Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back. We are meeting once again and you are invited to attend. The 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm, watch for the announcement signs on MLK Drive.

We, means all of us working together for the common good of our Neighborhood. Do you even know who lives next to you? Do you know if they need food, clothing or just a helping hand? Do you know if they are new in the area or planning to stay a while? My point being no one knows anymore who is living right next to them. Growing up in East End we were all one big family. Most of the kids went to play with other kids who lived next door or two doors down. Their parents were our parents and vice versa. It was hard to get into trouble because there was to many adults watching you and we could not get away with anything. If you did something down the street, our parents already knew before you got home because the other neighbors have already called and made a report, so you were in trouble two times. It takes a village!!

Neighborhoods were a real Community and Community made a real Neighborhood. People took pride in what side of town they were from and every side thought their side was the best! Eastend, Southside, Burton Street, Stump Town and Shiloh. The bottom line was that everybody knew each other regardless of the side of town you lived in and people treated each other like family. I was always WE and you always turned into US, that is called unity and sticking together. Now its me, me, and I, I, I, equal to no unity and togetherness. There is power in WE and you always turned into US, that is called unity and sticking together. Now side of town you lived in and people treated each other like family. I was always just a helping hand? Do you know if they need food, clothing or food? Do you know if they are new in the area or planning to stay a while? My point being no one knows anymore who is living right next to them.

Enjoy your Spring!!!!

Reneé White

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**Letter From the President**

**Executive Board**

President .................. Renee’ White
Vice President ............ Gwen Jones
Secretary .................... Laura McPherson
Treasurer ..................... Roberta Allen
Assistant Treasurer .......... Jim Abbott
Assistant Treasurer ........ Sharon Greene
Member at Large .......... Helen Lindberg
Member at Large .......... Jené “Lupie” Blake
Member at Large ............ Nick Dugan
Member at Large .......... Garland Walker

**Newsletter**

Editor ......................... Vera Williams

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**East End Valley Street Neighborhood Association Meeting**

Thursday, April 13, 2023
6 pm at St. James AME Church
44 Hildebrand Street

Masks are not required, but are encouraged!

This meeting is for East End/Valley Street residents only. If you are not a resident and would like to present something to the neighborhood, please contact us at: (EastEndValleystreet@gmail.com) so that we can see about fitting you into the agenda.

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**Find us at:**

www.eastendvalleystreet.org Facebook and Nextdoor.com Instagram @eastendvalleystreet@gmail.com PO Box 7341 Asheville NC 28802

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**Heritage - Past • Present • Future**

The 2023 East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival will take place in MLK Park, 50 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Asheville on Saturday, August 26 from 10am to 10pm. There will be live music, vendors, food trucks, and a children’s area.

The East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival Parade starts at 10am on Saturday from the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Alexander Drive to MLK Park. The children’s area will be open from 12pm to 7pm.

East End/Valley Street is Asheville’s oldest African-American Neighborhood. **This is an alcohol free, family friendly festival!** Come celebrate with us! Everyone is welcome! www.eastendvalleystreet.org/community-heritage-festival
Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP) High School Internship

Are you a young Black, Indigenous, or Person Of Color (BIPOC) in high school interested in spending a summer immersed in nature?

Greenworks YELP program welcomes young BIPOC high schoolers aged 16 and up for a 6-week paid summer internship.

The application deadline is May 1.
This program runs June 20 - July 28.

More information at:
https://www.ashevillegreenworks.org/yelp

Helen Lindberg

SHARK ATTACK!!

Sure, our neighborhood is hundreds of miles from the sea, but that doesn’t mean you’re safe. AVLWatchdog have been running a series called Equity Erased at https://avlwatchdog.org/real-estate-deals-strip-elderly-poor-of-homes-land-and-inheritances/ that you must read.

In this series, Sally Kestin documents recent cases in Asheville where home-owners have been tricked out of their homes for as little as $250 by attorneys and notaries whose defense is “Nothing has been done that has been illegal. Nobody has been coerced in any way, shape or form. These were all voluntary transactions.”

