



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 30 No. 06 JUNE/JULY '25

Welcome Summer



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TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Calendar

Facility Closures:

August 8 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
September 1

Dart Side of the Moon Nerf Night

August 15 and 29 from 6:00PM-7:30PM

Splash of Colors (Toddlers)

August 16 from 1:00PM-1:45PM

Easel and Eats

August 13 from 5:00PM-7:00PM

Bad Art Bonanza

September 12 and 26 from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Memory Vault

September 2 from 11:00am-12:00pm
September 4 from 5:30pm-6:30pm

Senior Fall Class

September 8, 15, and 22 from 1:00pm-2:00pm

Afterschool

First Day - August 25
Registration Opens - July 28

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](#)



MONTFORD PARK
PLAYERS

Theatrical Performance

Montford Park Players, an Asheville theatrical tradition, is proud to announce their upcoming production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. All performances will be held at the **Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre** at 92 Gay Street in the heart of Asheville's historic Montford District, from July 4 through August 2 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7:30pm. Tickets are available at montfordparkplayers.org and are, as always, FREE.





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www.lauriereese.com

Resource Directory

Historic Walking Tours

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

- 777-1014.

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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

A heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to another fabulous garden tour! Whether you opened your garden to the public, helped with planning, were a generous sponsor, docent, musician, artist, or swept your sidewalk to provide a more welcoming and safer environment for our many visitors - all efforts were equally appreciated!





Please keep in mind, the hunt for special gardens for the **2027 tour** will be ongoing, so don't hesitate to share any recommendations you might have! In the meantime, happy gardening!

Celebrating Our Beautiful Gardens in Art

By **Zoe F. Schumaker**

This year, there was a fun addition to the Montford Garden Tour -- artists painting “en plein air” at each of the tour properties. We were fortunate to have some of the region’s best artists contributing their talents -- Bee Adams (acrylic), Sue Dolamore (watercolor/pen and ink), Cheryl Keefer (oils), Mitch Kolbe (oils), Donny Luke (watercolor), Sandra Brugh Moore (watercolor), Claire Simpson Jones (watercolor), and Anne Strutz (pastel).

As the event approached, we were all on pins and needles, as thunderstorms were promised. Fortunately, the weather gods were with us! We had a dry, albeit quite warm, day. All artists were able to spend most of the day at their garden and finish at least one painting. At the end of the day, we gathered to share our work with each other and the garden hosts.

Watercolor artist Sue Dolamore recapped her day: *“I had a great time painting at the Hillside Creeper, a hidden gem that feels like a slice of rural paradise nestled behind the charming homes lining the streets of Montford. The home owners were wonderfully*

welcoming, the visitors were fun to chat with and the music was great! It was a beautiful day.”

Mitch Kolbe completed two paintings at the “Stairway to Heaven” garden on Cumberland Ave. Mitch noted, *“Painting in the Inaugural Montford Garden Tour was a delight and the event well attended. I ran out of business cards to pass out. The weather cooperated... all in all, a very enjoyable experience.”*

Claire Simpson Jones, who painted at the “Then and Now” garden on Watauga Street, also completed two paintings. *“It turned out to be an unexpectedly beautiful day*



Donny Luke's Watercolor of the Wright Inn



Bee Adams painting “Agnes’s Playground” on Short Street.



Cheryl Keefer chats with a visitor in the “Surprise!” garden on Flint Street.



Mitch Kolbe capturing the “Stairway to Heaven” garden in oils.

for the Montford Garden tour. I couldn't ask for a nicer location to plein air paint!"

Donny Luke painted at Montford landmark 1898 Wright Inn and Carriage House. Donny noted *"Participating as a plein air artist to paint the Wright Inn in the Montford Garden Tour was an honor and a great but challenging experience. aaaaSuch an iconic home that has been beautifully restored and landscaped by its owners. It was a real pleasure."*

Following are some photos of the artists working in the gardens and engaging with tour visitors. To see the final paintings created, visit the Garden Tour website, <https://montfordgardentour.org/our-artists-plein-air/>. If you are interested in purchasing one of the available paintings, contact the artist directly using the information provided on the website.



Anne Strutz demonstrating pastel painting at the "Tire-less Garden" on Pearson Drive.



Claire Simpson Jones at "Then and Now" garden on Watauga Street.



Watercolorist Sandra Brugh Moore greeting visitors at "Pan's Paradise" on Cumberland Avenue.

The Montford Neighborhood Association wishes you a safe and happy Summer

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ And ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Please Support Our Garden Tour Sponsors

THANK YOU Sponsors

We are so thankful for our Historic Montford Garden Tour sponsors who help to support our community.



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The Latest Dirt

By Cherie Morris

If you haven't stopped by the Botanic Garden lately, you're in for some surprises! The flagstone patio in front of the visitors center/gift shop is completed and awaiting some plantings around the edges and eventually some chairs and tables to rest after your garden stroll. You'll be able to enjoy a cold beverage from local supplier Devil's Foot Beverage Company. My personal favorite is the refreshing strawberry lemonade, perfect on a hot summer afternoon!

