



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 18 No. 2
FEBRUARY '13

Montford Goes to Washington

Jenny Wilker

Montford students Nicholas Konz (mellophone) and Sam Cavagnaro (saxophone), both ninth-graders, and Kinana McDaniel (drums), senior, traveled to Washington for the 57th inaugural ceremonies as members of the Asheville High School Cougar Band. Also traveling from Montford was Nick's mom, Louly Peacock, one of the parent chaperones on the trip.

Under band director Will Talley, the Asheville band has been competing for only six years. Selected for the inauguration parade from nearly three thousand competitors, the Asheville band was one of around 40 marching groups in the parade, one of only 16 high school bands, and the only band from North Carolina.

Grand Champions

The nearly one hundred band members traveled in three buses to Washington on Friday, January 18, and, after three hours sleep, they performed in a sit-down Festival Inaugural Concert at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning at Northwestern High School. For this performance, they were honored at a gala on Sunday night with the award of Grand Champion in Inaugural Festival concert performances.

continued on page 15...



READY TO MARCH: The Cougar Band on the National Mall
Photo by Erin Breitbauer courtesy of Asheville Citizen-Times (www.citizen-times.com), which is a partner of the WNC Local Information Cooperative. WNC LINC connects the Asheville Citizen-Times with local and regional news and information websites. For more details, visit www.citizen-times.com/LINC.

Questions about Property Tax Valuation?

Informational Neighborhood Meeting with Buncombe County Tax Staff Thursday, February 7, 7:00 p.m., Montford Community Center

Owner of Burned House Shows Strong Spirit

Joe Newman

Since an early morning fire turned his newly restored historic home at 139 Montford Avenue into a total loss, ten days before Christmas, Joseph Kitt has had every reason to feel down and defeated. Instead, he's "trying to make the best" of the situation, heartbreaking as it is. He's grateful no one was hurt in the blaze. He's moving ahead with his life.



139 Montford Avenue

He wants the neighborhood to know how much he appreciates the "tremendous amount of support and encouragement" he's received from people who've contacted him or stopped by when they've seen him on one of his trips back to the house.

Proud of His Home

Like many other neighbors, I pass the house at 139 Montford Avenue almost every day, and a few months ago I was delighted to see it get a new owner after sitting for years, empty and neglected, with a For Sale sign out front. I watched as workers restored the Colonial Revival house to its late 19th-century glory, board by board and shingle by shingle. I remember smiling the first time I saw our neighborhood's new "acorn" banner hanging on Joseph's front porch.

continued on page 13...

UNC Asheville's Update on Greenway Plans and Progress

Construction May Begin in the Fall

John Pierce, UNC Asheville Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations and Treasurer of UNC Asheville Foundation

While we still have some hurdles to cross, I am hopeful that we will be able to begin work in earnest on extending the Reed Creek Greenway this coming fall.

Teamwork

It has taken a team effort—by the Montford Neighborhood Association, RiverLink, the City of Asheville, and the UNC Asheville Foundation—to get us to this point. Here's where we stand as I write this article and how we have gotten here.



RiverLink.org

The UNC Asheville Foundation bought the 525 Broadway property and organized a cleanup day last spring, when university students, faculty, and staff joined with neighborhood residents to plant trees and shrubs and clear away garbage and invasive vines.

continued on page 15...

CALENDAR

Montford Neighborhood Association Meetings:

- Third Tuesday of every month, Montford Community Center, Pearson Drive.
 - Next meeting: February 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
- All residents are welcome! Everybody in Montford is a member of the neighborhood association.

Informational Neighborhood Meeting on Property Tax Valuation:

- Meet with Buncombe County Tax Department Staff, Thursday, February 7, 7:00 p.m., Montford Community Center.

Send a Sonnet Telegram Valentine through the Montford Park Players:

- Sign up at montfordparkplayers.org/sonnet-telegrams

WNC Unified Theatre Auditions:

- Hosted by A-B Tech and the Montford Park Players, Friday, February 22, and Saturday, February 23, Ferguson Auditorium, 340 Victoria Road, Asheville 28801. Limited to 200 actors and technicians. Preregistration required at www.unifiedauditions.org.

RiverLink Honors Montford for Greenway Support:

- RiverLink Business Awards Ceremony, Friday, March 1, 5:30 p.m. at Donor Recognition Party, RiverLink Warehouse Studios in River Arts District. www.RiverLink.org.

Montford Community Center Activities:

- Adult yoga, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00-9:00 a.m., \$1
- Badminton and table tennis, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Free
- Adult basketball, Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Free
- Adult martial Arts, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. \$10
- Youth lion dancing, Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., \$10
- Open climbing wall, Tuesdays in February, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., \$2
- Afterschool program for children in grades K-5, Monday-Friday. \$30 per week.
- Youth Fun Day Out programs on most teacher work-days and holidays. \$5 plus field trips. Preregistration required.

Contact Kim Kennedy at 253-3714 or montfordr@ashevillenc.gov.

