



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 16 No. 3
MARCH '11

A Visit to the Old Village of Stumptown

Discovering Stumptown, Part 2

Jenny Wilker

The earliest documentary evidence I've found of Stumptown is an 1891 map that shows a clearing in the woods below Pearson Drive between West Chestnut Street (now Gay Street) at the northwest and Courtland Avenue at the southeast. Although you can't see any of the stumps that gave Stumptown its name, you can count at least 30 houses.

Maps from 1912 and 1914 depict a developing grid with two streets—Madison and Morrow—running parallel to Pearson, and others—Gray, Richie, Gay, and an extension of Morrow—driving straight down the steep hill toward Riverside Cemetery. By 1925 the grid had filled in with several short horizontal streets and one more up-and-down street—Jersey. The 30 acres of Stumptown, one of a handful of African-American communities in Asheville, had essentially been developed.

By the 1950s (the focus of this story), an estimated 120 households lived here in single and two-family houses as well as in small two and three-story apartment buildings. The map on this page shows the neighborhood as it was in that era. Most of the modest homes had been built in the 1920s or somewhat later.

Daily Life in Stumptown: The 1950s

People still used "warm morning" stoves to chase away the morning chill and smoothing irons (flat irons) as footwarmers at night. Many still had ice boxes, and roughly half the homes had telephones. Gray Street was nicknamed Rich Street, mostly because it was the first to be paved. Richie, Morrow, Gay, Madison, and Jersey remained dirt roads until late in the 1950s.

Most adults worked nearby for Riverside Cemetery, the wealthy homes of Montford, hotels and restaurants, the railroad company, downtown businesses, and the Highland or Mission Hospital. If they could, mothers stayed home with their children.

Stumptown residents met most of their needs within or near the community. They could pick up milk and bread at a little store on the corner of Morrow and Jersey; for groceries they hiked up through the woods to Bates at 39 Pearson. There were also several businesses right in Stumptown. Alex Gaston fixed appliances on Richie; William Howard sold ice cream, cookies, and a bit of stronger stuff at his Sweet Shop at the corner of Madison and Gay; Alonzo and Blondie Carson had a coal, wood, and ice business on Morrow (there was another coal yard on

Madison); Mary Moseley, on Jane, was the neighborhood midwife; and George Holmes, on Jersey, made a living delivering fruits and vegetables from Lexington Market with his mule.



GEORGE HOLMES AND HIS MULE, 45 JERSEY STREET. PHOTO BY ANDREA CLARK, COURTESY ANDREA CLARK COLLECTION, NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION, PACK MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ASHEVILLE.

A Safe, Secure Place to Grow Up

"Everybody got along real well," notes Mrs. Dorothy Wallace Ware, who moved to Jane Street when she was twelve. Many extended families lived here. Take, for example, Lettie Wilson Polite, who grew up on Madison Street. Her mother's mother lived on Gray, and her mother's three sisters also lived in the neighborhood. *continued on page 14...*

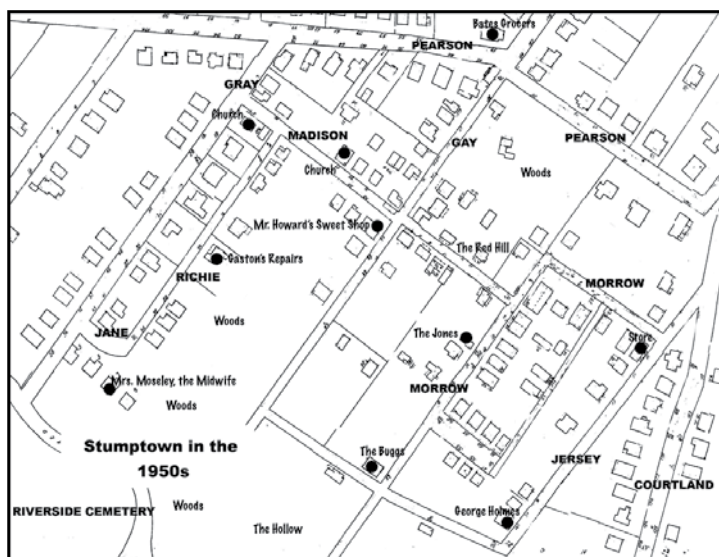
Principal Alida Woods Leaves a Legacy at Isaac Dickson Elementary

Peggy Brooks

Montford resident Alida Woods has just retired as principal of Isaac Dickson Elementary School, but she leaves an educational spirit and legacy that will remain a vibrant part of our Montford neighborhood school.

In 1991, in an era of exciting change for Asheville City Schools, parents and teachers such as Alida Woods, Susan Shillcock, Dee Cash, and others from the Asheville Alternative School worked to bring the experiential values of alternative education to the public sector. Isaac Dickson Elementary School, named after one of Asheville's prominent African American educators (1831-1918), was born in the old Hill Street School facility.

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STUMPTOWN IN THE 1950s

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CALENDAR

MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:

- THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, MONTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER, PEARSON DRIVE
 - NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 7:00 P.M.
- ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME! EVERYONE IN MONTFORD IS A MEMBER OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
- NEW PARKING REGULATIONS: NO ON-STREET PARKING ON THE COMMUNITY CENTER SIDE OF PEARSON DRIVE FROM COURTLAND AVENUE TO WEST CHESTNUT STREET.

MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS AMPITHEATRE RENOVATION:

- DONATIONS STILL 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:

- SPRING COMMUNITY YARD SALE, SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. \$5 PER TABLE. PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
- EASTER EVENT, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 11:00 A.M., MONTFORD PARK.

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.

To advertise in the newsletter
contact Joyce Thornburg
at (828) 258-2207
or by email at:
joyce-thornburg@att.net

Volunteer!

Contact Sharon Fahrer at 777-1014
to help with events throughout the year.

