



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Renee White

New-defined as not existing before, discovered for the first time or introduced. When I think about the remaining months in this year, we are fast approaching a brand new season, one that we have not seen before so we will walk into the newness of Summer.

A new year, a new month, a new week, a new day, a new hour, a new minute and a new second. I am looking forward to a great new start to Summer and all of the potential growth and progress our Neighborhood Association will experience. Don't miss out -- be a part of the movement.

Neighborhoods don't just come and go they remain for years and years because history and legacy are both created within these areas. Generations of families live in Neighborhoods so they are not defined under new but the changes that occur within them bring new houses, new families, new structures, new stories, new familiarity and new identity. It takes hard work and dedication to preserve what was old as it emerges into the new.

I am a native resident of Asheville and East End so it means a lot to me for East End to be recognized as the Neighborhood it used to be and the Neighborhood it has become. That translates into past and future and they can both be brought to the forefront without one identification losing the other.

Join us in the journey and become a part of where you reside and help to make our Neighborhood thrive and continue to be great! Enjoy the summer months ahead and please attend a Neighborhood meeting.

Renee' White
President
East End Valley Street Neighborhood Association

East End Valley Street Neighborhood Association

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

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

In Remembrance of Sarah Williams



Sarah Williams, a cherished daughter, sister, aunt, educator, and author, was born on May 21, 1947, in the vibrant city of Asheville, North Carolina, to the loving embrace of Willie and Annie Mae Williams. Her formative years were spent in Asheville, where the foundation for her enduring passion for learning and community was laid.

In 1965, Sarah proudly graduated from Stephens-Lee High School, marking the beginning of her journey toward a distinguished career in education. Following high school, she matriculated at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), where she pursued and successfully obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. College life also introduced Sarah to the bonds of sisterhood as she pledged the prestigious Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. This affiliation was a deeply meaningful part of her life, and she remained a faithful and active Soror for over three decades, embodying the sorority's principles of service and scholarship.

Upon graduating from WSSU, Sarah embarked on the first chapter of her teaching career, relocating to Newark, New Jersey. While her time in Newark was significant, the call of home was strong, and three years later, Sarah returned to Asheville. Back in her hometown, she not only continued her dedicated work as an elementary and middle school teacher but also committed to furthering her own education. In 1982, she began the rigorous pursuit of a Master's Degree in Education Administration from Western Carolina University (WCU), demonstrating her unwavering dedication to educational excellence.

Sarah's impact as an educator resonated across Asheville's public schools. She was a beloved figure at Jones Elementary and South French Broad Middle School, which is now known as Asheville Middle School, where she poured her heart into shaping young minds until her retirement in 1997.

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Sarah Williams (from Page 1)

Over the years, she was known affectionately to her students as both Mrs. James and Mrs. Williams. Right after retirement, Sarah was a vital contributor in the Opening of Evergreen Charter School where she worked for several years in the beginning stages. Her commitment to education transcended the walls of the classroom, permeating every aspect of her life and touching countless students and colleagues.

Retirement marked a transition, not a cessation, of her creative and intellectual life. Sarah successfully transitioned into an accomplished author. Her poignant book, *Backside of the Country*, served as a heartfelt tribute, meticulously documenting and paying homage to her deep family roots embedded in the history and culture of the Mississippi Delta.

Her spiritual life was equally important. Sarah was a devoted member of Berry Temple Methodist Church until its closure, after which she found a welcoming and committed spiritual home at Calvary Presbyterian Church, where she remained a faithful congregant for the rest of her life.

Sarah's life was a beautiful tapestry woven with many vital roles—she was a cherished Sister, a loving Daughter, a devoted Aunt, a loyal Friend, a dedicated Soror, a Committed Church Member, an insightful Author, and, above all, a passionate and influential Teacher. Her immense capacity for love, service, and connection ensured that her life touched and enriched countless hearts and souls in her community and beyond.

Sarah was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Annie Mae Williams (Mother) and Willie Williams Sr. (Father), her brothers, Eugene Williams and Willie Williams Jr., her sister, Diana Turner, and her nephew, Willie Williams 111, affectionately known as Puddin'.

Her legacy of love and commitment is proudly carried on by her sister, Alberta Williams, and Annie C. Tinsley; her sister-in-law, Candice Williams; and her nieces, Christin King and Atonna Webster, both of Asheville. Sarah was a beloved Cousin, Aunt, and Great Aunt to a large and loving extended family, including her nieces and nephews: Dru, Jackie, Patrick, Terry, Charles, Kim, Buddy, Kenya, Todd, Kebbie, and Keneen. She also shared special bonds with her cousins, Willie Bush and James Bush Jr., and maintained lifelong friendships with Laura Groleau, Patsy Proctor, Ouida Westen, Jacki Summey, and Robert "Boyd" Brown.

The family extends its deepest gratitude for the support and fellowship provided by her affiliations, including the AKA Sorority, the East End Association, Calvary Presbyterian Church, and the Stephens-Lee Community Center. Sarah Williams's life stands as a testament to the power of education, community, and an enduring spirit.

