

SEASON'S GREETINGS

East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Renee White

Hello everyone, we are BACK! The newsletter will be in production again.

I hope that everyone is doing well and have somewhat recovered from Hurricane Helene.

The storm left us with many challenges whether mental or physical. Most importantly we all came together as a Neighborhood and helped each other during this difficult time. Moving forward, lets continue to be kind and neighborly towards each other. The holidays are fast approaching and its almost time to eat, drink and be merry. Spend good quality time with family and friends. Cherish each moment because life can be so short.

I hope that you have been to see the new Memorial Stadium and experienced the new walking track and the state-of-the-art facility. Thank you to all parties involved who made this happen. Stop by and say Hello to the KTL Training Solutions crew on Hunt Hill Place. Work has begun on Cappadocia Church to convert it to three affordable apartments. Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust has two houses on Grail Street that will need new tenants. East End continues to rise!

Come out and join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6pm at Stephens-Lee Center for our Community meetings March - November.

East End lost one of our Black Historians Andrea Clarke. She has photographs of the East End Community at the Asheville Museum of History. Light a candle in honor of her memory.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EACH AND EVERYONE!!

Renee' White
President



East End /Valley Street Neighborhood Association

*East End Homecoming -
Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust*

The Grail Street home recently received the Housing Affordability Award! Don't miss the opportunity to **TAKE A TOUR**.

December 6, 2025

32 Grail Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Tour times:

5 pm, 6pm, or 7pm

Tickets: \$81.88



Purchase tickets at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/homecoming-at-32-grail-st-tickets-1758169485259?aff=oddttdtcreator>

This award-winning home - along with another upcoming ABCLT home in Burton Street - will sell for less than half of market value. To make this possible, the Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust must raise \$75,000 by December 31.

Two Homecoming events will help reach this goal, and individual and corporate sponsors are needed. Sponsor support will:

- Create Homeownership Opportunities
- Provide Comprehensive Education
- Offer Holistic Case Management
- Ensure Long-Term Stability

Event Sponsorships Needed

Sponsorship levels range from \$250 - \$5,000.

For sponsorship inquiries, please contact:

Anna Zuevskaya - anna@abclt.org

Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust

828.222.0812 <https://abclt.org>

Unable to attend? Consider making a donation to help reach the \$75,000 goal!

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St. Matthias Episcopal Church Celebrates its 160th Anniversary

St. Matthias Episcopal Church celebrated its 160th anniversary with a prayer service and reception on October 25. Speakers included longtime member and first female Senior Warden Barbara Jones, former rector The Rev. James Abbott, Osondu McPeters, The Reverend Deacon Glenda McDowell and The Reverend Canon Augusta Anderson, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Western North Carolina.

The congregation also celebrated the newly completed renovation of its chapel, made possible by donations and grants from a variety of sources.

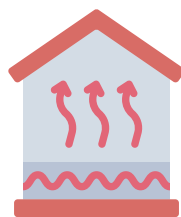
St. Matthias is well known as one of the nine foundational churches of the East End/Valley Street (EEVS) neighborhood. The congregation provided community outreach from its earliest beginnings: it was the location of the first school for Blacks in Asheville, beginning in 1872, and as far as we know was the only school for Blacks in the city until the first public school opened in 1885. St. Matthias is also recognized as an important heritage site in Asheville and Buncombe County. The church had 1,300 – 1,500 visitors during 2023 from Hood Huggers International tours and the James Vester Miller Historic Trail. It is also a highlight on the new Asheville African American Heritage Trail which has just begun to be popularized.

Currently, St. Matthias collaborates closely with EEVS Neighborhood Association and other churches in the neighborhood on keeping the food pantry and children's "little library" full, and we are well known for our support and "church fans" given for neighborhood festivals and other events.

Food & Heating Assistance Available

Need help with food or heating assistance?

Contact:
Renee' White
252-258-9744



St. Matthias hosts an active book group and this fall is enjoying lively conversation about the book, "Where Goodness Still Grows" by the Rev. Amy Peterson. All are welcome Tuesday evenings at 6 pm.