Montford Drummers Rock! In the LEAF Drumming Program

Kenya Webster, Teaching Artist

THANK YOU, thank you, thank you, Montford, for giving me (known onstage as Goundo Diabate) the opportunity to teach such an amazing group of students. Since November, I've have the pleasure of working in your community center with drumming students from 4 years of age to about 58 years of age, and each week I find a new face onboard.

Learning about Culture along with Drumming

The students are great listeners, and they have a strong desire to learn about the culture of Africa in every aspect I have introduced to them. They have been privileged to partake in a post-Ramadan feast with traditional Malian foods such as sweet rice, couscous with vegetables, and plantains, followed by my special brew of hibiscus flower tea straight from Mali. The students have also participated in native games and songs, learning about bogolan cloth and the roles of men, women, girls, and boys.

The students have also watched a video of YaYa Coulibaly's Marionette Puppetry which included handmade, wooden, life-size puppets, music, and amazing dancing while the performers and master of ceremony spoke in French and Bambara languages.

We're Performing!

Our Montford drummers have already performed at the Stephens-Lee History Expo in February, and we're preparing for our appearance at the spring LEAF Festival, May 12-15, and the Montford Music and Arts Festival on May 21.



AN EXPERIENCE THEY WON'T FORGET

MNA Supports Montford Park Players' Ampitheatre Project

Travis V. Lowe

The Montford Neighborhood Association has pledged \$500 to help the Montford Park Players with their complete renovation of the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre near the Montford Recreation Complex on Gay Street. The MNA will be recognized on a bronze plaque placed at the new amphitheatre.

Close to the Goal

This generous donation, along with others from residents in Montford and greater Asheville, puts the Montford Park Players very close to meeting their goal of fully funding the renovation and securing another wonderful season of Shakespeare in the park for all to enjoy. Won't you please join the MNA on Kickstarter.com to help put the project over the top?

Please Donate Some Money . . . or Some Labor

The Players will also be looking for volunteers in March and April to help with the construction.

So please give a few bucks or swing a hammer to keep this 38-year-old Asheville tradition alive. To everyone who has given, is planning to give, or is planning to volunteer time, I thank you, the Montford Park Players thank you, and the City of Asheville should be grateful to you.

You can help by donating to the project at kck.st/hMVRpE or by searching for Montford Park Players at Kickstarter.com. Check the Montford list serve, Montfordparkplayers.org, and future issues of the *Montford Newsletter* for details on volunteer opportunities.



SOON TO BE REBUILT WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Meet the Sponsors of the 2011 Music and Arts Festival

Daphne Young

This year's festival promises to be Montford's best ever. Ben Scales is booking an amazing lineup of music for the main stage, and for the first time we're adding another stage on Soco Street coordinated by David Baker. Also new this year will be a Doggie Daycare and a Bike Corral. And how about the 5K Race that Wanda Hawthorne is putting together before the festival gets underway? If all that's not enough, festival director Sharon Fahrner is arranging booth after booth of arts, crafts, and tasty food.

This month the spotlight shines on the businesses that have committed to sponsor the 2011 Montford Music and Arts Festival. Their support and investment in our community is greatly appreciated. Montford salutes all of you!

Neighbors, please patronize these generous businesses. Without their help, there would be no festival.

- > **All Kids Pediatrics** 131 McDowell Street, Suite 100, Asheville 28801, www.allkidspediatrics.com, 350-KIDS (5437)
"All Kids Pediatrics is dedicated to providing comprehensive, compassionate care to children and their families. We aim to partner with families in fostering each child's physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development. We focus on wellness, prevention, and healthy living as well as providing treatment for illness and injury."
- > **Chinese Acupuncture and Herbology Clinic** 369 Montford Avenue, Asheville 28801, www.ashevilleacupuncture.com, 258-9016
"We recognize the uniqueness of your healing journey and are honored to walk this path with you. It is our intention to always demonstrate faith in your ability to heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually."
- > **Earth Fare** 66 Westgate Parkway, Asheville 28806, www.earthfare.com, 253-7656
"Our mission is to feed and inspire the healthy person inside you."
- > **828:design** 32 Broadway, Suite 120, Asheville 28801, www.828design.com, 254-9200
"828:design is a full-service graphic design studio creating for both interactive media and print. We're about building relationships and delivering results. Passion for innovation and creativity, strong work ethic and professionalism, and diverse experiences with a reputation for results are what sets us apart."
- > **LaZoom Tour Company "A City Tour with a Twist"** 90 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville 28801, www.lazoomtours.com, 225-6932
"Hop on LaZoom's iconic purple bus and find the funny side of Asheville. Our city-wide afternoon and evening tours are historical and hysterical, feature outlandish comedy skits, entertaining tour guides, and much more. You have never taken a tour like this before – it's a show on wheels! So grab your favorite beverage (or a local Asheville brew) and do what the locals do . . . Get on the Big Purple Bus! LaZoom also offers Haunted Comedy Tours and Art Tours."
- > **Nine Mile Restaurant** 233 Montford Avenue, Asheville 28801, www.ninemileasheville.com, 505-3121
"Local - Fresh - Affordable. Great food and smiling faces mean a lot to us. Our goal is for you to have a positive, delicious dining experience and leave Nine Mile with a full belly and a smile."
- > **Progress Energy** 555A Brevard Road, Asheville 28806, (800) 452-2777 –Customer Service, (800) 419-6356 – Power Outages, www.progress-energy.com
Everybody knows our power company.

