

MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
VOL. 16 No. 9
SEPTEMBER '11

Montford to Host City Council Candidates

**Meet and Greet on Thursday, September 15,
at Randolph Learning Center**

David Patterson, President, Montford Neighborhood Association

The Montford Neighborhood Association will host a "meet and greet" for the candidates running for Asheville City Council. All nine candidates, including two incumbents, have been invited. At this writing, eight have accepted.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Randolph Learning Center, located on Montford Avenue at the corner of Courtland Avenue. There should be plenty of parking off Courtland adjacent to the school.

This will be an informal gathering to give residents a chance to meet the candidates individually and discuss their positions on important issues. Each candidate will be given three minutes to address the group.

Special thanks to School Social Worker Eric "Big E" Howard for making the facilities available to us.



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A Message from Officer Jeremy Woody on Safety and Security

Montford Residents,

Property crime appears to have been on the rise within the past month. This may not be an actual increase in activity but instead residents taking more initiative to report activity to law enforcement and keeping one another advised. Filing these reports allows us to establish crime trends going on within the area.

Typically on the Crime Mapper, a large proportion of property crimes (larcenies, graffiti, vandalism) center around the downtown district.

Montford is located in close proximity to this area, two public housing areas, and several public service shelters.

Remember that anyone can be a victim of a crime. I was once a Montford resident and parked my personal vehicle along Cumberland Avenue. I took extra precautions to help reduce my chances of becoming a victim. These are no longer the "old days" when you could leave your home and vehicle unlocked. You must secure your belongings if you wish to keep them.

continued on page 13...



Montford Moves Forward with "Momentum" Charrette Discussions

David Patterson, President, Montford Neighborhood Association

Background

In June, the Asheville Design Center (ADC) was invited to attend the MNA's monthly meeting to solicit neighborhood interest in holding a charrette regarding the Momentum property. The charrette process involves a series of workshops where neighborhood input is collected and refined into a useable document.



LOOKING ACROSS THE EIGHT-ACRE SITE FROM JUST BELOW
ZILICOA STREET

Following interest from neighbors in taking a proactive stance on the future use of the bankrupt Momentum site, Chris Joyell of the ADC discussed the process of a design charrette and the ADC's role in providing professional guidance to MNA for articulating goals and reaching a consensus on what Montford neighbors want. The use of "design" in this context can refer to anything from landscape design to urban design and does not refer to an actual building design.

continued on page 15...

CALENDAR

MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:

- THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, MONTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER, PEARSON DRIVE
- NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 7:00 P.M., FEATURING UPDATES ON SAFETY AND SECURITY AND DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED CHARRETTE FOR THE 525 BROADWAY PROPERTY (FORMERLY MOMENTUM)

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

TRASH TO CASH MONTFORD COMMUNITY YARD SALE:

- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. SHOP AT TABLES IN THE MONTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER OR IN YARDS THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD. CONTACT SHARON FAHRER, 777-1014 OR FAHRER@CHARTER.NET.

MEET AND GREET FOR ASHEVILLE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES:

- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7:00 P.M. AT THE RANDOLPH LEARNING CENTER, CORNER OF MONTFORD AVENUE AND COURTLAND AVENUE. INFORMAL, ONE-ON-ONE TALK WITH THE CANDIDATES SPONSORED BY THE MONTFORD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.

ASHEVILLE GREEK FESTIVAL:

- SEPTEMBER 23-25, HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, CUMBERLAND AVENUE. FOR FULL INFORMATION CALL 253-3754 OR VISIT WWW.HOLYTRINITYASHEVILLE.COM/GREEK_FESTIVAL

CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY:

- LAUNCH PARTY FOR NEW CHURCH, CORNER OF WEST CHESTNUT STREET AND CUMBERLAND AVENUE, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 10:30 A.M. CONTACT BARRY FISHER, 778-3609.

TREE SELECTION AND MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP:

- CONDUCTED BY ARBORIST SCOTT ABLA. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 9:00-11:00 A.M., MONTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER. FREE, BUT RSVP TO PHYLLIS STILES AT PHDSTILES@GMAIL.COM.

ODYSSEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 5K RACE AND ONE-MILE FUN RUN:

- SECOND ANNUAL FAMILY RUN FUNDRAISER, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, AT ODYSSEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL, ZILCOA STREET. REGISTRATION AT 8:00 A.M., 5K RACE AT 9:00 A.M. CONTACT CHRIS LIBERTORE, (626) 390-0420.

MONTFORD COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES:

- FREE YOGA! BEGINNING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6. MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 6:30-7:30 P.M., TUESDAYS, 8:00-9:00 A.M. BRING YOUR OWN MATS.
- YEAR-ROUND MARTIAL ARTS, TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, 6:00-8:00 P.M. \$10 PER CLASS, NO PREREGISTRATION, FIRST CLASS IS FREE. CONTACT MARK SMALL AT 285-2929 OR MSMALL@MAIN.NC.US.
- NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERT AT THE CENTER. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, NOON-5:00 P.M.

