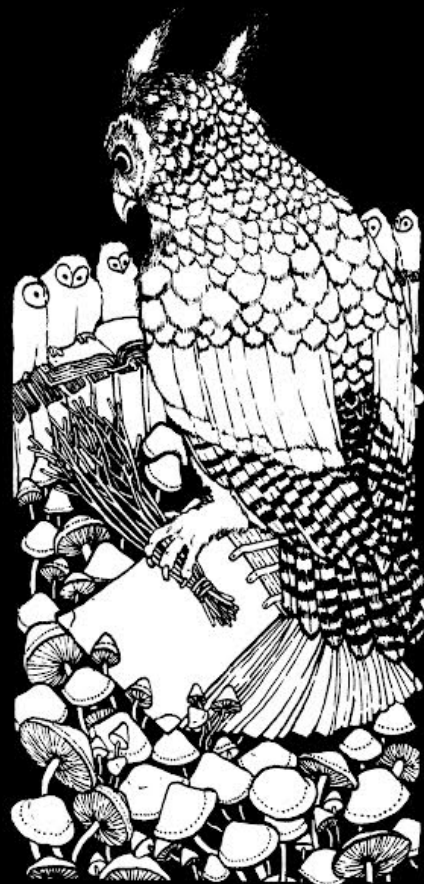
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SIZE	RATE/ISSUE
Business Card	\$35
1/4 Page	\$60
1/2 Page	\$100
Full Page	\$200

Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

For this month's Green Corner, we are interviewing another local, sustainability-linked businesses that could use your support!

Our seventh feature is Sow True Seed, located at 243 Haywood St, Asheville, NC 28801.

Hours as of September 11: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm

Q: What is Sow True Seed and how did it get started?

A: Sow True Seed is Asheville's local, 100% employee-owned seed company. We specialize in open-pollinated, heirloom, and organic seed varieties. We opened in 2009 under the leadership of Carol Koury, who has since retired, leaving the company to long-term and trusted employees.

Q: What range of products do you offer?

A: Our downtown Asheville Garden Shop carries everything you need for your garden, from seeds, supplies, pest control, tools, and even books and gifts! We try our best to source our seeds and products as locally as possible.

Q: You recently introduced a brand refresh, tell us a little bit about that process.

A: Indeed we did! In August, we got to introduce our new logo, website, and seed packets to our amazing customers, and we couldn't be more delighted! Our new website and seed packets keep educational information front and center from planning your garden to harvesting your crops, making gardening more accessible than ever. Read more about that process here.

SOW 
TRUE SEED
 ASHEVILLE, N.C.

Q: Any favorite customer stories?

A: Our Garden Shop is right around the corner from the beautiful Montford community, so we get a lot of folks walking



over! Last summer, we had a Montford resident come by to give us paw paws from the tree in their garden. They had an over-abundance and left us with probably 30 paw paws to give to our staff! Once we had our fill, we started handing them out to everyone who came into the store. It was such a fun day!

Q: What advice do you have for new gardeners out there?

A: As you're getting started, try to remember that it's not about the harvest, but about the process! Pay attention to how things grow in your garden throughout the season. Take note of where certain crops perform well, or what flowers attract which beneficial insects. Be open to a process of trial and error. The more you're willing to experiment as a gardener, the better grower you'll be.

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

A: We regularly post gardening tips and tricks to our Instagram account, @sowtrueseeds, and have a great newsletter that will keep you in-the-know for your garden year round! When you sign up, you can get 15% off your first order.

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

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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, 230-7439 for more information.