



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 30 No. 04

APRIL '25



The Historic Montford Garden Tour Returns in June!

The Historic Montford Garden Tour, a favorite community fundraiser, returns on **Saturday, June 7, 10 am – 4 pm**. Featuring eight delightful gardens, local music, plein air artists, and a garden information fair, the Montford Garden Tour will be a fun and memorable day for everyone!



April Holidays and Observances

Ross Terry

Here is your excuse to fire up the barbie and celebrate Spring. April has lots of opportunities—some serious and some tongue in cheek. Myself, I'm looking forward to Husband Appreciation Day.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| April 1—April Fool's Day | April 12—Passover | April 20—Easter Sunday |
| April 1—Lupus Alert Day | April 12—American Civil War | April 20—National Look Alike Day |
| April 1—Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month | April 12—National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day | April 21—Easter Monday |
| April 1—Child Abuse Awareness Month | April 12—National Licorice Day | April 21—Patriots' Day |
| April 1—Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month | April 13—Palm Sunday | April 21—International Creativity and Innovation Day |
| April 2—Autism Awareness Day | April 13—Thomas Jefferson's Birthday | April 21—National Kindergarten Day |
| April 2—National Walking Day | April 13—National Scrabble Day | April 21—National Chocolate Covered Cashews Day |
| April 2—National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day | April 13—International plant appreciation day | April 22—Earth Day |
| April 3—National Burrito Day | April 13—National Peach Cobbler Day | April 22—International Mother Earth Day |
| April 3—World Party Day | April 13—International Moment of Laughter Day | April 22—National Jelly Bean Day |
| April 3—National Rainbow Day | April 14—RAINN Day | April 23—Spanish Language Day |
| April 3—National Chocolate Mousse Day | April 14—National Gardening Day | April 24—Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day |
| April 4—National School Librarian Day | April 14—National Pecan Day | April 24—World Immunization Week |
| April 4—Walk Around Things Day | April 15—Tax Day | April 25—Arbor Day |
| April 5—International Pillow Fight Day | April 15—National Laundry Day | April 26—Ross Terry's Birthday |
| April 5—National Dandelion Day | April 15—World Art Day | April 26—International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day |
| April 5—National Deep Dish Pizza Day | April 16—National Pajama Day | April 26—National Pretzel Day |
| April 6—Plan Your Epitaph Day | April 16—Emancipation Day | April 26—World Veterinary Day |
| April 6—National Caramel Popcorn Day | April 17—Holy Thursday | April 28—National Superhero Day |
| April 7—National Beer Day | April 17—World Hemophilia Day | April 29—International Dance Day |
| April 7—World Health Day | April 17—Blah Blah Blah Day | April 29—National Shrimp Scampi Day |
| April 7—National No Housework Day | April 17—National Cheeseball Day | April 30—International Jazz Day |
| April 11—National Pet Day | April 18—Good Friday 2025 | |
| | April 18—World Heritage Day | |
| | April 19—Husband Appreciation Day | |
| | April 19—Holy Saturday | |

Garden Tour Docents Needed



During our 2023 Garden Tour, over 1,000 people toured our beautiful neighborhood. The feedback from our guests, garden hosts, musicians and others was very favorable. Contributing to the success of the tour were the numerous docents, who ensured guests enjoyed a pleasant experience. So once again, we are sending out a call for interested individuals to serve as docents during the 2025 garden tour. **Each docent will receive a free garden tour ticket.** The below link contains more information and an opportunity to sign up for one of the eight participating gardens and also the Montford Garden Information Fair. The 2025 Historic Montford Garden Tour takes place Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.



< Sign Up:

Use the QR code or go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45AAA923A2F5C07-54984926-2025#/>

TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Calendar

Pick-Up Basketball

Ages 16+
Tuesdays from 6-9 PM
Sundays from 4-6 PM (Closed April 20)



Pick-Up Volleyball

Ages 16+
Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM (Closed April 24)
Fridays from 10:30AM-2:30 PM (Closed April 18)



CraftTok

Thursdays, 4/3-4/24 from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
Ages 12-17
4/3 - Clay Magnets
4/10 - Jewelry Holder
4/17 - Jewelry Holder Part 2
4/24 - Flower Mirror

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](#)



Forever Montford



Would you like to get in touch with your neighbors more easily?