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

MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS—FREE SUMMER SHAKESPEARE IN HAZEL ROBINSON AMPITHEATRE:

- THE ASHEVILLE SHAKESPERIENCE III, SEPTEMBER 9-18, FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS. A FULL EVENING OF SCENES AND SONNETS FROM THE BARD'S FOLIOS, FEATURING OUR RESIDENT REPERTORY COMPANY.
- CONTACT INFO@MONTFORDPARKPLAYERS.ORG OR 254-5146.

MONTFORD FARMERS MARKET:

- WEDNESDAYS, 2:00-6:00 P.M., CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LOWER PARKING LOT, MONTFORD AVENUE. CONTACT GREENTOGROUND@YAHOO.COM.

Montford Neighborhood Website

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

MONTFORD LIST SERVE

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

Arborist to Conduct Montford Tree Selection and Maintenance Workshop

Saturday, October 1, at the Community Center

Phyl Stiles

Arborist Scott Abila has agreed to lead a FREE two-hour workshop on Saturday, October 1, at the Montford Community Center from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The first hour will be devoted to a prepared lecture, including a list of trees recommended for planting, followed by questions and answers. The second hour will involve a field trip to look at trees around the community center for a hands-on discussion.

Scott graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in forestry. My family and I were thrilled with the thoughtful work he performed for us recently. We were equally impressed with his passion for educating his customers about the special characteristics and needs of each tree. For example, who knew that the sycamore tree was the best at sending out proteins to quickly heal its wounds?



Plant a Tree, Reap the Benefits

If you wanted to lower your stress level, cool your home, clean the air, prevent soil erosion, and provide a home for wildlife while increasing the value of your own home, did you know that you could do all six simply by planting a tree? Visit the Arbor Day Foundation's website, www.arborday.org, to learn about the extensive research conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Wildlife Federation, and many other reputable institutions quantifying the benefits of trees to individuals and their communities.

As a centenarian neighborhood, the Montford has lost or is losing many of its hardwoods. If we want the trees we have now to shade and beautify our community for years to come, and we want to replace the trees we've lost, a little education goes a long way.

Please come with some questions in mind or rest assured you will have hundreds of questions once you meet Scott. RSVP to me at phdstiles@gmail.com to give Scott an idea of how many people to expect.

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.
- For Montford's Community Resource Officer, Jeremy Woody, call 552-9423 or email jwoody@ashevillenc.gov.



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A Neighborly Invitation to the Asheville Greek Festival

**September 23-25 at Holy
Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
on Cumberland Avenue**

Greetings Neighbors!

It's Greek Fest time in Montford. We are gearing up for another fun-filled weekend. There will be lots to learn, see, and do.

Please come tour our church during this celebration of Greek culture. Join us for Vespers Service at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 24.

You may want to watch a cooking demonstration, or enjoy the Nick Demos Band along with dancing by youth groups and adult teams.

Indoor booths we will be hosting include Alexander's Jewelry, Ukrainian Hand-Made Eggs, and Pashmina Wraps, Bags, and Accessories. The monks will be selling religious items and icons. Don't forget our Greek Grocery Store and Gift Shop.

Go to the festival website, www.holytrinityasheville.com/greek_festival, or call 253-3754 for information on everything about the festival, including our famous food and curbside service.

As a neighbor, I'm so grateful for your support, and the entire Greek community is equally appreciative. We invite you back again for the second year to this city-wide celebration held right where we live—Asheville Greek Fest 2011 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 23, 24, and 25.

Thank you Montford!

Yours, Dawn "Pebbles" Stucker, 218 Cumberland Avenue

P.S. Call me with any questions at 778-0031 or stop by the house and visit Bonnie, Clyde, and the Stucker family.



JOIN THE FUN! www.holytrinityasheville.com/greek_festival

Clarification

Joe Newman

In the August newsletter, the photograph I chose to accompany Karen Kellow's story "A Kinder, Gentler HRC" was an image of the beautiful historic home at 118 Cumberland Avenue. I captioned the photo "A Montford Treasure" to emphasize the importance of historic restoration and preservation. The home at 118 Cumberland Avenue is not the home that Karen describes in her story as out of compliance with the HRC's *Guidelines* for Montford.

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Design the Music and Arts Festival Logo and Win \$100

Jerry Conner

You may have read about this contest in August's newsletter. We are seeking submissions from everyone, Montford residents as well as others, so if you are an artist or have friends who might be interested, here are the details.

After eight years of successful growth, the Montford Music and Arts Festival is looking for a permanent logo that is representative of both the neighborhood and the festival. The new logo will be used to promote the festival on materials ranging from t-shirts to banners, mugs, and printed brochures, and also as a visual trademark reminder.

The winning creation will be rewarded with a cash prize of \$100, recognition on the Montford Festival website (www.montfordfestival.com), a byline, and logo promotional news releases.

Here Are the Requirements

1. The logo must be able to be reproduced in no more than four colors as well as black and white.
2. Logo lines and outline drawings must not have too much detail or be too intricate for printing on fabric.
3. Designs must be submitted as a jpeg of at least a 300 DPI or a pdf. Vector art is preferred.
4. Designs that combine the elements of the Montford neighborhood, music, and the arts in a clever logo are what we're seeking.
5. The logo design should not have a date (for example, 9th Annual) but should be such that a date can be placed near or above the logo each year without detracting from the integrity of the design. Some uses of the logo will not have a date applied.
6. Logo details should be well defined when reduced to 3 inches wide x 2 inches high for printing.