How to Contact the Historic Resources Commission (HRC)

- Stacy Merten, Director, Asheville City Building, 259-5836 or smerten@ashevillenc.gov.

Montford Neighborhood Website

- Visit Montford's informative and user friendly website www.montford.org.
- Contact webmaster Laura Lowe at webmaster@montford.org.

Montford List Serve

- Go to www.montford.org and click on Join the Montford List Serve.

Get involved in the Montford Neighborhood Association.
Contact David Patterson at montford33@bellsouth.net

Montford Community Center News

Neighborhood Helps the Center Help Young People

Kim Kennedy, Center Director

I'd like to thank the Montford neighborhood for supporting our programs in 2012. It was a very busy year for us.



Afterschool, Spring Break, Summer Playground Programs

With neighborhood assistance, we were able to help two youth with afterschool fees and three with summer playground fees, sponsor 16 youth at Fun Day Out programs during the school year and 16 at spring break camp, help four youth attend the National Girls and Women's Sports Day, treat 46 summer playground youth to movies and ice cream, send 30 youth to Hollywild Animal Park in Inman, South Carolina, and buy dinner for four youth while there.

Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Event, Holiday Camp, More

We were able to coordinate a successful Easter Egg Hunt for over 100 youth and their parents, a Halloween event for about 150 youth and parents, and a holiday dinner for over 40 youth and parents. Through our holiday gift drive, we provided Christmas bags filled with toys and supplies for 32 youth.

I would like to thank Sharon Fahrer who provided gifts for all our afterschool moms which were very much appreciated. And with additional assistance from Montford neighbors Joe and Wanda Newman, Bill and Patricia Darcy, and Brian Elston and staff at Campbell Shatley, PLLC, we were able to fully fund the holiday camp program for 21 of our youth. The photos above show some of the fun students had.

On behalf of our center youth and their parents, thanks again for the continued support. We plan on bigger and better activities in 2013!

Feel free to contact me at 253-3714 or montfordr@ashevillenc.gov.



HAPPY CAMPERS. Resting up between activities (top photo) and racing cars at Fast and Furious Days, Holiday Camp 2012.

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Let the Fundraising Begin

Daphne Young, Festival Fundraising Coordinator

Historic Montford gave birth to the first Montford Music and Arts Festival on a windy day in March 2004. It was held inside two storefronts on Montford Avenue with music, poetry readings, crafts, and a small number of vendors.

Here Comes Our Tenth Festival

Here we are this year, preparing to celebrate with our *tenth* music and arts festival on **May 18, 2013**. The planning and fundraising are already under way.

We need your help to make this festival surpass any other and afford us another opportunity to turn over all proceeds after expenses to the Montford Neighborhood Association to help fund our neighborhood improvement projects.



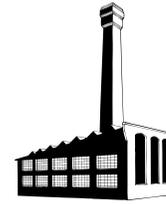
How You Can Help

You can lend a hand either as an individual donor or by helping to find sponsor(s) where you work or among people or companies where you do business. Please check out the festival website at www.montfordfestival.org to see the different levels of sponsorship and their benefits and to download a copy of the fundraising letter.

Please contact me at mgm1013@charter.net or 254-0690 with fundraising ideas or potential sponsors I can contact if that is not something you feel comfortable doing.

Let's get moving and continue to prove what we, as a neighborhood, can accomplish together.

We are accepting applications for artists, vendors and nonprofits for the May 18, 2013 festival. Visit our Montford Festival Facebook page and website for more information.



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Ready for St. Valentine's Day

One-Hundred Years Ago in Montford

Cathryn McLeod

Fancy Ball at the Battery Park Hotel, South End of Cumberland Avenue

From the *Asheville Citizen*, Tuesday, February 11, 1913:

"A valentine ball will take place on the evening of February 14, the day recognized in honor of that patron saint of young lovers, in the ball-room of the Battery Park Hotel. The place will be profusely decorated with palms and potted plants from the Battery Park Conservatory and dancing will be indulged from 9:30 o'clock until midnight.

"The usual afternoon and evening concerts have been resumed by the Battery Park orchestra in the palm room of the hotel. Four pieces compose the orchestra and the hours are from 2 o'clock to 3:30 in the afternoon and from 8 to 10:30 in the evening."



How Valentine Customs Originated

The *Asheville Citizen's* Society and Personals column for Friday, February 14, 1913, tells this story:

"Many gatherings will be had all over the city of Asheville today to commemorate St. Valentine. The numerous versions socially will consist of Valentine luncheons and bridge parties. While this is an occasion principally enjoyed by the young following a custom peculiarly adapted for them, yet the older folk enter into this spirit of the time. St. Valentine's Day is celebrated to some extent by maids and bachelors of this country and Europe by the exchange of pictorial missives inscribed with poetry or other phrase, either of a satirical or sentimental nature.

