

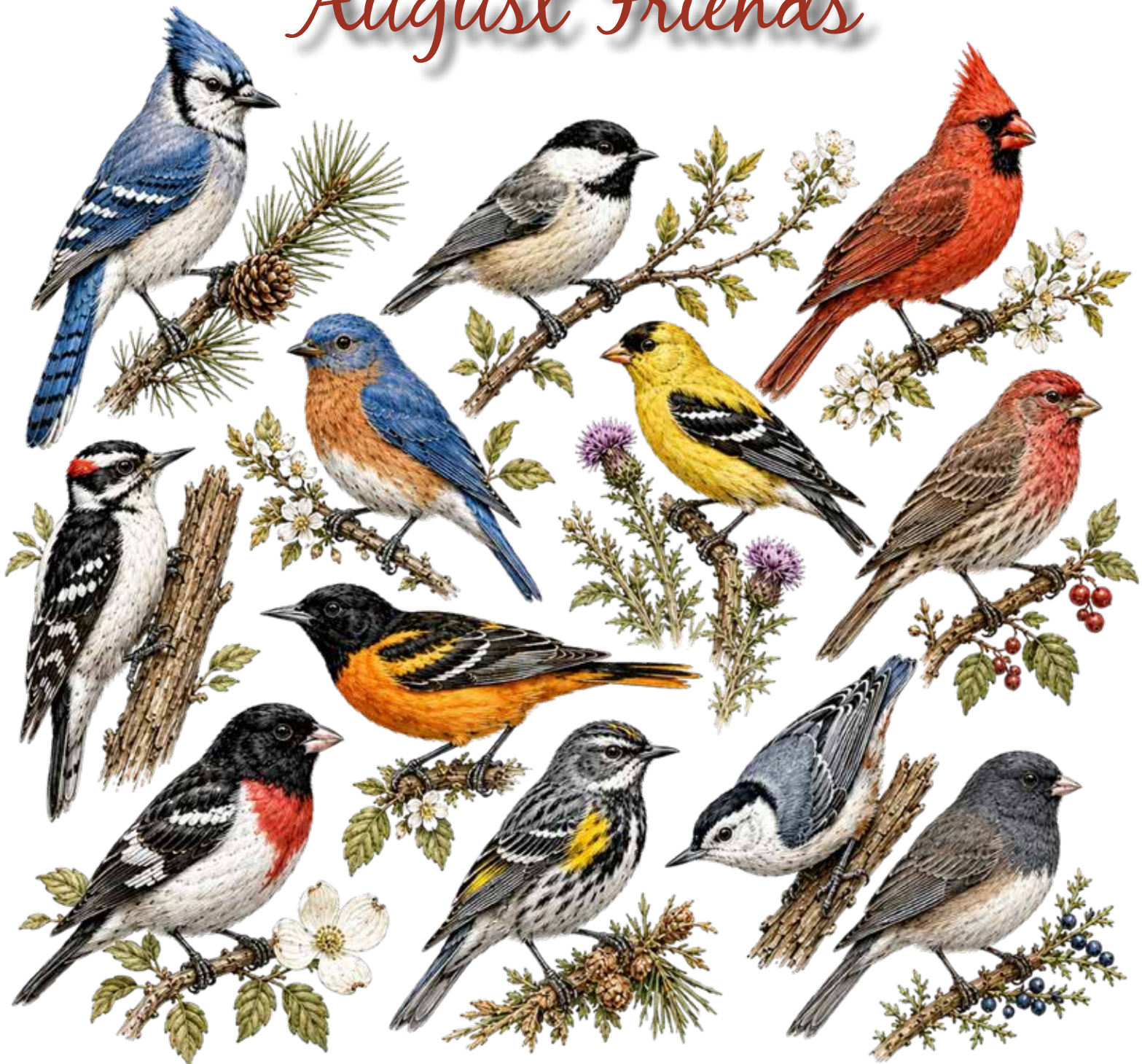


MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 31 No. 8

AUGUST '26

Welcome Back, Montford's August Friends



TEMPLE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

Pick Up Volleyball (Ages 16+)

Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM

Fridays from 10:00-2:00 PM

Closed on June 4, 2026



Pick Up Basketball (Ages 16+)

Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM

Sundays from 3:00-6:00 PM

Closed on June 2 and June 21, 2026



Youth Pickup Basketball

Sundays from 1:00-3:00 PM

Ages: 8-15

Art without Borders

April 7 and 21 from 4:00-5:00 PM

Ages: 18+ Fee: \$5

STEM into Spring Time

April 8, 15, and 22 from 4:00-4:45 PM

Ages: 5-10 Fee: \$5

Teen Easels and Eats

Friday, May 22 from 5:00-6:30 PM

Ages: 11-15 Fee: \$5

Montford Fairy Picnic

Saturday, April 22 from 11:00-1:00 PM

Ages: 2-7 w/ Parent or Guardian
Fee: \$5



Aero Adventures

May 21 and 28 from 6:00-7:00 PM

Ages: 8-13 Fee: \$10

Binge Worthy Trivia

April 23 from 6:00-7:30 PM

"The Originals Trivia"

Ages: 12-17 Fee: \$5

Mom and Me Painting

May 7 from 4:30-6:00 PM

Ages: 30+ w/ child

Fee: \$5

Block Party and Musical Beats BINGO

Saturday, May 23

from 5:00-8:00

PM

Splish Splash Carnival Bash

Saturday, June

27 from 1:00-2:30 PM

Ages: 2-5 w/ Parent or Guardian Fee: \$5

Montford Beginner mahjong

Thursdays from 6:00-9:00 PM

Closed on May 21, May 28, and June 4

Sundays from 2:00-5:00 PM

Closed on June 21

Ages: 25+ Fee:\$5

Dart Side of the Moon

June 12 and 26 from 6:30-7:30 PM

Ages: 13-16 Fee:\$5



For more Information Contact:

Seth T. Jackson, Recreation Facility Manager

828-253-3714

Temple Avery Montford Recreation Center

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

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TREES FOR MONTFORD

Lynn Raker

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more—or to receive financial assistance—please visit the Montford Tree Grant Program at montford.org.

https://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TreeGrant_2019_1209.pdf



MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS

June Theater Announcement

Montford Park Players

Presents: **“Romeo and Juliet”**

By William Shakespeare

Produced by Montford Park Players
at the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre

Show Dates:

Sept 4 – Sept 26, 2026

Friday, Saturday and Sunday @ 7:30pm

Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre

92 Gay St. Asheville, NC

July Theater Announcement

Montford Park Players

Presents: **“The Hope of Oz”**

Produced by Montford Park Players
at the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre

Show Dates:

Oct 2 – Oct 24, 2026

Friday, Saturday and Sunday @ 7:30pm

Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre

92 Gay St. Asheville, NC



Forever Montford

WELCOME PACKET

Dan & Judith Sanford

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



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

Dan Sanford: sanford.danielj@gmail.com

Judith Sanford: sanford.judith@gmail.com

Leslie Humphrey: leslieinmontford@gmail.com

Ashima Nair: ashimanair@gmail.com



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Green Corner

Erin Hiatt

For this month's Green Corner, we are interviewing another one of our wonderful local, sustainability-linked businesses who could use your support!

Our fourteenth feature is **The Bicycle Thrift Shop** located at 49 Glendale Avenue Asheville NC 28803. Current hours are 12-5pm Wednesday-Thursday and 10am-4pm Saturdays

Q: What is The Bicycle Thrift Shop and how did it get started?

A: The Bicycle Thrift Shop is a non-profit organization, located at 49 Glendale Ave, in Asheville NC. Founded in



2011, the mission is to provide access to cycling for youth, families and individuals, who would not otherwise have that opportunity. I opened the shop 16 years ago when I was at a crossroad in my life and wanted a way to serve my community.

Q: What are the Thrift Shop's main initiatives/activities?

A: The Mission is accomplished by refurbishing donated bikes, parts, and gear and selling them to the general public at costs lower than (almost) anywhere else. Proceeds fund youth cycling programs, greenways and other cycling related activities in and around WNC.

Q: Any favorite customer or donation stories?

A: Customers are continuously surprised at the large inventory in the shop. The WNC community is very generous and wants to see the program succeed and desires for the community to thrive.

Q: How can readers engage or support?

A: How it works: The program is 100% donation based. Stop by during open hours and drop off anything that still has life left. Financial donations accepted as well at <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/175495> The Bicycle Thrift Shop is a registered 501c-3 non profit organization, all donations are tax deductible.

