



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 30 No. 10 OCTOBER '25

Welcome October



Tempe Avery
Center..... 2
Montford Park
Players 3
Flyers Left
Behind 3
The Latest Dirt 4
HRC 5
Neighborhood
Directory 6
Save Me the
Waltz..... 6

Welcome
Packet 7
Green Corner 9
Tour of Homes ... 10
Trees for
Montford..... 12
Montford Lights.. 12
Resource
Directory 13
Bear Wise 14

TEMPLE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Calendar

Facility Closure:

November 11, 2025

Spooky Spikes Volleyball Night

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

STEM for Toddlers

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

Little Monkeys (Toddler Climbing w/ Guardian)

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

Temple Avery Montford Recreation Center | 34 Pearson Dr, Asheville, NC 28801

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



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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.

Dear Neighbors,

We all appreciate the vibrant community spirit shown through flyers for garage sales, estate sales, moving announcements, and missing pets. These notices help us stay connected and informed.

However, once the event has passed, many flyers are left behind and eventually fall into the street or into storm drains, creating clutter and contributing to pollution in our water system.

Kindly consider removing your flyers promptly after your event concludes.

This small act helps keep our neighborhood clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



The Latest Dirt

By Cherie Morris

Despite the recent nip in the air, there are still blooms and butterflies in the Botanic Garden. The fall plants and flowers are still attracting Monarchs, and the squirrels are all harvesting acorns and the occasional nut the same size as their heads! We will have to wait a few more weeks for some serious fall leaf color, but the Sumac is giving us a tease with muted shades of red.

The garden staff and volunteers are hard at work, planting perennials and shrubs and prepping for the colder months. Fall is the best time for getting trees and bushes into the ground. The plant itself is dormant or heading into winter dormancy, but that gives it time to direct its energy toward root development before the ground freezes and before spring leaf development requires the plant to refocus on buds and blooms. Don't forget, if you love those early season bulb flowers, now is the time to dig while it's still sunny and reasonably warm and before our wonderful clay soil has turned to underground concrete!

As to the fauna, besides the manic squirrel activity, the Montford bear population has entered into hyperphagia, the time to bulk up on berries and nuts. There have been city and county reports of kind-hearted residents trying to help out by feeding our urban bear population. Please don't! First of all, remember the slogan, "a fed bear is a dead bear." I enjoy seeing and sharing my



neighborhood with critters, but when bears associate food with humans, they become potentially dangerous, and they are very smart with good memories. Watching them is fun and educational, but having them remember where the nearest "restaurant" is located, can result in bears breaking into cars and homes and getting hit in traffic. For more tips on coexisting with our furry ursine neighbors, visit www.bearwise.org.

Finally, we all know time moves faster in the fall, and if you're not thinking about the impending holidays, you will be left in the "latest dirt!" Stop in at the Garden Path Gift Shop and get started on holiday shopping. We are trying to keep the shop stocked with new items, but we have already sold out twice on boxed Christmas cards! Some early birds are already out there, and we agree with Audubon that early birds get more than just worms! Before shopping, take a turn around the garden and enjoy autumn while the sun is still warm. Word of the month: those giant messy squirrel nests of twigs and leaves are actually called 'dreys!'



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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 10/08/25

Present: Chair Will Hornaday, Vice-Chair Sioux Oliva, Cecil Holt, Shannon Watkins, Amy Gharst, Robert Mays, Leslie Humphrey, Bill Roberts, Celesta Gorman, Jenny Bowen

Staff present: Alex Cole, Drew Wilson, Matt Holloway, Jannice Ashley

Item, Summary and Action

34 Cumberland Circle (PIN: 9649047405) - Replacement of five (5) non-original windows on front elevation with new all-wood TDL multi-lite awning windows; replacement of two (2) original wood multi-lite casement windows on front elevation with new all-wood TDL multi-lite casement windows. Removal of one (1) original window on north elevation, relocation/restoration of two (2) windows on north elevation. Removal of one (1) non-original opening on south elevation and restoration of wood siding, trim and two (2) original wood windows.

Modifications to rear elevation, including removal of existing non-original stairway and door, and construction of a second story addition above existing one-story ell with wood lap siding, shake siding, trim, wood TDL windows and asphalt shingle roof matching existing; restoration of four (4) original windows, removal of one original wood double-hung window, and installation of one new wood TDL window on upper story dormer; restoration of wood siding and trim. All work will be in accordance with attached and approved drawings and plans.

Action—Approved with conditions

HRC Application Portal

The city is now accepting HRC applications digitally via the Development Portal at this address:

<https://develop.ashevillenc.gov/>

Please refer to the website (www.ashevillenc.gov) for the full approved minutes after the following month's meeting.



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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.

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.



