

MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 17 No. 12

DECEMBER '12/JANUARY '13

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE



Gudger family on their front steps, c. 1920 (above)
North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville
Gudger house, 89 Montford Avenue, today (left)

Join Us for the 2012 Montford Holiday Tour of Homes

Saturday, December 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m.—Details on pages 2 and 3

Montford Park Players Open *A Christmas Carol* December 6 Founder Hazel Robinson Returns as Director

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

Come celebrate Charles Dickens's 200th birthday with his seasonal tale of human kindness and redemption.

Hazel Robinson, founder of the Montford Park Players and first lady of Asheville theatre, is delighted to be leading this return to tradition after a six-year hiatus. Hazel directed the show 29 times from 1976-2005. Now she's back for her 30th, and she's as fiery as ever. "The old gang is back again," Hazel says. "Come out and see us!"

Heart Warming Theatre at the Renovated Masonic Temple

A Christmas Carol runs Thursday through Saturday, December 6-23, at 7:30 p.m. with matinees at 2:30 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday at the newly renovated Masonic Temple, 80 Broadway Street downtown. Thursday, December 6, is Pay What We're Worth night.

Tickets and more information can be found by calling (828) 254-5146 or online at www.montfordparkplayers.org.



Brighten the Holidays for Montford Children and Their Families

Kim Kennedy, Director, Montford Community Center

There's still time to make a donation for families in the Montford Community Center's afterschool program. With the economy still recovering, the holidays can be an uncertain season for students in the afterschool program—youth ages 5-12—because most come from single-parent homes.



Stuff a Gift Bag

For gifts the center suggests board games, mittens, hats, toy cars, doll items, books, markers, flashcards, gift cards, and similar items that will be stuffed into a new bag for each child. Donations of canned and dried goods are also welcome, as are cash contributions.

continued on page 11...

THE 2012 MONTFORD



Gudger House—89 Montford Avenue



Chinese Acupuncture Clinic—369 Montford Avenue

Here's a Preview of the Tour Cate Scales, Director

As another year comes to a close, we hope you'll join us for this fun annual event. The Montford Park Players will be caroling, baked treats and cider will be on offer, and you'll have the opportunity to experience a great group of homes in this historic neighborhood on **Saturday, December 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m.**

What You'll See

As usual we'll have a mixed bag of architectural styles to experience. Here's a sample.

The **Gudger house on Montford Avenue** has a rich and varied history. Thanks to the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County and Pisgah Legal Services, tour-goers will take a step back in time and be able to see the beautiful details that were lovingly put into this home when it was constructed c. 1890. Standing near the head of the avenue, the house is a variation of the Queen Anne style, characterized by irregular massing, slate roof, brick foundation, corner tower with pyramidal cap, and a variety of surface embellishments. This ornamental variation has sometimes been called Steamboat Gothic.

In 1978, the Gudger house was purchased and saved by the Preservation Society and then sold to Pisgah Legal upon completion of renovation. Attached to the deed of sale were covenants to the property protecting its future and its historic presence in our neighborhood. The rescue of the house marked a milestone in the struggle to preserve Asheville's historic architecture. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, Montford became the city's first local historic district in 1980.

Explore the **Chinese Acupuncture Clinic on Montford Avenue**. This beautiful old Victorian home has been renovated inside and out by the clinic's owner and staff, and we feel lucky to have this thriving practice in our neighborhood. Their continued preservation of this building and support of this tour are vital to our community.

The **1900 Inn on Montford** is joining in again this year with the beautiful Bed & Breakfast and exceptional holiday decoration. Designed by architect Richard Sharp Smith in an interpretation of the Old English style, this home has been a neighborhood landmark for more than a century.



Russell Home—45 Panola Street

Several private residences are also opening their doors for our community, all shining examples of preserving and reclaiming the wonderful historic homes that surround us.

The **Flint Street home of Ellen and David Nutter** was built in 1913-1914. The house is in the Queen Anne vernacular style although it has low-slung bungalow characteristics as seen from Flint Street due to the way that it sits on the Chestnut Street hill. There are five corner fireplaces from the coal-burning era, two porches, and a later-added deck. In the modern style of its time, the home has large clear windows with no mullions.

A Special Tour Stop

What makes a home? Warm meals, comfy furnishings, and a safe place just to be. Stop by the **Frugally Hip Cottage at 12 East Waneta Street**, a fully renovated 1920s cottage, to experience clever holiday ideas, find thoughtful hand-made gifts and creative home décor, and support providing home essentials to those who are in need in our community. Our goal is to create a house full of comfort for families who are transitioning to permanent housing for the first time.

Most of these families have little to furnish their new lives, but they're excited and relieved just to have a place to call home. From furnishings, dishes, and linens to recipes that nourish, our goal is to give the gift of a finished home to the people who need it most . . . a sanctuary to live, play, and grow in. We hope you'll stop by!

HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES



Nutter Home—169 Flint Street



Ferris Home—17 Panola Street



Hearn Home—144 Cumberland Avenue



Klein Home—390 Cumberland Avenue

There will be a total of nine stops on this year's tour, and as of press time for this issue of the newsletter, we're still gathering information and stories from each home. When you purchase your ticket, you'll receive a map of all the locations along with interesting information about each property. Docents and homeowners will be on hand to answer questions.

Tickets at the Visitor Center and Online

Tickets will be available starting December 1 at the Visitor Center Gift Shop in the Chamber of Commerce Building (cash only) and online at www.montfordtour.com. For more information, contact me at scalesfamily@charter.net or (828) 280-1576.

This tour is for all of us, so I hope you'll plan to attend, volunteer, or donate and continue to help the Montford Neighborhood Association with improvement projects such as the Reed Creek Greenway extension, the Klondyke playground project, and programs for children at the Montford Community Center. Together we can make a difference in our historic neighborhood.



1900 Inn on Montford—296 Montford Avenue



*...to Our Neighbors
from the Newsletter Staff*

CALENDAR

Montford Neighborhood Association Meetings:

- Third Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m., Montford Community Center, Pearson Drive.
- Next meetings: December 18, 2012, and January 15, 2013

All residents are welcome! Everybody in Montford is a member of the neighborhood association.

2012 Montford Holiday Tour of Homes:

- Saturday, December 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m. The tour still needs volunteers. Contact Cate Scales at 280-1576 or scalesfamily@charter.net.

Montford Park Players Present A Christmas Carol:

- December 6-23: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Asheville Masonic Temple Theatre, 80 Broadway Street downtown. Buy tickets at 254-5146 or online at www.montfordparkplayers.org. For more information contact John Russell at 254-5146 or john.russell@montfordparkplayers.org.

Montford Community Center Activities:

- Annual Holiday Donations Drive for families in the afterschool program. Bring donations to the center by Friday, December 14.
- Holiday Camp, December 26-31, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$20 for the first child and \$15 for each additional child. Registration deadline is December 17.
- Martial arts with Mark Small of the Western North Carolina Wushu Association. Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., \$10 per class; Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., \$5 per class. Contact msmall@main.nc.us for more information.
- Girl Scouts program for girls in grades 6-12, Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Adult Yoga classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:50-8:50 a.m. \$1.00.
- Open badminton and table tennis play, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Free.
- Afterschool program for children in grades K-5, Monday-Friday. \$30 per week.
- Youth Fun Day Out programs on most teacher workdays 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

Buy Your Asheville Go Local Card Today

Mitch Russell

Here's a way to save money while you support local public schools and home-grown businesses.



The **Go Local Card** benefits local public schools, the Asheville City Schools Foundation (ACSF), and Love Asheville, a program of the Asheville Grown Business Alliance. ACSF provides support for students, teachers, and schools through advocacy; an innovative afterschool program at the middle school, In Real Life (IRL); scholarships for college-bound students ranging from \$400 to \$10,000; and teacher grants of \$200 to \$5,000.

How the Card Works

You pay \$15, or \$16 online at acsf.org/get-involved/go-local-card.php, with the extra online buck going to processing and shipping fees. You get a card that entitles you to discounts at more than 300 local businesses.

Where Your Money Goes

- \$5 goes to a school of your choice. Isaac Dickson Elementary would be a great choice since it's in Montford and lots of neighborhood kids go to it. William Randolph School, also in the neighborhood, would be another fine choice.
- \$5 goes to ACSF.
- \$5 goes to the Asheville Grown Business Alliance to advocate for small businesses that make Asheville and its economy vibrant.

Some of the Participating Businesses

Very local businesses include Herban Pharmacy, Montford Books & More, MyNewsletterBuilder, Jessi Herr's Pilates Studio, Almost Montford, Bar of Soap, High 5 Coffee Bar (formerly Dripolator), French Broad Chocolate Lounge, LaZoom! Bus Tours, and Rosetta's Kitchen.

More than 290 other businesses are participating, so please consider getting the **Go Local Card** for yourself or for holiday gifts.

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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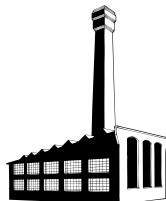
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Green Corner

The Dirty Truth about Clean Coal

Mitch Russell

Not sure if you noticed, but the clean coal team was pounding the TV waves for months prior to the November elections during sporting events, news, and other programming. The team wanted to make sure you knew that coal is abundant and clean, just like each of the two main presidential candidates wanted us to know that the other was either a failure as president or a rich guy who couldn't relate to the rest of us.

Clean? Really?

