



# MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD  
Vol. 31 No. 4

APRIL '26

"April showers bring  
May flowers."

Happy April Montford



At the April 22 (**Earth Day!**) **community meeting** our guest speaker will be Eric Bradford from Asheville Greenworks. Eric's presentation will be on common invasive plants and how to eradicate them. See Page 5 for details...

TEMPIE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

**Pick Up Volleyball (Ages 16+)**

Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM  
 Fridays from 10:00-2:00 PM  
 Closed on June 4, 2026



**Pick Up Basketball (Ages 16+)**

Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM  
 Sundays from 3:00-6:00 PM  
 Closed on June 2 and June 21, 2026



**Youth Pickup Basketball**

Sundays from 1:00-3:00 PM  
 Ages: 8-15

**Art without Borders**

April 7 and 21 from 4:00-5:00 PM  
 Ages: 18+ Fee: \$5

**STEM into Spring Time**

April 8, 15, and 22 from 4:00-4:45 PM  
 Ages: 5-10 Fee: \$5

**Teen Easels and Eats**

Friday, May 22 from 5:00-6:30 PM  
 Ages: 11-15 Fee: \$5

**Montford Fairy Picnic**

Saturday, April 22 from 11:00-1:00 PM  
 Ages: 2-7 w/ Parent or Guardian  
 Fee: \$5



**Aero Adventures**

May 21 and 28 from 6:00-7:00 PM  
 Ages: 8-13 Fee: \$10

**Binge Worthy Trivia**

April 23 from 6:00-7:30 PM  
 "The Originals Trivia"  
 Ages: 12-17 Fee: \$5

**Mom and Me Painting**

May 7 from 4:30-6:00 PM  
 Ages: 30+ w/ child  
 Fee: \$5

**Block Party and Musical Beats BINGO**

Saturday, May 23  
 from 5:00-8:00 PM



**Splish Splash Carnival Bash**

Saturday, June 27 from 1:00-2:30 PM  
 Ages: 2-5 w/ Parent or Guardian Fee: \$5

**Montford Beginner mahjong**

Thursdays from 6:00-9:00 PM  
 Closed on May 21, May 28, and June 4  
 Sundays from 2:00-5:00 PM  
 Closed on June 21  
 Ages: 25+ Fee:\$5

**Dart Side of the Moon**

June 12 and 26 from 6:30-7:30 PM  
 Ages: 13-16 Fee:\$5



**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](http://www.ashevillenc.gov/parks) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

# JUST LISTED | MONTFORD



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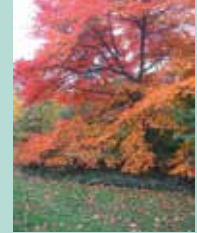
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**[GrizzlybearArborcare.com](http://GrizzlybearArborcare.com)**

# GRIZZLYBEAR ARBORCARE

*tough love for trees*

## Forever Montford



### TREES FOR MONTFORD

Lynn Raker

Only a year and a half after Helene devastated our tree canopy, Montford is already making meaningful strides toward rebuilding it. Perhaps reforestation is an exaggeration—given our dense housing and infrastructure, it has been generations since Montford could truly be described as “forested.” Still, for a neighborhood just steps from a lively downtown, we can proudly claim a remarkable wealth of mature trees and the vibrant wildlife that depends on them.

A study quantifying the percentage of canopy lost between 2022 and the summer of 2025 is expected to be released this summer, according to City of Asheville Urban Forester Keith Aitken. While the data will not distinguish between trees damaged by Helene and those removed afterward, it will provide a valuable snapshot of overall loss and help us set realistic replanting goals.

Even without the numbers in hand, we know our neighborhood’s canopy was severely compromised. Wildlife at least appears abundant again—an embarrassment of squirrels, the return of our stealthy hawk to its nest, bears lurking about to do what bears do, and the full chorus of insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals that share Montford with us. Yet one can’t help wondering how many were lost or forced to relocate in search of food and shelter after the storm.

Rebuilding our canopy is not optional. To maintain—and ideally surpass—the pre-Helene

ecological balance, we must commit to a robust, sustained tree-planting effort. Even before the hurricane, Asheville had already experienced a decline in canopy coverage. Once the new study is released, we hope to determine how many trees need to be replanted and to set realistic annual goals for restoring our leafy infrastructure.

But a lack of hard data hasn’t slowed us down. Thanks to revenue from the 2025 Montford Garden Tour, we planted 25 native canopy trees this past fall and winter – oaks, maples, black gums, and sycamores. Ten were placed on private property, and 15 were added to Tempie Avery Community Center, Hummingbird Park, Montford Park, and Reed Creek Greenway. Four of the Greenway trees were generously donated by Rosewood Landscape Company.