A Celebration of Life for Sarah Williams was held on February 28, 2026, at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 44 Circle Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

*Obituary Courtesy of:
Ray Funeral and Cremation Services of Asheville*

Dr. George Washington Carver
EDIBLE PARK WORKDAYS & HARVEST UPDATES

Neighbors are warmly invited to join upcoming workdays at the Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park. These gatherings offer a chance to spend time outdoors, care for the space, and connect with others while helping

the edible park thrive. Tasks may include weeding, planting, mulching, and general upkeep. No experience is needed.

Upcoming workdays will be held on:

May 22 from 2:30–5:00 PM

June 26 from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

July 17 from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

August 14 from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

September 18 from 2:30–5:00 PM

The park is located at 30 George Washington Carver Avenue. Parking is available in the Stephens-Lee parking lot. If you're planning to attend, please check the Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park Facebook page before heading out in case of weather changes or last-minute updates.

The edible park offers a wide variety of fruits, nuts, and berries throughout the growing season. In Asheville's mountain climate neighbors can generally expect mulberries and early raspberries in late May through June. Blueberries typically ripen from mid-June into mid-July, followed by blackberries from late June through late July. Pears and Asian pears usually begin to ripen in late July into August. Figs and early apples tend to come in from August through September, with additional apple varieties continuing into September and October. Jujube fruit, chokeberries, and elderberries are often ready from August into September. Pawpaws typically ripen in early to mid-September, with hardy kiwi following in mid to late September. Persimmons tend to ripen in October. Chestnuts usually drop from late September into October, and pecans mature from October into early November. Harvest times can shift depending on rainfall and temperature, so each season has its own rhythm—part treasure hunt, part surprise.

For more information, questions, or to get involved, please contact Kelly kelly@bountifulcities.org

Come dig in, meet your neighbors, and enjoy the abundance growing right here in the community.

Authors: Kelly Applegate & Helen Lindberg

Coming Soon

A new traffic light will soon be installed at the end of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and South Charlotte Street.

EAST END / VALLEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Emergency Preparedness Team Update

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Our East End/Valley Street community has so much to be proud of in how we came together during Hurricane Helene. In a difficult time, neighbors supported one another with kindness, generosity, and resilience. Since then, the Emergency Preparedness Team has continued working to help our neighborhood be even better prepared for future emergencies.



What We've Been Working On

- Connecting with community Resilience Hubs across Western North Carolina to share ideas and resources.
- Creating neighborhood roles and response plans for emergencies.
- Organizing training opportunities for residents who would like to help.
- Improving communication and support systems for future events.

We Need Volunteers

We welcome neighbors of all backgrounds and experience levels. No special training is required to get started. There is a place for everyone to contribute.

In the coming months, we will launch a neighborhood survey to help us:

- Understand emergency supply needs
- Identify neighbors who may need extra support
- Strengthen communication and planning

We will also need volunteers to assist with outreach and survey collection. Personal information will be handled securely and respectfully.

Training Opportunities Ahead

Upcoming trainings will be open to all residents and may include:

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Red Cross preparedness training
- EEVS weather emergency procedures
- Neighborhood communication and support coordination

Join Us

Training is a great way to prepare, meet neighbors, and help build a safer, stronger community for everyone.

To volunteer or learn more:

Contact: Evelyn Herron

Email: herrone@bellsouth.net

Phone: 828-275-0272

Asheville Tourists' Celebrate Opening Day at Renamed McCormick Field

April 21 was the opening day for HomeTrust Park, formerly McCormick Field, the city owned stadium just south of downtown.

It also marks the culmination of multi-million dollar renovations required to bring the stadium into compliance with new Major League Baseball standards.

Without renovations, Asheville Tourists' owner Brian DeWine said the city would have lost its minor league team.

Source: Sarah Honosky
Asheville Citizen Times



STEPHENS-LEE RECREATION CENTER

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

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



Executive Board

- President.....Renee' White
- Vice President.....Kim Collins
- Secretary.....Laura McPherson
- Treasurer.....Robertta Allen
- Assistant Treasurer.....Jim Abbott
- Assistant Treasurer.....Sharon Greene
- Member at Large.....Jené "Lupie" Blake
- Member at Large.....Garland Walker
- Member at Large.....William Young

Newsletter Editor
Vera Williams

Webmaster
Helen Lindberg



YMI Cultural Center Upcoming Events



BLACK EXPERIENCE BOOK CLUB

Black Mothers' Month Edition

Thursday, May 28, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Juneteenth Edition

Thursday, June 25, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Join us for The Black Experience Book Club, a monthly gathering held every fourth Thursday at either the YMI Cultural Center's Art Gallery or just around the corner at Noir Collective AVL. This community-centered series is hosted by alexandria ravenel, YMI's Director of Community Engagement, and is designed to explore literature that centers the voices, histories, and futures of the African Diaspora.

For location details or to RSVP, please contact alexandria ravenel directly at alexandria@ymiculturalcenter.org.



Join us for a contemporary social hour on First Friday! From 7 until, you are invited to one of our art galleries for a social experience that merges contemporary music, libations, and fellowship in one space. It's a little sophisticated, a little home grown...and a lot of love in one spot.