

East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association NEWSLETTER

May–August 2023

Volume 7, Issues 4-8



Pictured: Lottie Mae Poole, Oldest Resident Of EEVS (Center)
With Her Daughter Victoria Poole (Right)
and Her Great Granddaughter Kenzie Robinson (Left)

2023 East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival! Heritage: Past • Present • Future

Looking for a family-friendly event that celebrates the rich heritage of Asheville's oldest African-American neighborhood? Then you won't want to miss the 2023 East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival!

The East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival will take place on **Saturday, August 26th, from 10am to 10pm** right here in the East End/Valley Street neighborhood in **MLK Park**, located at 50 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. The festival promises to be an unforgettable experience, featuring live music, vendors, food trucks, and a children's area that will be open from 10am to 7pm.

The East End/Valley Street Community Heritage **Festival Parade** will kick off the festivities at **10am on Saturday, August 26** from the corner of Martin Lu-

ther King Jr. Drive and Alexander Drive, and end at MLK Park. This spectacular parade is a celebration of the community's rich history and culture, and sets the stage for a day filled with fun. This year's theme is Heritage: Past, Present, Future. We invite everyone to join us in honoring the past, embracing the present, and looking forward to a bright and exciting future. This is an alcohol-free, family-friendly festival, so bring your loved ones and enjoy a day filled with laughter, learning, and fun. Please note that animals are not permitted at the festival.

So mark your calendars for August 26th and come celebrate with us at the 2023 East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival! Everyone is welcome to join in the festivities and experience the unique culture and history of this amazing community.

<https://www.eastendvalleystreet.org/community-heritage-festival>

Festival Entertainers Line Up on Page 2



Zohar Israel (Stilt Walker) & the Free Spirit Network

EEVS Heritage Festival Seeking VENDORS and VOLUNTEERS

The 2023 East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival will take place in MLK Park in Asheville and is accepting applications for vendors and food trucks. Festival hours are Saturday, August 26 from 10am to 10pm.

Retail vendor fees: **\$75**, **Food** vendor fees: **\$100**, and **Non-Profit** vendor fees: **\$50**.

The application is available for download here: <https://www.eastendvalleystreet.org/festival-vendor-information>. Please read carefully through all of the information before filling out the application.

Make check payable to: East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival

Send with application to:

East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association

Attention: Connie Jefferson

P.O. Box 7341 Asheville, NC 28802



For more information, contact festival organizer Connie Jefferson at (828)273-5967 or email FestivalEEVS@gmail.com.

Make it happen with Unity in Community! The 2023 East End/Valley Street Community Heritage Festival needs you! This year's Festival is on **Saturday, August 26th, from 10AM to 10PM, in MLK Park**, in the East End neighborhood of Asheville. The Festival is an alcohol free, family friendly event. Come celebrate with us; everyone is welcome at Asheville's oldest African-American neighborhood Festival. To help make it a success, we need volunteers! It is important to sign up, even if you know you will be there and think you don't need to. That is because, when you sign up, we can notify you of any changes in the schedule. Sign up now to help the Festival! Slots are available starting at 7AM. The last slots go until 11PM. So whether you're an early bird or a night owl or somewhere in between, come out and **VOLUNTEER!** Sign Up at **Sign Up Genius**: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094eabaa2ea3f49-east1#/> or contact EastEndValleyStreet@gmail.com if you're uncomfortable using Sign Up Genius.

2023 EEVS Heritage Festival Entertainment Lineup



Free Flow Band
The Guardians of Funk



Mountain Circus Arts
Juggling, Magic, Fire and Fun



Asheville Second Line Band
New-Orleans-style second-line music



A splash of contemporary jazz and a traditional gospel twist.



Carver High School Marching Band
Winston-Salem, NC



Sweet Dreams Band
R&B/Soul/Smooth Jazz



Uptown Swagga Band
Charlotte, NC's Premier Go-Go Band



Majorette Dolls of Asheville



My Daddy Taught Me That—A youth development program designed to support young men through advocacy, education, and mentoring.



Ted E. Asheville Tourist Mascot



Drums Up Guns Down —Stopping the cycle of gun violence in Knoxville, TN communities



Rocky—UNCA Asheville Mascot

Bubble Master



The Episcopal Foundation of WNC has just announced an award of \$20,000 to support the preservation of a Black heritage site, St. Matthias Episcopal Church.

The grant includes funding for the preparation of Site Development and Landscape Plans to guide future investments. St. Matthias has contracted with Asheville-based landscape architecture firm Sitework Studios. The Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County (PSABC) and Energy Home Inspections will also provide technical support. The project should be completed in 2023.

