



# MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD  
VOL. 31 NO. 2

FEBRUARY '26

Happy February  
Montford

## TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

**Calendar****Aerobics with Karen Griffin**

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

**Pick-Up Volleyball**

Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM (Starts 4/9)

Fridays from 10:00-2:00 PM

**Pick-Up Basketball**

Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM (Starts 4/7)

Sundays from 3:00-6:00 PM

**Youth/Teen Pick-Up Basketball (15 under)**

Sundays from 1:00-3:00 PM

HAPPY  
**Valentine's Day**

from the  
**Montford Neighborhood  
 Association**

**Melodies and Legacy Celebration**

2/20 from 6:00-8:00 PM (Pre-Registration Requested)

**Homeschool Table Top Club: Dungeons and Dragons**

2/24, 3/10, 3/24 from 12:30-2:30 PM

Ages: 10-17 (Pre-Registration Requested)

**Women's History Brunch**

3/8 from 12:00-2:00 PM (Pre-Registration Requested)

**For more Information Contact:**Seth T. Jackson, Recreation Facility Manager  
828-253-3714Tempie Avery Montford Recreation Center  
34 Pearson Dr, Asheville, NC 28801
[www.ashevillenc.gov/parks](http://www.ashevillenc.gov/parks) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)


***Join The Montford  
 Listserve, we 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/>

COMPASS

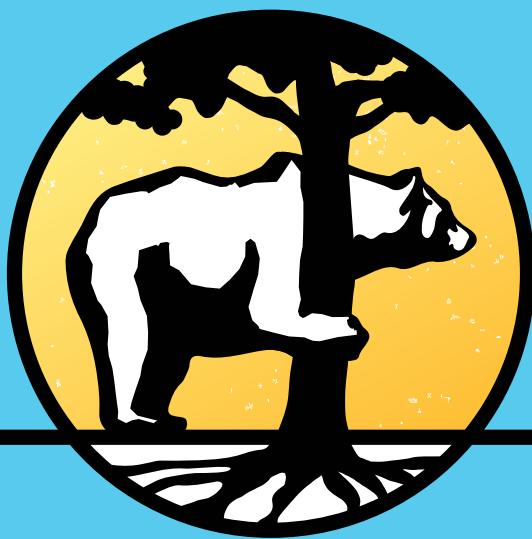


JUST  
SOLD

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CHEERS TO KEVIN & DIANA  
AND WELCOME TO THE NEW CARETAKERS  
OF THIS HISTORIC HOME!

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**ARBORCARE**  
*tough love for trees*

## Honoring Tempie Avery

Tempie Avery was a young girl purchased in Charleston in 1840 by Nicholas Woodfin. During her time on his plantation she became a midwife delivering both black and white babies in Asheville.

After the Civil War, Mr. Woodfin deeded property to Tempie at 26 Pearson Drive, the current site of the Montford Community Center.

On December 30, 1868, Nicholas Woodfin conveyed one acre of land to his daughters to be held for the use of said Tempie Haynes Avery. This lot, now 34 Pearson Drive, is the land on which the Montford Community Center now stands.

The Stumptown community developed on land adjacent to Tempie Avery's home. Stumptown was a thriving predominantly African American neighborhood before the development of Montford beyond West Chestnut Street began around 1891.

While Stumptown was less than 300 acres, it was home to over 250 families. The Urban Renewal of the 1960s-1970s cleared the whole area. By gaining property through eminent domain, the city of Asheville "replaced dilapidated houses and an intact neighborhood with a ball field, a community center and tennis courts. Welfare Baptist Church remains." See "Growing Up in Stumptown" by Pat Fitzpatrick, *May We All Remember Well*.

While Tempie's life after emancipation was not easy, she used her learned skills as a nurse and midwife to support herself and her children. A widow before 1900, she also worked as a laundress. According to notices in the Asheville Citizen, Tempie was a well-known and respected community member in both black and white communities. At the time of her death in February 1917, she was remembered as one of the oldest and most respected "colored" women in Asheville.

