



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 18 No. 12
DECEMBER '13/JANUARY '14

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE



Join Us for Montford's 2013 Holiday Tour of Homes

The Lion and the Rose B&B

Saturday, December 14, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Tickets at the Asheville Visitor Center Gift Shop—Details Inside on Pages 2 and 3

Montford Park Players Opens *A Christmas Carol*

**John Russell, Managing Director,
Montford Park Players**

The Montford Park Players presents its 37th annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens and adapted for the stage by Michelle Schwantes, **December 5-22** at Asheville's historic Masonic Temple, 80 Broadway Street, in downtown Asheville.

Tempus Fugit Designs

Newly revised for the 2013 season, *A Christmas Carol* is our retelling of the classic Dickens tale of greed and redemption. Starring Carney Gray in his MPP debut as Ebenezer Scrooge, and directed by Michelle Schwantes, this Asheville tradition is a must see for the whole family.

Tickets Will Sell Out

Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at montfordchristmascarol.eventbrite.com or by calling the box office at 254-5146. *A Christmas Carol* is always sold out, so get your tickets early and don't be disappointed. Season ticket and pass holders should call the box office to reserve your seats. Free parking at Home Trust Bank, 10 Woodfin Street.

Opening night, Thursday, December 5, is *Pay What We're Worth Night*. No reservations—see the show, then pay what you think we're worth!



Help a Neighbor This Season

**Kim Kennedy, Director,
Montford Community Center**

Sponsor a Child for Holiday Camp

Consider helping a Montford child attend the Holiday Camp program, held at Stephens-Lee Center this year, while the Montford Center is undergoing renovations. The cost of camp is \$40 or less per child, depending on the number of children enrolled per family and whether or not the camper is receiving free or reduced lunch.

Cash can be dropped off at the Montford Center, and checks can be dropped off or mailed to Montford Center, 34 Pearson Drive, Asheville, NC 28801. Make checks payable to City of Asheville. Be sure to get a receipt and leave your contact information.

Donate and Watch Your Heart Grow

We are also accepting donations of toys and clothing (we can especially use socks, toys, crayons, and coloring books) to help our families with the holidays through **December 17**. I can't begin to express our gratitude to all the generous neighbors who have helped us in the past. You have been wonderful, and please know that not only do the Montford Center staff appreciate you, so do the Montford families we serve. If you have other questions, please contact me at 253-3714.

THE 2013 MONTFORD

CALENDAR

Montford Neighborhood Association Meetings:

- Third Tuesday of every month, Montford Community Center, Pearson Drive.
- Next meeting: December 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m. Watch the list serve for agenda items.
- January meeting: January 21, 2014, 7:00 p.m. All residents are welcome! Everybody in Montford is a member of the neighborhood association.

Montford Holiday Tour of Homes:

- Our 18th annual, Saturday, December 14, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Tickets \$20, available until December 14 at Asheville Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center Gift Shop, 36 Montford Avenue.

Montford Park Players:

- Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, December 5-22, Thursdays-Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Asheville Masonic Temple, 80 Broadway, downtown.
- For more information and reserved tickets, see www.montfordparkplayers.org.

Montford Recreation Center Activities:

- Jingle Bell 5K Run Walk, Saturday, December 7 at the center. More information and registration at jinglebellrunasheville.kintera.org.
- Annual Holiday Donations Drive for students in Afterschool Program. Bring donations to the center by Tuesday, December 17.
- Holiday Camp held this year at Stephens-Lee Center on weekdays, December 23-31 (not 24 or 25), 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$40 per child. Sponsorships needed. Register at any recreation center by Thursday, December 19.
- Developing Future Male Leaders program, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Montford Center Assistant Director William Hoke leads young men in grades 3-5 and up to grade 8. Call for more information.
- Afterschool Program for children in grades K-5, Monday-Friday, with all-day care on most teacher workdays, holidays, and snow days. Call for more information.
- Adult yoga, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00-9:00 a.m., \$1
- Youth martial arts, Tuesdays, 6:00-6:45 p.m., \$10 per class
- Adult martial arts—Mark Small of the Western North Carolina Wushu Association teaches adult class on Tuesdays, 6:45-8 p.m., contact Mark at msmall@main.nc.us for more information.
- Juggling, Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Call for dates and details.