So how do they operate? They spend a lot of time in the Courthouse looking for tax defaults, foreclosures and estate disputes. Then they turn up on your doorstep offering you “a favor” – if you just sign on the dotted line ( or maybe not - “the family of George G. Wilson Jr, now deceased, wonders how he could have made the full, cursive signature on a notarized deed selling his share of the family house ... When he didn’t have any fingers “).

How to protect yourself – and the neighborhood? Here are some thoughts:

However desperate your situation may be, never trust anyone who turns up on your doorstep uninvited offering money. Ask them for references. Ask round the neighborhood. Speak up at the next Neighborhood Meeting. Find a lawyer.

If you’re in a family dispute over jointly-owned property, settle it yourselves. Don’t invite strangers into the middle of it all. If you want to sell out, get everyone else to agree on the purchaser – maybe someone else has fought them off already.

Never sign anything to do with your home without a lawyer or someone you trust going over everything with you. Make sure that the documents you’re being asked to sign are what you’re told they are (“he didn’t even know he was signing a deed selling his family’s South Asheville home, worth more than $200,000 ... for just $500. [He was asked to sign] what he thought was a receipt for money to move his belongings before a bank foreclosed on his son’s mortgage.”). Always take time - “I’ll have to think it over, come back next week “You’re not alone, so don’t act like it. Talk to neighbors, the Association, lawyers – don’t be scared, some of them work for free.

Finally, if you’re being offered more money than you ever dreamed of stop and ask yourself “Why? ” There will only be one answer – because they think they can make even more money flipping your property. If you can’t navigate the County property records yourself, ask a neighbor or someone in the Association to check for you – if the purchaser is trying to assemble enough land to build another monstrous pile of apartments, you’ll be able to get them to pay more. And the rest of us will curse your memory forever...

Geoff Kemmish

Neighborhood Beautification Alert!

That big ole glop of dried paint that’s been on the sidewalk next to MLK Park for years is gone! Yay! Thank you for the photo, Leslie Abbott and thank you for your work, Jim Abbott!
Angel Redmond’s Focus on Preventing Young People from Entering the Criminal Justice System

“As a lifelong Ashevillian, I have watched the struggles of the youth increase. I have worked with children for 25 years and it’s becoming a personal experience witnessing our children go through the juvenile justice system. I want to place myself where I can be proactive. This is my reason for joining the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.”

As the Facility Supervisor at Stephens–Lee Community Center, Angel Redmond is the face of Asheville Parks & Recreation (APR) to hundreds of community members who visit the center each week, as well as those who live in the surrounding East End/Valley Street neighborhood and Stephens–Lee High School alumni. She’s also a member of Buncombe County’s Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC), a group of social workers, educators, youth representatives, nonprofit leaders, law enforcement officers, attorneys, judges, residents, and local public servants who work to prevent young people who are at risk from becoming involved in the criminal justice system, providing alternatives that protect our youth and community. The primary intent of the council is to develop community-based alternatives to youth development centers by effectively intervening, educating, and treating young people in order to strengthen families and support systems, build community, and increase public safety.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety’s Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention allocates around $23 million to local councils each year to support programs and services. Buncombe County can recommend funding in one- or two-year increments.

A recent local summary risk and needs report identified nine priority areas of needed programs and possible gaps in the service continuum:

- Priority 1: Restitution/Community Service
- Priority 2: Comprehensive Clinical Assessments/Individual or Group Counseling
- Priority 3: Teen Court/Restorative Services
- Priority 4: Runaway/Temporary Shelter
- Priority 5: Interpersonal or Experiential Skills
- Priority 6: Vocational Skills
- Priority 7: Substance Use Services
- Priority 8: Parent and Family Skill Building
- Priority 9: Structured Day/Tutoring/Academic Enhancement/Mentoring

“I have made connections with members of the courthouse, from lawyers and judges to court counselors, program leaders, and extended members of the community all working with one goal in mind: save our youth,” according to Angel. “All funded programs are outcome-based, compatible with research that are shown to be effective, recognize the sensitivity to Racial Ethnic Disparity that exists in Buncombe County, and have an evaluation component.”

For the fiscal year 2023-2025, JCPC has an anticipated allocation of $644,477. Organizations will present proposals in an allocations hearing on Wednesday, March 15. JCPC will offer funding recommendations to Buncombe County Commissioners for approval.