"OLD COLORED WOMAN, AGED NINETY, DIES," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, February 18, 1917.

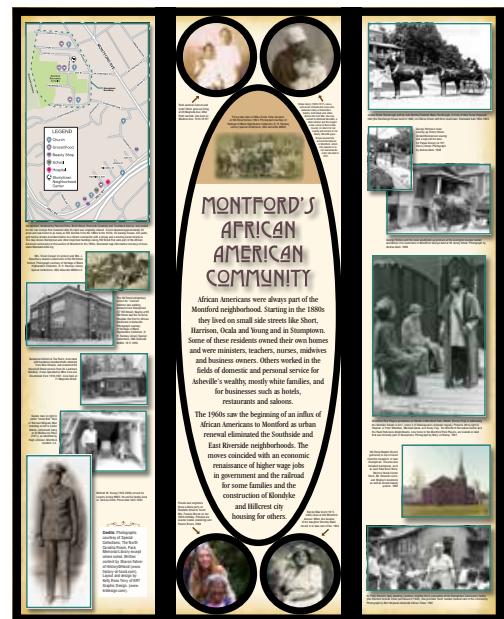
*The above information was taken from a draft of the Application for Public Property Name Change, written by Cathrym McLeod and Martha Warren, as they propose to the Asheville City Council that the Montford Community Center's name be changed to the Tempie Avery Montford Community Center to continue the legacy of Tempie Avery and her devotion to children, both black and white.*

For more information go to:

<https://specialcollections.buncombenc.gov/2017/10/02/tempie-avery-and-the-montford-community-center/>



Studio portrait of Pauline Moore age 3 months (Mrs. Francis C. Bourne) with her nurse who was known by the family as Mammy Turpie, 1897. Pauline's parents were Matthew VanLear and Edith Clarke Moore. Their home, Hilltop Cottage, was at 227 Cumberland Avenue. Patron Martha Warren, who is related to Tempie Avery, has verified that this woman is Tempy. Print donated by Dianna Hays, Pauline's granddaughter.



Black history panel in the bus shelter on the corner of Cullowee Street and Montford Avenue.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# 10 AFRICAN AMERICAN INNOVATORS



### **Top left to right**

**Granville Woods:** Prominent inventor and electrical engineer and known as “Black Edison.”

**Katherine Johnson:** NASA research mathematician.

**Lonnie Johnson:** NASA engineer who invented the Super Soaker.

**Mae Jemison:** NASA astronaut and the first black woman to travel into space.

**Marc Hannah:** Global pioneer in computer graphics.

### **Bottom left to right**

**Mark Dean:** American inventor and computer engineer.

**Otis Boykin:** His inventions include electrical resistors used in computing, missile guidance, and pacemakers.

**Patricia Bath:** Invented laserphaco cataract surgery.

**Roy Clay:** Founding member of the computer division at Hewlett-Packard.

**Shirley Ann Jackson:** Theoretical physicist and the first African American woman to receive a doctorate from MIT.



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## **MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (MNA) QUARTERLY COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Odyssey School, Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

Randy Hall called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. There was a good turnout of over 50 neighbors. Randy announced the death of MNA Secretary, board member and all-around good neighbor, Tom Fehsenfeld. A moment of silence was observed before the business of the meeting.

### **Asheville Police Department – District Commander Lt. Lucas Lovelace and Community Resource Officer Jonathan Fadler**

Patrol Division District Commander Lt. Lucas Lovelace (llovelace@ashevillenc.gov) shared that violent crime in Asheville was down 24% from last year, partly due to increasing numbers of police on the City's roster. Violent crime is now its lowest in Asheville in 10 years.

APD is bringing back the traffic safety unit. Sgt. Hunter Wellborn, the head of that unit, introduced himself.

Montford's new Community Resource Officer, Jonathan Fadler (jfadler@asheville.gov) introduced himself and said that Citizens Police Academy will start March 14, that training will be one day a week and that applications will close soon. Those interested should contact him.