Win \$100!

The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2011.

Please send your submission or any questions on the logo design to Jerry Conner at carolina-comp@bellsouth.net.

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Asheville Catholic School Fall and Winter Open Houses:

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Pre-K- 8th , 10:00-11:30, September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th

All open houses are held at Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvert Street

Call Debbie Mowrey at 252.7896 or email her at dmowrey@ashevillecatholic.org to arrange a tour.



For more information or to schedule a tour, visit www.ashevillecatholic.org or call (828)252-7896.

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Montford Neighborhood Association News

Bill Wheeler, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at 7:04 p.m. in the Montford Community Center on Pearson Drive by President David Patterson. Other board members present: Susan Eggerton, vice president; Bill Wheeler, secretary; and at-large members Karen Kellow, Laura Lowe, Pam Brown, Elizabeth Hunter, and Ron Phillips. Also present were Asheville Police Department (APD) Community Resource Officer Jeremy Woody and more than 20 other neighbors and community members.

MNA Financials

David Patterson reported no significant news in the budget.

Safety and Security

CRO Jeremy Woody reported that another assault has occurred on Cumberland Avenue involving a pedestrian struck in the head from behind. The victim required hospital care including stitches. Asked by neighbors if there was a link to a very similar incident in June, Officer Woody agreed there were similarities but said that police had no evidence to link the two events. He also noted that there have been no new leads in the June assault case on Cumberland Avenue.

Officer Woody also reported two larcenies in the past month, both described by him as easy - target crimes involving unsecured items.

Several complaints about aggressive door-to-door salespeople have reached the police. Officer Woody reported that he interviewed one individual who presented a peddler's license allowing the solicitations. Officer Woody recommended that people call the police if a salesperson does not leave private property when asked to.

Officer Woody noted that the APD has increased patrols in the neighborhood and is keeping a closer eye on Montford Park. Several neighbors thanked Officer Woody for his hard work and quick response on the list serve to inform neighbors of safety and security news.

Pam Jo Brown gave an update on efforts to improve lighting in the neighborhood. One new light will be installed on Houston Street near Courtland Avenue. Pam has not heard back from the Parks Department regarding lights needed in Montford Park, but the City Superintendent of Planning has stated that the city will replace four burned-out lights as well as evaluate additional lights for the east side of Montford Avenue. All burned-out lights are being replaced with LED lamps. Neighbors who wish to discuss a new light or the replacement of a burned-out light can contact Pam at pamjobrown@charter.net.

David Patterson started a discussion about the possibility of employing additional social media outlets to keep neighbors better informed. One neighbor has recently started a Facebook page devoted to Montford safety and security news, and another neighbor has started a site on Home Elephant.

Announcements

Meet the City Council Candidates. David Patterson reported that he is seeking a date in September to hold a forum for City Council candidates to meet and speak with Montford neighbors. Please see David's article on the front page of this newsletter for information on the session that has been scheduled for Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Randolph Learning Center.

Music and Arts Festival Logo Contest. David Patterson reported that details on the logo contest are on the Montford website. Details are also provided in Jerry Conner's article on page 4.

Montford Commons. David Patterson reported that this delayed project near Hill Street may start construction as financing may be secured soon. He asked that a neighbor in that area of Montford volunteer to act as a liaison to report to the neighborhood on progress.

Neighborhood Yard Sale. David Patterson reported that a neighborhood-wide yard sale will be held on Saturday, September 10. For information, contact Sharon Fahrner at 777-1014 or fahrner@charter.net.

Montford Park Players. Travis Lowe announced that the Montford Park Players are presenting *Julius Caesar* on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from August 12-September 4, to be followed by the Asheville Shakespeare. See the calendar on page 2.

Momentum Charrette

Chris Joyner, representative of the Asheville Design Center, discussed the means, methods, costs, and possible outcomes of having the ADC run a design charrette this fall. The intent of the charrette would be to allow Montford neighbors to have input into how they would like the now-defunct Momentum site to be developed. The charrette would be a one-day affair with a morning and afternoon session, preferably on a Saturday, to involve as many participants as possible.

Neighbors' ideas would be translated into drawings by volunteer professional architects and landscape architects to reflect the neighborhood's aspirations. This "preferred outcome" would serve as a community statement about what Montford would be willing to support as development on the property. Joyell encouraged the neighborhood to invite as many participants as possible to join in the process, including city officials.

One neighbor said that being proactive on this issue may well avoid future legal costs when a development is proposed that the neighborhood may need to battle, like the current case in Kenilworth. Several neighbors encouraged Mr. Joyell to search for possible grant money to help pay for the costs after he said his estimate for the project would be around \$2,000.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to have ADC submit a proposal for approval. See David Patterson's story on the front page for more details.

Soco Street Rezoning

Karen Kellow reported that she attended a recent meeting where the owners of a lot on Soco Street, who had previously requested approval to subdivide the property to allow a new duplex house to be constructed, withdrew the proposal, presumably because city staff had recommended that the proposal be denied. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that Karen Kellow act as the neighborhood representative to express the neighborhood's desire to oppose the rezoning request at future zoning meetings should this issue reappear.