- > **Greenlife Grocery** 70 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville 28801, www.wholefoodmarkets.com, 254-5440
"Greenlife Grocery is a 19,000 square foot full-service natural foods grocery store and café in downtown Asheville. We strive to provide customers with a large variety of high-quality organic foods and environmentally responsible products. We proudly carry a wide selection of local and regional products, helping to support the local businesses of our area. Our mission is to nurture our community by providing a green market place dedicated to sustainable practices and the love of food."
- > **Suspect Device, LLC** 175 Patton Avenue, (Echo Mountain), Asheville 28801, www.suspectdeviceaudio.com, 333-2160
"Suspect Device designs and repairs amplifiers and pro-audio electronics quickly, completely, and with style. Our service center can be found at Echo Mountain Recording Studio. Please contact us whenever you require electronic service. We are proud to sponsor and perform at the Montford Festival as half of us live in Montford and we always buy, sell, eat, and drink locally whenever possible."

Now that's an impressive list, and it's growing. If you want the spotlight to shine on you or your business, become a festival sponsor.

Contact me at mgm1013@charter.net or 254-0690 for additional information. Visit our festival website at www.montfordfestival.com.

See you next month with more festival news and complete information on the sponsors who commit to the festival in March.




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Terry Walton

What Has the Montford Neighborhood Association Done for Me Lately?

David Patterson, MNA President

Some neighbors may not be aware of the many activities the Montford Neighborhood Association supports through financial donations and many hours of volunteer effort. Here's a quick look at what has happened over the past year.

- **Completion of the mural on the Soco Street side of the Montford Convenience Store.**

Mural artist Daniel Beck of Arts 2 People provided the artistic concepts and know-how. Many neighbors—and particularly young neighbors—had great fun with painting. The MNA funded the entire project.



BEAUTIFUL MURAL, NO GRAFFITI TAGS

- **Ongoing financial support for activities of the Montford Community Center.** These include the Easter egg hunt, children's area at the Music and Arts festival, Halloween Haunted House, holiday gift baskets for families of students in the afterschool program, and contributions to help provide "scholarships" for afterschool activities at the Community Center for children who can't afford them.
- **Completion and adoption of the revised HRC Guidelines for the Montford Historic District.** This was a heroic, two-year effort with countless woman and man hours, thanks to Karen Kellow, the MNA/HRC Liaison Committee, and the many neighbors who showed up for meetings to have their say on the revisions.
- **Funding the drumming program conducted by LEAF in Schools and Streets at the Community Center.** The story by teaching artist Kenya Webster on page 2 of this newsletter captures some of the joy and excitement of this program.
- **Hiring extra police protection for Halloween night.** We've done this for three consecutive years in cooperation with the owner of the Montford Convenience Store.
- **Sponsoring the Montford Tour of Homes.** The 2010 tour, which showcased the amazing variety of homes in our neighborhood—old and new, big and small—was our fifteenth annual.
- **Sponsoring the Montford Music and Arts Festival every spring.** The 2011 festival is the eighth annual. This FREE festival features live music, local artists, and all kinds of activities for all ages (see the story on page 3). Proceeds from booth and entry fees help support MNA-funded activities.
- **Dealing with big-ticket items that directly affect our neighborhood,** including the I-26 connector project and the Momentum construction site. The MNA listens to neighbors and then advocates for the neighborhood.
- **Approving funding to help rebuild the Hazel Robinson Ampitheatre,** the summer home of the Montford Park Players (see the story on page 2), and to increase the beauty and safety of Montford Avenue, our neighborhood's mainstreet.
- **Publishing this newsletter,** which brings vital information and human interest stories to the entire community. With a press run of 1,550 copies, the newsletter is hand-delivered by more than 40 volunteer neighbors to every household in Montford. Advertising revenues from local businesses and residents pay for the production of the newsletter.

- **Maintaining a neighborhood website, Montford.org,** that delivers the latest Montford news and helps people literally around the world discover our neighborhood.

Get the idea? I'm sure I forgot a few things, but the Montford Neighborhood Association does a LOT for Montford.

Please get involved. MNA elections are coming up (see the article on this page), and we need your help to make it all happen.

What Can I Do for the Neighborhood?

David Patterson, MNA President

What would Montford be like without a neighborhood association? Would there still be a feeling of community? Where would you turn for help with neighborhood or city problems? Who would make possible all the things the MNA provides?

If your answer is "I don't want to know!" then join us. We need your help.

Annual elections for MNA board members are fast approaching. This is an opportunity for you to put your particular skill set to work for the neighborhood. Whatever your skills, I'll bet we can match them. The work is rewarding, and you meet a lot of wonderful people—your neighbors!

Positions available include president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and up to eight at-large board members.

No, the current officers are not all stepping down. But several positions need to be filled to have a full complement.

Nominations are open until the April 19 meeting and can be made from the floor. Please forward any volunteers or potential candidates to me ASAP. Contact me for more details about positions and responsibilities at 252-5348 or montford33@bellsouth.net.

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Montford Community Center News

Kim Kennedy, Center Director

Community Yard Sale

The spring Montford Community Center Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 9, from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Get rid of your gently used items for just \$5 per table or come by the center and do some shopping. Tables will go fast, so don't wait. The Montford after-school youth will also be holding a bake sale to raise money for the end-of-season event.



Montford Easter Event

Visit Montford Park on Saturday, April 23, at 11:00 a.m. for free Easter family fun. We will be playing games, facepainting with the Easter Bunny, and having an Easter egg hunt for youth 12 and under. This event is sponsored by the Montford Neighborhood Association, Asheville Police Department, and Montford Community Center.

Fun at the Center for Adults

Children aren't the only ones who can have fun at Montford Center. We have badminton, table tennis, juggling, basketball, and martial arts. Here's our schedule.

Badminton: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Table Tennis: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Juggling Club: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Open Basketball: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Martial Arts: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

For more information on the Montford Community Center, call Kim Kennedy at 253-3714.

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Green Corner Tune into FMs—Food Miles

Mitch Russell



We all know about AM, but what about FMs? No, not radio—Food Miles.

Look at the grapes you just purchased, and chances are this time of year they came from Chile. Needless to say they traveled farther than many of us did all of last year. Purchasing locally grown food can reduce your FMs, thereby lessening the impact on air quality as well.