### **Stumptown – Karen MacNeil, Lynn Raker and from the Stumptown Neighborhood Association Rasheeda Hall and Amy Worthen**

Their goal is to obtain grant funding for tree planting, sign toppers and an interpretive sign in Stumptown to explain its history. MNA has supported this initiative.

Rasheeda Hall announced that a video on Stumptown will be screened at Pack Library downtown on April 21 and that information on that event and future screenings will be circulated on the Listserv.

Amy Worthen has posted a lot on Stumptown and Montford history on the internet. She would be happy to take anyone on a history walking tour of Stumptown. Her website is <https://montfordandstumptown.com>.

### **Historic Resources Commission of Asheville & Buncombe County – Alex Cole**

Alex Cole (acole@ashevillenc.gov) spoke on applications for certificates of appropriateness and provided handouts on the NC tax credits available to owners of buildings that have been landmarked or are contributing structures in historic districts. She explained the origins of our historic preservation laws and that they are subject to federal and state statutes and regulations. She reported on HRC's review of the 4 standards changes some Montford residents proposed in 2024 and anticipated further review and community consultation she anticipated would extend about half way through this year. She also spoke about the extensive participation of herself and her department in Helene recovery including in Biltmore Village.

Bill Eakins said that Alex and HRC do not receive the credit they deserve for all they do. By way of example, he mentioned that at the January 28 executive committee meeting of the Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County, Jessie Landl, its executive director, reported that PSABC had just sold to the Landmarks Conservancy the residence on Grail Street PSABC has refurbished as permanent affordable housing subject to an historic easement. She reminded the committee that Alex had first called her attention to the possibility of demolition of the Grail Street house and connected the Landmarks Conservancy to \$250,000 in City funding to enable it to purchase the refurbished house. Alex said that she seeks opportunities like this to, as she put it, "connect the dots."

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## **UNCA Millennial Campus Update – Bill Eakins**

Bill reported on UNCA's recent announcement that it appointed its planned advisory committee to make recommendations to UNCA on the use of its millennial campus.

Bill explained that NC passed its millennial campus laws with the intention of creating an additional major funding stream for campuses in the UNC system to supplement existing streams of tuition, state aid and private sector donations. At the time of enactment, it was anticipated that the academic talent and resources of campuses might provide private sector and public private opportunities that in addition to revenue might generate practical experience for students and attract faculty.

Last year's announcement by UNCA of a soccer stadium did not seem to optimize its millennial campus possibilities and because of noise, traffic and destroying about 50 acres of urban forest aroused passionate opposition in Montford and the other neighborhoods bordering UNCA. Members of our board had met with the Chancellor and one of the deans to express our concerns and hope that, as often in the past, Montford could work with UNCA toward something better.

Bill read out the names and relevant positions and experience of the UNCA advisory committee members. None is from the neighborhoods around UNCA. The board is to meet in secret and should report recommendations to the University in May.

As a practical matter UNCA's neighbors will simply need to wait until the Committee makes its recommendations, assess them and respond. Randy Hall has asked the Chancellor for another meeting and the MNA board will follow up, seek information and keep considering how best to deal with the challenges of how UNCA is addressing major decisions that impact its neighbors.

## **Reed Creek Greenway/Kudzu Control Update – Susan Eggerton**

Susan recounted the long work that had gone into removing crowns and clearing the area she looks forward to turning into the Montford Meadow, not an elaborate garden but an area seeded with wildflowers like at Beaver Lake. Much remains to be done. Watch the listserv for upcoming work days March 7 and 14. Respond to those and to subsequent calls for volunteers.

## **Montford Garden Tour Fund Projects— Lynn Raker**

Lynn reported 19 trees planted since November with further plans for another 5 in Montford Park. She is now working on solving the complex issues involved in planting trees to provide shade at the Tempie Avery playground and seating area.

The next Garden Tour will be in 2027.

## **Financial Report – Susan Eggerton**

Treasurer Susan Eggerton handed out financials through meeting date and opined that MNA is doing fine after the excellent results of the Garden Tour and Tour of Homes.