We encourage all residents to plant a native tree this year. If you have space, consider a large canopy species; if not, a smaller ornamental tree can still provide habitat, beauty, and essential environmental benefits. Every new tree strengthens the health and resilience of our neighborhood.

To learn more—or to receive financial assistance—please visit the Montford Tree Grant Program at [montford.org](https://montford.org).

[https://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TreeGrant\\_2019\\_1209.pdf](https://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TreeGrant_2019_1209.pdf)

**Eric Bradford** *(he/him)*  
Operations Director  
Asheville GreenWorks



Join us on **April 22 (Earth Day!), 6:30 to 8pm at the Odessa School For the Montford Community Meeting.** Our guest speaker will be Eric Bradford Director of Operations at Asheville GreenWorks.

Eric Bradford is an operations and supply chain professional with 25 years of experience in project management. Eric has spent the last 15 years working for WNC-based environmental non-profit Asheville GreenWorks, focusing his efforts on Water Quality and Urban Forestry issues.

During Eric's tenure with GreenWorks, he invented the Trash Trout litter capturing device, created the Youth for Environmental Leadership Internship Program, established our tree nursery, food tree project, as well as our successful TreeKeeper and StreamKeeper volunteer programs. As Director of Operations, Bradford also oversees GreenWorks special projects and outreach programs which manage 3,600 volunteers through over 300 projects annually.

Eric is striving to reforest WNC's declining urban canopy and restore our waterways through advocacy, education, and action. Bradford is a father of two, an avid paddler, tree nerd, and 5th-generation native of Buncombe County, NC.

# 2026 ASHEVILLE GREEK FESTIVAL

**APRIL 24 & 25**  
11AM-7PM

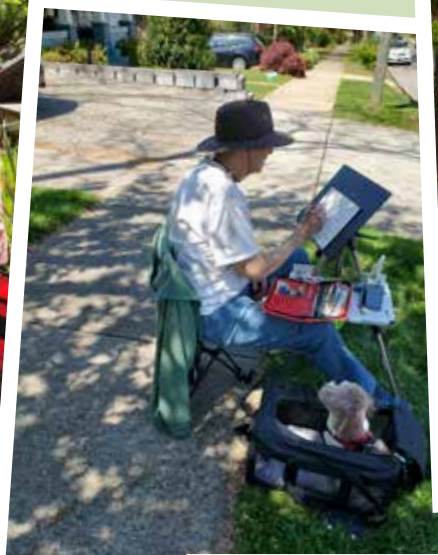
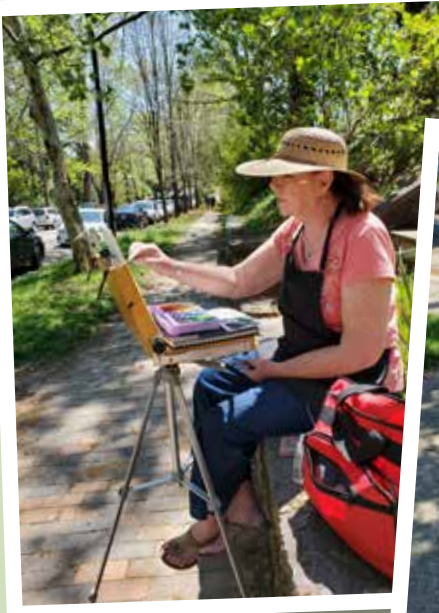
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227 CUMBERLAND AVS  
HISTORIC MONTFORD, ASHEVILLE

**SPRING DRIVE THRU!**



MONTFORD  
*Plein Air*  
Painting Festival

Montford resident Matt Levin, together with John Cassara of Asheville Plein Air Painters, organized the first Montford Plein Air Painting Festival. The weather was perfect for a plein air event.



Over 60 Artists spent Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11, locating subjects and painting them in various media. Sunday was the big day. The Wet Sale was held on April 12 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. at 129 Cumberland Avenue. Matt hopes to see this festival grow and become an annual tradition. If you would like to participate or have questions, go to [MontfordArts.com](http://MontfordArts.com)



*Forever Montford*

**WELCOME PACKET**

**Dan & Judith Sanford**

Forever Montford, a committee of the Montford Neighborhood Association (MNA) has created a Welcome Packet for new Montford residents. The packet contains information such as a brief history of Montford, a list of MNA board members along with contact information, Montford listserv, Montford newsletter, neighborhood parks, events, restaurants, maps, volunteer opportunities and much more. Packets are being delivered by MNA board and Forever Montford committee members upon learning of new residents. Recipients of the Welcome Packet have shown great appreciation with one neighboring writing, “Looks like we lucked out in the neighbor and neighborhood department! I appreciate the history and local information. Well done, and thank you for your thoughtfulness.”