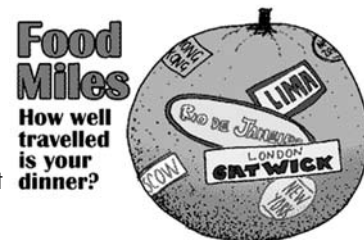
Within a Few FMs of Montford

We're fortunate to have three farms within 7 miles of Montford that offer the bounty of Community Supported Agriculture, or CSA: Emma Farms at 3.8 miles, Green Hill Urban Farm (certified organic) at 4 miles, and Gladheart Farms (certified organic) at 6 miles. Additionally, as many neighbors are aware, the North Asheville Tailgate Market and Greenlife are located within a couple of miles, as is Earth Fare.

How about Zero FMs from Montford?

A potential new kid on the block is the very local CSA that will be grown at the Bountiful Cities garden at the end of Pearson. Recently I spoke with Dina Lewallen, a volunteer with Bountiful Cities, who posted to the list serve back in early February about a Montford CSA at the Bountiful Cities garden located at the end of Pearson. Dina indicated that "CSA is a go."

Summer and fall shares in the garden will be offered as well as full and half shares. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.



We have not only these produce and fruit purveyors but also a good supply of meat, eggs, honey, wool, and many other local products. We have numerous "family flocks" of chickens right here in Montford. Some of the people reading this Green Corner are probably resting up while they take a break from raising their brood! In addition, there are community gardens and private gardens that further reduce our FMs.

Now that the winter weather has broken, at least for the short term, and we're looking forward to spring and beyond, think about how you can reduce your FMs by starting a garden, joining a CSA, or buying locally at farmers markets or grocery stores.

For more information on these CSAs, visit Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture's website buyappalachian.org/search/csa

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Montford Neighborhood Association News

Pam Brown, Secretary

Minutes of the February 15, 2011, Meeting

The regular monthly meeting was called to order on February 15, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Montford Community Center on Pearson Drive by President David Patterson. Other board members present: Pam Brown, secretary, Wanda Newman, treasurer, and at-large members Laura Lowe, Joe Newman, Michael McDonough, Sharon Fahrer, and Elizabeth Hunter. Also present were Susan Roderick, executive director of Asheville Greenworks; Kim Kennedy, director of the Montford Community Center; Community Resource Officer Jeremy Woody; and several other neighbors.

Safety and Security

Officer Jeremy Woody reported the past month had been relatively quiet. He noted that the police discovered a stolen vehicle that had been abandoned in the neighborhood. He also reported that he stopped a moped for running a stop sign on Courtland Avenue and, after obtaining agreement from the rider to search, located illegal substances. This person has been jailed.

The police have implemented a series of driver license checks and stops near Bulldog Drive, which runs between Montford Avenue and Broadway, to help calm the college student population at The Grove Apartments. The police have responded to a number of complaints about residents being too loud. Officer Jeremy also updated the group on various incidents in areas near Montford.

Neighborhood Watch Signs

Officer Jeremy discussed the possible locations of the new signs. The group agreed on the following locations: Cherry Street at Broadway, Courtland Avenue at Houston Street, West Chestnut Street at Broadway, Cauble Street at Cumberland Circle, Bulldog Drive at Montford Avenue, and Soco Street at Montford Avenue near the convenience store. Since the number of signs to be allocated is unknown, the group decided that the first and most important location is the convenience store. Officer Jeremy will inform David Patterson of the number of signs when he is able to obtain the number.

Treasurer's Report

Wanda Newman, MNA treasurer, gave the group an update on the current balance noting accounts receivable and payable for the month.

Momentum – The Health Adventure

The group expressed disappointment at having received no February update from Paige Wheeler, president and CEO of The Health Adventure. Michael McDonough volunteered to draft a letter to the city requesting that the city look into resuming maintenance and development of the Reed Creek Greenway land running through the Momentum site. David Patterson will contact Tim Schaller, who has also been involved in communicating with the city, and will update the group.

Montford-Soco-Cullowhee Intersection

David Patterson reported that the city postponed presenting its proposed design changes for the intersection to the HRC until Wednesday, March 9, at 4:00 p.m. (see the HRC agenda on page 9). The group also reviewed a revised plan from Michael McDonough for softening the proposed work by removing some of the concrete and instead using landscaping. Improving lines of sight at the intersection were discussed as the neighborhood's main objective. A motion was made and seconded to dedicate a contribution from the association not to exceed \$1,500 to facilitate landscaping of the proposed work. The motion passed. Michael will meet with the city to present his revised plan and offer the MNA's contribution.

Traffic Island Project: Asheville Greenworks/Montford Neighborhood Association

Susan Roderick presented the second traffic island landscape design to the group. This design by Adam Garry for the island at Montford Avenue-Bearden Street-Courtland Avenue and the previous design by Jerry Snow for the Montford Avenue-Watauga Street island were circulated to the group. Both Snow and Garry are Montford residents and donated their designs to this improvement project. The group discussed the need to increase the previously agreed to allocation of \$900 for plantings and maintenance. A motion was made and seconded to increase the allocation to \$1,200. The motion passed.

The group also briefly discussed instituting the "Adopt a Street" program to help maintain streets, sidewalks, and traffic islands in the neighborhood.

Wayfinding Signs

David circulated a sample design for the small gateway signs identifying the Montford Area National Historic District to be installed at the entrance to the historic district on Montford Avenue. The signs will replace the current "tombstone" entrance marker. The group discussed moving the current gateway stone marker to either the West Chestnut Street or Flint Street entrance to the district.

Montford Community Center

Director Kim Kennedy reported that the drumming program funded by the MNA and conducted by LEAF in Schools and Streets has been successful despite the interference of weather and that make-up days were being scheduled (see the story on page 2). She also noted that the Montford Center Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 23, at 11:00 a.m.