The grant complements ongoing efforts undertaken by the St. Matthias congregation on its own and with support from PSABC and the Episcopal Diocese of WNC.

St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Asheville's East End/Valley Street neighborhood is an active, vibrant, diverse and inclusive church, and it's a well-visited Black heritage site. After almost 130 years, the church buildings and earthwork foundations are threatened by moisture intrusion. Specialized studies indicate that stormwater improvements are needed to preserve the buildings and stabilize the foundation for future generations.

St. Matthias was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. It is believed to be the oldest Black congregation in Asheville, established initially as a Freedman's Church in 1867. It 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. The current church was built in 1894-1896 by formerly enslaved master brick mason and congregant James Vester Miller, who went on to build the Asheville Municipal Building and other prominent public structures in the city. His descendants are active in the church today.

In addition to St. Matthias being an active church and partner in the East End/Valley Street neighborhood, it is also recognized as an important heritage site. The church had over 1,000 visitors during 2022, primarily from Hood Huggers International tours and the James Vester Miller Historic Trail. It is planned as a highlight on the new Asheville African American Heritage Trail and expects an uptick in visitors when the new trail is launched.

About The Episcopal Foundation:

The Episcopal Foundation of Western North Carolina is a non-profit corporation founded in 1963 by Bishop Henry with an initial gift from Mr. Charles Timon, also a major benefactor for Deerfield Retirement Community. The Foundation operates under its own independent charter, which direct the Convention of the Diocese to elect its Board of Directors. The Foundation uses income from its investments primarily to make grants to small parishes and institutions in the diocese that otherwise cannot afford needed building programs, renovations, capital improvements and major repairs. This is St. Matthias's first grant from the Foundation.

By Laura McPherson

Letter from the President

Hello Neighbors,

Summer is moving progressively fast and a new season will be upon us. Just like the seasons, everything must change including people, places and things. Let's change our Neighborhood dynamic by attending community meetings, by showing up at local Government meetings such as City Council and County Commission meetings. Let's be active not only in our community but in each community where change may occur and cause negative or even positive outcomes for residents. That's how we continue to preserve heritage. Cultural heritage is defined as the heritage of tangible and intangible assets of a group or society that is inherited from past generations. Heritage can be a product of selections by society.



Renee White

This year our Heritage festival will be themed: *Our Past, Present and Future*. Past -from which we originated, Present -where we are now, and Future -for where we are going. We started as an all Black neighborhood with thriving black owned businesses, black owned home owners, black churches and a rich black culture of Educators and schools. Presently, we are a diverse neighborhood (in part through gentrification), with some black home owners and very few black businesses, Educators and schools. While we welcome all who choose to make East End their home, we are working on a future that will include bringing back black businesses in our neighborhood, keeping black home owners in their homes, and educating people who are not of color on our Heritage. We must continue to tell the stories, preserve history and make a pathway for generations to come that lead to Black business owners, Black home owners, Black Educators, and Black Politicians. We must know the past to know the present and to move toward the future.

Come out everyone and enjoy our Heritage festival on August 26th in MLK Park. We get to talk, laugh, learn, enjoy good food, listen to good music and entertainment, buy from local vendors and learn about Heritage.

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Renee White

President

East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association

Executive Board

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Newsletter

Editor	Vera Williams
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Preserving Black Churches Grant

Do you know a historic Black church that needs funding to strengthen its capital, staffing, operations, or endowment? They may be eligible for a Preserving Black Churches grant, a preservation project from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. More information here: <https://savingplaces.org/black-churches>

Grants from Preserving Black Churches are intended to preserve historic Black houses of worship (with either active congregations or those that have been repurposed for new uses in local communities) and advance ongoing preservation activities. Today Black churches across the U.S. are experiencing challenges like deferred maintenance, insufficient funds, and threats of demolition. To support their permanent protection, the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund created the Preserving Black Churches program, a \$20 million initiative with leadership support from Lilly Endowment Inc.

With grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000, the Preserving Black Churches grant program is an investment in Black communities to reimagine, redesign, and redeploy historic preservation to address the institutions' needs and the cultural assets and stories they steward.

To apply for a grant from Preserving Black Churches, submit an online application by Wednesday, August 23, 2023. More information here: <https://savingplaces.org/black-churches>

BCALERTS FROM CODERED

Buncombe County's New
Emergency Notification System

Sign up for BC Alerts by texting BCAlert (not case sensitive) to 99411 or visit to sign up for the new system. If residents have previously signed up for Nixle BC Alerts, they will need to re-register in order to continue receiving notifications after June 30.