Do you have hobbies or special interests that you would like to share with others?

Do you want to be more involved in the Montford community?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Montford Neighborhood Directory is for you. The Montford Neighborhood Association has created an online directory, making it easy to do all of the above. It is a secure directory which is stored on Google Docs, so you will need a Google account to access the directory. No Gmail is required, just a Google account. No Google account? No problem, it is a few easy steps to create one and you can keep your old email address.

To date, we have *190 neighbors who have signed up, and we invite you to join as well.

Neighbors have already started forming social groups using the Directory. They have expressed interest in Book Clubs, Supper Club, Wine Club, Hiking, Yoga, Tennis, Gardening, Crafts, Cooking, Baking, Woodworking, Painting, Playdates and more. If you would like to join, simply send an email to montford.directory@gmail.com

** Note from Dan Sanford -Montford Directory has grown to 190 neighbors.*



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

Judith Sanford: sanford.judith@gmail.com

Leslie Humphrey: leslieinmontford@gmail.com

Ashima Nair: ashimanair@gmail.com

Our Gardens

Enjoy a casual stroll on winding paths nestled between colorful, sweetly scented blooms. Explore reflections in a secret garden pool, eclectic garden sculpture, and the unique flora of western North Carolina when you visit the eight enchanting gardens on the 2025 Historic Montford Garden Tour. The Tour takes place Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

Please note: Pets are not allowed in the gardens.



<https://montford.org/>



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Resource Directory

Historic Walking Tours

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

- 777-1014.

Raven Invasive Plant Management

Saving trees and native plants from non-native invasives. Raven IPM is a local, organic, woman veteran-owned business specializing in mechanical removal of invasive plants. No chemicals, just hard work. • (828)866-3200 • RavenNC.com

Smart Feller Tree Works

Down trees got you down? Contact us for all your tree removal and pruning needs! We are locally licensed and insured. Please call for free estimates. Montford references available. Thanks.

- 828.545.5503

Square Peg Construction Inc.

Add beautiful custom woodwork to your historic home: New upgrades like wood paneling, built-in cabinetry, trim, doors, stairs and railings. Small details add big impact! Montford references.

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

Montford Gardens to Inspire Local Artists in June

by Zoe F. Schumaker



Spring has sprung, and I'm delighted to see our yards coming alive with color again.

Montford is blessed not only with avid gardeners and splendid gardens, but also with generous neighbors who share their gardens with the public during the annual Historic Montford Garden Tour in June.

The 2025 garden tour will include an exciting new activity – artists plein air painting at each featured garden.

Each artist will work their magic for two to three hours, capturing a scene in or around the tour gardens. The final works will be shared on the garden tour website and will be available for purchase through the artist.

A bit of history: plein air painting, from the French “en plein air” (“in fresh air”), began in the early 1800s. The practice became increasingly popular through the 19th century, enabled by the invention of portable canvases and easels and paints in tubes. Impressionist painters like Monet, Renoir, and Pissarro were drawn to plein air painting to better see and convey the effects of light on the landscape, and to capture the changing details of weather and time of day. With the expansion of plein air painting came the rise of impressionistic, naturalistic, and expressive landscape painting – a break from the stylized, romantic landscapes of the old masters.

Today, plein air painting is widely popular with both artists and collectors. Many art instructors utilize this practice, which is credited with helping artists learn the effects of light on the landscape. Accomplished plein air artists come together for informal “paint outs” and regional and national competitions. Art collectors have embraced the unique freshness, energy and evocativeness of plein air-based works, whether completed in onsite or finished in the studio.

We are fortunate to have some of the region's best artists painting during this year's Montford Garden Tour! These seasoned painters represent a variety of media, styles and perspectives. The participating artists are: Bee Adams (acrylic) Sue Dolamore (oils), Cheryl Keefer (oils), Mitch Kolbe (oil), Donny Luke (watercolor), Sandra Brugh Moore (watercolor), Claire Simpson Jones (watercolor), and Anne Strutz (pastel). More information about the artists and a link to their websites will be posted on the Montford Garden Tour website in April.