Montford Music and Arts Festival

Sharon Fahrer gave a brief update on the upcoming festival, noting that sponsorships and booth sales were progressing nicely. The story on page 3 provides more details.

Amphitheatre Renovation Project: Montford Park Players

David Patterson reminded the group of the current performances by the Montford Park Players at the Masonic Temple. Travis Lowe made a request that the association consider a donation for the renovation of the aging Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre. It was decided that Travis would send information to the board members detailing the specific request level and amount. The group was in favor of the request, and the board members will vote on the amount at the next board meeting on Friday, February 19. See the story on page 2 for more information.

The meeting was adjourned.



Minutes of the December 14, 2010, Meeting

The regular monthly meeting was called to order on December 14, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Montford Community Center on Pearson Drive by President David Patterson. Other board members present: Pam Brown, secretary, and at-large members Laura Lowe, Sharon Fahrler, and Susan Eggerton.

Treasurer's Report

Wanda Newman, MNA treasurer, sent the financial update to the board members prior to the meeting, and it was available for review.

Momentum – The Health Adventure

Joe Newman has met with Paige Wheeler, president and CEO of The Health Adventure, to discuss concerns of safety, the failing fence, and the general lack of progress at the Momentum site. Paige stated that she would address these issues. There will be an article in the February issue of the *Montford Newsletter*.

Tree Trimming

Laura Lowe updated the group on her findings with regard to the utility company's tree trimming along and under power lines. She reported that the trimming must meet American National (ANSI) standards and that property owners can request a tree trimming refusal form from the city and maintain the trimming themselves. It was suggested that anyone with questions and concerns should contact the city arborist, Mark Foster, at 259-5852.

Montford.org Website

Laura Lowe reported to the group that Lael Grey, who has been responsible for website updating and contributed greatly to the new design, is resigning from her web duties. The group expressed gratitude for Lael's involvement.

The meeting was adjourned.





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Window Restoration Class to be Offered at A-B Tech

Tim Hanlon, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

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In this new window restoration class (6 hours in length) you will learn how complete all of these tasks while saving yourself lots of money in labor costs by doing it yourself. This class will address the needs and repairs of old and new windows.

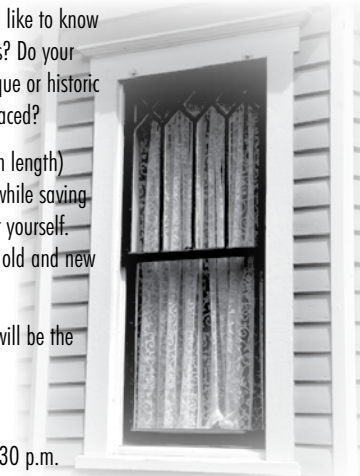
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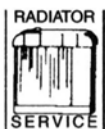


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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

March 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/

Old Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

Montford Avenue at Cullowhee and Soco Streets—install sidewalk extensions
Public right-of-way at 211 Montford Avenue—AT&T installation of two utility boxes

Other Business

Form Nominating Committee for election of officers
Sondley Award nominations
Education Committee report
Landmark Committee report
Comments from commissioners, public, and staff

February 9, 2010, Meeting—Action Agenda for Montford

Members present: Hillary Cole, Capi Wampler, Aaron Wilson, Jonathan Lucas, David Nutter, John Dean, Courtney Mumm

Staff present: Stacy Merten, Cristin Moody, Jannice Ashley

Item and Summary	Action
179 Flint Street—add rear dormer and vents.....	Approved
128 Flint Street—rear addition.....	Approved with conditions
Montford Avenue at Cullowhee and Soco Streets—install sidewalk extensions.....	Continued to March meeting
15 Pearson Drive—replace rear deck with porch.....	Approved with conditions
27 Arborvale Road—extend rear balcony and enclose space below.....	Approved
Please refer to the website (www.ashevillenc.gov) for the full approved minutes after each month's meeting.	

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Alida Woods

Continued from front page...

In 1997, Ms. Woods was invited to become assistant principal and, in 2003, became principal at Dickson. Prior to that, she taught 5th grade. "In the heart of it, I'll always be a teacher," she says. She has spent 37 years as an educator. At Dickson, Alida says, "I feel like I've been able to keep experiential learning alive, where the spirit of the child matters, in the midst of an era of accountability. And I've not done that alone," she says. She credits an "incredible, exceptional, amazing, staff" with keeping the spirit of experiential education alive.

Parents and Teachers Recall Her Fine Work

Montford resident Stephy Citron, whose daughters Katie Barge and Carly Baggett attended Dickson, remembers the early days at the new school. "Alida wanted to open things up for everyone, to provide the best education, not only for our kids but to offer that for kids who came from homes where education was, out of necessity, not the top priority. She started transforming the old school right away — everything turned immediately out and into the community. There were gardens and flowers and every single teacher felt totally supported. Parents felt a strong sense of community there and so welcomed. Everybody helped. Alida was incredibly creative and resourceful in providing support to make that happen."

The school is sited on a 17-acre parcel bordering Hill and Courtland Streets. Alida says she was "ecstatic" when she learned this. "She has always been interested in getting children out into the natural world and making that part of their education," according to kindergarten teacher Dee Cash, who came with Alida to Dickson when it started. Alida obtained small grants and donations to support the development of the school's nature trail, a community

garden, a pond, a sound garden, and two distinct playgrounds. As a retirement gift, the PTO has collected donations to update the sound garden in her honor.