I didn't buy the political ads, and I don't buy the "clean" moniker either. Sure, power plants are able to burn coal more cleanly than in the past, but what you don't hear about are how the coal is extracted, what the by-product of spent coal is, and how it's stored.

- Extraction is through mountaintop removal—literally scraping off or blowing up the tops of mountains. Not very clean.
- The by-product is coal ash, an incredibly toxic substance that can include arsenic, lead, and selenium. Again, not very clean.
- Often the ash is held in a pond to prevent the ash from dispersing through the air. You guessed it: Not very clean.

Two coal ash ponds at the Skyland power plant owned by Progress Energy—that's the plant with the belching smokestacks visible from the Long Shoals Road exit of I-26—are on the EPA's high-hazard list for dam failure.

The Verdict

Clean coal is not very clean.



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and is become my salvation." PSALMS 118:14*

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One-Hundred Years Ago in Montford

A College Student Comes Home for the Holidays

Cathryn McLeod

Monday, December 23, 1912: "Miss Esther Siegfried Pearson, who has been attending the University of Wooster (Ohio) will return home today to spend the holidays with her family, at their Cumberland Avenue home," reported the *Asheville Citizen* in its Society and Personals column.



Pearson Home, 67 Cumberland Avenue. North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville.

Standing beside the century-old rock wall and the driveway strewn with this year's fallen leaves, we can imagine the happy holiday scene of a family cheerfully welcoming their young scholar before whisking her away into their warm, holiday-decorated gathering place with its familiar scents, news updates, and laughter. Throughout Asheville, hotel dining rooms and homes humble or grand were dressed in holly, ivy, chrysanthemum, and evergreens as voices rang out, "Come! Let us adore Him!"

The Pearson Family

Esther's father, Major William H. Pearson, born into a military family in southern Ohio in 1848, saw action in the Civil War at the age of 17. At conflict's end, he returned to college and graduated. Physically disabled, he brought his wife Marietta, their three daughters, and a son to live out his last 25 years in their new Colonial Revival-style pebbledash home at the intersection of Cumberland Avenue and Bearden Street, completed before 1907.

Seventeen year-old Esther was attending the Presbyterian-created Wooster University, south of Cleveland, which formally opened in 1870. She later married Arthur W. Wade, one year her elder. In the 1920 census, the Wades were described as lodgers in her father's home. Arthur was a captain stationed in Hawaii at the time of William's death in 1932. Esther's brother worked in the adjutant general's department of the U.S. Army in Washington, DC, and three grandsons followed in military service.

Taps

Twenty years later, on an April Monday morning, Major Pearson would be buried with full military honors at Arlington Cemetery. As Army airplanes circled above, the soft playing of the Civil War's "Taps" reflected what had been dear and true when the Pearson family gathered together in Montford, December 1912.



VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE TOUR!

Contact Cate at 280-1576
scalesfamily@charter.net

Resource Directory

Advertise in the Resource Directory—The monthly rate is only \$10.00
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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The YWCA of Asheville is home to the Club W Fitness Center. We offer swim lessons in our solar-heated pool. Our Child Care Center, After-School and Summer Camp are 5-Star licensed programs.

Montford Neighborhood Association News

Brian Elston, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting was called to order on November 20, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Montford Community Center on Pearson Drive by Vice President Michael McDonough. Board members in attendance were Laura Lowe, Ellen Nutter, Susan Eggerton, Joe Newman, and Brian Elston. Also present were Community Resource Officer (CRO) Brien Griffin and several other neighbors.

Safety and Security

CRO Brien Griffin presented the report. There have been a number of car breaks-ins in the downtown parking lots. Officer Griffin reminded everyone to lock car doors.

As the holiday season is approaching, Officer Griffin reminded us of the importance of securing homes and cars to prevent thefts and break-ins. If you see something suspicious, call the Asheville Police Department's nonemergency numbers, 252-1110 or 259-5878. Do not try to apprehend the suspects or follow them, as there is no way of telling how dangerous they could be.

Officer Griffin said a number of quality applicants have applied to replace Jeremy Woody as Montford's CRO.

MNA Financials

Treasurer Susan Eggerton provided an overview of the monthly financials.

Regarding accounts receivable, the MNA has received \$1,401.68 in greenway donations since the last meeting. The association has passed the donations to



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RiverLink. In accounts payable, the MNA has made an additional donation of \$870 to the Klondyke Playground project.

Montford Tour of Homes

Cate Scales discussed the upcoming Montford Tour of Homes to be held on Saturday, December 8, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. See Cate's story and the other tour publicity beginning on the front page of this newsletter.

The event is a great opportunity to explore Montford, enjoy homemade baked goods, and fellowship with your neighbors. In addition, the Montford Park Players will be caroling. If you are interested in allowing your home to be a part of the tour or caroling or would like to volunteer or provide baked goods, contact Cate at 280-1576 or scalesfamily@charter.net.