The 2025 Historic Montford Garden Tour takes place Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are \$30 each and are available online at <https://montfordgardentour.org/> or in person at the Asheville Visitors Center gift shop, 36 Montford Ave., with cash or check. Tickets will be available through the website April 15 – June 6.



Bee Adams



Cheryl Keefer



Claire Simpson Jones

Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

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

Our third feature is Karmen with [Sew AVL](#), located downtown at 56 S Lexington Ave Unit 101, Asheville, NC 28801.

Hours as of 3/30/25 are:

- Thursday-Sunday: 12pm to 4pm
- Friday and Saturdays: Some evening hours
- By appointment: Text 843-687-1076

Q: What is the origin story of Sew AVL?

A: It started by being part of staff at The Marquee in the River Arts District. The owner Robert Nichols invited staff (many of whom were makers or artists) sell their work at the Marquee. I wanted to take part in the opportunity. I started making planters out of vintage tins to start with but when my mom gave me her sewing machine I switch to upcycling apparel.

Q: What kinds of services do you offer?

A: I offer custom upcycling (bring anything you'd like to rework, refashion or freshen up with applique, patches or combining with something else. I also love taking vintage textiles ie sheets, blankets, table clothes and turning them into apparel, bags or hats. I offer mending, alterations, creative workshops, and private beginner sewing classes

Q: Do you also sell any products?

A: Yes! I sell tops and jackets I have sewn applique onto. I also have small-batch hats made from pre-loved textiles.

Q: Any favorite customer interactions or stories?

A: Once a young lady with lots of tattoos came in the shop. She was wearing a plain shirt and I offered to sew an applique on it--explaining that applique is like



“tattoos for apparel.” She said “Oh no! Not my shirt!” It struck me as humorous that her shirt was more precious than her skin!

Q: How did the hurricane impact your business?

A: The hurricane was emotionally tough for me. My craft is playful, sometimes humorous—the way I combine things can be silly and fun. It's definitely whimsical! I lost all of my light-heartedness after the storm. It was hard to get in a creative mood until the collective sense of loss mellowed. Physically downtown was hardly phased besides loss of water. Thank goodness the heart of town kept pulsing!

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

A: Follow me on Instagram @sew_avl or come visit me at 56 S Lexington Ave. #101

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

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Join The Montford Listserve

The Montford listserv is a neighborhood discussion list. This is the place where you can exchange news about the neighborhood. Visit <https://montford.org/montford-listserve/>

NEW THIS YEAR

2025 Historic Montford Garden Tour INFORMATION FAIR *Montford Ave. and E. Waneta St.*



Connect and Learn about Native Plants and Gardens! Visit local plant specialists, garden and nature organizations: Buncombe

County Extension Master Gardeners; Bountiful Cities; Carolina Native Nursery; Mountain Native Landscape Design; Wildbud Natives; Bee City USA – Asheville; Asheville Botanical Garden; The North Carolina Arboretum; Friends of WNC Nature Center. Enjoy! Available for Purchase: The Hop Handcrafted Ice Cream; “Architectural Guide to the Historic Montford Neighborhood”.



Carolina Native Nursery

The 2025 Historic Montford Garden Tour takes place Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

Learn more: <https://montford.org/>



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Reed Creek Greenway

Karen MacNeil (karenskyli@gmail.com)

Andy Apostolopoulos from the Greek Church and I had a very nice meeting yesterday. He is looking into contractors to mow/bushwhack the grassy area by Cauble/greenway 2/3 times each summer and applying to the County for downed tree/debris removal before April 15. If anyone has leads on landscape contractors that could give estimates for that flat sunny area by Cauble, that would be much appreciated. Please send contact info my way.

He is also supportive of a small community garden that could grow larger if tended well and especially likes the area closer to Cauble due to its ease of access and drainage.

Andy appreciates the work we've

done in getting vines off the trees. We agreed that while the Church contracts out maintenance of the field area, volunteers can focus on the tree line and keeping the trees healthy.

I stayed after our meeting for a couple hours liberating more trees from vines and as usual it was quite satisfying! Another nice neighbor, David Stanley, spontaneously joined in by freeing trees close to Magnolia. I about wore out my saw on some of those monster vines!