Ready to Travel, Continuing to Advocate

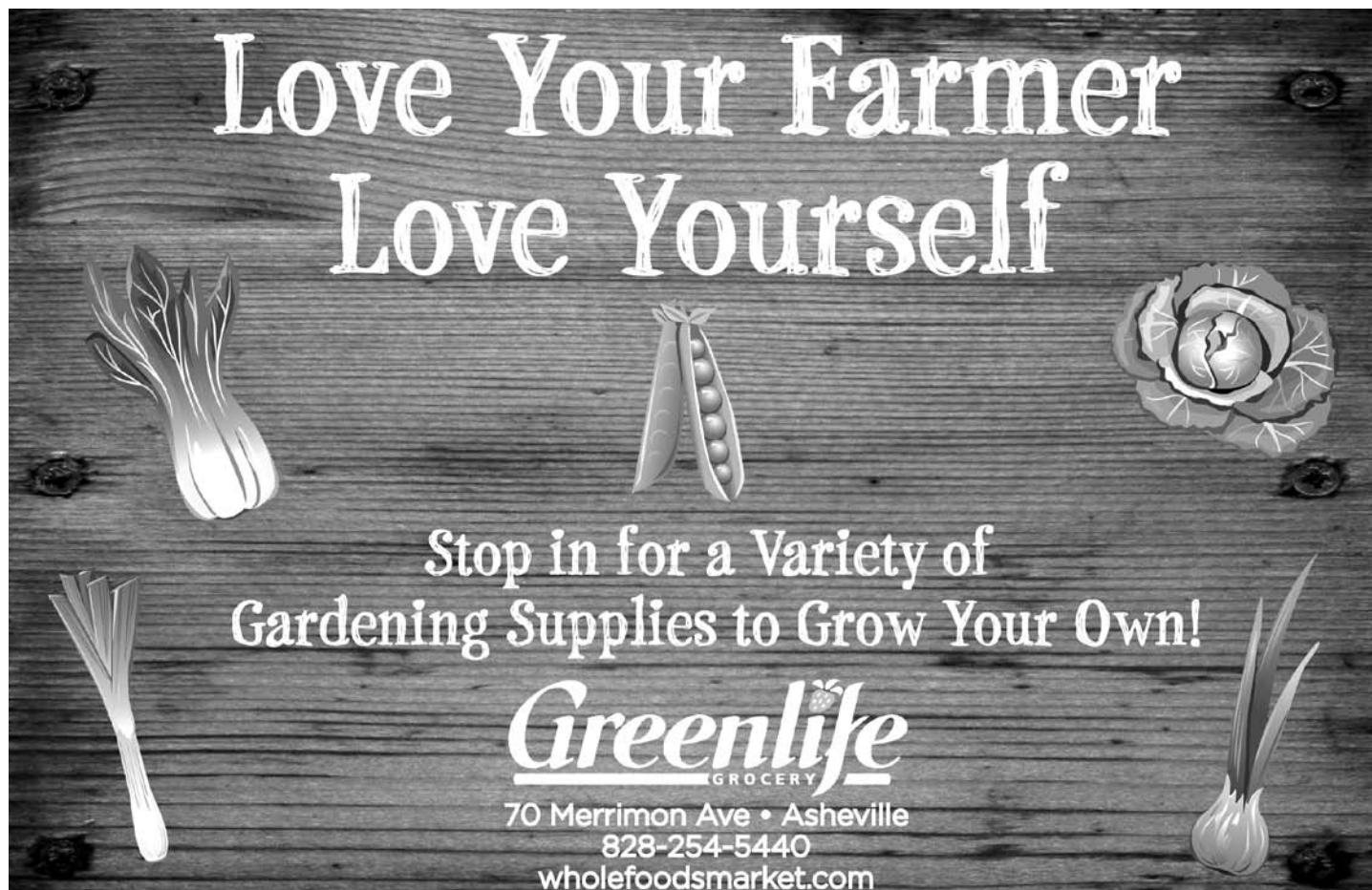
Alida and her family live in Montford. When Isaac Dickson was started, her children attended, and she began a "recruiting binge" in the neighborhood. True to her vision of community involvement, she has written for and delivered the *Montford Newsletter* and keeps a stack on a table in the school's entrance.

In retirement, Alida plans to travel more. She will go to the Baja of Mexico to watch whales calve and possibly back to Africa where her son is working. But she'll continue to stay involved locally, "from the outside-in," with education, especially Children First, the Buncombe county advocacy group working to "create a better future for all children."

That sure sounds like Alida Woods. Congratulations, dear friend, and see you around the neighborhood!

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INGREDIENTS:

- *1 salmon fillet - remove skin and cut into cubes
- *2 cups frozen yellow corn, thawed or fresh corn removed from cob
- *2 cups frozen edamame (shelled), thaw
- *2 TBSP oyster sauce
- *1 tsp chopped fresh ginger
- *1 clove garlic, mince
- *1/4 tsp hot pepper flakes
- *1 TBSP low sodium soy sauce
- *Sesame or peanut oil - 2 tsp

*Delicious Ideas From
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DIRECTIONS:

1. Coat wok with oil and heat, add garlic, ginger and cook for about 1-2 minutes, careful not to burn. Add oyster sauce and soy sauce and then add salmon. Cook for about 2 minutes making sure that salmon is coated with sauce mixture and then add edamame and corn and red pepper flakes. Cook for about 5 more minutes until vegetables are heated through.

Public Schools Face Huge Budget Cuts

Mitch Russell

As the parent of an Isaac Dickson Elementary School student, I am concerned about the education of my daughter and her classmates being compromised to make up for the \$2.4 billion shortfall in the North Carolina state budget.

Asheville City Schools consistently outperform the state and nation on SATs and have almost double the number of board-certified teachers as the state. Yet over the last three years, the education dollars from Raleigh have shrunk even as enrollment in Asheville City Schools has increased. Although many Montford residents choose private, charter, and home schools for their children, the vast majority of Asheville's children—and future workforce—attend Asheville City Schools.

A Small Tax Extension Can Help Solve the Problem

Draconian cuts in public education can be avoided if our lawmakers extend the one-penny sales tax that's set to expire. The impact of this tax on the average North Carolina family is only \$9.00 per month. If you agree that's an amount worth investing in our children's education, here are the legislators to contact.