SAVE ME THE WALTZ

ECHOES OF ZELDA FITZGERALD'S QUANTUM BALLADRY

WITH STORYTELLER MELODY
AND THE CAFE STRING QUARTET
3 PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2
HENDERSONVILLE THEATER
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\$35./ADULTS \$25./STUDENTS

HENDERSONVILLETHEATRE.ORG



Melissa Henry, professionally known as 'Melody' is a writer, storyteller, and actor who performs dramatic readings and poetry. As an educator, she has presented at numerous educational institutions throughout Asheville, including UNCA & Lenoir Rhyne. She translates dreams and intuition into art. Her voice serves as a bridge to the past, recreating for listeners a tapestry woven together over time. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and currently resides in Swannanoa with her children.

The Cafe String Quartet has performed for public and private events across WNC since 2006. Multi-year winners of the Wedding Wire Couple's Choice awards, they have performed and recorded for the Hendersonville Symphony's Up Close and Personal, Bach to Bluegrass, the Henderson County Arts Council, the Smoky Mountain Performing Arts Center, and more.

Monique Pinelli, violin

Monique earned music degrees from the U of Iowa and UNC-Greensboro Schools of Music. She has played with the Salt Lake, Greensboro, Asheville Hendersonville Symphonies and Brevard Phil. Her playing credits include: Chris LeDoux, Utah's Sundance Institute, Christmas at Biltmore, AVL's Shindig on the Green, Jherik Bischoff, Celtic Woman, Cirque de Soleil, The Temptations and has toured in China and Inner Mongolia.

Paula Akbar, violin

Paula Akbar, a native of Dee Flat, Oregon, attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and received her Master of Violin Performance degree from the Yale Graduate School of Music. Before her tenure with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC (1991-2015), she was a first violinist in the Oregon, New Haven, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra.

Claudia Malchow, viola

Claudia is an active performer, teacher, and collaborator in Asheville, NC. She performs frequently with several Asheville-area orchestras, and enjoys learning about and implementing Suzuki methods within her violin/viola studio. Claudia earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Peabody Conservatory, and earned both her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Georgia.

Eric Scheider, cello

Eric Scheider is the director of the Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra and has directed the Converse Symphony Orchestra, the Echo Early Music Festival, and the Hendersonville Symphony, where he was a national finalist for the American Prize in orchestral programming. As a cellist, he has performed across the western Carolinas and eastern TN and on tour to Italy and China.



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

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Cheers to a joyful Holiday Season!

When I think about this time last year I am struck by how much we have to be grateful for. This community came together in ways none of us could have imagined. From our Montford home to your's, warmest thanks for being our neighbors and friends, and for supporting the Montford Neighborhood Association!

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Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

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

Our eighth feature is **Mountain Native Landscape Design's** Drew Lathin.



Q: What is Mountain Native Landscape Design and how did it get started?

A: Mountain Native Landscape Design is a sustainably focused landscaping company that utilizes native plants to promote biodiversity and beautiful residential landscapes. I have been playing around with native plants in built landscapes for over 20 years as a native plant nursery manager, designer, and installer. Utilizing ecological principles to guide my work, I am a fierce advocate for the need to re-wild our urban and suburban landscapes using native plants in thoughtful and legible designs to bring biological diversity and beauty to our everyday lives. More than 400 of my clients have rain gardens, prairie gardens, pollinator gardens, natural shorelines, and alternative lawns.

Q: What range of services do you offer?

A: I provide consultation, design, and installation services using native plants in residential landscapes. Maybe you just built a house and need a design and installation. Maybe you have an existing yard with invasive species and want to eliminate and replace them with native plants. Maybe you just want to start small and add a native perennial garden in a sunny or shady spot. I

can provide turnkey solutions or guide you through the process as your needs, strength, and budget allow.

Q: What are the biggest misconceptions you hear about native landscape design?

A: The biggest misconception is that native gardens look messy. This doesn't have to be although the aesthetics are different. Instead of lots of mulch in between widely spaced plants, native gardens pack plants in tightly so they stay upright and short. When planted in masses and drifts, native gardens are legible and orderly.

Q: Any fall gardening advice?

A: Do as little as possible because all the wildlife you encouraged during the warm season needs a place to live during winter. For example, fireflies overwinter in leaf litter as do many other insects that are bird food the following year. 96% of terrestrial birds feed their young insects, not seeds, which is why supporting insect populations is so important. If you rake, you are destroying wildlife. Also, don't cut down your perennials and grasses. Insects will overwinter in the stems of plants and be food for birds the following spring.

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

A: You can find me at my website, MountainNativeLandscapeDesign.com, Facebook at Facebook.com/mnld828, and Instagram at Instagram.com/drewlathin.