On All Saints Day, November 2, St. Matthias was excited to celebrate the baptism of a crop of children who joined the faith! They enliven our congregation!!



St. Matthias' newly renovated chapel



St. Matthias 1920s or 1930s



St. Matthias 2025



EEVS Emergency Preparedness Team

Community Safety and Preparedness Starts with Us

The EEVS community is proud to introduce our Emergency Preparedness Team, dedicated to ensuring that our neighborhood remains safe, organized, and resilient during any emergency or natural disaster.

Meet Your Emergency Preparedness Team

- Evelyn Herron, Chair
- Leslie Abbott, Secretary
- Rev. Douglas Bynum
- Fen Druadin
- Sharon Greene
- Craig Succop

This team is responsible for developing and implementing a structured emergency plan for our neighborhood. Our work includes documenting key procedures, coordinating communication, and identifying individuals who will take on essential roles during weather-related events, natural disasters, or other emergencies.

Community Preparedness is a Shared Responsibility

Every member of our community plays an important role in keeping EEVS strong and ready. Emergencies can happen at any time—whether from storms, power outages, or public health crises—and the best defense is preparation.

Get Involved

We are currently seeking volunteers who would like to participate in developing our neighborhood's Emergency Preparedness documents and helping to implement the plan. Training will be provided for all volunteers, as well as for any residents interested in learning more about preparedness and response.

Together, we can ensure that our community remains safe, connected, and ready for whatever challenges come our way.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact the Emergency Preparedness Team Chairperson at 828-275-0272.

Remembering Andrea Clark and Twilight of a Neighborhood



Andrea Clark, granddaughter of James Vester Miller, was a photographer who documented life in the East End before urban renewal. Born and reared in Cambridge, Mass., Clark came to Asheville in 1968 to live with her father in the East End. Her photographs reflect an exploration into her roots, and into a world very different from the one she had known in New England. They provide a valuable portrait of a neighborhood, as well as an exploration into the meaning of community.

It was Clark's vision to create a walking tour of her grandfather's buildings to honor his work and to highlight the important role that African Americans have played in building Asheville. Clark passed away in 2025.

Some of Clark's work is kept in the Buncombe County Special Collections archive and has been displayed in exhibits at the Asheville Museum of History, YMI Cultural Center and the Pack Memorial Library. She won the Sondley Award from the Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County in 2020 for her photos, which vary from portraits to streetscapes to intimate depictions of daily life in the East End/Valley Street neighborhood.

Source: exploreasheville.com

Photo taken from obituary - Ray Funeral and Cremation Service



STEPHENS-LEE RECREATION CENTER

30 George Washington Carver Avenue
register at avlrec.com or by calling 828-350-2058

Toddler Discovery Time

December 2 - Wild Wild West Theme
December 9 - Fun with the Nature Center
December 16 - Winter Wonderland
Tuesdays - 10-10:45am
\$5 per session Ages 2.5-5 w/ adult

Parents Night Out

Children can work off some extra energy with a fun filled night of games, crafts and special activities while parents enjoy a night out. Light dinner included.
Friday, December 5 6-8pm
\$5 Ages: 5-12

Calls From Santa

Your little one can receive a call from the North Pole and start the holiday season off right.
Monday, December 8 5-6:30pm
Ages 3-6 FREE

Jingle Bell Toddler Party

Jingle bells, reindeer magic and snowball toss are part of the fun.
Wednesday, December 17 10am-noon
\$5 Ages 1-4 w/ adult

Soul Food Supper

Come enjoy a night of food, fun and fellowship celebrating Black History Month. Co-sponsored by the EEVS Neighborhood and Stephens-Lee Alumni.
Thursday, February 19 6-8pm FREE

Year-Round Programming:

Bid Whist Cards

Mondays from 5:30-8pm

Hip Hop Dance Fitness

1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays from 6-7pm

Contact Improv Dance

2nd and 4th Mondays from 6-8pm

Zumba Gold

Wednesdays from noon-1pm (for 40 and over)