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

American Red Cross Blood Drive:

- January 14, 2014, Lenoir-Rhine University Center for Graduate Studies of Asheville, 36 Montford Avenue. For more information, contact paul.knott@lr.edu.

Time for the Tour!

Cate Scales, Tour Director

If you had asked two months ago, I'd have said, "I'm not sure we're going to be able to pull this off this year." With only two homes confirmed, it was a little daunting. As usual, I was wrong, and it's because of amazing neighbors who have stepped up to offer their homes, their time, and their resources to put together this annual event.

Eclectic Variety of Homes

From the Rankin House Inn, the oldest house in our neighborhood, to the newest house on the block on Montford Avenue, there's an impressive lot of homes to explore this year. For example, Greeson & Fast Interior Design will share their recently renovated space on Cherry Street, and the owners of Edge Gallery will be sharing their Montford Avenue home and artwork. Another home you'll visit on the avenue was occupied by only two families for 100 years.

Beautiful architecture, renovation, and innovation will abound. We hope you'll join us on **Saturday, December 14, 1:00-5:00 p.m.**, to celebrate the eighteenth annual run of this tour!

Thanks to Our Sponsors

We have generous support from Tod's Tasties, Square Peg Construction, Hewn Inc., the Rankin

House Inn, SouthEast Ecological Design, Town and Mountain Realty, the Matt & Molly Team with Keller Williams, the Montford Walk-in Bakery, and The Goods Asheville. The rally of support has been fantastic, and this community benefits directly from these sponsors' generosity. We hope you'll support them, too!

There'll be 11 homes to visit this year plus a refreshment and music stop at the Scales house on East Waneta. We're still gathering stories and background on each home with the assistance of Zoe Rhine in the Pack Memorial Library's North Carolina Room. When you purchase your ticket, you'll receive a map of all the locations along with information on the history and renovation of each property. Docents and homeowners will be on hand to answer questions.

This tour is for all of us, so we hope you'll plan to attend, volunteer, or donate and continue to support the Montford Neighborhood Association's improvement projects, ranging from the new signs in Montford Park to the Reed Creek Greenway to programs for children at the Montford Recreation Center. Together we can make a difference in this, our historic neighborhood!

Tickets are available at the Asheville Visitor Center Gift Shop in the Chamber of Commerce Building, 36 Montford Avenue. For more information, visit www.montfordtour.com.



32 Elizabeth Place, William D. and Elizabeth Rankin House (c. 1846). Rankin House Inn, Fred Eggerton, Innkeeper.

This Greek Revival house with Italianate details added during the Victorian era is the oldest house in Montford and the oldest frame house in Buncombe County. The house was built as the centerpiece of a farm north of the small village of Asheville. The Rankins, originally in the mercantile business, became a leading family as the village grew into a city. The current owner has renovated the house and will open it soon as a bed and breakfast inn.



56 Cumberland Avenue, Louisa J. Thompson House (1906). Louisa's Porch Homestay Bed and Breakfast, Bob Talley, Innkeeper.

This house is named for the widow whose residency in the house, 1914-1945, spanned the First and Second World Wars. Local lore has it that neighborhood ladies often passed the time sitting with Mrs. Thompson on the front porch swapping news, recipes, and all manner of stories. Completely rebuilt in 2006, the house now features solar panels, a geothermal heat pump, and other green technologies.

Happy Holidays ...to Our Neighbors
from the Newsletter Staff

HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES



135 Cumberland Avenue, Marvin B. Wilkinson House (c. 1897). A Bed of Roses Bed and Breakfast, Bill and Emily McIntosh, Innkeepers.

This classic Queen Anne Victorian was built as an investment property for Mrs. Carolyn Gray by Oliver Davis Revell, a prominent Asheville developer who constructed several other houses in Montford. Lumber company president Marvin B. Wilkinson bought the home in 1904 and became its first long-term occupant. Its current owners proudly welcome guests to their beautifully restored inn and its well-tended grounds.



