



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 16 No. 2
FEBRUARY '11

Discovering Stumptown

Part 1: A Tour of One of Montford's Oldest Areas

Jenny Wilker

Tucked under Riverside Cemetery, stretching east along Gray Street to Pearson Drive, south past the Montford Community Center to Courtland Avenue, and cutting back to the cemetery along Jersey Street and the Hazel Robinson Amphitheater is a 30-acre area that longtime residents still call Stumptown. Two years ago, we moved to Jane Street, off Gray, and have enjoyed getting to know our section of Montford as it is today and as it once was.

In this article, the first of two parts, I will take you on a tour of our diverse community as it seems to us in 2011. Next month's article will describe the original African American community of Stumptown, its rich heritage and its troubled history.

First Stops: Community Center, Ball Field, and Amphitheatre

We start the tour at the Montford Center at 34 Pearson, a very active spot where Director Kim Kennedy and her staff of four provide recreational services to all of Montford and beyond: afterschool programs, summer camps, and homeschool activities; a climbing wall; a place to play bad-

minton, table tennis, and basketball; a juggling club and martial arts; toddlers' activities; and multipurpose rooms for frequent community yard sales, concerts, meetings of the Montford Neighborhood Association, and similar gatherings. Beside and behind the center are antiquated playground equipment (perhaps the Montford neighborhood could help replace it); tennis courts; the heirloom orchard planted by Bill Whipple (a.k.a. Professor Barkslip); and outdoor basketball courts.

The complex also includes a well-lit ball field, fabulously maintained by the City of Asheville and used spring, summer, and fall by the Asheville Men's Softball League. And finally, there is the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre, home of the Montford Park Players and their summer offerings of free Shakespeare but sorely in need of renovation (see Travis Lowe's article on this page of the newsletter).



LOOKING UP RICHIE STREET THIS WINTER

Walking along Gay, Madison, Gray, and Richie Streets

Heading away from Pearson on Gay Street, just to the west of the center, three houses built in the twenties stand in the first block along with another home of that era in the block beyond the intersection with Madison. This home, a vacant, dilapidated *continued on page 8...*

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Questions Remain about Momentum

David Patterson, President, Montford Neighborhood Association

Will the Momentum project move ahead in 2011? If so, what will the timetable for construction be, and when will our neighborhood's concerns be addressed?



REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT NEED—SOON

At the January meeting of the MNA, Joe Newman reported on a meeting he had in December with Paige Wheeler, president and CEO of the Health Adventure. Joe discussed with Paige Montford's ongoing concerns with the lack of progress at the Momentum construction site, including the rough condition of the perimeter, the deterioration of the fence, and the security gate on Catawba Street that has been open at times. Paige responded that she would take action on these issues.

continued on page 10...

Montford Park Players Seek Donations for Amphitheater Renovation

Travis V. Lowe

After nearly three decades of bringing free classic theatre to Asheville, the Montford Park Players' Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre is falling down. To help renovate the outdoor theatre, the players have launched an online Kickstarter project.

New Life for an Asheville Tradition

Montford's free outdoor plays have become an Asheville tradition. Every year people bring their families along with picnics, pets, and lawn chairs to watch the classics performed in front of a pleasant mountain hillside on summer nights.

continued on page 6..



TOO VALUABLE TO LOSS: Help save this Montford treasure.

CALENDAR

MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:

- THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, MONTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER, PEARSON DRIVE
- NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 7:00 P.M.
- NEW PARKING REGULATIONS: NO ON-STREET PARKING ON THE COMMUNITY CENTER SIDE OF PEARSON DRIVE FROM COURTLAND AVENUE TO WEST CHESTNUT STREET.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME! EVERYONE IN MONTFORD IS A MEMBER OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.

MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS ON BROADWAY:

- AGATHA CHRISTIE'S *THE PATIENT* AND TOM STOPPARD'S *THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND*, THURSDAYS THROUGH SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 10-20. ASHEVILLE MASONIC TEMPLE, 80 BROADWAY. FOR SHOW TIMES AND RESERVATIONS, VISIT WWW.MONTFORDPARKPLAYERS.ORG. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 254-5146 OR EMAIL INFO@MONTFORDPARKPLAYERS.ORG.

MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS AMPITHEATRE RENOVATION:

- DONATIONS NEEDED FOR REBUILDING THE AGING AMPITHEATRE LOCATED BEHIND THE MONTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER. GO TO THE WEBSITE KCK.ST/HMVrPE OR CONTACT JOHN RUSSELL AT 254-5146 OR JOHN.RUSSELL@MONTFORDPARKPLAYERS.ORG.

MONTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES:

- WINTER HOMESCHOOL CLIMBING PROGRAM ON OUR INDOOR CLIMBING WALL. CONTACT THE CENTER FOR MORE INFORMATION.
- SNOW DAY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-8, 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M., \$5 PER DAY. SUBMIT APPLICATIONS IN ADVANCE.
- AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN GRADES K-5, MONDAYS-FRIDAYS AND ALL DAY ON TEACHER WORKDAYS AND HOLIDAYS. \$30 PER WEEK PLUS \$5 FOR ALL-DAY CARE.
- SPRING COMMUNITY YARD SALE, SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. \$5 PER TABLE. PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

CONTACT KIM KENNEDY AT 253-3714 OR MONTFORDR@ASHEVILLENC.GOV.

EIGHT ANNUAL MONTFORD MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL:

- COMING SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011! TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT SHARON FAHRER AT 777-1014 OR FAHRER@CHARTER.NET. TO BECOME A SPONSOR, CALL DAPHNE YOUNG AT 254-0690.

HOW TO CONTACT THE HRC:

- STACY MERTEN, DIRECTOR, ASHEVILLE CITY BUILDING, 259-5836 OR SMERTEN@ASHEVILLENC.GOV.

Montford Neighborhood Website

- VISIT MONTFORD'S REDESIGNED AND ENHANCED WEBSITE WWW.MONTFORD.ORG.
- CONTACT WEBMASTERS LAURA AND TRAVIS LOWE AT WEBMASTERS@MONTFORD.ORG.

MONTFORD LIST SERVE:

- GO TO WWW.MONTFORD.ORG AND CLICK ON "JOIN THE MONTFORD LIST SERVE."

An Amazing Party Is Shaping Up for Spring Eighth Annual Music and Arts Festival Set for Saturday, May 21

Sharon Fahrer and Daphne Young

Spring! With all the ice, snow, and cold weather we've been enduring this winter, we should be more than ready to party by May.

This year we've surpassed our greatest expectations for the music we'll be offering free to all at Montford's annual street festival. We'll have four-time Grammy Award winner **David Holt and the Lightning Bolts**, **Billy Jonas**, **Firecracker Jazz Band**, **Westsound**, **Freeflow**, **Free Planet Radio**, and more. We may even add a second stage.

Our neighborhood party has grown by leaps and bounds every year. This festival, our eighth annual, needs your donations and sponsorships to make it all happen. We truly appreciate our past donors and sponsors over the years, and we continue to need your support.

A Big Shout Out goes to the businesses who've already stepped up to the plate and committed to sponsoring our 2011 festival: All Kids Pediatrics, P.A., Earth Fare, 828 Design, LaZoom Tours, Nine Mile Restaurant, Progress Energy, and Woodland Spirits. We want to add your name to the list.

Please check our festival website, www.montfordfestival.com, to see how donations can be made, or contact Daphne Young at 254-0690, 610-417-0164, or mgm1013@charter.net for additional information about sponsorship or donations. Vendors and artists can visit the festival website to reserve 2011 booth spaces at 2010 prices.

The festival helps us show our pride and introduce those who live outside Montford to the things that make our neighborhood special.

Thanks for a Wonderful Tour of Homes

Cate Scales

The 2010 Montford Tour of Homes was a great success! Neighbors and neighborhood friends pulled together to volunteer and coordinate this annual event. The homes were spectacular, each showcasing how our community cares about preserving this eclectic, historic neighborhood.