The peace and quiet has finally returned now that the cicadas have finished mating and disappeared back underground for another 17 years. The cacophony was quite amazing, and our most common question from June visitors was "What is that horrible high-pitched



sound?" Meanwhile, our feathered friends were happily feasting on the carcasses scattered conveniently in the bird garden. We also have a transient mama bear and her single cub who were spotted resting in the shade off the trail. Mama was getting a much-needed nap while her youngster nursed. Guests were thrilled to witness the little family scene, and everyone kept a respectful distance.

The June bloom cycle is in full swing, and the common names sound as if we raided the reptile house at the zoo: Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium*), Lizard's Tail (*Saururus*), and Turtlehead (*Chelone*). The large pink flower heads of common milkweed surrounded by its leathery leaves are a common sight. Stop and inspect the leaves for this plant's famous resident, the black, yellow and white striped caterpillar of the Monarch butterfly. The Monarch caterpillar feeds exclusively on milkweed, and, if you're lucky, you might find one dangling in a J-shape from a woody stem which indicates they are about to form the beautiful bright green chrysalis from which, in about 14 days, the butterfly will emerge. Should you find one, please don't touch or disturb it. We're trying our best to help these beautiful creatures survive. Photos of this miracle of nature are a wonderful souvenir of your visit.

And, finally, come and admire our newly reconstructed gazebo in the Sunshine Meadow. The woodwork and design is reflective of the serene natural setting and is the perfect spot for an intimate wedding, renewal of vows or just sittin' for a spell!

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**Historic Resources
Commission of
Asheville and
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Montford Action Agenda 05/14/25

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

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

Item, Summary and Action

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

Action—Continued to June

112 Pearson Drive (PIN 9649031309) - Color tinting of existing brick masonry siding. Applicant: Darcy Ballard

Action—Continued to June

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

Action—Continued to June

Montford Action Agenda 06/11/25

Members Present: Chair Sioux Oliva, Vice-Chair Will Hornaday, Celesta Gorman, Shannon Watkins,

Robert Mays, Bill Roberts, Leslie Humphrey

Staff Present: Alex Cole, Jannice Ashley, Haley Mahoney, Drew Wilson, Matt Holloway

Item, Summary and Action

42 Pearson Drive (PIN 9649025600)

- After the fact approval to install wood picket and wood post and wire fencing. Applicant: John Drummond

Action—Approved w Conditions

112 Pearson Drive (PIN 9649031309)

- Color tinting of existing brick masonry siding. Applicant: Darcy Ballard

Action—Denied

46 Pearson Drive (PIN 9649024666) -

After the fact approval to install wood picket and wood post and wire fencing. Applicant: Jennifer Edwards-Abbot

Action—Approved w Conditions

56 Pearson Drive (PIN 9649024726) -

Construction of a new two-story addition on rear elevation of existing primary structure. Applicant: Johnny Kuscera

Action—Approved

133 Montford Avenue (PIN 9649123337)

- Construction of a new two-story addition on rear elevation of existing primary structure. Applicant: Greg Lambert

Action—Approved

HRC Application Portal

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

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



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NEST REALTY

Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

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



Our fifth feature is Kim Rosas with Period Nirvana, located in West Asheville at 315 Haywood Rd, Suite 113, Asheville, NC 28806.

Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday from 11am - 6pm

Q: What is the origin story of Period Nirvana?

A: I started using a menstrual cup in 2012, and it was a life-changing switch for me. That experience led me to overshare on the Internet about cups, which turned into my career as an expert educator on the subject. Period Nirvana began as an online website that focused on educational content about period care options. We also sold reusable period care products at our e-commerce store. My passion has always been in-person education, and opening a physical location was a far-fetched dream. In 2024, I decided to go for it, and we opened in April 2025 after nearly a year of design planning and buildout.

Q: What range of products do you offer?

A: At our West Asheville location, we specialize in reusable period products - menstrual cups and menstrual discs, cloth pads, reusable period underwear in XXS-5X, and related accessories like cleaning products. We also carry organic tampons and pads. We also offer things you'd expect at a store for people with a uterus - postpartum items, pregnancy tests, morning after pills, teas for menstrual wellness, period pain relief, books, plus fun, giftable items. We also have a free museum exhibit in the store that features 100 years of menstrual technology. It's been a big hit so far!

Q: What are your most popular products and your favorite products personally?

A: Our most popular items are the Hello Disc - a one-

size menstrual disc that I co-designed- and Saalt Wear leakproof boyshorts. I use a Hello Disc for my own periods, and it's my favorite item in the store, but I am also obsessed with the vulva themed pouch and gift wrap we carry.

Q: Any favorite customer interactions or stories?

A: In the month we have been open, there have been lots of memorable interactions - moms coming in to build their child a first-period kit are probably my favorite. The experience of coming to a safe space like ours, where we freely talk about menstruation, and building a kit with or for their child is very healing. A lot of cycle breaking and inner child healing happen, and it's a privilege to be part of that.

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

A: @PeriodnirvanaAVL on Instagram - we post new product arrivals, sales, and upcoming classes or workshops.

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

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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



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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.