## **Community Space Uplift and Status of Odyssey School Property Ownership and Lease – Peter Tromba, Odyssey School and Odyssey Parent, Brian Kottenstette**

Several years ago, when in less robust financial condition than today, Odyssey sold its Zillicoa Street property to UNCA and took back a lease. With UNCA's plans as to millennial campus and other development up in the air, UNCA has told Peter that they can't guarantee that Odyssey will have a lease beyond 2028, that is their current lease. Peter has told UNCA that the school would be willing and able to buy the property back. After an initial positive reaction, no one at UNCA is discussing an Odyssey purchase.

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Peter wondered if community support would help and if MNA representatives could participate in their future meetings with UNCA. Board members thought that should be considered at the next MNA board meeting.

Peter and Brian made the point that Odyssey is a community resource for Montford and Asheville. They will hold mayoral and council candidate fairs the next month and will forward Randy the dates and times for circulation on the listserv.

Brian raised the possibility of “bringing Montford into Odyssey” more, perhaps extending pool rights, encouraging use of the playground and tennis courts. Another thought was to make Odyssey available as an extension of Tempie Avery when they might need more space, for example more ping pong tables.

As to the facility uplift, Peter reviewed that Susan Loftis of MNA’s board had discovered the grant and she and Odyssey staff had completed the application successfully. Peter noted that in Odyssey’s meeting that night people were able to attend remotely because of the uplift.

### Board Nominations – Randy Hall

Randy said that there are 3 board openings and asked that nominations be submitted to [mnaboard@montford.org](mailto:mnaboard@montford.org) by March 1. He noted that it is a working board and a good way to volunteer in our community.

### Tempie Avery Community Center – Seth Jackson, Facilities Manager

Seth said that the facility would be closed April 3 and May 25.

The Center is working with the City on enhancing security which will begin with a uniformed officer in the admissions area. Seth will circulate when on the listserv.

### Energy Savers Network/Bountiful Cities – Cathy Cleary

Cathy explained that free energy assessment and, on a needs basis, weatherization, repairs and upgrades are available from Energy Savers Network. To apply, volunteer

or donate contact them on [energysaversnetwork.org](http://energysaversnetwork.org) or (828) 585-4492.

After a request by Randy Hall for any new or old business, the meeting stood adjourned at 8:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Eakins, acting as meeting  
Secretary due to the recent  
death of Secretary Tom  
Fehsenfeld



### February Trivia

The Roman month Februarius was named after the Latin term februum, which means “purification”. Want to know more February history? Visit: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/February>

When you think of the month of February, what comes to mind? Most likely **Black History Month**, **Valentines Day**, and maybe **Super Bowl Sunday**. But, did you know, February probably has more official and unofficial holidays than any other month. Here are some familiar ones; **Purim**, **Ash Wednesday**, **Groundhog's Day**, **Feed the Birds Day**, **Lincoln's Birthday**, **Chinese New Years**, **President's Day**, **Singles Awareness Day**, **Mardi Gras** (Fat Tuesday), **Washington's Birthday**, **Oscar Night**, **Leap Day** (2024), and **the Winter Olympics** (2022). There are lots of lesser-known holidays—too numerous to list all here—such as **National Sticky Bun Day**, **National Drink Wine Day**, and my favorite, **Hoodie-Hoo Day**.

Learn about more: <https://www.thespruce.com/special-days-and-observances-in-february-1448885>.