144 Montford Avenue, Walter F. and Edna M. Swiggett House (c. 1907). Home of Lucia and John Dempsey.

This pebbledash house was built for Walter Swiggett, a dealer in general merchandise, and his wife Edna. The house was designed by Richard Sharp Smith, and the current owners say it has “a wonderful energy.” When you visit this cozy three-bedroom home with its beautiful stairwell and “quirky closet,” you’ll also see an impressive collection of artwork.



216 Montford Avenue, F. Ruggles and Maud Gudger Baker House (c. 1923). Bonnie and Ed Parker, Owners.

This brick Colonial in the heart of the neighborhood was originally the home of the manager of the Prudential Life Insurance Company and his wife. Mrs. Baker was a member of the prominent Gudger family that owned several large houses on Montford Avenue closer to downtown. The current owners of this home enjoy its spacious feeling, bright sunroom, and newly remodeled kitchen with butler’s pantry.



257 Montford Avenue, William H. and Alice Shoffner House (c. 1909). Home of Bill Jacobs and Susan Posey.

This shingle-style home with upper and lower front porches overlooking the avenue was originally the home of jeweler William Shoffner and his wife Alice, who built a small empire of investment property in the “Soco Triangle” of Montford. For 100 years, the house was occupied by only two families, the Shoffners and the Whitens. The current owners have enjoyed researching the history of the house and enhancing its landscaping.



276 Montford Avenue, Craig-Toms House (1896). The Lion and the Rose Bed and Breakfast, Jim and Linda Palmer, Innkeepers.

Combining Queen Anne and Colonial Revival architecture and boasting meticulously maintained gardens, this house is one of the most striking on the avenue. Built for Elmer and Charity Rusk Craig, who relocated to Asheville from Wisconsin in hopes of improving Mr. Craig’s health, the house was purchased by the Toms family in 1913 and has always been owned by single families.



299 Montford Avenue, Rothlein House (2012). Home of Susan and Lewis Rothlein.

The design of this Modern Arts and Crafts Bungalow was a collaboration between the owners and builder Kevin Ward of SouthEast Ecological Design. The goal was a house that would fit the character of the Montford Historic District while incorporating contemporary design inside and green, energy-efficient elements that include geothermal and solar. The house received certification at the gold level from Green Built North Carolina.



157 Tacoma Circle, L. J. Darr House (1925). Home of Sue G. Russell.

The early history of this American Four Square reflects the real estate frenzy that swept Asheville during the 1920s. The house sold once in 1925 and five times in 1926. It is currently undergoing a complete renovation highlighted by a reconfigured kitchen and master bedroom, custom interior trim work and built-ins, decorated ceilings, full-spectrum paint, and extensive front yard stonework.



51 Houston Street, Thomas and Clara Coonan House (1925). Home of Al and Debbie Rinas.

A house built during the real estate boom of the 1920s, this brick four-square was originally the home of the Coonans, who moved from Iowa to Asheville for Mr. Coonan’s health. Sitting on the rolling hillside of Houston Street, the house was built in an area then known as Arborvale Park. The current owners have made the house comfortable and inviting.



135 Cherry Street, Frank F. and Mary T. Howell House (1918). Offices of Greeson & Fast Interior Design.

Half a century before I-240 separated Montford from downtown, a time when houses lined both sides of Cherry Street, Frank and Mary Howell built their home here. Mr. Howell was a carpenter who became a city building inspector and then a building contractor. Greeson & Fast Interior Design has renovated the house with sensitivity and flair.

Montford Neighbors—Help Us Help One Another

Montford Community Blood Drive for the American Red Cross

January 14, 12:30–6:30 p.m. at 36 Montford Avenue. Sponsored by Lenoir-Rhyne University's Center for Graduate Studies of Asheville.

You can help by volunteering to:

- donate blood
- recruit others to donate
- greet and register donors or serve refreshments at the event
- spread the word about your Montford Community Blood Drive.