"The original custom of sending Valentines grew out of the heathen practice connected with the worship of Juno; its association with the Saint is purely accidental. The present custom began in Roman times when the sexes chose partners by lot. On Valentine's eve, young people used to meet and each drew by lot from a number of names of the opposite sex which they deposited in a common box. Each young man thus got his lady for a Valentine and the young lady in turn was likewise favored. The young man was bound to the service of his Valentine for a year."

What Fashionable Young Ladies Will Wear to the 1913 Valentine's Ball

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 The Asheville Citizen, Sunday, February 16, 1913

Look Who's Written for the Montford Newsletter

Almost 100 Contributors since December 2010

Joe Newman

As the editor of this newsletter since the summer of 2007, the middle of every month finds me worried there won't be enough material to fill the upcoming issue. I need to lighten up. By press time, the newsletter is always overflowing with news and human interest stories.

This chronological list of contributors runs from the December 2010-January 2011 issue to the present. It includes Montford residents as well as people living outside our neighborhood. In the case of folks who've written more than one article—and there are many who have—the list marks their first contribution during this time period.

Just look at these names! As I paged through the back issues posted online at www.montford.org under *Newsletter Archives*, I was amazed at the sheer number of writers, just as I've been impressed with the high quality of their contributions over the last five and a half years.

I'm grateful for all the support. Thank you.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Darlena Moore | Mike Hunter | Wanda Newman |
| Cate Scales | Peggy Brooks | Cathy Williams |
| Jeremy Woody | Kenya Webster | Marc Hunt |
| Sharon Fahrer | Tim Hanlon | Nicole Delcogliano |
| David Patterson | Paige Hansen | Ross Terry |
| Stacy Merten | Richard Stiles | Joyce Thornburg |
| Cristin Moody | Editors of <i>This Old House Magazine</i> | Ron Phillips |
| John Russell | Joe Newman | Megan Adams |
| Jerry Conner | Ben Scales | Peggy Gardner |
| Pam Jo Brown | Dave Baker | Karen Kellow |
| Kim Kennedy | Stan Hubbard | Bill Wheeler |
| Paula Sellars | Randy Hall | Tim Spira |
| Mitch Russell | Dina Lewallen | Lisa Wagner |
| Mark Barrett | Grayson Pastis | Mark Marshall |
| Jenny Wilker | Matt Coffay | Gini Crowder-Marshall |
| Travis V. Lowe | Ami Worthen | Phyl Stiles |
| Daphne Young | Roxanne Semon | Dawn "Pebbles" Stucker |
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Zoe Rhine
Ann Wright
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Homer S. Thompson
Parrish Rhodes
Vanessa Santucci
Daniel Kent
Linda Caristo
Andrea Treolo
Kay Loveland
Jane Hallstrom

David Nutter
Brian Elston
City of Asheville
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Chris Joyell
Trudy Terry
Chris Pelly
Kevin Hogan
Jo Hogan
Adrienne van Doreen
Mary Fierle
Cathryn McLeod
John Pierce

TASSIS

The Asheville Schools Summer In Spain

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June 17 - July 7, 2013



- Tour Madrid, medieval Toledo & Segovia, & Southern Spain
- Take classes and play sports
- Do community service and get credit hours
- Hike Sierra Nevada and go to the beach on la Costa del Sol
- Live in Granada with a family and a Spanish brother or sister your own age

For more information or an application, please contact:

Mario Alvarez, TASSIS Director
Native French & Spanish Tutor
Formerly of St. Paul's & Exeter

Email: mariosobe3@gmail.com
Phone: 305-968-7464

New Mural Brightens Up Magnolia Park

Julie Armbruster, Artist

Located at the corner of Flint and Magnolia, the little building in Montford's Magnolia Park has been begging for attention for a long time. Constantly graffitied and having an unfortunate squat, cement-block appearance, it was an eyesore to the otherwise adorable neighborhood. With the generous support of the community, the little building has been given a new look.

Cooperative Effort Gets the Job Done

The project started over a year ago with a phone call. Montford resident Nathan Brown called to see whether I would be open to doing a large-scale mural in one of the city parks near his house. It took a long trail of paperwork, materials research, and many emailed agreements with the City of Asheville's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department to get the project approved. Luckily, Nathan was tenacious and made sure all the legal arrangements were perfect. Once approval was granted, the materials were purchased and the painting began in less than a week.

The budget, which included materials and an artist stipend, was funded largely through the efforts of Nathan Brown, who went door to door to ask for donations. Andrew Snavelly, owner of Dobra's Tea, was so excited about the project that he set up a donation box and raised over \$100 for materials.

Neighbors Cheer Work On

It required five eight-hour days plus two additional flat-paint days to complete the mural. Luckily, the extended Indian summer gave us successive sunny days despite the fact that it was late November when the painting began. The first two days involved applying the primer and two background colors. From there it was just a matter of chalking and filling in the characters. Local muralist Hannah Dansie provided additional help with logistics and efficiency tips for the large-scale project.