Tom Apodaca (representing Buncombe, Henderson, and Polk Counties): (919) 733-5745, Tom.Apodaca@ncleg.net

Tim Moffitt (representing Buncombe County): (919) 715-3012 or (828) 777-4554, Tim.Moffitt@ncleg.net

Thom Tillis (Speaker of the House): (919) 733-3451, Thom.Tillis@ncleg.net

Phil Berger (Senate President Pro Tempore): (919) 733-5708 Phil.Berger@ncleg.net

Ask them to consider:

1. not allowing the 1 percent sales tax to sunset. In local dollars, that 1 percent sales tax equals only \$9.00 per month per family, but keeping the tax would add \$1.3 billion in revenue—more than half the budget deficit.
2. opposing a city/county school district merger because the overall diversity of the "new" system would be diluted. Currently, minority enrollment in the city system stands at 47 percent, while the county system's minority enrollment is 15 percent.

For more information, visit www.ashevillecityschools.net/Pages/default.aspx



FUN AT THE 2010 EASTER EVENT. COME TO THIS YEAR'S EVENT ON APRIL 23.

Stumptown

Continued from front page...

Clara Jeter lived with her mother while she raised her five children on Morrow, with her cousins living nearby.

Neighbors acted like family as well. While Mrs. Jeter's mother was in the hospital, neighbors brought over dinner every day. If someone needed something, and you had it, you shared. "There was a lot of love here," says Mrs. Jeter.

Stumptown children were kept safe under the watchful eyes and ever-present discipline of all neighborhood elders. As Mrs. Jeter says, "If somebody saw a child doing something they shouldn't, they spoke to the child, and then the child got reprimanded once again at home."

Once they reached school age, Stumptown children usually walked through the woods to the segregated Hill Street School (by 1952, to a new building that now houses the Isaac Dickson School). Teenagers walked even farther to one of two highly regarded African-American high schools. Lettie Polite went to Stephens-Lee High School, and Dorothy Ware went to Allen Home High School.

In the '50s, the students had a pleasant walk. There was no crosstown expressway (built in 1958) and no I-240 (built in the early 1970s) separating Montford from town.

Children spent a lot of time playing outside, skating down paved Gray street, riding bikes down the "Red Hill," and playing ball or horseshoes in the "Hollow." They took walks in the cemetery, hunted 'possum in the woods, got in trouble for chasing Dora Greer's ducks, sneaked some of Reverend Moseley's plums, and maybe had a ride on George Holmes' mule.

Time for Church and also for Parties

There were lots of parties and festivities too: street dances in front of the Dawkins, house parties at the McAfees, church-sponsored picnics in the field at the top of the hill, and William Howard's all-night Fourth of July pig roasts. Mrs. Adeline Jones used to tell ghost stories on her porch at 35 Morrow, and at least once offered a frank lecture on birth control to a group of teenage boys on her front steps.

The Buggs at 59 Morrow had one of the first tiny televisions, and teenagers would pile in to watch sitcom reruns together. When "J.C." Bugg got that 1941 Chevrolet, it was sheer pleasure for teenagers to escape the neighborhood on hair raising rides down to Old Fort or Gastonia.

Sundays were spent in church. While some families went out of the neighborhood to worship, there were two churches in Stumptown in 1950. There was the Welfare Baptist Church at 27 Madison, at this time led by the Reverends Pettway and Ware, and Reverend Mason's Church of God at 13 Gray. Bishop Perkins's original Church of God had been on Morrow. Mrs. Jeter says her family spent nearly the entire day at Welfare Baptist: Sunday school, Sunday morning service, and the evening BTU (Baptist Training Union), ending up with another service. Many others remember doing the same.

A Village that Turned Out Successful People

Whether it was the example of caring adults, the strict discipline, or the church going that shaped them, many strong, community-oriented men and women have come from the "village" of Stumptown. To name only a few, there were Phyllis Jones Sherrill (Morrow Street), who served on the Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council as well as the United Way, YWCA, and Minority Involvement Council; Clara Jeter, who did her child-rearing here and continues to work with the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry, ABC Community Relations Council, Community Action Opportunities, and Martin Luther King Committee; and Lettie Polite (Madison Street), who taught math and organized libraries in many Asheville schools.

We should also mention David Jones, Jr. (Morrow Street), executive director of the Housing Authority of Asheville from 1976-2005; Doris Dawkins (Gay and Morrow Streets), active in the Neighborhood Housing Services Board; Dr. John Bugg (Morrow Street), pastor and prison chaplain in Essex County, New Jersey; Herbert J. "Watt Daddy" Watts (Morrow Street), who worked 26 years for the Asheville Police Department, retiring as sergeant of the Juvenile Division, and the namesake of the Herbert J. Watts Park; and Alvin Mills (Gay Street), the WLOS — TV 13 photojournalist and cameraman who was Professor Bop on WLOS radio.

Urban Renewal Shatters the Neighborhood: The 1960s and 1970s

The sixties brought an end to a way of life. The Stumptown population aged as young people began to move away in search of work. Many homes were in serious need of repair, and rental properties were left to deteriorate, mainly because the future of the neighborhood was uncertain. An article in the *Citizen-Times* from April 1968 describes a city council meeting attended by a "noisy delegation from Stumptown" (led by Phyllis Sherrill), asking for the removal of 50 abandoned cars in the neighborhood. There were also water and sewage problems, inadequate solid waste disposal, and no playgrounds.

City planners hoped to solve the problems of Stumptown by removing substandard housing and putting in new housing or possibly a park. This process had begun when the city hired Ray Kisiah as director of Asheville Parks and Recreation in 1971. Kisiah managed to combine several federal grants from such programs such as Model Cities, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Community Development Fund to pay for a million-dollar plan for the Montford Recreation Park—without having to spend "a dime" of city money.