Our goal is to collect at least 26 donations. Please help!

Questions? Willing to help? Contact Paul Knott, Center Director, at paul.knott@lr.edu or (828) 407-4269.



Paul Dixon
828.215.7772

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Welcome to the Montford Tour of Homes and Happy Holidays from ERA Sunburst Realty!

Holiday Gift Ideas:

- To your enemy, forgiveness*
 - To an opponent, tolerance*
 - To a friend, your heart*
 - To a customer, service*
 - To all, charity*
 - To every child, a good example*
 - To yourself, respect*
- Oren Arnold**

111 Central Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
www.AshevilleHistoricHomes.com
828-258-1284
Sid.Border@era.com



Looking for a Home in Montford

Dear Neighbors;
My daughter and I are currently renting in Montford and would love to purchase a home of our own. I am looking for a 1920's bungalow, ideally with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a front porch, and enough yard space for our 2 golden retrievers. I love the architectural details of an older house and enjoy creating beautiful gardens around them. If you are planning on selling, please consider sending me an email.

Thank you!
Natalie Belanga,
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Montford Community Center News

Kim Kennedy, Center Director



Holiday Camp

Kids—come have fun with us! The Holiday Camp includes gym games, crafts, field trips, and special events. Camp ends with a dance and countdown at our annual New Year's Eve party. The program is for youth in grades K-8 and meets December 23, 26, 27, 30, and 31, from 8:30-5:30 p.m. The cost for the first child from a family is \$40, and each additional child is \$30. Fees are reduced for those receiving free or reduced lunch at their school. The registration deadline is December 17. Please let us know if any neighborhood youth need help paying to attend this program or if you would like to sponsor a child at camp.

Volleyball, Climbing Wall, Toddlers Oh My!

Beginning in late January, Montford Center will have a new gym and lots of new programs. We will offer open climbing wall, youth volleyball, open volleyball, and toddler time. Call the center for more details.

Contact Kim Kennedy at Montford Center, 253-3714 for more information.

LEAF REMINDER:
Bagged leaves are collected on the first and third weeks of the month.

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Pack Library's NC Room Wins Preservation Award

Congratulations to the staff of the North Carolina Room at the Pack Memorial Library for receiving the Award for Collection Preservation Excellence from the North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCP). Zoe Rhine accepted the award on behalf of her colleagues Ann Wright, Betsy Murray, and Lyme Kedic at the NCP's 2013 annual meeting at UNC-Chapel Hill in November.

Montford residents can read *Heard Tell*, the NC Room's blog, at pack-libraryncroom.wordpress.com, or visit the North Carolina Collection in person to find out more about the history of their neighborhood or their own home.



North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville



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Winter Care of Trees

Michael Rayburn, Certified Arborist

For most residents of Montford, winter brings a time of rest to the garden. But for your trees, it is an important time to prepare for the upcoming spring.

Even if a tree looks dormant, there is growth continuing above and below ground. Your trees are forming and expanding new leaf and flower buds, and cells are altering their structure to survive deep freezes. So, just as you helped your tree through those summer monsoons and now fall droughts, it is important to know a few things to do over the winter that will help your tree make it to spring in good shape.



Mulch before Winter Sets In

Most homeowners believe in putting mulch down in the spring to give gardens a fresh look, but actually, the best time to mulch is in the fall. Think about a forest. Its mulch is the fallen leaves, and trees and soil microorganisms have evolved to this cycle. The mulch you put down in the fall (whether it be shredded mulch, nuggets, compost, or just leaves from your yard) acts as a blanket, helping to buffer the soil against the winter's harsh, dry, freezing winds. Remember to never push mulch or any materials up against the tree's trunk. It is always best to leave the soil bare going up to two inches to a tree's trunk.

Prune in the Winter

Winter is the best time to prune most species of trees. This is simply because you can see the structure so much easier with the leaves gone, and for conifers, the sap will not be as runny. If needed, take the time during the winter to have

your tree structurally thinned (*not topped*) by a certified arborist. If you don't, winter ice or snowstorms could damage the tree and provide cause for utility companies to prune a tree according to their own specifications.