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

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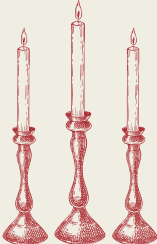
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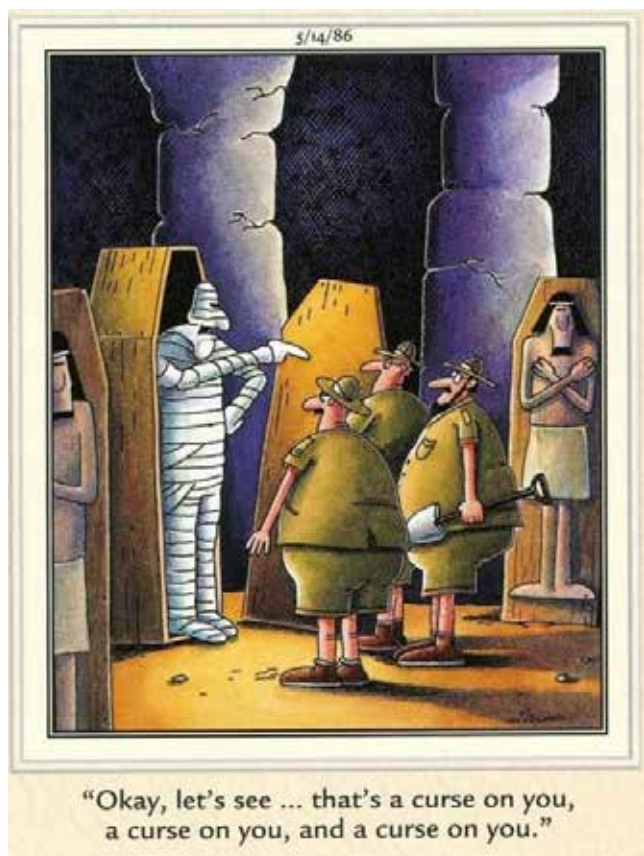
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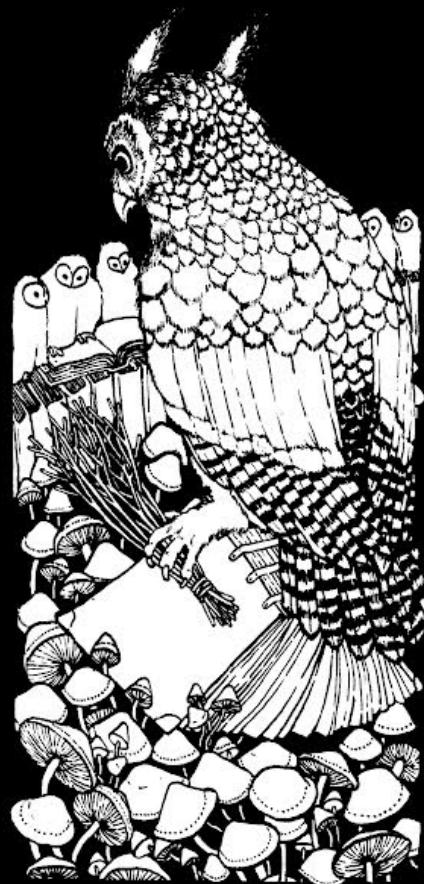


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TREES FOR MONTFORD: PLANTING FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

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.

Through an article in the September MNA newsletter and a posting on the montford listserve, we were able to find good homes on private property for at least 8 trees and in public green spaces for an 7 additional trees. With Garden Tour proceeds, the MNA will provide both the trees and professional installation at no cost to property owners with the space and commitment to nurture them as they grow.

The trees are white oak, black gum, and red maple. Each is a large-growing canopy tree that will provide shade, wildlife habitat, and beauty for decades to come.

- **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

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 and will be a gift to generations of people, birds, and wildlife.



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

The black gum is also outstanding 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 the landscape.



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.



Thank you for supporting projects like the tree canopy replacement by attending the biennial Garden Tour or the Holiday Home Tour. The proceeds from these events help keep Montford a beautiful and vibrant neighborhood!

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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How BearWise® Are You?

Bears are curious and will follow their powerful noses to just about anything with an odor (it doesn't have to be a good odor). Bears may also investigate anything they've learned can yield a food reward: garbage, birdseed, pet food, chickens, beehives...you get the idea.

Use our **Be BearWise Checklist** to learn what attracts bears and how you can keep bears away from your home and property.

BBQ Grills, Smokers

- ☐ Grill and/or smoker is stored inside when not in use. *If not:*
 - ☐ Drip pans and grates are cleaned after every use.
 - ☐ Grill/smoker is kept covered.
- ☐ Utensils are stored indoors.
- ☐ Food is not left unattended when cooking or eating outdoors.



Be BearWise:

Keep a look-out when you cook-out. Thoroughly clean grills and smokers.