Citizen input for the park project was asked for and received by Oralene Simmons, who worked for the local Model Cities environmental branch and later became director of the Community Center. Land for the park was acquired between 1968 and 1973, groundbreaking for the Center occurred in summer 1977, and the new building was dedicated in fall 1978.

This well-intentioned plan had some powerful negative effects. All properties on Morrow and Jersey and most of those on Gay and Madison were bulldozed, and around 80 households lost their homes. Some people moved to housing projects such as Hillcrest (just built in 1959) or Erskine-Caldwell senior housing (built in 1970), others purchased or rented homes elsewhere in town, and still others moved away altogether. A deeply connected and vibrant community, even more real than the buildings themselves, was lost forever.

Stumptown's Role in a National Tragedy

Stumptown's story is a tiny but extreme example of a national tragedy. During this era, as many as 1,600 African-American neighborhoods—including Asheville's Hill Street, Burton Street, East End, and Riverside/Southside neighborhoods—were diminished or destroyed by highway construction and urban renewal projects.

To understand the story of urban renewal in Asheville, read "Twilight of a Neighborhood," *Crossroads* (Summer-Fall 2010), a North Carolina Humanities Council publication available online. The Special Collections at Ramsey Library, UNC Asheville, have huge archives on urban renewal in Asheville. For a moving account of how urban renewal affected African Americans nationwide, see Mindy Thompson Fullilove, *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, and What We Can Do about It* (One World/Ballantine Books, 2005).

Stumptown Lives On

Stumptown is not lost, however, from the memories of the people who lived there. Phyllis Sherrill started the Stumptown reunions in 1993. Perhaps the biggest one occurred in 1997, a two-day affair with over 50 attending. Next time you're in the Montford Recreation Center, take a look at the wonderful group portrait of these former residents and their families. Another big reunion was held in 2001 honoring the memory of Mrs. Sherrill, who had just died.

Clara Jeter is keeping the reunions going; the last gathering was held in late 2010. If all else fails, residents get together in a big conference telephone call. Reunion booklets, available in the North Carolina Collection at Pack Library, are rich with loving stories about the neighborhood.



CLARA JETER AND HER DAUGHTER PAT McAfee, LOOKING DOWN THE STREET WHERE THEY ONCE LIVED

Stumptown has a way of pulling you into its story. This certainly happened to Pat Fitzgerald, who published a richly illustrated story about Stumptown in 2001 ("Growing Up in Stumptown," in Robert S. Brunk, ed., *May We All Remember Well: A Journal of the History & Cultures of Western North Carolina*, volume 2). About the same time, Alida Woods' fifth-grade students at Isaac Dickson School discovered some artifacts in a nearby area that led them into an exciting archeological study of the neighborhood (see her article, "Continuing to Unearth Stumptown," in the *Montford Newsletter*, February 2002). Alida is retiring as Dickson's principal this month.

And now an Asheville newcomer like me has had the great privilege of exploring this neighborhood's history and meeting many wonderful people. This afternoon I spotted clumps of daffodils popping up along the path where Mrs. Witherspoon's yard on Morrow Street used to be. My own yard is full of what must be Mary Moseley's daffodils.

Small remembrances of times gone by.

This story couldn't have been written without the help of former residents Clara Jeter, the current president of the Stumptown Association; her daughter, Pat McAfee; Lettie Wilson Polite; Dorothy Wallace Ware; and Dr. John C. Bugg.



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MONTFORD is published monthly by the Montford Neighborhood Association for the residents of Asheville's first historic neighborhood. The newsletter is distributed by volunteers.

Staff: Editor: Joe Newman. Design/layout: Ross Terry. Delivery: More than fifty neighbors.

Assistant Editor: Wanda Newman. Advertising: Joyce Thornburg 258-2207, joyce-thornburg@att.net

Editor Emeritus: Sharon Fahrre. Send articles by the 20th of the month to Joe Newman: 254-5111, jnewman@usouthal.edu

Spotlight on a Neighborhood Business

Montford Residents Open Investment Company on Cherry Street

Paige Hansen and Richard Stiles opened Hansen Stiles & Associates at 117 Cherry Street in December 2010. Hansen Stiles is an independent investment company associated with Prospera Financial Services of Dallas Texas, which was recognized as Broker Dealer of the Year in 2009 and 2010.

Brokers and Neighbors

Both Paige and Richard proudly call Montford home. Paige lives on Rosewood Avenue with her three-year-old daughter Sydney. Richard and his wife Phyl have lived on Courtland Avenue since 1984.

Prior to forming Hansen Stiles, Paige had been a local independent financial advisor with Prospera since 2006 and spent the prior three years with a large wire house in Asheville. Paige began her financial career in corporate finance in London 20 years ago before heading to Tokyo to trade interest rates and currencies. Before returning to Asheville in 2003, she worked as an equity research analyst and then marketing specialist with Lehman Brothers in New York City.

Richard entered the investment business in 1996 with Interstate Johnson Lane, a Charlotte company that ultimately was morphed into Wells Fargo. In 2007 he opened 72 Wall Street Investments, an independent arm of Wachovia Securities Financial Network.

Office manager Lisa Lawwill is a native of Asheville and a graduate of UNCA. Lisa has been in the investment business for 17 years in Charlotte and Asheville. She lives in East Asheville with her son Tyler.



STANDING (L-R): RICHARD STILES, PAIGE HANSEN, SYDNEY HANSEN.
SEATED: LISA LAWWILL.

Twenty-Seven Years in Montford

Richard has witnessed significant neighborhood changes since moving to Courtland Avenue 27 years ago. From the beginning he was involved in Montford's revitalization, serving as president of the Montford Community Club (the forerunner of the Montford Neighborhood Association), member of a committee that prioritized neighborhood CDBG improvement projects, and vice-president and then president of Neighborhood Housing Services.

Paige and Richard are planning an open house later this spring. Watch for your invitation in a future newsletter.

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