Planning and Zoning Candidates

Karen Kellow reported that the City Planning and Zoning Board will be filling three open seats. City Council will be interviewing all candidates on August 23 and selecting the new representatives. Karen asked that neighbors contact City Council members about their preferences. She also noted that one candidate, Abbie Emison, is a Montford resident and planner. Laura Lowe will post candidates' names and profiles on the list serve to provide more information. For the results of the selection process, see the story on page 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



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Montford Community Center News

Kim Kennedy

Hot August Night Race

The Hot August Night 5K was again a success with just over 140 runners participating. We want to thank the Piranhas Swim Team for providing much-needed volunteer support. If you missed the event, don't worry, because the Jingle Bell Run will be held Saturday, December 3, and it too travels around Montford.



Recycled Phonebooks

Thanks to the Montford neighborhood for all the support in the recycled phonebook drive. We collected over 600 phonebooks and came in 4th of 11 centers. We may not have won the competition, but we did a lot of good for the environment in our recycling efforts.

Free Yoga!

Come join us at the center for FREE yoga classes. These classes offer a friendly flow, linking a variety of postures with breath to help you build a foundation that opens the body and mind for a well-rounded practice. All levels welcome. Call the center for the schedule.

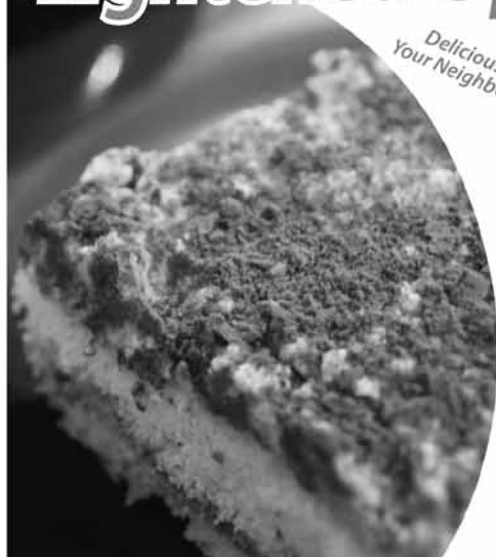
Martial Arts

Year-round martial arts classes are held at the center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. for \$10 per class. Contact instructor Mark Small at 285-2929 or msmall@main.nc.us for class details. No preregistration is required, and your first class is free.

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

Lightened Up Tiramisu

Delicious Ideas From
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INGREDIENTS:

- *1 pack Savoiardi lady fingers
- *1 small container Mascarpone cheese
- *1 small container reduced/low fat ricotta cheese
- *1/2 cup freshly brewed strong black coffee
- *2 tsp ground cinnamon
- *1 TBSP Ghiradelli sweetened cocoa

DIRECTIONS:

1. Mix together entire container of Mascarpone cheese with all of ricotta cheese until creamy. (Note: may be best to food process to achieve creaminess with no lumps). Stir in cinnamon.
2. In a decorative round, clear glass bowl put down one layer of the lady fingers and drizzle (don't soak) w/ coffee - Spread part of cheese mixture on this and then sprinkle with some of cocoa.
3. Continue to alternate layers. Refrigerate for about 1 hr before serving.

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HIGHLAND HOSPITAL, MARCH 10, 1948. Photo by Ewart M. Ball. North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville.

A Tragic Fire in Montford, 63 Years Ago

Joe Newman

The recent fire on Cumberland Circle reminds us how fragile our lives and homes are. Over its history, Montford has lost too many of its homes and other structures to fires, always with great human consequences.

What was surely our neighborhood's most tragic blaze occurred on the night of March 10, 1948, when the central building of Highland Hospital on Zillicoa Street burned to the ground. Nine women who were patients in the mental health facility lost their lives. Twenty other patients survived, two of them seriously injured.

Among those who perished was novelist and jazz-age icon Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald, called "America's first flapper" by her husband F. Scott Fitzgerald. A newly installed North Carolina historic marker on Broadway near the intersection of Weaver Boulevard calls attention to Zelda Fitzgerald's life and the site of the fire.



Funky Mutt

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Cathy Williams

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Odyssey Community School 5K Race and One-Mile Fun Run

Second Annual Family Run Fundraiser

Sunday, October 2, Registration at 8:00 a.m.

Call (626) 390-0420 for Information

Green Corner

Tribute to a Sustainability Crusader

Mitch Russell

I recently learned of the passing of one of my heroes, Ray Anderson, the founder and CEO of Interface. Interface is a modular carpet tile manufacturer and distributor that, under Anderson, became one of the greenest, if not *the* greenest, manufacturers in the U.S.