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

Dan Sanford: [sanford.danielj@gmail.com](mailto:sanford.danielj@gmail.com)

Judith Sanford: [sanford.judith@gmail.com](mailto:sanford.judith@gmail.com)

Leslie Humphrey: [leslieinmontford@gmail.com](mailto:leslieinmontford@gmail.com)

Ashima Nair: [ashimanair@gmail.com](mailto:ashimanair@gmail.com)



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## Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

### Happy Earth Month!

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



Our eleventh feature is the **Asheville Tool Library**, located at 16 Smith Mill Rd.

Current hours are:

Mon & Wed: 5pm – 8pm

Sat & Sun: 10am – 4pm

**Q: What is the Asheville Tool Library and how did it get started?**

A: The Asheville Tool Library is a volunteer-powered, membership-based nonprofit providing low-cost access to tools, resources, and educational opportunities across WNC and beyond. Born from the belief that access is better than ownership, what started in 2016 with a few folks and a garage has grown into a collection of over 3,700 tools and 1,500 members — plus a seed library, community garden, art space, workshops, and more.

**Q: What range of items are available?**

A: We use the word “tool” loosely. Here, a tool is anything that helps you do something you want to do! Power tools, yard tools, kitchen appliances, party supplies, camping gear, musical instruments, and more. Our entire inventory is viewable online by the public, including real-time availability!

**Q: What activities or events do you host?**

A: All kinds! Our Art Balcony hosts open sewing and crafting hours. We have community garden days, monthly repair nights, and regular workshops on everything from hand sewing and bicycle repair to welding and woodworking.

**Q: Any favorite member interactions or stories?**

A: Our members are why we exist. People come in tackling everything from first-time garden beds to campervan builds to full home remodels. Some are picking up a power tool for the first time, others seasoned pros who just need one specific item. That range is what makes this place special.

**Q: How can those interested join and otherwise get involved?**

A: Memberships are on a sliding scale: discount memberships from \$0–\$50, regular from \$50–\$250+, billed annually per household. We ask folks to pay what feels equitable to their situation. Members can check out tools for a week at a time, and volunteers who put in 15 hours a quarter earn a free membership. We host two open houses a month for tours and questions. We also have Spanish-speaking volunteers every Monday and host a Casa Abierta monthly for our Spanish-speaking members.

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

A: Follow us at @AshevilleToolLibrary on social media, browse our event calendar online, or sign up for our monthly newsletter at [ashevilletoolibrary.org](http://ashevilletoolibrary.org).

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

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[michael@ashevillerestoration.com](mailto:michael@ashevillerestoration.com)

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## The Latest Dirt

By Cherie Morris

In case you were distracted, Spring came and went in its typical bipolar manner, and now it's summer. I think. The plants have been as confused as the humans, but right now is a great time to visit the Asheville Botanical Garden. So many plants are blooming that I can't begin to list them all, but the minute you walk down the steps from the parking lot, you will see what I mean. The Red Buckeye at the base of the stairs is living up to its name with flame-colored tubular flowers. Near it, in contrast, is the dainty pink shell Azalea (*Rhododendron vaseyi*) sporting its showy pink blooms against the leafless branches. This native shrub is considered globally rare due to habitat loss and over collection from the wild. As if this weren't enough eye candy, be sure to look down so as not to miss the sweet nodding clump of Red Columbine. (*Aquilegia canadensis*) On the opposite side of the stairs, not to be outdone by the red and pink show-offs, the masses of purples and yellows are sure to catch your attention. The purple low growing clumps are a combination of Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) and fernleaf phacelia. (*phacelia bipinnatifida*) The phacelia is a short-lived biennial with fernlike leaves. We're hoping it will readily self seed so we can enjoy it again in another 2 years. Whereas the Geranium is a longer living perennial with palmate (almost star shaped) leaves. This is a versatile low-growing garden plant, and the variety 'Rozanne' blooms straight into fall. It's available at most garden centers. Blending beautifully with the light purple are the swaths of bright yellow Golden Alexander. (*Zizia aurea*) Time to hit the trails and enjoy the dogwoods and the many other multi-colored spring beauties. Remember to take some time to rest and enjoy the bird song. The patio tables and umbrellas are a great spot for lunch or a cold beverage from the gift shop. On the opposite side of the visitor center is a new beautifully constructed curved wooden bench. This is a memorial built to honor a garden



member and one of our Wednesday painters' group, Sally Wheeler. We lost Sally last year in a tragic accident, and the loving poetry on the bench backs was written by her husband. It's a shady, quiet spot to remember a wonderful lady or someone close to you or to just meditate in nature. I would be remiss if I didn't remind you that Mother's Day, May 10, is not far off, and we have some great gift ideas in the shop. Or bring Mom to the native plant sale, beginning Friday, May 15, 12-5 and repeating on Saturday, May 16, 9-2. Members enjoy a 10% discount on our garden-grown plants, but there will be other vendors there as well with lots of lovely temptations and expertise to share. We can never have enough plants! Saving the planet, one yard at a time!