The park's neighbors were supportive and curious during the painting process. One parent revealed that she had lots of pictures of their kids playing in the park with the dingy cement building in the background, which gave the pictures a depressing, urban-blight quality. Residents offered praise, enthusiasm, and thanks throughout the project.

Professor Wunderbar, WoodChucks, and Owls

The mural design went through many phases before evolving into the final image. My small-scale work is very detailed and can have many complex characters, but to keep this project within a reasonable budget, the image had to be simplified.

The final design features my original characters, including the large white cat Professor Wunderbar, a group of WoodChucks parachuting from the sky, and a family of owls. All the characters in the mural feature prominently in my paintings and stories, especially Professor Wunderbar who has an entire trilogy dedicated to her story.

I developed the design, like all my work, through intuitive drawing. In this case, I developed the design directly on a photograph of the building.

You can view more of my work at my studio (2B5) in the River Arts District's Wedge Building or online at www.JulieArmbruster.net.



AFTER



BEFORE

How to Contact the Asheville Police Department



- For emergencies, call 911.
- For nonemergencies and to report suspicious activity, call 252-1110.
- For the Crime Prevention Division, call 259-5834.
- For Police Dispatch, call 259-5888.

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With a Rich and Varied Past, 152 Montford Avenue Awaits the Future

Michael McDonough

Many of us pass this corner every day, but the building at the corner of Montford Avenue and West Chestnut Street, tucked under a bland vanilla skin of metal siding, is a bit of mystery.

Neighborhood Grocery

The building is shown on the 1907 Sanborn Map, the oldest accurate map that includes this portion of Montford, in what appears to be the same footprint as now exists. The original owner and function of this building at 152 Montford Avenue are unknown, but according to Groceteria.com, Piggly Wiggly operated a grocery here by 1930 as well as a second store down the street at 235 Montford.

This was a time of neighborhood groceries, with about 73 stores servicing Asheville's residents, including an A&P at 19 Montford, Sunny South Shores at 100 Cherry Street, and Clover Farm at 76 Gray Street and Broadway locations.

House of Worship

By 1935, the Piggly Wiggly here became Jax Pax, one of about four small neighborhood markets scattered around town, including one location on Short Street. By then, the other grocers on Gray and Cherry had disappeared, and the store at 235 Montford had become Dixie Stores.

Both the A&P and Dixie Stores continued business on Montford Avenue into the 1950s, while the Jax Pax on the Corner of Montford and Chestnut appears to have evolved into the Full Gospel Assembly Church sometime in the late 1940s. While the building may have been originally constructed for a market, with an apartment upstairs for the shopkeeper, the 1,600 square feet of open space and high ceilings on the main level also worked well as a place of worship, with the upstairs apartment accommodating visiting ministers and Sunday school downstairs.

Pentecostal Tabernacle Church assumed ownership in 1972 and has held services here for the last 50 years, steadfast while bearing witness to Montford's decline and rebirth. Due to decreasing membership and the costs of maintaining this old building, the church decided that it was time to turn it over to someone else last month, with all the property sale proceeds dispersed to four local charities.



Once Again, a Neighborhood Business

As a Montford resident since 1992, I am pleased that Hans Doellgast of Jade Mountain Builders and I, as Contecture LLC, have become the new owners of the building with the intention of restoring the building toward its original purpose: a neighborhood-oriented business.

Over the next several months, as we explore zoning, HRC, and accessibility issues as well as historic tax credits, we will slowly begin peeling away the metal siding to reveal hidden windows and wood siding and learn exactly what we've have gotten ourselves into.

Other than hoping to fill it with uses, tenants, and residents that fit this building and our neighborhood by the end of the summer, we have no definitive plans, and we welcome any suggestions or support.

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Volunteer!

Contact Sharon Fahrer at 777-1014
to help with events throughout the year.

Montford Park Players Announce 2013 Season



At the Asheville Masonic Temple

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde, April 11-28

Outdoor Season at Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), May 9-26

The Tempest, May 31-June 22

The Merchant of Venice, June 28-July 20

Love's Labours Lost, July 26-August 17

Hamlet, August 23-September 14

At the Asheville Masonic Temple

Othello, October 10-27

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, December 5-22

For more information, visit www.montfordparkplayers.org.

The Montford Park Players

Players Kick Off Fundraising Year with Successful Variety Show

Travis V. Lowe

Montford's free Shakespeare in the park troupe, The Montford Park Players, are preparing to make huge changes to the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre, including re-terracing the seating, adding a lighted handicapped-accessible path, filling the pit, renovating the stage, and constructing a concession stand and welcome center building.

Half the money for this project has come from the Buncombe County Tourism Authority, but the Players still need to raise the second half. Their year of fundraising events began with one crazy night at the Best of 2012 Fundraiser and Variety Show on January 26. The Players raised \$2,000 of their \$100,000 goal that night and have much more in store for the future.