The Church has a new pastor in his 20s who has been very energetic in starting up several new ministries and also being more deeply involved in the community.



MONTFORD PARK
PLAYERS

Theatrical Performance

Montford Park Players, an Asheville theatrical tradition, is proud to announce their upcoming production of *The Book of Will*, by Lauren Gunderson. All performances will be held at the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre at 92 Gay Street in the heart of Asheville's historic Montford District, from May 9 through May 31st on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7:30pm. Tickets are available at montfordparkplayers.org and are, as always, FREE.

The Book of Will follows the journey of William Shakespeare's friends and fellow playwrights as they struggle to preserve his legacy after his death. Amid betrayal, heartbreak, and ambition, they work to compile his works into the First Folio, ensuring his immortality in the world of theater. Written by Lauren Gunderson, who ranks among the twenty most frequently produced playwrights in the country, she has been recognized as America's most produced living playwright since 2016.

The Latest Dirt

by Cherie Morris

Did it seem that one day it was bone-chilling cold, and suddenly everything was blooming? Could it be that easing from season to season is just a fond childhood memory?

Nevertheless, Spring is here, a time of rebirth in shades of green, pink and white with a splash of purple!

Not to be left in the dust, (of Helene!) the Botanic Garden's flame azaleas will burst into orange and yellow any day now. Virginia Bluebells, Dogwood and the Green and Gold already brighten the pathways. Delicate Trillium, always a welcome sight in woodlands, have staged their shy appearance in the understory. Stop at the kiosk near the front door of the visitors' center for photos of the latest botanical drama!

And speaking of drama, where once our somewhat dilapidated solarium once stood, new glass windows and a flagstone patio have sprouted. Soon you will be able to



sit and rest in the shade after strolling the Garden trails. Meanwhile, the bird garden is undergoing post-Helene renovation to accommodate our feathered friends and visitors alike. A makeover for the gazebo, a familiar sight in the Sunshine Meadow, is in progress while in the Sycamore Meadow, the last of our giants lies uprooted, a reminder of Life's uncertainties.

One thing we can be certain of is the arrival of new and interesting items to tempt shoppers in the Garden Path Gift Shop. Our line of books, new and used, for both adults and children continues to grow. We've also added a line of seasonings and teas produced locally. (Mother's Day is coming!) And mark your calendars for our annual spring plant sale, coming up on Friday, May 2, noon to 6 and Saturday, May 3, 9-3.

Welcome Spring! Volunteers are always needed. Come grow with us!

www.AshevilleBotanicalGarden.org.



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www.dbnbooks.com

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Happy Passover



Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 04/09/25

Members Present: Sioux Oliva (Chair), Will Hornaday (Vice-Chair), Cecil Holt, Amy Moxley, Sara Groce, Leslie Humphrey, Robert Mays, Celesta Gorman

Staff Present: Alex Cole, Jannice Ashley, Haley Mahoney, Carly Gillingham

Item, Summary and Action

182 Flint Street (PIN 9649138099) - Modification of an existing window on the north elevation, and replacement of an existing concrete walkway in the front yard with a new flagstone walkway.

Action—Application Withdrawn

42 Pearson Drive (PIN 9649025600) - After the fact approval to install wood picket and wood post and wire fencing.

Action—Continued to May

46 Pearson Drive (PIN 9649024666) - After the fact approval to install wood picket and wood post and wire fencing.

Action—Continued to May

255 Cumberland Avenue (PIN 9649046297) - Installation of Tesla solar roof-mounted solar system.**Action**—Approved

103 Cumberland Circle (PIN 9649043984) - Replacement of existing concrete parking area with new permeable paver parking area.

Action—Approved

30 Cumberland Avenue (PIN 9649211733) - Subdivision of existing 0.51 acre parcel into one (1) new 0.17 acre lot containing existing primary structure, one (1) 0.16 acre parcel containing existing driveway, and one (1) new 0.18 acre vacant flaglot.

Action—Approved

76 Starnes Avenue (PIN 9649215968) - Enclosure of existing porch on rearelevation.

Action—Approved

HRC Application Portal

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

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

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

EARTHDAY.ORG

Earth Day April 22, 2025

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.