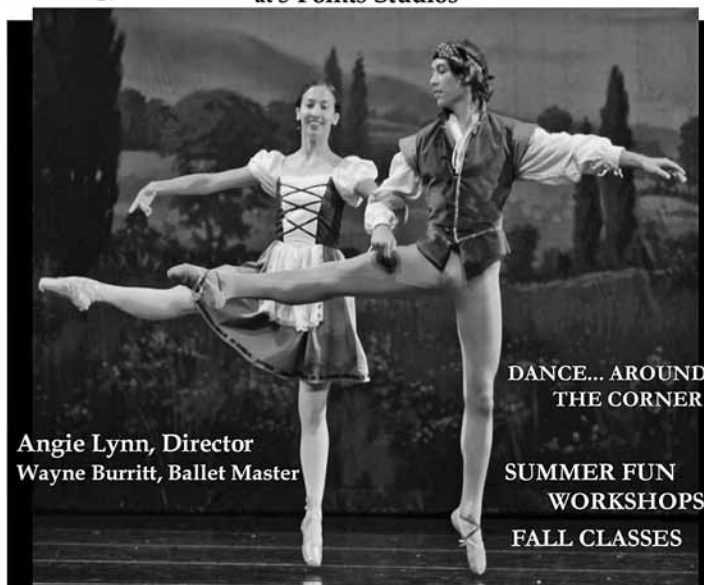


Anderson's first book, *Mid-Course Correction* (1998), put a definitive stamp on sustainability for me and showed that I could live my life more responsibly. With his *Confessions of a Radical Industrialist: Profits, People, Purpose* (2009) and several books written by Paul Hawken, I further educated myself on living sustainably.

Unfortunately I did not have an opportunity to meet Anderson, but I did work with some of his employees. They were as passionate as he was and stated that he did not leave sustainability at the door when he went home. He was a crusader who made over a thousand speeches for businesses to help them "convert" to sustainability.

Ray Anderson should be missed, not only by me, the Interface family, and others wanting to live more sustainably, but by everyone around the world, because we have lost a great crusader for making manufacturing as natural as possible.

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Wayne Burritt, Ballet Master

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Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

August 10, 2011, 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, Capi Wampler, David Nutter, Ashley Black, Brendan Ross, Nan Chase, J. Ray Elingburg, Joe Carney

Staff present: Stacy Merten, Jannice Ashley, Peggy Gardner

Item and Summary	Action
227 Cumberland Avenue—change roof form and stucco over brick façade of Hellenic Center.....	Approved
43 Pearson Drive—reconsider timeframe for removal of vinyl fence.....	Extension changed to October 12, 2011
39 Courtland Avenue—demolish existing garage and replace with new two-car garage.....	Amended and approved with conditions
Please refer to the website www.ashevillenc.gov for the full approved minutes after each month's meeting.	

September 14, 2011, Meeting—Tentative Agenda for Montford

Asheville City Building, First Floor North Conference Room, 4:00 p.m.

New Business: Public Hearings—Certificates of Appropriateness

- 177 Cumberland Avenue—addition to rear of principal structure
- 254 Pearson Drive—remove existing porte cochere and replace with detached garage
- 93 Pearson Drive—add windows and doors and replace siding on rear elevation

Other Business

Comments from commissioners, public, and staff

High-Profile Asheville Planning Board Contest Ends

Content courtesy of Asheville Citizen-Times (www.citizen-times.com), which is a media partner of WNC Local Information Cooperative. WNC LINC connects the Asheville Citizen Times with local and regional news and information websites. For more details, visit www.citizen-times.com/LINC.

A high-profile contest over three open spots on a commission that could shape the look of the city for decades has ended.

The City Council appointed rural community planner Kristy Carter, downtown developer Jeremy Goldstein, and architect Jane Mathews to the Planning and Zoning Commission on August 23.

Nine residents applied, including neighborhood activists, real estate agents, and smart-growth advocates. The council recently expanded the power of the seven-member commission, giving the body final say over projects downtown up to 175,000 square feet and in the rest of the city up to 100,000 square feet.

Prior to that, the council or a committee made up of city staff gave final approval for projects, depending on their size. That included developer Stewart Coleman's controversial condominium project in front of City Hall, over which staff had the final say.

Bryan Jernigan

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My family and I moved from Atlanta to Asheville in 2007. Our neighborhood in Atlanta was very similar to Montford. For over a decade I specialized solely in historic home renovations. I know the attention to the details is the difference between a good renovation a great renovation. Settlement and walls that aren't plumb create big challenges when it's time update these historic gems to better fit your modern day needs.

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Resource Directory

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Send a brief description (30 words or less) and contact information. Sixteen-hundred 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.

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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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Montford Books & More Special Events

- 31 Montford Ave. • 828.285.8805 • www.montfordbooks.com

Sept. 9, 7:30 pm—Poetry Reading with Tracey Schmidt, along with Free Planet Radio's Chris Rosser.
Sept. 30, 6-8 pm—Art Opening & Reception: Montford resident and artist, Dean McCurry.

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The Coleman Family of 36 Montford Avenue

Jane Z. Slaton and Sandra Samz

The original, longer version of this article appeared in *A Lot of Bunkum*, the journal of the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society (OBCGS), August 2010 (vol. 31, no. 3, pp. 14-16). Edited and used here by permission. Contact the society at 253-1894 or obcgs@bellsouth.net or visit the website at www.OBCGS.com.

Smallpox — the paving of Haywood and Montford — Bingham School events — just a few of the topics in the Coleman family letters that provide insight into life in Asheville in the early 1900s.

Many Asheville residents will remember the house at 36 Montford Avenue, corner of Montford and Hill Street, where the Chamber of Commerce is now located. The house was home to the John K. Coleman family, and descendants remember the home and those who lived there with great fondness.

Jane Slaton, great grand-daughter of John K. Coleman, lives in Texas. She recently sent the Old Buncombe Library original letters exchanged in the Coleman and related families. These letters and other information about the family have been compiled in a notebook for the use of OBCGS patrons. Some letters were written prior to the Civil War. What a treasure! Our interest in the family was stirred after reading the correspondence and prompted this article.