# 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."



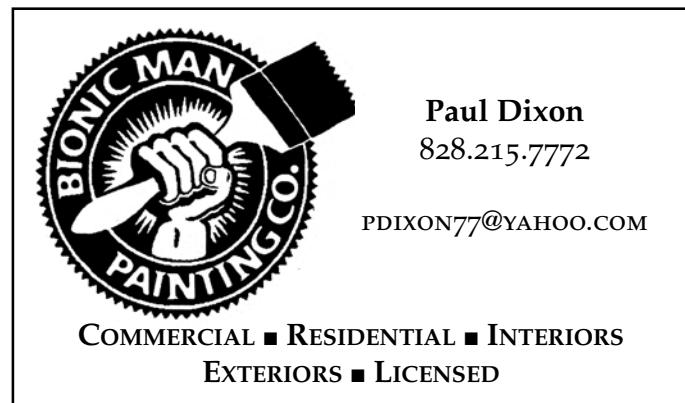
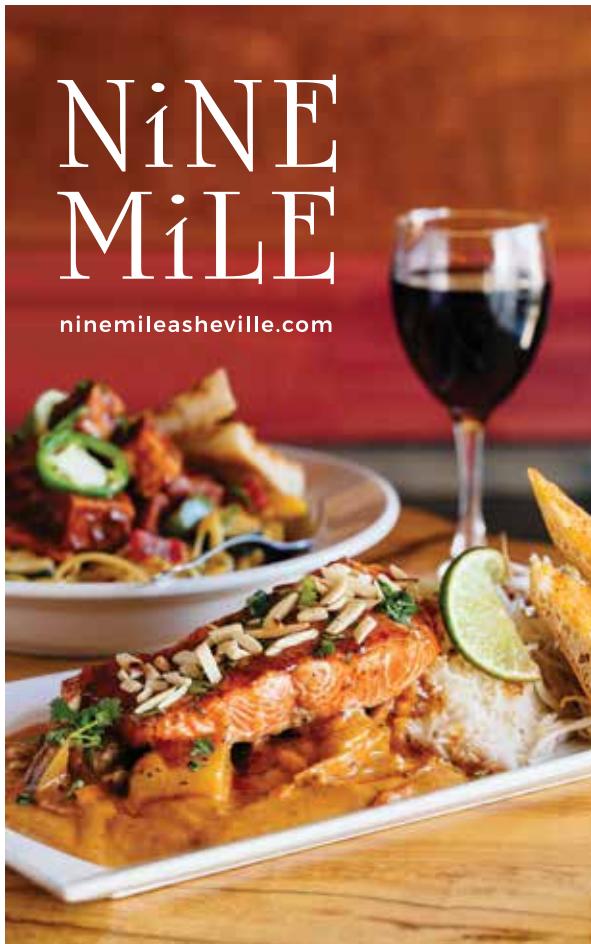
If you are new to Montford or know of a new resident, please contact one of the below, and we will coordinate delivery of a Welcome Packet.

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)



**Hours:**  
Monday thru Saturday - 8am to 10pm  
Sunday - 9am to 10pm  
231 Montford Avenue • phone 828-258-1879

**Green Corner****Erin Hiatt**

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

Our ninth feature is

**Heather Collins with Asheville Forager**, located at 35 Wall Street.

**Current winter hours are:**

Deli - 10:30am until 6pm

Breakfast - 8am until 10:30am

Grocery - 7:30am until 6:30pm

Q: What is Asheville Forager and how did it get started?

A: We always had a sustainable grocery store concept in mind, but after Helene it proved all the more needed! We are all "Foraging" for things - so that's how the name was developed! We now have over 50 local vendors and thrive on eating and being healthy without the normal stereotypes of being healthy. Our goal is to provide the busy business worker, the stressed out mom who needs dinner, or the tourist that is facing a grocer dessert in an unknown downtown city, the absolute best. We want to have fun and serve you great and healthy products while helping the locals.

Q: What range of products do you offer?

A: We have a full service deli, baked goods, grocery items, grab and go items and use our own grocery product for our meal deals! We also offer catering, wholesale items such as our sub rolls to local restaurants, and our Lunch Box!

Q: What products are customer favorites or do you recommend?

A: The "Dinner for 2", which includes an entree, and a side salad or breadsticks! Or if you are in for lunch, the Italian Grinder sandwich is the most popular order. Something new we are now offering is our "Lunch Box" which includes a 7" sub, a chip bag or cookie and a soda for our busy on-the-go!

Q: Any favorite customer interactions or stories?