Many thanks to our homeowners for sharing their homes on December 10, to the docents who are always a tremendous help on tour day, and to the volunteers who worked behind the scenes to organize the details that made this tour unique. Special thanks to our neighborhood bakers and to Jerry Connor for coordinating the incredible baked goods. The treats were a delicious element to this year's tour!

Thank you to Vic and Sharon Fahrer for hosting the after party. We all enjoyed a wonderful evening of music, food, and fun in a beautiful setting. Thank you also to the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center and the ladies in the gift shop for selling tickets and promoting this event again this year.

Finally, we send out a tremendous "Thank you!" to our sponsors: Tod's Tasties, Sybil Argintar—Dawn Wilson Realty, Sid Border—Sunburst Realty, and Gordon Harrod—Custom Carpentry and Renovation Services. We could not do our annual tour without the support of these wonderful businesses.



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Montford Community Center News

Kim Kennedy, Center Director

Annual Holiday Dinner for Afterschool Youth

On December 17, the Montford afterschool youth enjoyed our annual holiday dinner. Lots of music, dancing, and good food filled the evening. The staff wants to thank the community for supporting this evening and making donations for the backpack/food drive. We appreciate your continued generosity!



Parking Change at the Center

Please be advised that on-street parking on the west side of Pearson Drive between Chestnut Street and Courtland Avenue is no longer permitted. This is the side of the street that the Montford Community Center is on.



CELEBRITY TAG ON A SNOW DAY. Photo by John Coutlakis, courtesy of *Asheville Citizen-Times* (www.citizen-times.com), a partner of WNC-LINC.

Patrons can use the lower parking lots behind the center once the upper lot is full. Patrons are encouraged to carpool when coming to the center. Our staff respectfully requests your cooperation and patience as this parking change takes place.

Indoor Climbing Wall

Come climb on the indoor climbing wall during January and February on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The cost is just \$3 per climb, and no experience is necessary.

Spring Community Yard Sale

The Spring Montford Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday April 9 from, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for \$5 per table. Preregistration is required.

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



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Green Corner

Hiking to Rattlesnake Lodge, Finding My Way

Mitch Russell

This month's column is a departure from my usual as I have been a bit stir-crazy to match the mood of the weather.

I got away recently for a Sunday morning hike that took me to Rattlesnake Lodge on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail off the Blue Ridge Parkway, about 12 miles north of the Folk Art Center (www.hikewnc.info/trailheads/mst/guidedhikes/rattlesnake.html). It's a fantastic, moderately strenuous hike that flattens out after several challenging switchbacks.

The View from the Lodge

Along with my trusty companion JuneBug, a 2 1/2-year-old American Foxhound-Labrador mix, I trudged up switchbacks that had patchy ice remnants from the last several snows. It was quite breezy and slightly below freezing, but that didn't stop my sweat glands from kicking into overdrive. By the time we made it to the top of the series of switchbacks, I was down to jeans and a polypropylene top. We reached the lodge, which had no snow as the sun had found its way to the leaf-strewn ground and done its work.

The view of leafless trees opens the eye to the interplay of light, shadows, color, and perspective. It was amazing to see blindingly white snow-covered peaks that I felt I could reach out and touch, with stumps, downed trees, and boulders that seemed to morph into bears. The vibrant green of mountain laurel, rhododendron, and the remaining Carolina and Eastern hemlock were beacons of spring against the various hues of brown and grey of their deciduous counterparts.

Craggy Gardens Footprints

We continued on toward Craggy Gardens knowing that we'd encounter snow and perhaps more. Just above the well house for the lodge, the snow line began, and by the time we got to the saddle where one can glimpse the parkway again, it was at least 6 inches deep. We felt alone in the snowy and by now windy, cold, and desolate environment that I still found awe-inspiring. There were only two sets of footprints other than ours, and at times they seemed to disappear on top of the snow and reappear just as I needed them to find our way, much like my purpose for being on the hike in the first place.

I am, and I believe all of us are, fortunate to live in such a beautiful and accessible landscape that can reenergize us at all seasons.

I encourage you to get out and find your own energy place.