Confederate Veteran Moves to Asheville

John Kennedy Coleman was born in South Carolina on August 6, 1847, to George Washington Coleman and Mary Ann Kennedy. The father, George Washington Coleman, graduated from Charleston College and was an attorney. He died in 1849 leaving five children, William, Catherine, Mary Ann, Margaret Eugenia, and John Kennedy. Another daughter, Margaret Herron, had died earlier. The family lived in Chester County, South Carolina, and appears to have been "well off." More information about the origin of this family may be found in the above-mentioned notebook in the OBCGS Library.

John K. Coleman served in Company F of the 6th South Carolina Infantry Regiment, Army of Northern Virginia. He wrote in his diary "Yesterday I was a citizen, today I am a soldier in the glorious army under the brave General Lee. I got my gun and Enfield and accouterments from the Ordnance Sergeant." A picture of his uniform is included in our collection. John was wounded in the chest during the Battle of the Wilderness on September 30, 1864. He returned to service and surrendered with General Lee at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

John returned to Chester County after the war and is found on the 1870 census living with his mother, Mary Coleman. John was 23 years old. He became a merchant and dealt in real estate and other business ventures in Chester County.

John purchased property in Asheville and built a large home on Academy Street (now Montford Avenue) for his family. There are two 1887 deeds for the purchase of property on

Academy Street by J.K. Coleman from J.A. Porter. The purchase was prompted by a belief that the schools were better in Asheville as well as John's concern for his family's health.

By the 1900 Census, John Coleman was listed as living at house number 262 on Montford Avenue [with his wife Mary Coleman, whom he married on a trip to Ireland in 1878, and their five children: Mary, John, Cathline, William, Annie, Margarite, and James or "Nemo"]. By the 1910 Census, the house was numbered 36 Montford Avenue.



WOULD WE LET THIS HOUSE BE DEMOLISHED TODAY? The Coleman House (c. 1896) stood at 36 Montford Avenue. The turret offered an outstanding view of Mt. Pisgah. This photograph, which originally appeared in Mitzi Tessier's *Asheville: A Pictorial History* (1982), was taken from the Hill Street side of the house during its final years. The Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County fought for two years to prevent the house's destruction but lost the battle in April 1979 to a developer who bulldozed it and built a Peddler Steak House. The loss became a rallying cause for historic preservationists who vowed, "Never again!" The Chamber of Commerce built its offices and visitor center on the site in 2005. North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville.

Maiden Lane turned off Hill Street and is now Jason Street.) There are several black families with the Gist surname on the Buncombe County 1900 census including a John and a Joseph Gist. J. Gist was most likely an employee of the family. He is mentioned in another letter and is named as John Gist.

One of the saddest letters was written in Dec. 1895 when George M. Coleman, the 9 year old son of John and Mary Coleman, died in Asheville. He was buried at Purity Cemetery in Chester County.

John Kennedy Coleman died Jan. 7, 1907 at his home on Montford Avenue. His body was returned to Chester County to be buried in Purity Cemetery. His obituary appeared in the *Asheville Citizen* on January 8, 1907, and says that he will be buried beside his son who died several years ago.

Mary Coleman and her children continued to live on Montford Avenue. Mary died April 9, 1943. She had a lengthy obituary in the *Asheville Citizen*. Even though she was 86 years old, she was still active in the Presbyterian Church and was knitting a sock a day for the men in the military. She was buried at the Purity Cemetery in Chester County.

He Knew Thomas Wolfe: Nemo Coleman, Athlete and Real Estate Broker

James Millar Coleman was known as "Nemo." There are several letters and articles about James in the collection including a wonderful letter from James to his brother John thanking him for a baseball glove. Sports played an important part in the life of James Coleman. He

Family Letters Show Glimpses of Turn-of-the-Century Montford

John continued to work in Chester County, South Carolina, and Mary and her children lived most of the year in Asheville. They exchanged letters about the family and Asheville happenings. These letters provided a wonderful insight into life in Asheville. Some examples follow:

April 1, 1900, John, Jr., writes his Dad — "The work on Heywood Street is progressing rapidly. The bricks have been laid up past the Cooper's. We can smell the tar down here. It is terrific. . . . Tell Aunt Katie that Asheville is an automobile town." Another letter mentions they are looking forward to their own street being paved. The collection includes a newspaper article about the street paving.

April 2, 1900, Mary writes her husband — "Everybody is getting vaccinated in this neighborhood as there are some cases of small pox in Maiden Lane. They carried some off in a covered wagon to the pest house today. I wish you would insist on John's being vaccinated also J. Gist." (The Pest House was a hospital for people who were ill with a harmful disease.

was captain of the Montford Avenue Pirates, the first YMCA Baseball League. He wanted to play baseball at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, but didn't make the team. He became the team manager for the football team. After a coach saw him kicking he was asked to join the team.

He left school to serve in WWI and then returned to UNC where he served as the captain of the football team. (See the newspaper article in our collection about the game with Yale.) He was a friend of the author Thomas Wolfe, and it is said that the character "Zeno" in *Look Homeward Angel* was based on Nemo. The collection includes stories about this relationship.