A: We now have loyal dogs who go over to the deli and sit down next to Paddy awaiting the scrap of turkey or bacon! We adore seeing locals coming in, and seeing people they know; their coaches, their children's teachers; their neighbors. That is what we achieve, to be the local spot to provide you what you need and have the comfort knowing you are helping other locals in the process.

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

A: Our Facebook ("The Asheville Forager") and Instagram (@ashevilleforager) pages are updated almost daily! Online orders can be placed via Toast Tab from our website at [ashevilleforager.com](http://ashevilleforager.com)

Let me know what other local businesses you would like to see interviewed at [montfordgreencorner@gmail.com](mailto:montfordgreencorner@gmail.com). You can find past Green Corners on the [Newsletter Archive page](#).

**FRUGAL FRAMER**

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/

OUR PASSION.

Downtown AVL/Montford | 95 Cherry St. North  
South Asheville | 200 Julian Shoals Dr. #20

[frugalframer.com](http://frugalframer.com)



## 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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Asheville



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michael@ashevillerestoration.com

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# Happy Valentine's Day



## HOW TO MAKE HIM HAPPY:

If your Valentine is a  
 Boy Friend  
 Husband  
 Brother  
 Uncle  
 Nephew  
 Father

—you can short-cut to his heart with some of the "just right" Valentine ideas advertised on this page by your local merchants.



## HOW TO MAKE HER HAPPY:

If your Valentine is a  
 Sweetheart  
 Wife  
 Sister  
 Aunt  
 Niece  
 Mother

—win her smile this Valentine's Day with some of the lovely feminine gifts suggested in the ads below. Every one is a winner!

### SEND YOUR VALENTINE

## Growing Plants

Give her a lovely flower that she can care for and watch grow. She will add its beauty and fragrance to your home decorations. We have a big variety of blossoming and foliage growing plants.

Potted Plants, Blooming and Foliage, 35¢ to \$1.50

Flower Stands and Pots, \$1.25 up.



40 College Street  
Phone 387

### For Valentine DECORATED Cakes and Cookies

Please order now in  
earlier prompt service.

### QUALITY BAKERY

12 N. Pack Square

Find The Key To His Or Her Heart In These Ads

### For the Queen of Your Heart VALENTINE DAY DIAMONDS



OPEN AN ACCOUNT AT LEE'S AND SAVE THE DIFFERENCE



NO INTEREST OR CARRYING CHARGES

IF IT'S FROM  
LEE'S  
IT'S GUARANTEED

Next to Bon Marche



### Biltmore ICE CREAM

In Gay, Appropriate Molds

For parties, for home gatherings, for all happy occasions! Individual servings, a dozen . . . \$2

PLAIN HEART CUPID KEWPIE  
LOVE HEARTS CUPID HEART

Please Order In Advance. We Deliver as You Request  
Order Through Our Route Men or Biltmore Dealers  
or Call Biltmore Dairy Farms—Tel. 8296

### SCHRAFFT'S CHOCOLATES

St. Valentine's Day  
February 14th

### HEARTS OF SWEETS FOR SWEETHEARTS DESIGNED FOR GIVING

Present her with a beautiful box, filled to overflowing with these fine chocolates, selected from our big, fresh stock.

SCHRAFFT'S  
CHOCOLATES

Features of candy boxes every  
home and shopkeeper takes of your  
affection.

Make your selection from  
our large fresh stock.

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Lovely . . .  
FOR  
Valentine's  
Day

and lovely every day in the  
year when you let us take care  
of your dry cleaning. We call  
for and deliver.

**BILTMORE**  
CLEANERS & LAUNDRY  
PHONE 6800



### AN EMINENT GOVERNMENT NUTRITION EXPERT SAYS:

"Everybody who has  
not changed from plain  
white bread to enriched  
white bread should  
do so at once as a pa-  
triotic duty."