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Uploaded by: Zzoyd to wunderground.com



Montford Park Players Present *The Patient* and *The Real Inspector Hound* At the Historic Masonic Temple, February 10-20

John Russell, Managing Director

The Montford Park Players announce the opening of their production of *The Patient* by Agatha Christie and *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard at the Asheville Masonic Temple, 80 Broadway Street, as part of the Montford on Broadway Series.



Performance dates are Thursday through Sunday, February 10-20. Performances on February 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, and 20 will take place at 7:30 p.m., with matinees on Saturday, February 19, and Sunday, February 20, at 2:30 p.m.

Pay What We're Worth Nights are Thursday, February 10 and 17, at 7:30 p.m. No reservations are available for these performances—first come, first served only. See the show and THEN pay what we're worth!

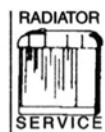
Advance tickets are available either online at www.montfordparkplayers.org (click on the Buy Tickets tab) or by calling the box office at 254-5146 daily after 12:00 p.m.

Advance tickets online are \$12 for adults; \$10 for senior citizens, AAA members, and adult students with ID (that's any student, anytime, any course, anywhere!); and \$6.00 for children under 18.

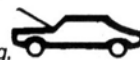
Day-of-show tickets are \$15 for adults; \$12 for senior citizens, AAA members, and adult students with ID; and \$8.00 for children under 18.

Special VIP Seating on stage with the cast is available at \$25 per ticket, which includes free beverage service. Only 8 of these special tickets are available per performance. Select VIP Seating from the order menu. For the AAA discount, select the AAA Member rate from the order menu.

Contact our box office for details at 254-5146 or info@montfordparkplayers.org. There's free parking across Woodfin Street at Home Trust Bank.



"The Lord is my strength and song,
and is become my salvation." PSALMS 118:14



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Montford Neighborhood Association News

Pam Brown, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting was called to order on January 18, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Montford Community Center by President David Patterson. Other board members present: at-large members Sharon Fahrer, Elizabeth Hunter, Laura Lowe, and Joe Newman (who took these minutes). Also present were Kim Kennedy, director of the Montford Community Center, and Community Resource Officer Jeremy Woody.

David made available copies of the treasurer's report prepared by Wanda Newman.

Safety and Security

Officer Jeremy reported on the two armed robberies that took place in Montford during the month of December. One occurred at the Eblen Convenience Store on Broadway. The attendant at the store was forced to surrender the money in the cash register.

The other incident took place near the Montford Convenience Store at the intersection of Montford Avenue, Cullowhee Street, and Soco Street. This drug-related incident involved an armed robbery and the theft of an automobile. Both the suspect and the victim had arrest records. Several neighbors told the police they heard what sounded like gunfire, but the police could not confirm that a weapon was fired. The suspect fled the scene and was soon apprehended in the Hillcrest Apartments, where police officers found a handgun that the suspect attempted to throw away.

A neighbor at the meeting who lives on Soco Street thanked the Asheville Police Department for arriving quickly at the scene, spending several hours investigating, and visiting the homes of several neighbors to assure them that the suspect had been arrested.

Officer Jeremy expressed the concern that despite this suspect's record of arrests and convictions, he has avoided serving time in jail.

On a positive note, another neighbor reported at the meeting that the person who entered her home several months ago and committed an armed robbery and assault pled guilty and was sentenced to 15 years and 10 months. The cooperation of several neighbors, including a Tai Chi class meeting in Montford Park, resulted in the prompt arrest of the criminal.

Neighborhood Watch Signs

Officer Jeremy stated that the city has finally agreed to provide several Neighborhood Watch signs for Montford. Those present discussed where to post the signs, and David Patterson will forward the suggestions from Officer Jeremy and the group to our Neighborhood Watch coordinators, Mary Trauner and Pam Brown.

Momentum—The Health Adventure

Joe Newman reported on a meeting he had on December 2 with Paige Wheeler, president and CEO of the Health Adventure. See David Patterson's story on the front page of this newsletter for the latest on the Momentum project.

Montford-Cullowhee-Soco Intersection

David reported that he has met with Bobby Croom of the city's Transportation Department and Neighborhood Coordinator Marsha Stickford. Bobby's proposal to improve safety at the intersection by installing curb extensions will be reviewed by the HRC at the February 9 meeting. David distributed copies of Bobby's graphic of the proposed work.