Trash, Recycling

- ☐ All trash containers are cleaned often to reduce odors.
- ☐ Recycling is rinsed out and clean.
- ☐ Bear-resistant trash containers are always closed and latched.

If containers are not bear-resistant:

- ☐ Regular trash cans are stored inside a sturdy locked building or bear-resistant enclosure.
- ☐ Garbage is put out the morning of pick up (not the night before).



Be BearWise:

For certified bear-resistant containers and ways to modify your standard trash cans, visit BearWise.org.

Vehicles Parked Outside

- ☐ No food or anything with a fragrance is left in vehicles, car trunks or truck beds, including pet food, birdseed, food, beverages, scented air fresheners and trash.
- ☐ Vehicle windows are kept fully closed and doors locked.



Be BearWise:

Keep a small trash bag in your vehicle and empty daily. Use an odor-removing spray. Roll up and lock up.

Feeding Birds

- ☐ Birds/hummingbirds are not fed when bears are active in your area.
- ☐ Bird food is stored in bear-resistant containers or inside a sturdy, locked building.

If you feed birds when bears are active:

- ☐ Bird food and feeders are brought in nightly.
- ☐ Fallen birdseed and leftover food is picked up daily before dark.



Be BearWise:

Download our bulletin: *Attract Birds, Not Bears* for feeder-free options.

Feeding Pets, Strays

- ☐ Food is not put outside for stray animals or wildlife.
- ☐ Pets are fed indoors.

If you must feed pets outside:

- ☐ Pets are fed in single portions; bowls are removed and feeding area cleaned as soon as pets have eaten.
- ☐ Pet food is stored in a sturdy locked building or bear-resistant containers.



Be BearWise:

Download our bulletin: *Dogs + Bears = Problems* for more safety tips.

continued >



Fruit Trees, Gardens

- Fallen fruit is picked up daily OR fruit is picked before it ripens.
- Fertilizers are free of blood-meal and bone-meal.
- Electric fencing protects the fruit trees, edible gardens, berry bushes, and ornamental fruit-bearing trees (such as flowering crabapples).



Be BearWise:

Avoid planting and consider removing ornamental fruit-bearing trees and bushes.

Compost

- Meat, bones, fish, oil, grease, dairy products, eggshells, garbage or large amounts of fruit are not put in the compost.
- Compost is protected with a bear-resistant enclosure or electric fence.



Be BearWise:

Follow USDA composting guidelines. Consider using an indoor composter.

Unexpected Attractants

Be aware that some outdoor features that can't be removed or easily protected can attract bears, such as:

- ◆ Swimming pool, hot tub, pond, stream, water features.
- ◆ Nearby woods, dense bushes, conservation areas.
- ◆ Natural foods (i.e. berries, acorns).



Be BearWise:

Don't give naturally curious bears **any other reasons** to stick around and look for people-provided 'food'.



If properly installed for your soil conditions and maintained, electric fencing is an effective deterrent for keeping bears out.

Chickens, Farm Animals

Bear-resistant buildings, enclosures, containers and/or electric fences protect:

- Animals at night
- Newborns, always
- Livestock feed
- Dead animals are not buried near homes, buildings, livestock areas.



Be BearWise:

Take extra steps to keep your animals safe and their feed away from bears. Bears may dig up buried carcasses. Consult your county for other options.

Beehives

- Permanent or portable electric fencing protects the beehives.
- Beehives are at least 3 feet away from the electric fencing.
- Beehives are at least 300 feet from dense bushes, trees or other places bears could hide.



Be BearWise:

Wisely locate and protect beehives. Spread the word to your fellow beekeepers.

Homes, Outbuildings

- **Doors and windows** in houses and outbuildings are kept closed and locked, especially at night or when people are not home. Pay special attention to sliding glass doors, inward-swinging doors, French doors and doors with lever handles.
- **Crawl spaces and small openings** under home and other buildings are barricaded before hibernation.
- **Refrigerators and freezers** are kept inside sturdy, locked buildings.
- Attractants are not stored on **upper-level balconies/decks** that bears can reach by climbing stairs, trees or deck posts.
- **Garage doors** are kept closed to keep bears away from stored attractants (i.e. pet food, birdseed, trash, food in fridge/freezer).
- **Coolers** with food/drinks are not stored on the porch, patio, deck or in a vehicle.
- **Pet doors** are locked at night.



Be BearWise:

Screens don't keep out bears. Visit [BearWise.org](https://www.bearwise.org) to learn how to use bear unwelcome mats and get other practical tips for keeping bears out.

Bears are smart, quick learners and may be active at any time of day.

Check with your state wildlife agency to find out when bears are most active in your area and what solutions are most effective (state and local regulations may vary).

Thanks for helping to keep people, pets and property safe and bears wild.






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Join The Montford Listserve, I did!

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/>



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.