To see how you can help, check out upcoming events, or get details on the renovations, visit www.montfordparkplayers.org/amphitheatre-expansion/.



Grilled Lime Pork Chops With Black Bean & Corn Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- *1/4 cup Fresh lime juice
- *3/4 cup Olive oil (plus additional for coating grill)
- *2 tsp. Garlic, minced
- *1-1/2 tsp. Kosher salt
- *1 tsp. Fresh ground black pepper, to taste
- *1 tsp. Ground coriander
- *6 Boneless pork chops, fat trimmed

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: In a small bowl, whisk together lime juice, oil, garlic, salt, pepper and coriander. Place pork chops in a large zip-top plastic bag and pour marinade over pork chops. Refrigerate for 2 hours. STEP 2: Preheat grill on medium heat. Oil grill rack with oil. STEP 3: Place pork chops on grill and grill 3-4 minutes. Using tongs, turn pork chops a quarter turn to create hatch marks and grill 3-4 minutes. Flip pork chops over and repeat the process. Hold chops using the tongs to create grill marks on the edges, if desired. Proper internal temperature is 150°. STEP 4: Serve pork chops with Black Bean and Corn Salad.

Black Bean and Corn Salad

- *2 medium Ears of corn, husks and silk removed
- *1/4 cup Black beans, rinsed and drained
- *1 small Tomato, small dice
- *1 small Jalapeño pepper, finely chopped
- *2 Tbsp. Green bell pepper, small dice
- *2 Tbsp. Red bell pepper, small dice
- *1/4 cup Jicama, peeled, small dice
- *2 Tbsp. Green onions, chopped
- *1 Tbsp. Vegetable oil
- *2 Tbsp. Fresh cilantro, chopped
- *1 clove Garlic, minced
- *2 tsp. Fresh lime juice
- *Dash Ground cumin
- *1/4 tsp. Kosher salt

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Grill corn over medium heat, turning frequently, until corn is golden brown, about 10-15 minutes. Remove corn from grill and let cool; cut corn from cob. Step 2: In a medium bowl, combine all ingredients and mix until well blended.

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Green Corner
Get Out and Give Back

Mitch Russell



It's a new year, and with it comes a new commitment to getting in shape, bettering ourselves, and trying new things. As I reflect on last month's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, one effort that I'd like to encourage everyone to support is giving back through service. Dr. King led and served from the heart, and service is the centerpiece of the King holiday.

Local Service Opportunities

Adopt-A-Street through Asheville Greenworks: Eric Bradford, 254-1776 or volunteer@ashevillegreenworks.org

Bent Creek Experimental Forest (not the campground): Jacquelyne Adams, 667-5261, ext. 124, jacquiadams@fs.fed.us

Bountiful Cities: bountifulcitiesvols@gmail.com

Reed Creek Greenway: Dave Russell, RiverLink, Volunteer Coordinator, 252-8474, ext. 11, dave@riverlink.org

Traffic island beautification through Asheville Greenworks: Eric Bradford, 254-1776 or volunteer@ashevillegreenworks.org

U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 200 W.T. Weaver Boulevard: Joyce Gorgas, 257-4281, jgorgas@fs.fed.us

Start 2013 by getting out and giving back.

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Full Page	\$200	One (1) free month if pre-pay 12 mos.
Insert	\$250	One (1) free month if pre-pay 12 mos.

NOTES:

Contact Joyce Thornburg at joyce-thornburg@att.net or 258-2207 to place an ad. Layout and ad creation are available by contacting Ross Terry at Ross@KRTdesign.com or 254-3509.

Invoice questions: Contact Susan Eggerton at s.eggerton52@roastedgarlic.net.

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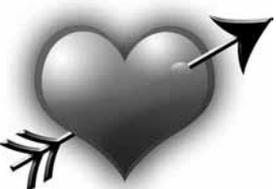
 **The Montford Park Players**

**Send Your Valentine
a Sonnet Telegram!**

*Let the Montford Park
Players Treat Your True
Love, Sweetheart,
or Worst Enemy*

The Players will deliver spoken-word sonnets door to door in costume the week before Valentine's Day, along with a single red rose.

Sign up at montfordparkplayers.org/sonnet-telegrams. Proceeds go to renovate the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre.



Resource Directory

Advertise in the Resource Directory

Send a brief description (30 words or less) and contact information. **More than 1,500 newsletters** are distributed monthly throughout the neighborhood and are also available on the **Montford website** and at the Pack Memorial and North Asheville Public Libraries. Call 258-2207 for more information.

House Histories
Learn the story of your house. Who lived there, who owned it and what they did for a living.
• For more information call Sharon at 777-1014

Historic Walking Tours
For by-appointment walking tours of historic Montford, Riverside Cemetery, and downtown Asheville, call 828-777-1014. A self-guided CD or downloaded MP3 tour of Riverside Cemetery is available online at www.history-at-hand.com Cemetery tour CDs are also available at the Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center or by calling the number above.