James coached at Bingham Military School and later at The Asheville School. He married Florine Rowland in 1922 and worked in real estate like the other men in his family. He died June 30, 1983, and is buried at Calvary Episcopal Church Cemetery in Fletcher.

Whether or not you are not a member of this family, you will enjoy the letters, articles, and pictures found in our collection. We have added obituaries for the members of this well-known Asheville family. Other families included in the collection are Evans, Millar, McCarter, Weir, and Kennedy. You will find the notebook in the section of family histories in our library.



NEMO COLEMAN AND THE MONTFORD AVENUE GOATS. The Montford team won the YMCA baseball league championship in 1910. (L-R) Henry Gudger, George Craig, Charles Gaillard "Buzz" Tennent, John S. Tennent, Team Captain "Nemo" Coleman, Walter Hunt, Phillip "Goat" Randolph, Stephen Adams, Allen Williamson, Dewey Hunt, and John Hunter. This photo originally appeared in Joan and Wright Langley's *Yesterday's Asheville* (1975). North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville.

TRASH TO CASH

MONTFORD COMMUNITY YARD SALE

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10,
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THROUGHOUT MONTFORD**

**CONTACT SHARON FAHRER
AT 777-1014 OR FAHRER@CHARTER.NET.**



Safety and Security

Continued from front page...

Tips for Protecting Property

A lot of these tips are common-sense things that the majority of people do without even thinking. Attempt to park in well-lit areas. Place valuables out of sight in a glove compartment or trunk. LOCK your doors even if you don't have anything of value in the vehicle. Probably 90 percent of the reports we take for larcenies from a vehicle could have been prevented if the owner had just locked the doors.

There have been several bikes taken here recently. If you can, place them in a garage, maybe on a back porch or inside your house if you have room, or buy a bicycle lock. Attach the lock through the wheel and frame of the bike to prevent it from being able to roll. This may sway would-be offenders from taking it. If they do decide to take it, it will look a little more suspicious if somebody is carrying a bike instead of rolling or riding it away.

Tips for Personal Safety

Some tips for safety while walking in the neighborhood at night are to stay in well-lit areas. If you have to, take an alternate route if it means staying in public view. Walk in pairs if you can, let somebody know where you're going, carry a cell phone with you, limit your distractions (iPods, texting, talking on a cellphone, etc.), stay mindful of your surroundings, and have your key in your hand when you approach your destination.

Officers continue to patrol at night, and we have encountered several residents in the parks after hours. Be advised that all city parks close at 10:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted. "Otherwise posted" usually means that the park closes before 10 p.m.

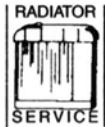
Report Suspicious Activity

Make sure that if you observe any suspicious activity or something out of the ordinary, you report it. Do not depend on the neighbor or friend that you hear about it from to have already reported it. This is a problem that we are experiencing in neighborhoods across the city.

If there is a suspicious person or vehicle that you would like checked out immediately, call the nonemergency number, 252-1110. Clothing descriptions and vehicle descriptions (including tag numbers) are very helpful in these types of reports. By calling the nonemergency number, a call for service will be built, and a patrol officer will be dispatched.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at jwoody@ashevillenc.gov or call my work cell, 552-9423

**Be safe,
Community Resource Officer Woody**





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

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Who?

Whole Kids Foundation, a member of the Whole Foods Market charitable family, and FoodCorps, a national service organization, are dedicated to reversing the trend in childhood obesity by engaging children in physical and academic school garden activities. The two organizations have partnered to offer a unique grant opportunity.

What?

- \$2,000 grant offer to schools, districts, or school-affiliated nonprofit organizations
- Yearlong support and mentoring from FoodCorps
- Access to a resource center providing curriculum, coaching, materials, and ideas
- Participation in gardening discussions and forums with expert assistance.

When?

- Apply from August 17-December 31, 2011.
- First grants awarded February 2012.

How?

- Access details and the application at www.wholekidsfoundation.org/gardengrants-application.php.

- Create an account and fill out the online application.
- Application process requires consideration of the key issues involved in school garden projects, evidence of support from school officials and volunteers, and proof of eligibility.

Why School Gardens?

A schoolyard garden positively addresses six of the eight contributing factors to obesity identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Gardening helps children learn about making better food choices, encourages physical activity, reduces sedentary behavior, and leads to healthier environments at home, at school, and in the community.

At the same time, gardens provide a positive reason for school communities to come together, with parents, teachers, administrators, volunteers, and children working together to green our communities.

Where Can I Learn More?

Visit these websites:

www.wholekidsfoundation.org, www.foodcorps.org, and www.gardengrants.com.

Thanks to Nicole White of Greenlife Grocery in Asheville for providing information on the grant program.

Charrette Discussions

Continued from front page...

Chris returned to the August MNA meeting to give a much more detailed overview of the charrette process and to discuss the timing and expected outcomes of such an undertaking. The meeting was well attended (for August) with 20-25 people present. The ADC's presentation and discussion were most encouraging. By the end of the evening, most attendees were in agreement that the charrette idea is a good thing and needs to be done sooner, not later. Chris and some of our neighbors made compelling arguments for holding the charrette.