Q: How can readers stay up to date?

A: Follow the Instagram and Facebook pages: The Bicycle Thrift Shop, @thebicyclethriftshop

Let me know what other local businesses or organizations you would like to see interviewed at montfordgreencorner@gmail.com.

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

The Latest Dirt

By Cherie Morris

Good news! The 'Dog Days of Summer' are scheduled to end on August 11! If you're wondering about the origin of that term, look to Odysseus and the ancient Greeks who believed the influence of the "Dog Star," Sirius in the constellation Canis Major, caused unbearable heat, humidity and sudden thunderstorms. Sounds about right! That was also when "women were at their foulest and men were weak!" Take that, Matt Damon! But plants thrive in that weather, so the blooms of Joe Pye are sky high, the phlox will still knock off your socks and the bright orange-flowered milkweed is providing monarch feed! Brave the heat, bring an umbrella to be safe and enjoy the colors of late summer in the garden. Best of all, after one of those afternoon rains, the plant density gives off an earthy smell known as petrichor, courtesy of soil-dwelling bacteria and natural plant oils. Thank the Greeks again: petra (stone) and ichor (the blood of the gods.) by Speaking of stones, the rock garden at the edge of the parking lot is beginning to take shape. Besides the beauty of the huge rocks, the young seedlings are gaining height and fullness, and we may even have blooms before the first frost. While I know it's tempting, please, no climbing!

With summer's end almost in sight, so will our monthly Coffee at the Cabin come to a close as temperatures cool down. So now is the time to join our Director of Development, Jamie, and staff members on the last Friday of the month for coffee, tea and breakfast goodies at the Hayes Cabin. This is a members only event, but, if you would like to join, we've got somebody for that! The next coffee klatsch is August 28, 9-11. Unfamiliar with the Hayes Cabin? It was built with local timber around 1893 for the Hamlin family in Madison County, then, after serving three generations of Hamlins, it was purchased by Hubert and Leona Hayes. Subsequently



Leona donated it to the garden after her husband's passing. Deconstructed and then reconstructed log by log, the two-room cabin sits at the end of the Crayton Trail. The original period furnishings were destroyed by vandals, but, with a good cleaning, a fresh roof and new furniture, its warmth and coziness has been restored.

And finally our fall plant sale will be held Saturday, September 12, 9-2. Fall is a great time to plant. Stock has had all summer to develop a healthy root system, and we will have a number of regional nurseries offering a wide variety of native perennials, trees and shrubs in the sunshine meadow. New at the fall sale are two free tours at 11 and 1 and a plant and seed exchange for members only.

Check our website for information and updates: www.ashevillebotanicalgarden.org.

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Carolina Wren.

Editor note: My favorite little bully. Despite weighing less than an ounce, this energetic bird packs a massive personality and is a permanent resident across the eastern United States, southeastern Canada, and parts of Mexico. It also proudly serves as the official state bird of South Carolina.

Resource Directory

Historic Walking Tours

Stroll the neighborhood or downtown. Walking tours of historic Montford, Riverside Cemetery, Biltmore Village and downtown Asheville.

- 777-1014.

Raven Invasive Plant Management

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Montford Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: July 22, 2026 - Location: The Odyssey School

Attendance: Approximately 55 consisting of Board, Community Members & Guests.

Meeting Called to order by President Bill Eakins.

He spoke briefly about the most recent information re: the recommendation by the UNCA Advisory Committee in the development of the UNCA Millennial Campus. They recommended against the development of an outdoor soccer stadium/performance venue at this time.

Detailed information can be found at the UNCA website: <https://www.unca.edu>

APO Community Resource Officer-Lt. Russell Crisp, APD is the new District Manager (7/1/26) accompanied by Night Officer Aubrey Blue.

Officer Crisp gave an update on the following:

- Dennis Pace is the new Community Resource Officer and is stationed at Station 13 on Broadway.
- 14 Trainees are now on the road
- 8 still in training
- 14 additional new hires
- By 7/1/27 an increase of 30 officers on the force is expected
- Recent implementation of a Safety officer: Sgt. River who is willing to capture data from Montford.
- New Community Resource Officers contact #828-271-6145

- Crime Stats for the last 90 days: City wide Violent Crimes are down 40%. Property Crimes have stayed relatively even with the highest incidence being thefts from unlocked cars which is at an increase from last year. Residents are urged to lock their cars.