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Sat. 2/16 @ 3:00 pm Book launch & signing: Caleb Beisert will be reading from his book of poetry, *Beautiful: Translations from the Spanish*.

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Montford Neighborhood Association News

Brian Elston, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting was called to order on January 15, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Montford Community Center on Pearson Drive by President David Patterson. Board members in attendance were Michael McDonough, Pam Jo Brown, Sharon Fahrer, Daphne Young, Ellen Nutter, Susan Eggerton, and Brian Elston. Also present were Asheville Police Lieutenant Bill Wilkie and several other neighbors.

Safety and Security

Lieutenant Wilke provided the safety and security report. Officer Todd Brigman has been selected as the new Community Resources Officer (CRO) for Montford. He has not yet started his duties but is expected to be at the next MNA meeting.

Lieutenant Wilke reported that the Montford neighborhood has been very quiet since the last MNA meeting. The current status is not unexpected as the holiday season is over and crime typically decreases.

Lieutenant Wilke recommended that neighbors continue to be alert, stay in touch with other neighbors, and not hesitate to call the police department's nonemergency line, 252-1110. If someone comes to your door to solicit something suspicious, for instance house cleaning, call the nonemergency number.

A Montford resident requested Lieutenant Wilke to look into a parked van blocking his driveway.

Lieutenant Wilke's office line is 259-5423 and his email address is wwilke@ashevillenc.gov.

MNA Financials

Treasurer Susan Eggerton provided an overview of the MNA's monthly financials. Cate Scales was recognized for doing a great job with the Holiday Tour of Homes. The tour produced a profit which the MNA will use to support charitable causes and neighborhood projects.

Montford Park Players

Laure Lowa, on behalf of the Montford Park Players (MPP), provided an update on the Montford Park Players' quest to raise \$100,000 over the next 17 months. The players are trying to raise money to improve the outdoor amphitheatre.

The MPP will hold a variety show on January 26 at the Metropolis. This is sure to be a fun event full of MPP antics. Tickets are on sale at montfordpark-players.org

UNCA Greenway

UNCA met with interested residents in January to discuss the university signage and the status of the Reed Creek Greenway extension. UNCA is applying for a state grant in order to complete a section of the greenway. For more information, see John Pierce's article on the front page of this newsletter.

Zoning Issue

Ellen Nutter reported on a zoning issue surrounding a home on Cumberland Avenue. It was determined that the MNA will not make a statement on the proposed zoning recommendation.

Pentecostal Church

Michael McDonough reported that he and his business partner have purchased the Pentecostal Church on Montford Avenue and the property where it stands. There are no definite plans for the site, but as Michael explains in his article on page 8, he welcomes any suggestions.

List Serve Rules

Laura Lowe and Pam Jo Brown are attempting to rewrite the rules for the Montford list serve. The list serve is continuing to grow. Details about the revised rules will follow.

Montford Music and Arts Festival

As Daphne Young reports on page 3, she is already making plans for fundraising for the May 18 festival. Please contact Daphne at mgm1013@charter.net or 254-0690 for further information or to suggest a sponsor for the festival.

The meeting was adjourned at around 8:13 p.m.





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Burned House

Continued from front page...

Although I didn't know him, I did talk briefly with Joseph on a couple of occasions when I delivered his monthly *Montford Newsletter*. He came across as a guy who couldn't have been happier to be the owner of an old house in Montford. When we talked by phone a few days ago, he said he looks back on restoring the house as a rewarding experience.

Good and Bad Times

Joseph's house, one of the oldest on the avenue, was built in the early 1890s by Benjamin and Bessie Gudger, relatives of the Gudger family whose home at the corner of Montford and Bearden was a star of the 2012 Holiday Tour of Homes. Fannie Gudger, daughter of Benjamin and Bessie, grew up at 139 Montford, started a kindergarten in the house about 1927, and lived there until 1954.

In the decades that followed, the house went through hard times like most of Montford. A neighbor recalls another fire in the house in the mid-1980s, when flames shot out the large front window on the first floor.

Now the house Joseph Kitt rescued is slated for demolition. He says he's "just getting his arms around" the loss he's suffered.

He isn't sure whether he'll rebuild on the site or even whether he'll remain in Montford, a place he grew to love in just a short time. I know the neighborhood wishes him well and hopes he'll be able to stay. It says a lot about Joseph's spirit that, soon after the fire, he moved his charred Christmas tree out to the front porch for the holiday season, its blackened trunk wrapped with a brightly colored ribbon.

Montford and HRC to Rework Ancillary Structure Definitions in Guidelines

David Patterson, President, Montford Neighborhood Association

A recent application to the Historic Resources Commission for a new "accessory" structure was met with surprising neighborhood opposition to its size and placement. Some of the confusion arose from perceived discrepancies between definitions in the *Montford Historic District Design Review Guidelines* and those found in the City of Asheville's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).



What, exactly, is an "accessory" structure?