Objectives

Previously, the Montford Neighborhood Association identified the following set of objectives that was shared with Asheville City Council and staff.

- That the city reclaim the land given to The Health Adventure (THA) in order to construct the vital missing section of the Reed Creek Greenway and to create leverage for other community goals;
- That the city work with the current property owner to explore the possibilities of shifting the alignment of the greenway to Reed Creek, with consideration of the adjacent Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD) easement;
- That the damaged "construction" fence to be removed, as there is no longer construction occurring;
- That the city maintain at least the border of this property and closely monitor and enforce storm water issues;
- That the city use available leverage to encourage that any development and whatever may be constructed on the remaining land be appropriate for the existing and surrounding neighborhoods.

In keeping with the objectives above and MNA's desire to seek input and ideas from residents about the future of the site, ADC has proposed a design workshop. The proposed process would allow residents to give shape to those objectives, providing the property owners of 525 Broadway (formerly Momentum), city officials and staff, neighborhood residents, and other stakeholders with tangible designs that articulate the goals identified by Montford.

Rationale

Q: Why would Montford want to take on such a project at this time with no buyer for the property in the picture?

A: By holding the charrette now, Montford can identify the common elements that we would like to see in any development on the site. These elements are not unlike the changes we requested for the Momentum site because THA did not ask the neighborhood first. The final document produced from the charrette will send the message that Montford is serious about future involvement and will express the wishes of the neighborhood to developers.

Q: How can we "design" the site when we don't know what is going to be built?

A: We are not designing the site. The use of "design" in this context can refer to anything from landscape design to urban design and does not refer to an actual building design. How the site is ultimately developed is not up to Montford. How the design incorporates those qualities that are identified by the charrette is very important. How the site is developed as an extension adjacent to the Montford neighborhood is very important.

Q: Why are we doing this all alone?

A: We are not alone. Stakeholders, nearby property owners, and the city will be invited to participate in the process. But keep in mind—this process belongs to Montford and will ultimately reflect our wishes.

The Final Product

The results of our efforts will produce a "portfolio piece" which will contain the following:

- An Executive Summary describing the property in question, the history of the site, and the range of preferred outcomes as determined by the MNA.
- An overview of the workshop methodology and participants in the process.

- Tear sheets illustrating different preferred outcomes for 525 Broadway. Cut sheets will include site plans and design guidelines that address the MNA's objectives for future development of the site.

This process will generate meaningful results only if the neighborhood is committed to participating in the workshops. We hope the results of our efforts will give us a voice in how our community recovers and moves forward.

Next Steps

The Executive Board of the Montford Neighborhood Association met on August 31 and discussed a number of topics. Based on these discussions, MNA President David Patterson suggested that more due diligence regarding the 525 Broadway property might lead to a more complete outcome for the charrette. A committee will be appointed to investigate ownership, bankruptcy proceedings, interested neighbors, and other stakeholders in an attempt to understand more fully the scope of the complex issues involved. As a new owner for the property emerges, Montford will be better equipped to address the issues confronting us. The MNA board expressed approval for the approach.

A final vote on the ADC proposal and charrette schedule will occur at a future date. Stay tuned for announcements.

Post Mortem

As an aside, I would like to propose that we drop all mention of "Momentum" and call this endeavor the **525 Broadway Charrette**.

Burton Street Agriculture Fair and Farmers' Jubilee

September 24, 1:00-8:00 p.m.
at the Burton Street Community Center and Grounds



At the turn of the 20th century, agricultural fairs were an annual event in communities across the country. Throughout the South, however, African Americans could not participate as exhibitors in these events. But in 1913, residents of West Asheville's Burton Street community, led by the dynamic E.W. Pearson, responded by creating the Western North Carolina and District Colored Agricultural Fair and Farmer's Jubilee.

Running through 1947, the fair drew African American farmers and participants from 11 Western North Carolina counties, competing in dozens of categories. The highly popular fair was attended by thousands annually. In 1940, the *Asheville Times* noted that "This is one of the biggest such Negro fairs in the Southeast, and always attracts large crowds, both negro and white."

Now revived by the Burton Street Neighborhood Association, this old-fashioned agricultural fair invites gardeners, cooks, and crafters to compete in a variety of categories. We're planning an afternoon full of music, craft vendors, local food, and fresh produce!

For more information, visit the website burtonstreet.org, call Vivian Conley at 707-1691 or Safi Mahaba at 301-0166, or email us at burtonstreetfair@gmail.com.

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

BE A PART OF SOMETHING NEW *A New Church in Montford*

Shannon Van Etten

Crosspoint Community is an exciting new church that is not about religious activity. Instead, we are about *relationships*. We are a body of believers seeking to make a meaningful difference in the Montford/Asheville community by meeting the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors, offering hope to the hopeless and help to the hurting.

If you are looking to grow spiritually and experience the healing process and fullness of Jesus Christ, Crosspoint Community may be the place for you.

Come join us at 10:30 a.m. any Sunday for a casual worship experience and fellowship with your neighbors. And if you have an appetite, come to Crosspoint's **September 11 Launch Party at 10:30** and enjoy a complimentary cookout after service—including barbecue, chicken and all the fixins, and yes, a *break from the norm*.

For more information call Barry Fisher at 778-3609. We're on the corner of West Chestnut and Cumberland.

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