Beginning Line Dance

Thursdays from noon-1pm (for 40 and over)

We Line Dance

Thursdays from 6:15-7:15pm

Scrabble

Sundays from 1:30-5:30pm

Rueda de Casino Dance

Sundays from 2-4pm

Fitness Center

Enjoy unlimited access to cardio equipment, free weights and more.
\$50/12 months resident
FREE for adults 60 years and over

Kim Kennedy, Facility Manager | 828-350-2058

Stephens-Lee Recreation Center
30 George Washington Carver Ave. - Asheville, NC 28801
www.ashevilenc.gov/parks | Facebook | Instagram



YMI Cultural Center

Upcoming Events

Nov 28 7:00 PM 9:00 PM

Dec 26 7:00 PM 9:00 PM

YMI Banjul-Banjo Series Presents Jazz & Soul Sessions

Join the YMI for an unforgettable Jazz & Soul Session featuring Kelle Jolly and the Will Boyd Project!



Nov 29 3:00 PM 5:00 PM

Dec 27 3:00 PM 5:00 PM

YMI Banjul-Banjo Series Presents Jazz & Soul Sessions SATURDAY EDITIONS

Join the YMI for an unforgettable Jazz & Soul Session featuring Kelle Jolly and the Will Boyd Project!



Dec 13

A Funky Holiday Jam:

John Brown Live

7:30 PM 9:00 PM

Join us for a memorable evening at the YMI Cultural Center! In cooperation with the Alphas of Asheville, we together present A Funky Holiday Jam: John Brown Live - a night of funk, jazz, and libations. Tickets are available on Zeffy!



Dec 20

The Asheville Divine Nine presents *The Ugly Sweater Day Party* 1:00 PM 4:00 PM

Get ready to show off your tackiest holiday sweater at the Ugly Sweater Day Party - it's going to be a blast with the Asheville Divine Nine! Tickets available on Eventbrite

Dec 28

The YMI Annual Kwanzaa Celebration 6:00 PM 8:00 PM

Join us this year for an evening of storytelling, drumming, reflection, candle-lighting, African dance, and community connection. We invite you to wear your ancestral or African attire and to take part in this meaningful celebration. Guests are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share—along with the recipe—to honor our tradition of collective sharing.



Space is limited, and while tickets are free to the public, we ask that you register on Eventbrite to reserve your spot. Should you wish to participate in the ceremony, please email us at info@ymiculturalcenter.org.

HURRICANE HELENE ANNIVERSARY VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

St. James AME Church and the East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association held a **Hurricane Helene Anniversary Volunteer Celebration** on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 10 AM - 5 PM at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. It was a day filled with music, fun, food, and fellowship honoring the volunteers and community partners who carried us through and who continue to strengthen our community.

The event was proudly sponsored by ABIPA, St. Matthias, My Daddy Taught Me That, and Hood Huggers.

It was a celebration of resilience, gratitude, and the power of community!



Report crime using TIP2APD

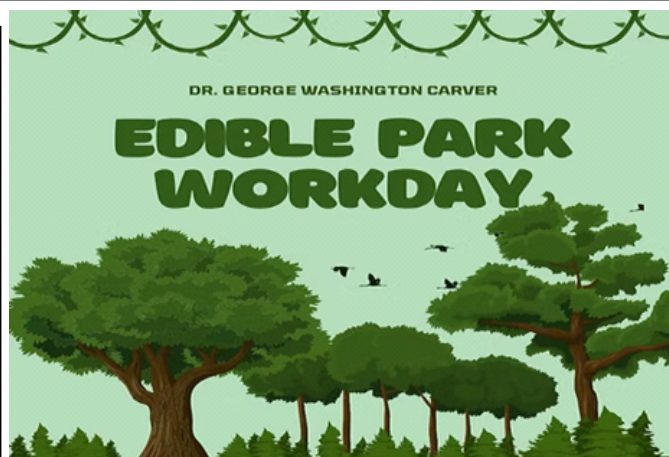
The Asheville Police Department (APD) is putting a new crime-fighting tool into the hands of community members. This new tool, TIP2APD, enables the public to share anonymous tips with police officers and lets officers respond to create an anonymous two-way conversation.