“Our team of parks and recreation professionals bring a tremendous skills and hands-on experience when it comes to kids, teens, and young people in our community,” according to APR Director D. Tyrell McGirt. “Even though our programs at parks and community centers offer safe spaces and caring environments, we know we are even more effective when we work with other organizations to address community-wide challenges. I’m proud Angel is going above and beyond, using her talent and expertise outside of work to bring real change to the community we love and ensure all of our youth have the tools to succeed.”

Driven by the promise that Asheville is a better and safer place when everyone from infants to retirees has the opportunity to be supported, healthy, and successful, APR offers a variety of wellness-, education-, and culture-related programs for Ashevillians of all ages. For current opportunities, check out the program guide. Source: PostNewsPeopleParks and Recreation, Author: Christy Edwards

Helen Lindberg

January—April 2023 Page 3 Volume 7, Issues 1-4
Discover Asheville's thriving community food forest at the Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park! As one of the oldest edible parks in the country, this park boasts over 40 varieties of fruit and nut trees, and is lovingly maintained year-round by dedicated volunteers.

If you’re looking to get involved and make a difference, join us for our monthly community work day on the 4th Friday of every month from 2:30pm to 5:30pm (weather permitting). Led by the knowledgeable and passionate Lynx Bergdahl from Bountiful Cities, each work day offers a unique opportunity to learn hands-on gardening skills, while helping to maintain and expand the park.

The Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park is located at 30 George Washington Carver Avenue in the East End/Valley Street neighborhood. For parking, please use the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center parking lot.

From mulching and tree care to clearing invasives and planting new crops, there's always something to do at the Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park. And, if you're interested in learning more about this incredible space, we offer guided tours and demonstrations throughout the growing season.

So come out, roll up your sleeves, and connect with other like-minded individuals who are passionate about creating a more sustainable and equitable food system. We provide the tools and hand sanitizer, but feel free to bring your own gloves, hand tools, water, and anything else you need to be comfortable. And don’t forget to follow our updates on Facebook at the Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park page!

Let’s work together to make a positive impact on our community and our planet at Asheville’s first edible forest ecosystem. We can’t wait to see you there!


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Mission Health is now accepting applications from high school seniors and college students for the Kesha Young Health Careers Scholarship, a program intended to support students of color in western North Carolina on their path into the healthcare field.

For more information and to access the application: [https://bit.ly/3vCbUq8](https://bit.ly/3vCbUq8). **Applications are due no later than 5pm on Friday, April 14th**, and the Reception for Recipients will be held on June 7th, 2-4pm at Mission Hospital. Please note applicants are welcome from all over WNC.

Helen Lindberg

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**Dogwood Early Childhood Education Cohort Scholarship**

**Start Date**

Fall 2023 semester (August)

**Cohort Details**

- Participants will be enrolled in the Early Childhood Certificate and will attend classes one evening per week.
- The Certificate can be completed in as few as two semesters.
- The scholarship pays for tuition, fees, and books.
- Students will have a personalized instructor/advisor and access to tutoring.
- Students can apply for additional resources, including loaner laptops and drop-in child care.

**How to Participate**

- Apply to A-B Tech and declare the Early Childhood Certificate.
- Contact Tom Heffner for more information on the cohort application and interview process, which will begin in the Spring of 2023.

Tom Heffner

(828)356-7700 x7445

thomash@abtech.edu

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Helen Lindberg

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Guidelines
Applicants must be BUNCOMBE COUNTY RESIDENTS enrolled in a high school in their senior year. Criteria for selection include character, community involvement, and scholastic achievement. Individuals meeting these qualifications may access the application form one of two ways.

https://www.mlkasheville.org or school counselor’s office

January—April 2023

Applicants must be BUNCOMBE COUNTY RESIDENTS enrolled in a high school in their senior year. Criteria for selection include character, community involvement, and scholastic achievement. Individuals meeting these qualifications may access the application form one of two ways.

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The applicant is responsible for supplying all materials required for consideration for the scholarship as one complete package.
COMMUNITY BINGO
FREE | Saturday | 1 - 2:30pm
2/18, 3/18, 4/15 & 5/20
Stephens-Lee has BINGO!! Small prize will be awarded to the winner of each game. Remember what happens at Bingo, stays at Bingo!!