St. Valentine's Day  
February 14th

### SCHRAFFT'S CHOCOLATES



Since 1861

### HEARTS OF SWEETS FOR SWEETHEARTS

#### DESIGNED FOR GIVING

Present her with a beautiful box, filled to overflowing with  
SCHRAFFT'S CHOCOLATES

favorites of candy lovers everywhere—an elegant token of  
your affection.

Make your selection now while our stock is compre-

### IN ASHEVILLE YOU CAN GET SCHRAFFT'S AT

FATER'S  
34 Biltmore—402 Haywood Rd.—Pack Square

HESTER'S PHARMACY

Phone 816

111 Morrison Ave.

JOHNSON DRUG CO.

Phone 818

111 N. Pack Square

MERRIMON AVE. PHARMACY

Phone 819

219 Morrison Ave.

MULLEN'S PHARMACY

Phone 810

55 Montford Ave.

SALLEY'S DRUG STORE

Phone 811

120 Biltmore Ave.

CARSWELL'S CUT-RATE DRUG STORE

Phone 811

240 Hendersonville Rd.

AVERA DRUG STORE

Phone 800

3 N. Pack Square

MOONEYHAM'S DRUG STORE

Phone 800

Asheville Citizen-Times Sunday February 1942



VOL. 5 NO. 4 THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD Jan./Feb. 2000



## Culinary Tour of Homes to be Held on February 19

The Annual Culinary Tour of Homes will be held on February 19 from 4-8 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available now at The Reader's Corner, 33 Montford Avenue.

This year there will be five homes serving appetizers and deserts to the Montford community. The homes may be visited in any order.

Willie E. Collins House, 170 Cumberland Avenue, Diane Joyntner, owner. (appetizers) Mr. Collins was a native of Michigan who moved to Asheville from Flat Rock in 1888. This bold variation of the Colonial Revival style sits dramatically on a slope above the street. Architectural features include a large gambrel roof, recessed porch, and an inordinate amount of shingles.

Mr. Collins developed and marketed a cereal Biltmore Wheat Hearts. He promoted many musical events in area and was a gifted musician.

He married Louise Ashworth who birthed three daughters in the house and together they raised his three other daughters from a previous marriage.

In the 1950's they moved to the third floor while renting rooms on the lower floors. Mr. Collins died in 1955 in the third floor kitchen.

Mrs. Collins continued to live in the house and with her connections at Highland Hospital rented rooms on a long-term basis to patients with TB.

103 Flint Street, Sharon Hines,

owner. (appetizers) This 1924 cottage consists of shingle sides and a rock foundation. Richard Sharp Smith designed the home. Inside one of the closets is written "Elmer Bishop." The side of the house faces Bishop Place, leading Sharon to believe Mr. Bishop was the original owner. In 1995, the house won a Griffin Award for its renovation project.

162 Flint Street, Jean Stryker and Ricky McGrath, owners. (desserts) This home, sitting on a high embankment was built in the early 20th century. The one and a half story vernacular cottage has weatherboards sides with a shingled gable.

34 Courtland Avenue, Phyllis and Richard Stiles, owners. (desserts) This vernacular two-story bungalow was built in 1917. While there is no actual proof, it appears to be another Smith design. The home has a wide porch with Montford brackets, multiple gables and exposed rafters.

The building was saved from demolition in 1976 after being abandoned in the early 1970's.

When Phyllis and Richard moved here in 1984, the police notified them that there could be bodies buried in the basement. Acting on a tip from a suspect caught in Tennessee, the Stiles found their basement being dug up. Fortunately, the only thing the police struck was the sewer drain, which more fortunately did not break!

(please see Tour, page 5)

### What Do You Think?

We are looking at possibly moving the Culinary Tour of homes from December to February permanently. While it was nice to have it in December, it is very difficult to find homes willing to participate at that time of year because of the holidays. Please contact Sharon Fahrer at 253-0982 or Lisa Sizemore at 254-4913 and let us know your feelings and input on this pending decision.