Alerts to choose from:

- Emergency
- General
- Governing
- Recreation Services
- Election Reminders
- Weather

buncombecounty.org



Urban Garden Tour at the Edible Park and Community Garden

Community Collaboration Blooms: Bountiful Cities' Urban Garden Tour & Tasting in Asheville's Legacy Neighborhoods

Earlier this year, Cathy Cleary from Bountiful Cities contacted Kim Kennedy, the Recreation Facility Manager for Stephens-Lee Recreation Center and representatives from the East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association, to inform us that she had received a grant to do something special in three Legacy Neighborhoods in Asheville during the Bountiful Cities Urban Garden Tour & Tasting: Burton Street, Southside, and East End/Valley Street. Each Legacy Neighborhood had the opportunity to decide how to allocate the grant money. East End/Valley Street chose to hire Virtuous to perform, Shirley Whitesides from Delta House to do face painting, and the teens from Stephens-Lee to organize activities for children. Everyone did a great job, and it was a really fun day!

By Helen Lindberg

Correction to January—April 2023 Newsletter

In the January—April 2023 issue of the EEVS Newsletter there was a typographical error in the article on Angel Redmon. The picture caption referred to her as April instead of Angel Redmond. Here is the corrected photo caption, and the online copy will also be corrected.

Sincerest apologies from the Editor.



Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

The Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park, owned by the City of Asheville Parks and Recreation, is maintained in collaboration with East End/Valley Street residents, Bountiful Cities, and the City of Asheville. The park is located at 30 George Washington Carver Ave, Asheville, NC 28801, across from the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center. Established in 1998 after planning began in 1997, it covers 1.1 acres and features over 40 diverse varieties of fruit and nut trees.

Idea for an Edible Public Space

Jonathan Brown and Samantha Lefko, college students at Appalachian State University in the mid-1990s, were passionate about sustainable development and permaculture. Jonathan, inspired by his studies, became a certified permaculture educator, while Samantha obtained a certificate in permaculture design. They shared a vision of creating an edible public space accessible to all. After moving to Asheville and forming the nonprofit organization City Seeds, they developed the concept for the Bountiful Cities Project, later renamed the Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park. Their innovative approach integrated sustainable development techniques and involved the community at every step. Over the years, through partnerships and support from Bountiful Cities, the Buncombe County Fruit & Nut Club, Asheville Greenworks, and the East End/Valley Street Neighborhood Association, the park has been transformed from underutilized site into a thriving food forest, showcasing the potential of permaculture in urban areas and promoting community engagement and sustainability.

Stephens-Lee High School and the Naming of the Park

The Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park holds a significant location as it is situated on the former grounds of Stephens-Lee High School, which played a vital role in Asheville's black community. Unfortunately, Stephens-Lee High School was demolished but the park stands as a constructive project that acknowledges the past while celebrating the resilience and contributions of the community. In 2000, Lady Gloria Howard Free, an alumna of Stephens-Lee High School and a board member of City Seeds, proposed renaming the park from the Bountiful Cities Project to the Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park. This change aimed to honor the exceptional academic and researcher, Dr. Carver, renowned for his contributions to alternative crop production and soil conservation. The new name symbolizes pride in his work and seeks to draw attention to his enduring legacy. It serves as a testament to the importance of preserving cultural heritage and promoting positive change.

Join Us at the Park

Stay involved by joining our community work days, which take place on the third Friday of every month from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Contribute to the park's growth and development by participating in these work sessions. For updates on events and activities, please check the Dr. George Washington Carver Edible Park Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you at the park!

Note: The information provided is based on content from "The Community Food Forest Handbook" by Catherine Bukowski and John Munsell.

By Helen Lindberg

SimpliCity

Allows you to search for any address within the city limits of Asheville. Among many other features, SimpliCity provides crime statistics for the address. You can choose from several pre-selected date ranges and define the radius of your search parameter from an eighth of a mile to a mile. Crime information can be viewed on a map or in a data grid. Information provided is the type of crime, the date the crime occurred, block-level address and the incident number. The information can be downloaded into a .csv file. You can also search by neighborhood or along a street. <https://simplicity.ashevillenc.gov/>



Community Crime Map allows users to choose a date range to view criminal activity (up to one year), to select which crimes to view and the opportunity to sign up for a neighborhood watch report that automatically generates an email breakdown of recent criminal activity specific to a particular area. The crime information can be viewed on a map or a data grid. Basic information about the incidents, such as the type of crime, location type, block-level address, and date and time, is also available.