TRADITIONAL WEST AFRICAN DANCE
$15/class | Wednesdays | 6:30 - 8pm
4/5, 4/12, 4/19 & 4/26
Traditional dance from the Ancient Mali Empire allows us to reconnect to the Source, feel the movement of the Earth and the timelessness of the Cosmos! The workout, body toning and improved health are wonderful side effects. All levels are welcome! $5 donation for the live drummers encouraged.

PICKLEBALL BEGINNER CLINIC
FREE | Fridays | 6 - 8:30pm
1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21 & 5/19
Beginners, come learn the skills you need to play the fun game of Pickleball. Equipment provided. Pre-registration recommended; maximum 25 participants.

COMMUNITY CHOICE
FREE | Thursdays | 6:30 - 8:30pm
1/12 - 5/25 (no program Feb 23)
Unprogrammed time for the community to enjoy the facility. Relax while painting on a canvas, walk on the treadmill, play a game of cards or shoot some hoops (gym not available until April). Youth 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

OLD SCHOOL LINE DANCING
FREE | Thursdays | 6:15 - 7:15pm
1/5 - 5/25 (no program 2/23)
Bring back those old school dances you remember and mix in some new ones. This program features instructor lead dances with video backup.

TINY TYKES
$3/drop in, $20/10 visits
Wednesdays | 10am - 12pm
1/11 - 5/3 | (no program 5/25, 2/27 & 5/5)
Ages: 5 & under
Tiny Tykes is an organized craft and active play program for youth 0-5 years with an adult. This is a great way for you and your toddler to socialize! Program does not meet when Asheville City Schools are out for teacher workdays and holidays. **If attendance grows; we will add Fridays.

KID’S NIGHT IN
$5/child | Ages: 5-13 | Friday | 6 - 8pm
2/10, 3/10, 4/14 & 5/12
Let your child work off that extra energy with a fun-filled night of themed games, crafts and special activities. Light dinner included. Pre-registration required.
Session I: Friday, February 10
Session II: Friday, March 10
Session III: Friday, April 14
Session IV: Friday, May 12

Tiny Tykes Day
FREE | Sunday | 5/7 | 2 - 5pm
Ages: 1-5 years | Martin Luther King Park
Mark your calendars for a fun filled festival for ages 5 and under!
Little ones will enjoy inflatables, train rides, facepainting, crafts, biking and special guests.

No Registration Necessary!
The Asheville App is an easy-to-use online tool that allows users to notify the city about issues like water line leaks, potholes, or illegal dumping that need the city’s attention via smartphone or computer, then track the results.

Here’s how it works: Asheville App users who spot a problem submit a service request at www.ashevillenc.gov/ashevilleapp or on their smartphone using the downloadable app. Users can submit their location and even a picture of the problem spot. The Asheville App then sends the service request to the relevant city department personnel so they can quickly resolve the issue. A tracking tool allows users to monitor progress on the repair, and City employees can even communicate directly with users if they need further information. The app notifies the resident when the repair request has been completed.

Helen Lindberg

Soul Food Supper 2023

In honor of Black History Month, Stephens-Lee presented Soul Food Supper 2023 on February 23 at the Center at 6:00 pm. The event celebrated the legacy of the Stephens-Lee Alumni and the East End Valley Street neighborhood with southern style cooking. It also featured performances by DeWayne Barton and Carolina Diva Diamonds. The free event was sponsored by the East End /Valley Street Neighborhood Association, Stephens-Lee Alumni Association and Brown’s Temple CME Church.

Thank you to the following caterers: Circle B Barbeque, Benne on Eagle, Comfort Food Queen LLC, TJ’s, Indulgence, DreadLife Kitchen, Phyllis Utley, and Blessed Soul Food. We enjoyed all of the food and desserts. Thank you to our photographer Alejah Hope for the wonderful pictures. To the volunteers, we could not have done it without you! To everyone who attended from near and far thank you, thank you, thank you!
Do you suspect abuse?
To make an adult or child protective services report any time, day or night, call the numbers below:
Adult Abuse  (828) 250-5800
Child Abuse  (828) 250-5900