Traffic Islands on Montford Avenue

David circulated a drawing prepared by Montford landscape architect Jerry Snow that illustrates proposed improvements to the traffic island at the intersection of Montford Avenue and Watauga Street. The group discussed the proposal and will await further word from Michael McDonough and Susan Roderick.

Wayfinding Signs

David distributed copies of a letter from HRC Director Stacy Merten to the Wayfinding Committee of the Asheville Convention and Visitors Bureau requesting, on behalf of the Montford Neighborhood Association and the HRC, that "small gateway identification signs for the Montford Area National Historic District" be installed at two major entry points to the neighborhood.

Tour of Homes

It was noted that the 2010 tour, held on December 11, generated a profit. These funds will be used to support neighborhood projects.

Montford Community Center

Director Kim Kennedy said the Snow Day Program for students in grades K-8 has been the "big deal" at the center for the past few weeks, as the photo on page 3 suggests. She stated that the drumming program funded by the MNA and conducted by LEAF in Schools and Streets has been successful despite the interference of weather, holidays, and illness. The students in the drumming program will perform at the 2011 Music and Arts Festival.

Music and Arts Festival

Sharon Fahrer updated the group on the evolving plans for this year's festival—our eighth annual. In addition to the news included in Sharon's article on page 2, she reported that a bike corral, doggie daycare, beer garden operated by Nine Mile Restaurant, and LaZoom bus tours for kids are possibilities for this year's festival.

NOTE: Minutes of the December 14, 2010, meeting will appear in the March newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned.



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Amphitheatre Renovation

Continued from front page...

Now the beloved amphitheatre is showing its age. Beams are rotting away, and a complete renovation has become necessary, as Jenny Wilker agrees in her article on Stumptown on page 1 of this newsletter. The project funding will help bring the current performance space back to life with new materials for safety, aesthetics, and durability. There will also be changes allowing for improved sightlines, lighting, and acoustics.

How Kickstarter Works

Kickstarter is a website that allows groups like the Montford Park Players to fund projects by collecting online pledges. Donors may pledge as much or as little as they choose. In addition to being tax-deductible, pledges give donors the opportunity to experience the theatre on a deeper level, from reserved chairs on the hillside to the chance to help stab Julius Caesar in the players' 2011 production.

You can help by donating to the project at kck.st/hMVrpE or by searching for Montford Park Players at Kickstarter.com.

For more information or to interview John Russell, our Managing Director, please call 254-5146 or email him at john.russell@montfordparkplayers.org.

Montford Cross County Ski Team Hits the Slopes, er, Sidewalks

William Iffle, Newsletter Sports Editor

Mike Hunter set the record at the Montford Cross Country Skiing track on January 12.

A crazy southern snow storm made the course available. After searching the hood for the best snow, we found it on the big block bounded by Cullowhee, Cumberland, West Chestnut, and Montford. The track (sidewalk) made a perfect rectangular course with slight elevation changes and long straightaways.



HUNTER SHOWS HIS FORM?

The record went into the books at 31 minutes, 15 seconds—for four times around the block.

After the feat, Mike said that he "can't wait for the next storm, because records are meant to be broken. . . . The time may have been even faster had it not been for the section of sidewalk that somebody shoveled."

Record keeping for this event started on January 12, and any additions and/or discrepancies can be brought to the Montford Cross Country Ski Team administrator, whose name and address are being withheld for security reasons.

Montford Extends Sympathy

Artist Vadim Bora died on January 5 at the age of 56. Vadim's wife Constance and their friends the Dillingham Richards are longtime Montford residents. Irma Cantor, 90, mother of Montford resident and tireless neighborhood worker Sharon Fahrer, passed away on January 20. We offer condolences to the families and friends.

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Cooking Corner

Two Requests from the Home Tour

Jerry Conner

The holidays are over, but a number of requests for recipes came in during the Tour of Homes in December. Here are two special ones.

The first is from Susan Murray of Carolina Bed & Breakfast on Cumberland Avenue. It is featured in her cookbook *Recipes from a Big Family* available at the B&B.