Water and Wrap Young Trees

The last two actions are more directed toward young trees. First, remember that they do need water a couple of times during the winter. Only do this when the ground is not frozen.

Second, for fruit trees and other prized specimens like small Japanese maples, the freeze and thaw cycle can be hard because they do not have as many layers of xylem (the inner layers of dead wood that form tree rings) as larger trees. These layers act as pressure release valves during the freeze-thaw cycles in larger trees, and help protect the tree against freeze-crack. You can help young trees by wrapping them in burlap or plastic cloth. Just do not forget to remove the covering right before the spring, or you could damage the newly expanding bark.

Questions concerning this article can be directed to me at rayburntree@hotmail.com.



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Montford Neighborhood Association Minutes
See montford.org for minutes of the November 19 meeting.

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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Winter Holiday Safety

Winter Holidays are a time for families & friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season!

- *Keep candles away from decorations and other flammable materials
- *Keep children and animals out of kitchen while cooking
- * Never leave cooking unattended
- * Water tree frequently and keep away from heat sources
- * Use only UL approved lights
- * Test smoke alarms before gatherings
- * Practice your fire evacuation plan TODAY!



www.ashevilenc.gov/fire



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Support Upcycled Art from Artful Pallet

Make Me Down a Pallet Soft and Low

Brian Monteleone and Barry Allen

Pallets. Almost every consumer good, some time in its life cycle, will sit on one. Unfortunately, after its own short life cycle, the pallet will often be thrown away, abandoned in a corner, or ground into mulch at best.

We are two local Asheville craftsmen looking to find a new outlet for this squandered resource, through the creation of furniture and other home and garden items. Brian is a wood sculptor, contractor, and self-professed "pallet snob," and Barry is a Montford artist with a background in engineering.

Artful Pallet unintentionally evolved from a series of Brian's home projects this past summer. After seeing the beauty and usefulness of pallet wood, Brian decided to create his own answer to the Adirondack chair. Many pallet hunts and several incarnations later, a business materialized. Since that time, you can see and purchase our work at local craft fairs, Mountain Made at the Grove Arcade, and the Montford Farmer's Market.

Works for sale include chairs, porch swings, tables, wine racks, and more. The design styles range from rustic to industrial to the left-of-perfect look. We are constantly working on new pieces of all sizes and function (from bars to chicken coops), and will build items by request. All of our materials (other than hardware and coatings) are completely upcycled. We use only hardwoods such as maple, oak, cherry, and poplar, covered in a variety of finishes. Past-incorporated upcycled items include bike gears, wine corks, and refrigerator parts.

Besides residential customers, Artful Pallet is seeking to fill the needs of bars, restaurants, decorators, and designers who are looking to buy from local craftsmen who use eco-conscious materials. Learn more at www.artfulpallet.com.



Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

November 13, 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/hrc
 Members present: Capi Wampler, Brendan Ross, Nan Chase, Brian Cook, Jo Stephenson, David Carpenter, Patricia Cothran, J. Ray Elingburg, Woodard Farmer, David Nutter, Tracey Rizzo
 Staff present: Stacy Merten, Peggy Gardner, Jannice Ashley

Item and Summary

Action

8 Short Street—new single-family residence Approved with conditions
 226 Flint Street—new single-family residence..... Approved with conditions
 Refer to the website (www.ashevillenc.gov) for the full approved minutes after the following month's meeting.

December 11, 2013, Meeting—Tentative Agenda for Montford

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

Old Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

41 Starnes Avenue—side porch addition
 226 Flint Street—landscape/site plan for new single-family residence

New Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

76 Flint Street—new single-family residence
 26 Cumberland Circle—solar panels on front elevation

Preliminary Review

97 Santee Street—new single-family residence and accessory structure
 47 Short Street—new single-family residence
 42 Cumberland Avenue—new single-family residence

Other Business

Update on Preservation Plan
 Comments from Commissioners, Public, and Staff



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The Bears among Us

Joanie Miller

As if being in Montford isn't enough, we get to have bears. The tangly woods and ravines of Montford feel like a congenial place, and so I'm glad they've found us, as long as they don't get too familiar. So far, so good. Let's mind our ecological manners and intelligence, and keep them safe and protected. At the end of this article, see the link to Co-existing with Bears from the NC Wildlife Commission's website.