The tool also allows the community to find information on incidents APD is currently asking for help with and to receive alerts about crime activity in their city.

The application is available for free download for iPhone and Android users via the [iTunes App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) by searching "AshevillePD"

Individuals without a smartphone can share information with police by sending an anonymous text tip via their cell phone by texting the keyword TIP2APD and their message/tip to 847411.

The TIP2APD tool is only for non-emergencies and is not a replacement for 9-1-1. In the event of an emergency, please dial 9-1-1 immediately.



Join US FOR

Dr. George Washington Carver
Edible Park Work Day's

30 George Washington Carver Avenue

No experience is necessary — we'll provide tools, water, and snacks! Come learn about the food forest and the amazing edible plants growing right here in our city.

This event is a collaboration between Bountiful Cities, the City of Asheville Sustainability Department, and the East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association.

Let's grow community and food together!
If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please contact Kelly at kelly@bountifulcities.org. We hope to see you there!

For the latest information visit: eastendvalleystreet.org



**HELP STARTS
HERE WITH
NC 211**

United Way of North Carolina

NC 211 is an information and referral service provided by United Way of North Carolina. Accessible via an easy-to-remember, three-digit number, families and individuals can call to obtain free and confidential information on health and human services and resources within their community. Dial 2-1-1 or 1-888-892-1162 to speak with a call specialist.

East End's Oldest Living Resident Passes Away at Age 102

Ms. Lottie Mae Poole

*Born August 6, 1923,
Mrs. Poole was the oldest
living resident of the East End/Valley Street
neighborhood. She was honored at East End's 2022
Community Heritage Festival at the age of 100.*



*In recognition of her 100th birthday, the City of
Asheville issued a proclamation proclaiming August 6
as MRS. LOTTIE MAE POOLE DAY. A copy of the
proclamation, signed by Mayor Ester Manheimer is
below.*

CITY OF ASHEVILLE PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION of "Mrs. Lottie Mae Poole on the occasion of her
100th Birthday"

WHEREAS, Mrs. Poole was born on August 6, 1923; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Poole is the oldest of ten siblings, five girls and five
boys; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Poole is the mother of seven children, five girls and two
boys with one son now deceased. She has twenty-one grandchildren with
one grandson now deceased, and twenty-four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Poole's strong family dedication started with her
siblings and has continued through to her great grandchildren. She reared
with a strong hand and a loving heart; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Poole is a member of Mt. Zion Church, where she is
known as the small lady with the strong voice; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable lady has maintained an extremely positive
attitude and a vibrant spirit that shines through to all she comes in contact
with; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of this resolute lady confirm her love
for God, her family, her church, her neighborhood, and her friends; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Poole celebrates her 100th birthday on August 6, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Esther E. Manheimer do hereby proclaim August
6, 2023 as

MRS. LOTTIE MAE POOLE DAY

in Asheville, North Carolina, and urge all citizens to join in paying tribute to Mrs.
Poole on this, her 100th birthday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of
the City of Asheville to be affixed, this 25th day of July 2023.



Esther E. Manheimer
ESTHER E. MANHEIMER
MAYOR



East End Valley Street Neighborhood Association

Neighbors! Please come to our neighborhood meetings
the 2nd Thursday of each month (**TBA 2026**) at
Stephens-Lee Recreation Center at
30 George Washington Carver Avenue
Food will be provided!

Please come and support your community!!
Your safety is important to us. While masks are
optional, you're welcome to wear one if it makes you
more comfortable. If you have any questions or
concerns, please feel free to contact us at
EastEndValleyStreet@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Find us at: www.eastendvalleystreet.org
PO Box 7341 Asheville NC 28802



Executive Board

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