Susan's Fruit and Nut Bars (makes 16 bars)

1/2 cup chopped dried fruit	1/3 cup sifted flour	2 eggs
1/2 cup butter	1/2 tsp. baking powder	1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/4 cup sugar	1/4 tsp. salt	1/2 cup nuts
1 cup flour	1 cup brown sugar	Confectioners sugar

Steam the dried fruit in small amount of water. Mix butter, sugar, and 1 cup of flour until crumbly. Pack into greased 8" pan. Bake in 350 degree oven for 25 minutes.

Beat brown sugar with eggs and add remaining dry ingredients. Mix well. Blend in vanilla, nuts, and fruit, spreading mixture over baked layer. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes or until done.

Cool well. Cut with knife dipped in ice water. Roll bars in confectioners sugar.

The second recipe is my tropical twist on bread pudding.

Coconut Bread Pudding

3 eggs	1 tsp. vanilla extract	Ground nutmeg
1 cup sugar	1/4 cup butter, cut in pieces	3/4 cup frozen flaked coconut
1 cup whole milk	3 cups stale bread	
1 can coconut milk (about 13 oz.)	(French bread is best) cut in cubes	

Blend eggs with sugar and add milk, coconut milk, and vanilla; stir well. Break bread into small pieces and add to mixture. Soak until well absorbed. Pour into baking dish and cover with butter and sprinkle with nutmeg. Bake for 45-60 minutes in 350 degree oven. The pudding should be moist and firm, lightly brown but not overbaked. Serve with a rum or pineapple rum sauce.

To prepare rum sauce, combine in a small saucepan 3/4 cup sugar, 2 tsp. cornstarch, and 3/4 cup heavy cream or coconut milk. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir for one minute more. Easy pineapple rum sauce option: Take one jar of pineapple preserves and melt in sauce pan. Remove from heat and stir rum into both versions. Serve over pudding.

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Discovering Stumptown

Continued from front page...

site for graffiti and dumping, is now thankfully under renovation. Like all the other houses on Gay, this one has a splendid view of Mt. Pisgah.

Turning right on Madison, there are a couple of empty lots on the left, and on the right stand a house tucked into the hill, the historic Welfare Baptist Church (more on this church, which was once the heart of the African American neighborhood, next month), and a new three-story house facing the mountains. Below Madison is the Gray-Jane-Richie block, where most everybody in the neighborhood lives in a mix of old and newer homes, including a few added in the last few years.

The houses are close together but generally have deep lots. The ones on the north side of Gray extend to the back of the lots on Birch; the ones on South Gray run clear through to Richie. With the exception of the colorful Montford Cottages at the top of the hill, the Richie houses all have a back border with the woods and playing fields owned by the city. You won't see any sidewalks here, as the streets are very narrow, but there's little traffic since few drive down here unless they live here. Gray and Richie go straight up and down, and as the photo taken this winter shows, this there have been times when it's been very tough to go up the hill.

Our Wonderfully Diverse Neighbors

The neighborhood is diverse, racially, ethnically, economically, and in every other way: There are young families and retired people, renters and owners, UNCA students and folks employed in a wide variety of occupations. Some have lived here for decades, others for just a few months and will probably move on. Homeowners work hard to maintain and improve their properties, and rentals appear to be in increasingly good shape.

Some of our fine neighbors have included Jessica, the young teacher who popped over with a loaf of her homemade bread when we first moved in; "Squirrel," who used to hold court at the top of the hill, tending his fire and his garden, and always ready to chat with any passerby; and Vincent, the eyes and ears of the lower end of the block and a helpful hand when needed. Sadly, Jessica, Squirrel, and Vincent have moved elsewhere, but Vincent's father Robert is still here. There is also Peggy and her eight-year-old son Tommy, who moved here from Vermont; Chris and Bryna, two young pharmacists; and Miss Annie, who walks this neighborhood and all of Montford for her health and is another who seems to know everyone.

vegetable gardens thrive throughout the neighborhood.