Following are a few stories from Montford residents. Keep the stories coming if you have an unusual encounter. It was a special time, October and November, before our black bears went into hibernation. Let 'em rest now.

November 7

From Chris Goldman on Tacoma Street—The bears have been by at least four times, probably many more (I think we're part of their regular route). They got our suet feeder one night, got the bird seed out of our feeder one morning, and last night got into the trash. They also tried to get into our compost, but it's got a locked cover. There are four bears: the three cubs and the mother.

The night I took a video was the coolest—I went out to call the cat in, and I heard some shuffling of leaves in the walkway on the side of our house. I looked over and didn't see anything—they are so black, they disappear in dark spaces. But I looked toward the street and saw the outline of the mother bear bringing up the rear. In a moment, the first cub appeared and went straight to the pond, where he plopped down on his belly and drank. The others followed. I had brought the bird feeder in that night, so the mother bear looked disappointed when she didn't see it.

Unfortunately, as they were crossing our alley into the woods behind us, someone drove down the alley (which ends at our house—it's more like a driveway). I guess they had seen the bears crossing Tacoma and decided to get a better look. They came up the driveway with headlights blaring and spooked the bears, who climbed a tree in the woods.

Another interesting and funny thing: in one of my photos, you can see a red object. This was an inflated ball that they took from our neighbor's back yard. Apparently, they must have been playing with it and carried it over to our house. Their claws don't make for the best game of catch, and the ball was left punctured in our back yard.

I have read that they will normally go into hibernation in our area (or a form of hibernation) in late November or December. Hopefully next year there will be enough of an acorn crop in the mountains that they won't come back down here. I'm worried that they're having enough success getting food around people that they might decide to come back, and eventually one will be hit by a car or will do something that will end tragically for a human or for them. But it's been beautiful to see them.

November 6

From Jo Hogan on Pearson Drive—We had the four bears in our driveway and yard early last night on Pearson. I hate to say that our dog caused

them to climb up the pine trees, but they quickly came back down when we were able to get the dog back in the house. They knocked over the garbage cans but since all the garbage had been picked up that morning, they found them empty. They bent the tall pole with the bird feeder on it all the way to the ground. This is the third time this has happened in two years (this is why we put the feeders on tall poles).

They then went back over by the garbage cans, and knocked over and opened the metal can that held our bird feed. We watched one eat seed out of the lid like it was his plate, and the other put his head in the can to eat. They were very relaxed, were just sitting and lying around, and looking at us for a while.

October 31

Denise Mills, Panola Street—The bears wandered across Montford Avenue last night. They were in my yard on Panola Street around 10:00 p.m.

October 30

Lori Postal, Pearson Drive—A bear family has taken up residence on Pearson near Waneta. Have seen a mom and two cubs daily for the past four days rummaging around in my back yard, eating black walnuts and climbing in the trees. They eventually cross the street and disappear through the empty lot across the street. 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. seem to be the best times for a snack!

Jenny Wilker, Gray Street—Maybe the same family, or another, was in our driveway at the bottom of Gray Street (off Pearson) last night around 7:30 p.m. My dog heard and maybe saw them, and my neighbor hollered at me to go back inside because he saw three bears there. Garbage knocked over. On a walk this morning, I noticed another can knocked over on the corner of Watauga and Danville Place

Paula Sellers, Westover Drive—Our humming bird feeder pole was torqued out this morning, as it seems only a bear could do. We're on the lower section of Westover. They're on the move! It's fun to track them. . . . Be safe!

Bob Presley, Hibriten Drive—They were trick or treating on Hibriten last night, mother bear over 200 pounds. Cubs, three of them, all over 100 pounds. My dog said bow-WOW.

For more information, click the pdf link to Co-existing with Bears at www.ncwildlife.org/



Photo by Chris Goldman

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