Montford Park Players

Travis Lowe reported that the Montford Park Players will present Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* starting December 6 at the Asheville Masonic Temple located on 80 Broadway Street. Tickets range from \$8 to \$15. Montford resident Hazel Robinson, founder of the players, is directing for the 30th time. See John Russell's story on the front page.

The Montford Park Players are undertaking a fundraising campaign for 2013. They are raising money to fix and improve the Hazel Robinson Amphitheater. More announcements about exact dates and events will be forthcoming. For more information, contact webmaster@montford.org

Montford Community Center

Kim Kennedy reported on the center's Holiday Camp for students in grades K-8 and the annual donations drive for gift bags for children in the afterschool program. See Kim's story on the front page for information on how you can help.

The meeting was adjourned at around 7:50 p.m.



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Montford Community Center News

Kim Kennedy, Center Director

Holiday Camp

Come have fun with us! The program includes gym games, crafts, and special events such as field trips to Tarwheels for skating, swimming at the YWCA, and a movie at Asheville Pizza. Camp ends with a dance and countdown at our annual New Years Eve party.



Holiday camp is for youth in grades K-6 and meets December 26-31 from 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 for the first child and \$15 for each additional child. The registration deadline is December 17.

Holiday Donations Drive

It's not too late to make a donation to our youth holiday donations drive. Please bring all donations to the Montford Center by **Friday, December 14**. We still need mittens, hats, toys, crayons and coloring books. This event helps youth in this neighborhood have a special holiday. See the story on the front page of this newsletter.

Snow Day Program

Sign up to reserve your spot in the Montford Center Snow Day program. Youth in grades K-8 can come play at the center during snow days from 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. for just \$5. Parents should send a lunch and drink. We must have an application on file for your child prior to the snow day, so sign up today.

Yoga

Adult Yoga classes are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:50-8:50 a.m. for a cost of \$1 per class. Bring your yoga mat and come ready to relax.

Martial Arts

Mark Small of the Western North Carolina Wushu Association teaches these one-hour classes on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for \$10 per class and on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for \$5 per class. Contact Mark at msmall@main.nc.us for more information.

You can call me at Montford Center, 253-3714.

Events & Sales at Montford Books & More

31 Montford Ave. • 828-285-8805 • www.montfordbooks.com

- Dec. 9, 2-5 pm: **Pottery & Craft Show.** Local artisans showcase their unique, affordable pottery, jewelry & other crafts - just in time for holiday gift giving.
- Dec. 14, 5:30 pm: Back by popular demand: **Free House Concert with Jim Taylor.**
- Dec. 15, 3 pm: Bring your children to author Barbie Angell's show based on her new book of children's poetry, **"Roasting Questions."**
- Dec. 15 & 16: 20% of all sales benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters of WNC.
- Dec. 22-24: **50% off ALL used Books, DVDs, CDs, Audiobooks & Vinyl.**
- Jan. 12, 3 pm: **Dr. Hal Littleton** leads a discussion on the historical Jesus.

Winter Wonderland

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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

November 14, 2012, 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, Ashley Black, 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, Alan Glines

Item and Summary	Action
28 Blake Street—new single-car garage.....	Approved
3 Danville Place—new single-family residence and garage with studio apartment.....	Approved w/conditions
116 Flint Street—new two-story accessory structure with garage and studio apartment.....	Approved w/conditions
41 Cumberland Circle—new single-family residence with basement.....	Approved w/conditions

Please refer to the website www.ashevillenc.gov/hrc for the full approved minutes after each month's meeting.

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Live in an Old House that Needs Work?

Meetup with the Asheville Home Renovation Social Club

Cecilia Johnson

I've lived in Montford for about 20 years, and after chatting with lots of neighbors who are into home renovation, I've decided to start up a Meetup group called the Asheville Home Renovation Social Club.

The goals are to connect people with similar interests in home renovation, talk over project ideas, share expertise, share recommendations for businesses that do renovation, and make working on members' houses a social occasion. The club can be found on the website www.meetup.com.

Please visit the website and join if you're interested. You can contact me with questions and suggestions at ceciliacjohnson@bellsouth.net.

Help Make the Holidays Bright

Continued from front page...

Sponsor a Student at Holiday Camp

Another way to give back to the community is to sponsor a child for the Holiday Camp program. This all-day program, described in more detail in the Montford Community Center News on page 9, provides fun, safe activities for youth during the school holiday closure. The program fee is \$20 per child.

Please bring all donations to the Montford Center at 34 Pearson Drive by **Friday, December 14**. For more information, contact me at montfordr@ashevillenc.gov or 253-3714.

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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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We welcome articles emailed by the 20th of the month to Joe Newman. We also welcome advertising arranged with Joyce Thornburg and emailed by the 20th of the month to Ross Terry.


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