Down on Jane, there is an old woodlot currently owned by Buncombe Count that completely fills in with vines and foliage in the summer time, and on the corner of Jane and Richie are vacant lots retained by the city as buffer and access to the playing fields. A few neighbors and I have been keeping the grass cut—Vincent did this work for years—and starting perennial flower beds along the path into the fields.

We are now establishing a neighborhood edible garden, inspired by E.V. vonSeldeneck and her urban farm (see the Montford Newsletter, September 2010). Everyone is welcome to participate in the digging, planting, weeding, and harvesting. We are also hacking away and fighting off some of the encroaching vines and weed trees. Towering over it all are the majestic oaks, pines, and hills of the cemetery to the west.

If you are doing the tour, you can climb back up Richie or Gray, or you can walk down into the fields. Besides playing ball and watching Shakespeare, people from all over town use these open spaces to walk, hang out, read, lie in the sun, play music, throw Frisbees, whack golf balls, let their dogs play, and, this winter, careen down the steep snowy slopes.

Hints of the Past

Stumptown is a beautiful place, but not without its shadows.

One day before we moved in, Vincent said to me, "You know, that field over there used to be full of houses. It was called Stumptown, because they left the stumps in when they cleared the land. All the houses were taken during the sixties."

Really? I had always thought it odd that our house was number 5, and there are no other houses on Jane. There are now approximately 30 occupied houses in this neighborhood. At its height there were as many as 250 households here. Entire streets have disappeared.

"Discovering Stumptown," Part 2, will pull together what I have been learning about the historically African American community and what happened to it. I am still collecting material, so if you have Stumptown stories to share, I'd love to hear them. Just call me at 298-0936.



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Time Well Spent Outdoors

Coming from the far more reticent city of Philadelphia, we have found this place warm and friendly, especially in the outside months.

As a dog owner and a gardener, I spend a lot of time walking around and admiring the trees and gardens. Because Stumptown has existed in some form since at least the 1880s—since well before the larger neighborhood we know today as Montford had a distinct identity—there are huge old oaks, tulip poplars, black walnuts, and locusts. At 28 Gray there's a gorgeous crepe myrtle that blooms all summer, there are two giant dogwoods near 30 Richie that are stunning in both spring and the fall, and redbuds and forsythia light up the lower end of Gray in the spring. Roses, lilacs, apple trees, and



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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

**January 12, 2011, Meeting—Cancelled
Due to Weather**

February 9, 2011, Meeting—Tentative 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/

Consent Agenda

179 Flint Street—amend previous CA to add shed dormer and vents on rear

New Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

128 Flint Street—rear addition

Public Right-of-Way: Montford Avenue at Cullowhee Street—install sidewalk extensions

15 Pearson Drive—replace rear deck with covered porch

Other Business

Committee reports

Comments from commissioners, public, and staff

December 8, 2010, Meeting—Action Agenda for Montford

Members present: Diane Duermit, Hillary Cole, Aaron Wilson, Joe Carney, David Nutter, Ashley Black, John Dean, Amanda Warren

Staff present: Stacy Merten, Cristin Moody, Jannice Ashley

Item and Summary

Action

18 Rosewood Avenue—rear additionApproved with conditions

132 West Chestnut Street—amend CA to allow textured

Hardie plank.....Approved

144 Cumberland Avenue—enclose rear porchApproved

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

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Momentum

Continued from front page...

Paige stated that she hopes the city will take over work along the creek that runs through the site to complete that link of the Reed Creek Greenway. She indicated that her conversations with City Manager Gary Jackson have been productive and encouraging.

The main news from the meeting: Paige stated that December would be a make-or-break time for the Momentum project. If fundraising turned out to be successful, construction would resume early in 2011. If sufficient funds could not be raised, the project would be put "on hold" for a year or two.

Paige said she wants the neighborhood to understand that the downturn in the economy has made it difficult for non-profits throughout the nation to raise money. It is this financial obstacle, she emphasized several times, not a lack of commitment from the board of The Health Adventure, that is blocking the completion of Momentum.

In communications during January with the Montford Neighborhood Association, Paige expressed optimism that construction work will be able to resume in 2011, perhaps on a modified timeline. She asked the neighborhood to watch for a "big announcement" soon.



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