Contact info: Officer Crisp (828)252-1110 or rcrisp@ashevillenc.gov.—Officer Pace: (828)271-6145 or dpac@ashevillenc.gov.

Neighborhood Liaison for the City of Asheville-Trey Irby

We have received a verbal confirmation of approval of the Stumptown grant proposal awarded by the City. The City's Traffic Engineering is reviewing requirements for installation of the proposed sign toppers.

Results will be sent to the MNA Board for final consideration in the near future.

Taxes: Asheville had adopted its city budget basing property taxes on 2025 revaluation. After the budget was adopted, the State imposed a reappraisal moratorium so Asheville has changed its tax rate in the budget to a different rate to be applied to the 2021 valuations.

For more precise information please check the Asheville City Website.

Real Time Intel Center funding for the APD such as is previously in place at the Sheriff's office has been approved. A policy is being developed for the APD website camera registry. You can volunteer your personal security systems for their use. APD

will contact you if footage from your cameras are needed.

When asked about lights in Montford Park needing repair Trey assured us that Parks & Recreation have been notified and are planning those repairs.

Director at Tempie Avery Community Center-Seth Johnson

- Because of recent budget cuts, hours of operation and 7 staff hours have been altered. For accurate information re: After School Programs, Summer Camps and Holiday times of operation please visit their website; parks@ashevillenc.gov.
- They are also looking for anyone interested in joining a Bridge Group.
- Roger Farmer Field, West AVL is the site for a new Pickle Ball Complex.
- Feedback needed for Parks & Recreation issues. The new Parks & Recreation Director D. Tyrell McGirt is holding "Park Bench Chats". If interested you must schedule a time on the parks website or direct email: dtirellmcgirt@ashevillenc.gov.

Garden Tour Chairs report-Lynn Raker

Proceeds from the 2025 tour = \$24,000 some of which is earmarked for tree replacements throughout the Neighborhood. Tree loss from Helene & development is adding up; we must be proactive with replanting. There are MNA tree planting incentive grants available to residents. These are up to 50% matching grants up to \$150 per tree and \$300 per application. Access grant application on Montford.org. This may also include needed repairs

on existing trees contingent on upcoming Board consideration. To date 25 trees have been planted on the Reed Creek Greenway which are thriving thanks to the dedication of volunteers watering. Any help with this project would be greatly appreciated.

The next Garden Tour tentative date is June 5, 2027.

Stumptown Update-Karen MacNeil/Lynn Raker

The City, MNA, Amy Worthen, and the Stumptown Committee are working on an Interpretive Sign located at Tempie Avery and street sign toppers designating the Stumptown District. Karen gave a brief history of the rise of Stumptown and subsequent red-lining. we have received verbal confirmation of approval of the grant proposal from City staff.

Energy Savers Network-Steffi Rausch

Offered information regarding assistance with low income families in older homes to be made more energy efficient. This project is funded by Duke Energy, the State & private donors. Volunteers are needed to help with these upgrades.

To learn more, apply, volunteer or donate: www.energysaversnetwork.org

Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods (CAN)-Dan Rogers

Meetings are open for all & held @ the East Asheville Library, 3 Avon Road every 4th Thursday @ 6PM. Attendees are encouraged and Agenda is posted pre-meetings on the Montford Listserv.

Pedestrian Safety Initiative-Marc Voorhees

Traffic Calming Cushions have been approved by the City of AVL, and is awaiting budget funding by the city. Mark will stay vigilant with this project.

Montford Park Players-John Russell

Founded in 1973 by Hazel Robinson with funds she saved out of her Grocery Money.

It's the longest running Shakespearean Outdoor Theater in the country and only one of six to have performed all of his plays. It's also the only theater to have completed all of the War of the Roses cycle. It's entirely free although any donations are gratefully accepted. The season runs for 6 months beginning 5/1. Total attendance in 2025 was 10,600 and 2026 YTD-7,600. All are encouraged to bring a picnic & enjoy Shakespeare under the stars.

Mountain True-Susan Bean

A slide presentation and much information was presented on Uniform Development Ordinance (UDO)

The pending update of the (UDO) will have a significant impact on development rules and substantial community input is needed.