In an effort to address neighborhood concerns, MNA representatives and members of the HRC met in December to discuss existing guidelines regarding "accessory" structures and new ancillary buildings within the Montford Historic District. Also discussed were definitions and appropriate language to be used in the future.



Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

January 9, 2013, Meeting—Action Agenda for Montford

Asheville City Building, First Floor North Conference Room, 4:00 p.m.
Contact Stacy Merten: 259-5836 www.ashevillenc.gov/business/development_services/planning_zoning/historic_dist/

Members present: Hillary Cole, Brian Cook, David Carpenter, Nan Chase, J. Ray Elingburg, David Nutter, Brendan Ross, Tracey Rizzo, Jo Stephenson, Capi Wampler

Staff present: Stacy Merten, Peggy Gardner, Jannice Ashley

Item and Summary	Action
28 Woodlawn Avenue—screened porch	Approved
139 Montford Avenue—demolition after fire	Approved w/conditions
41 Cumberland Circle—accessory structure	Approved w/conditions
Please refer to the website www.ashevillenc.gov/hrc for the full approved minutes after each month's meeting.	

February 13, 2013, Meeting—Tentative Agenda for Montford

Asheville City Building, First Floor North Conference Room, 4:00 p.m.

New Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

- 38 Elizabeth Place—retaining wall
- 5 Cullowhee Street—single-family residence

Preliminary Review

- 41 Stames Avenue—new porch and garage/office accessory structure; rebuild back stairs

Other Business

Comments from commissioners, public, and staff

Several things will come from this meeting, including a draft of possible changes to Montford's *Design Review Guidelines*; presentation and discussion of proposed changes at a future public meeting of the MNA; and final adoption by the HRC of the revised guidelines. We will also consult with planning staff to see whether any changes to the UDO are desirable.

Under these revisions, the HRC would require submission of storyboards with all "accessory" structure applications as well as requiring a pre-submission of plans so that better notification can be made to the community. Storyboarding presents the proposed structure in context with surrounding buildings and neighbors.

Second and Third Structures

What has seemed a rather routine type of request in the past has become more contentious as residents design larger second and sometimes *third* structures on their properties. While allowed under the current UDO for certain zonings, better definitions for the scale and placement of structures are needed in Montford's *Guidelines*.

Discussion at the December 18 MNA meeting found neighbors in agreement that the term "accessory structure" should remain in the *Guidelines* and that the term should have the same meaning as it applies to the UDO—including size restrictions.

The Mary Spear Wolcott House, 288 Montford Avenue

Another Spear Sister Goes into Real Estate

Zoe Rhine, North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library

In the November issue of the *Montford Newsletter*, we looked at three houses built by Mildred Lewis Stearns: her home at 150 Cumberland Avenue and the houses she had built at 228 and 230 Montford Avenue, all the work of contractor Oliver Davis Revell. Mildred [Spear] Stearns moved to Asheville from the capital city of Springfield, Illinois, in 1894 along with her younger sister, Jennie P. Spear.

But Mildred and Jennie were not the only Spear sisters building houses in Montford.

Mr. Smith Gets the Commission

While researching their investment properties at 228 and 230 Montford Avenue, I discovered a notice that at first did not appear to be connected. The *Asheville Daily Citizen*, June 6, 1899, reported plans for a house to be erected on Montford Avenue for Mrs. M.S. Wolcott of Chicago. The 10-room house was to be built according to plans by architect Richard Sharp Smith and constructed by local builder and contractor W.T. Hadlow.

Upon further research I discovered that Mrs. M.S. Wolcott was Mary Spear Wolcott, the older sister of Mildred and Jennie, who was born in Springfield in 1834.

As noted in *Historic Montford* (1985), there is no evidence that Mrs. M.S. Wolcott lived in the house she had built. She may have initially had plans to live here, as it is hard to imagine why Wolcott would have built such a grand house—one of the most prominent houses in Montford, a commission that architect Smith recorded in *My Sketchbook* (1901), and one of the most compelling uses of his talents—solely for investment purposes. It is likely that all three sisters came to Asheville for Jennie's health.

Healthy Place with Booming Real Estate: Asheville in the 1890s

The librarian I consulted in Springfield commented that, much to her surprise (and to mine), while looking for Spear family information she found many mentions of Asheville in the Springfield newspapers. When I asked her in what ways Asheville was mentioned, she responded that “many traveled to Asheville for their health, or for the warmer winter weather.”

Of course, there was also mention in 1899 of “George Vanderbilt purchasing 4,000 acres of land in the suburbs of Asheville he will turn into a magnificent park.” The librarian even joked, “That seemed to work out well for him, didn't it?” In 1893 the newly elected Illinois governor, John Peter Altgeld, spent time in Asheville for his health.