**Due to the holidays and the amount of news in Montford at this time of year, we have combined the January and February newsletter. The March issue will be out at the end of February.**

(Tour, continued from Page 1)

Abbington Green B&B, 46 Cumberland Avenue, Valerie Larrea, owner. (appetizers) Officially described as a "Colonial Revival," this house has an eclectic mix of architectural details. Richard Sharp Smith designed the house circa 1908 for David Latourette Jackson, a businessman who ran a dairy restaurant and bakery. He later worked in the real estate business.

The second and longest single owner was also the person for whom the house is officially named on the National Register. Mr. Wythe Peyton was

one of NC's first highway engineers, Asheville's Postmaster for fifteen years, and was an avid and accomplished gardener. The Peyton family owned the house for over 40 years up through the 1950's.

Valerie purchased the home in 1993, after years of being rental property. After a Griffin Award-winning renovation, the house reopened as a B&B.

We are hoping for another large Montford turnout for this event. A very heartfelt thank you to all the hosts for opening up their homes and sharing with the community culinary delights! Without you, we couldn't do it!

26 Years Ago! The February 2000 Montford Newsletter. Editors - Dana Erwin and Jeff Kelley

## From the Vault:

## 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](http://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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*Editor's Note: I am writing to apologize for the omission of photo credits for two Montford volunteers.*

The Holiday Tour of Homes:  
Photography by Emeline Scales

Montford Lights:  
Photography by Randy Hall





## Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

### Montford Action Agenda 12/10/25

Present: Will Hornaday (Chair), Amy Moxley, Shannon Watkins, Robert Mays, Jenny Bowen, Cecil Holt, Leslie Humphrey

Absent: Amy Gharst, Celesta Gorman, Sioux Oliva

Staff: Alex Cole, Jannice Ashley, Haley Mahoney, Aspen Johnston

#### Item, Summary and Action

##### 53 Birch Street (PIN 9639826325) -

Replacement of existing partially collapsed stone retaining wall. Applicant: Patrick Haramija

Action—Continued to March

##### 345 Montford Avenue (PIN 9649040738) -

Replacement of existing partially collapsed stone retaining wall. Applicant: Patrick Haramija

Action—Continued to March

#### 52 Cumberland Circle (PIN 9649047709)

- Replacement of screening on rear porch with windows. Applicant: Mike Romero

Action—Approved

#### 101 Santee Street (PIN 9639855198) -

Construction of a new driveway. Applicant: Carole King

Action—Continued to March

#### 265 Cumberland Avenue (PIN

9649045369) - Alteration of existing retaining wall in front yard. Applicant: Jennifer & Andrew Ayala

Action—Continued to March

#### 1 Woodlawn Avenue (PIN 9649227499) -

Modifications to rear elevation, including removal of existing windows, installation of new French doors, and construction of a new deck. Applicant: Robert Barrett

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](http://www.ashevillenc.gov)) for the full approved minutes after the following month's meeting.





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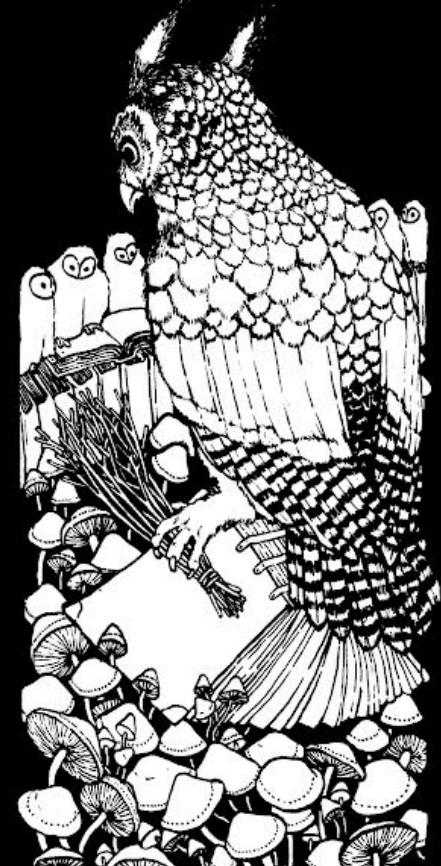
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