Multimodal Transportation Commission-Bill Loftis

The presentation continued with an indepth intro into how Asheville Rapid Transit (ART) works with detailed explanations of routes throughout the city and the most recent cost effectiveness

studies. It currently costs the City an average \$10 per ride with a span of \$4-\$21 depending upon the distance travelled. Ridership is considerably down and the Commission is investigating pilot programs which have been successful in other cities like Spartanburg, SC. where they are using smaller vehicles while maintaining current levels of ridership. He explained the routing system with ideas being floated on how to provide transportation to more areas while staying within budget. The hope is with a better ART system ridership will increase.

Stage in Montford Park-Susan Loftis

A desire has been expressed over the past 3 years re: refurbishing the former, small stage. Plans were drawn up by Michael McDonough and Susan which have been submitted to the City and are now under consideration. Following city approval, the final plans will be submitted to the MNA Board for review. Canvassing and other forms of outreach were conducted regarding this project. 4 Neighbors voiced their concerns and comments which will all be taken into consideration.

Salient points established are that there will be no electricity provided and the stage will be for use by friends and neighbors for other quiet gatherings like small weddings.

This area is already being used this way but the idea of refurbishing with proper landscaping and hardscape will make it more attractive for everyone.

Treasurer's Report-Susan Eggerton

Susan presented the budget which has already been approved by the Board. A copy of the budget is attached as a part of these minutes.

Save The Woods Committee/5 Points Neighborhood-Elizabeth Quiet

An update was provided on where things currently stand with UNCA Millennial Campus Plans. Development of the woods is not off the table and in fact development for a housing/retail area has been recommended by the UNCA Committee in lieu of the soccer megaplex and encouraged continued vigilance by all Asheville residents. This is one of Asheville's last remaining urban forests covering 46 acres. Pledges are being sought to help fund any agreement or land acquisition that can be made between UNCA and a major Land Conservancy which presently prefers to remain anonymous. To learn more please visit: www.saveUNCAwoods.org.

It should also be noted that the Advisory Committee spoke favorably of Odyssey School, continuing to use the property belonging to UNCA on the west side of Broadway.

After a request by Bill Eakins for any old or new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Boyles, Secretary



The name August comes from Augustus Caesar (Latin: Octavianus), the first leader of Rome. For details go to - <https://www.ancientworldmagazine.com/articles/augustus-prima-porta/>



Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda 08/12/26

Members Present: Vice-Chair Amy Moxley, Hans Skouby, Sioux Oliva, Jenny Bowen, Richard Mattson, Leslie Humphrey, Cecil Holt

Members: Absent: Chair Celesta Gorman, Robert Mays, Jane Mathews

Staff Present: David Hazzard, Jannice Ashley, Aspen Johnston

Item, Summary and Action

29 Elizabeth Street (PIN 9649226978) - Installation of 4' tall black aluminum fencing in front yard. Applicant: Michael Bille
Action—Approved

HRC Application Portal

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

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

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



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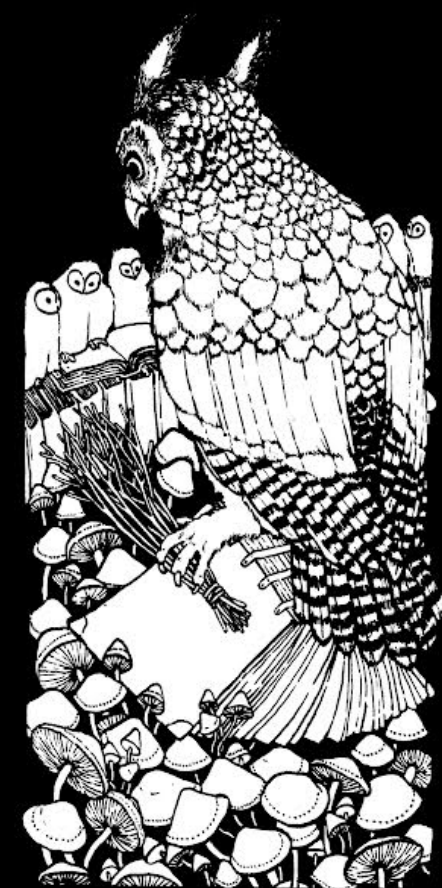
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Note: Opinions expressed in this newsletter by contributing authors do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the MNA.

Contact Editor Kelly Ross Terry at krtgraphicdesign@gmail.com, 230-7439 for more information.