Whatever reasons initially brought the Spear sisters south (they did also have land holdings in Springfield, some of which they kept until Mildred left for China), they clearly invested in Montford. An article in the *Asheville Daily Citizen* on December 5, 1899, titled “Great Demand For Asheville Houses/Calls Are Probably More Numerous Than Ever Before In The City's History,” quoted



288 Montford Avenue (2013)

five real estate agents who all reported sentiments such as “The demand for unfurnished houses to rent is a great deal larger than the supply. Our calls average two or three a day.”

As one agent put it, “Every day I have a visit from somebody who wants a house at a rental of \$20 to \$25 a month. The call almost invariably is for unfurnished houses. The fact is, the demand is greater than I have ever known it here.” The Spear sisters, daughters of an Illinois shopkeeper, were part of this development, which is the type thought to have spurred quite a large amount of Montford's turn-of-the-century growth.

From Mayor's House to B&B

Mary Spear Wolcott sold her house in 1906 to William M. Bacheller for \$6,500. A traveling salesman from Kentucky, Bacheller and his wife Ella appear to have been in Asheville for only a year; he sold the following year to J. H. Carter for \$1,100 cash, with Carter assuming the payment of \$4,400 to Mrs. Wolcott. Carter was the president of the American National Bank in Asheville from 1907 to 1911. Showing pride in his fine new residence, Carter had a postcard printed in Germany and published in Asheville in 1908 featuring the home with his name and occupation across the top.

Hardware merchant Ottis Green, Asheville's mayor from 1931-1933, bought the home in 1915 and lived there until his death in 1973. Eventually the house was restored as a bed and breakfast, becoming the well-known Black Walnut Inn in 1992.

The North Carolina Room at Pack Memorial Library

A house can tell many stories. Do you know the history of your house? You could share any pictures or documents with us, and we would carefully preserve the information to share with the community. Don't know your home's history? We may have photographs and information you would enjoy!

North Carolina Reference Desk

Buncombe County Public Libraries, 67 Haywood Street, Asheville, NC 28801
nc.reference@buncombecounty.org, 250-4740

Montford Goes to Washington

Continued from front page...

On Inauguration Day, the band had the honor of marching right in front of President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama. The sun was going down as the Cougars completed their four-mile march, proceeding past the reviewing stand in their black and red uniforms and playing their hearts out for the president. Unforgettable.

McDaniel's Moment

Here's what the *Asheville Citizen-Times* said about Kinana McDaniel that day:

The band had to make some last-minute adjustments, which mostly fell to Kinana McDaniel, the drummer who led off each segment in the parade loop. In the moments before they began, at least a dozen of them said they were more worried for her than for themselves. And in the moments after they stepped back on the bus, they erupted in spontaneous applause for her.

On Tuesday night the returning buses were met at Exit 55 by a surprise police escort and back at Asheville High by a large crowd of cheering, sign-toting fans.

The considerable funds needed for the trip were raised with benefit concerts and other events and from many local and regional benefactors.

Two filmmakers, Andy Crespo and Peter Brezny, traveled to Washington with the band and are making a documentary about the trip. To learn more about their project and contribute to support post-production of the documentary, go to www.indiegogo.com/projects/312691. The *Citizen-Times* coverage also includes many heart-warming videos and photographs.

Greenway

Continued from front page...

Greenway to Run along the Creek

We met with city officials to plan specifics and to arrange an agreement that would place the greenway along Reed Creek rather than along Broadway Street, as originally planned when the land was owned by The Health Adventure. This change will make a better greenway. To make this possible, the UNC Asheville Foundation will give the city an easement for the greenway along the creek in exchange for city-owned parcels along Broadway.

State Grant Application

The main hurdles left are financial, but we are making great progress. The UNC Asheville Foundation is applying for a grant from the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation State Trails Program, and the good news is that our pre-application was accepted. We submitted a final grant application at the end of January.

Sweat and Dollars

We believe that strong community support—with sweat and with dollars—will help our application. The Montford Neighborhood Association has raised and contributed \$12,000 toward RiverLink's goal of raising \$60,000 for the project. A greenway benefit auction hosted by Jo and Kevin Hogan of Montford brought in an additional \$2,500. UNC Asheville students, through their student government representatives, voted to pay a \$10 transportation fee during the next school year that will contribute roughly \$34,000 to the project. Our students, like Montford residents, see the benefit of having a beautiful, safe pathway between the school, neighborhood, and downtown.

We have gotten unanimous approval from Asheville City Council for the commitments the city needs to make in terms of easements and funding, so we can submit the final grant proposal. In addition to the neighborhood and student contributions and to the grant funding we hope to receive, the Reed Creek Greenway will also be funded by the City of Asheville and the UNC Asheville Foundation.

We should know about grant funding by late summer, but in the meantime, we are already working with a landscape architect to develop a detailed design and cost estimate. If all goes well with the grant, we can begin work in the fall toward construction of a beautiful new greenway along Reed Creek between Catawba Street and Weaver Boulevard.

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Montford is published monthly by the Montford Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 7181, Asheville, NC 28802 for the residents of Asheville's first historic neighborhood. The newsletter is distributed by more than 50 volunteers.

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