<https://www.communitycrimemap.com/>
<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/service/view-crimes-near-me/>

Helen Lindberg



We are happy to introduce **Officer Dennis Pace**, our new Community Engagement Officer serving East End/Valley Street!

Officer Dennis Pace brings a wealth of experience and a passion for community engagement to his role. Originally from Indiana, Officer Pace relocated to Asheville in 2016, seeking warmer winters for his wife and the opportunity to immerse himself in the great outdoors. His journey in law enforcement began in the Animal Services Unit, and in 2018, he successfully completed the rigorous training at the Asheville Police Academy, becoming a patrol officer. Over the years, Officer Pace demonstrated exemplary commitment and professionalism, leading to his promotion to the rank of Senior Police Officer.

Notably, Officer Pace's dedication to serving the community extends beyond law enforcement. His exceptional communication skills and ability to connect with individuals in crisis led to his acceptance into the Crisis Negotiation Team, where he received specialized training to effectively engage with people facing challenging situations.

In November 2022, Officer Pace embraced a new opportunity as the Community Engagement Officer for downtown, West Asheville, the River Arts, and South French Broad. As a Community Resource Officer, Officer Pace acts as a liaison between the Asheville Police Department and local businesses, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood groups. His role is vital in fostering relationships, addressing community concerns, and working collaboratively to enhance the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods.

Officer Dennis Pace now serves as the Community Engagement Officer for East End/Valley Street. For any questions, concerns, or to connect with Officer Pace email him at dp Pace@ashevilleenc.gov.

In case of emergencies, remember to call 911 for immediate assistance. For non-emergency matters, you can contact the Asheville Police Department directly at (828) 252-1110. They are also available to assist you with any non-urgent issues or inquiries.

By Helen Lindberg

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

"If you don't like something, change it.
If you can't change it, change your attitude."

Maya Angelou

Book Launch with the Author

Calvary Presbyterian Church in Asheville, NC, hosted a book launch on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM, with Charles Davidson, Author of ***Foster's Pie Pan*** *Stories of Grace Abounding in a Fallen World*.

\$20 cash or check for the book includes \$5 to benefit Asheville's Homeward Bound.

"Foster's Pie Pan is a precious gift of compelling and touching sacred stories that reach inside of us and connect us with ourselves, God, and the community around us. Their deep reverence guides us to truth, reality, and God's amazing grace. I'll keep these stories nearby, to read and read again." —Patricia Bacon, Pastor, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC

By Sarah Williams

ASHEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY

Sign up to learn the philosophies, policies
and guiding principles of AFD. An empowering
experience with both classroom
and hands on education.

Wednesday nights
8/16/23 - 10/11/23
5:30pm - 8:30 pm
Dinner provided!

SCAN ME



STEPHENS LEE RECREATION CENTER

30 George Washington Carver Avenue | 828-350-2058 |

Facility Manager: Kim Kennedy

DOLLAR DECOR DIY

AT STEPHENS-LEE COMMUNITY CENTER, 30 GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Enjoy making a new craft each class from simple items you have at home or can be found at the dollar store.

ADULT CRAFT CLASSES

WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS
7-8:30 PM

\$20 PER CLASS

JULY

SCRABBLE COASTER TILES
CLASS DATE: JULY 12TH
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 5TH

PERSONALIZED MAGNETIC ORGANIZER
CLASS DATE: JULY 26TH
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 19TH

AUGUST

FARMHOUSE STYLE WREATH
CLASS DATE: AUGUST 9TH
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 2ND

THUMB TACK ART
CLASS DATE: AUGUST 23RD
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 16TH



REGISTER @
AVLREC.COM AND
SEARCH
DOLLAR DECOR DIY
CALL 828-350-2058
WITH QUESTIONS

Ongoing programming -

Bid Whist Card Play, Mondays, 5:30-8:00pm, FREE

Zumba Gold, Wednesdays noon-12:45pm, FREE

Beginning Line Dance, Thursdays, noon-12:45pm, FREE

Old School Line Dance w/ Brenda Mills, Thursdays, 6:15-7:15pm, FREE

Community Open Play Basketball, Saturdays, noon-3:45pm, FREE

Pickleball for Beginners/Intermediate, Sundays, 2:15-4:45pm, \$3 per session

Scrabble Play, Sundays, 12:30-4:30pm, FREE

Fitness Center, \$50/year for individuals, \$75/year for household, FREE members blessed with 60 years and over