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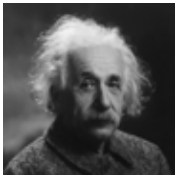
Hours:

Monday thru Saturday - 8am to 10pm  
Sunday - 9am to 10pm

231 Montford Avenue • phone 828-258-1879



## Pack Memorial Library 67 Haywood Street in downtown Asheville



*“The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”  
—Albert Einstein*

Are you new to the neighborhood or has it been a long time since you last visited Pack Memorial Library in downtown Asheville? There are endless resources to explore or to discover:

- **Over 150,000 items available for browsing and lending.** These resources include books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, and research materials. The library also participates in statewide resource sharing and offers inter-library loans.
- **Free internet access, public computing, and Wi-Fi.** Photocopy and printing services are available for a small fee.
- **Free laptop and hotspot lending program.** Laptops and hotspots are now available for a free 30 day loan with a library card.
- **Free tickets to local attractions.** Use your library card to sign up for Zoom passes, which are free tickets to local attractions like the WNC Nature Center, the NC Arboretum, or the Asheville Museum of Science.
- **Free digital audiobooks, e-books, magazines, and movies.** The Libby app from Overdrive provides downloads of these items to your smart phone, tablet, or computer. It's like an Audible subscription service, but free with your library card.

- **A vibrant and inviting children's library.** The library has books for all ages and reading levels, and board games, and sporting equipment available to lend.
- **Thousands of unique local historical records, photographs, maps, and memorabilia.** The Buncombe County Special Collections Library provides researchers the resources and expertise they need to understand and interpret the history of Western North Carolina.
- **Bookends Used Bookstore offers bargain prices for a wide variety of books and media, including vintage and collectible materials and bestselling fiction.** Proceeds from the sales benefit the library programming.

For more information, visit the library or their website: <https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/library/branch-locations/pack-memorial.aspx>

Parking in the Civic Center parking ramp is free for the first hour. The library is also walkable from the Montford neighborhood.



## *Join The Montford Listserve, I did!*

The Montford listserv is a neighborhood discussion list. This is the place where you can exchange news about the neighborhood.

Visit <https://montford.org/montford-listserve/>

## 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.

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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

### NEWSLETTER AD RATES

Contact Ross Terry at [krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com](mailto:krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com) or call 230-7439 to place an ad.

SIZE	RATE/ISSUE
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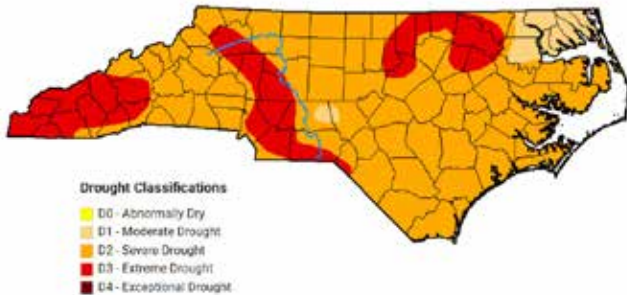
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US Drought Monitor of North Carolina  
 USDA



The Current Drought Explainer was released on April 16, 2025

## April Showers ???

I love the front cover image of the child playing in the rain. However, the truth is we are suffering extreme drought conditions in our area, and it doesn't look much better going forward. Pray for rain, or at the very least get out your rain-dance gear.

In the meantime get more info here>

<https://www.ncdrought.org/>



## Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

### Montford Action Agenda 04/08/26

Members Present: Chair Will Hornaday, Vice Chair Sioux Oliva, Cecil Holt, Hans Skouby, Celesta Gorman, Jenny Bowen, Leslie Humphrey, Bill Roberts

Members Absent: Robert Mays, Amy Moxley, Shannon Watkins

Staff Present: Alex Cole, Carly Gillingham, Aspen Johnston

#### Item, Summary and Action

#### 265 Cumberland Avenue (PIN 9649045369)

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

**Action**—Continued to May

#### 16 Short Street (PIN 9649119551) -

Installation of fifteen (15) solar panels on south facing portion of roof. Applicant: Lily Ardrey

**Action**—Approved

#### 255 Cumberland Avenue (PIN

9649046297) - Replacement of garage doors and pedestrian door on east elevation. Applicant: Griff Gamble

**Action**—Approved

#### 227 Cumberland Avenue (PIN

9649141078) - Removal of three (3) existing stained glass windows. Applicant: Greek Orthodox Parish of Asheville

**Action**—Approved

#### 62 Courtland Avenue (PIN 9649027120) -

Enclosure of porch on rear elevation. Applicant: Joe Minicozzi

**Action**—Approved

## HRC Application Portal

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

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

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



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**EARTHDAY.ORG**

**April 22**

*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](mailto:krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com), 230-7439 for more information.