

BURTON

A rich history and a bright future.

Burton Street Neighborhood Newsletter

November 2020

Neighborhood News

Portable Technology Lab

The Burton Street Community Association has partnered with St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church to support implementation of the Portable Technology Lab, Adult Educational Sessions, and tutoring vulnerable students. The Portable Technology Lab is located in the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Education Building.

The lab will hold evening sessions for parents, guardians, and grandparents on becoming proficient in Zoom Classroom. This will offer tutorial support for those with challenges in participating in online learning. The lab will also offer a session for seniors on becoming proficient in accessing free online health information programs in their community. This session will be on Fridays in the mid-afternoon.

Please email BSCA leadership at bscaleadership@gmail.com if you are interested in either program. Please note that COVID-19 protocols will be followed at the lab, including mandatory health screenings before entering classrooms, required face masks, and social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be available for use as well.

Buncombe County Property Reappraisal 2021

Buncombe County will begin their property reappraisal process in January 2021. The process looks at the amount one could sell their house for in the current market to assign property value. This property value is then used to assign property tax amounts.

North Carolina law requires counties to reassess property values every eight years. However, Buncombe County Commissioners voted to conduct reappraisals every four years instead. Reassessing every four years helps ensure that property owners continue to pay a fair amount of property taxes. Since Buncombe County is growing quickly, an eight year cycle would allow for inequities to grow. With a four year reappraisal cycle, property values are more current and there's less of a burden on individual property owners.

For more information about the County Reappraisal 2021, please visit the website linked below and view the "Reappraisal Basics: What you need to know" and "Reappraisal 2021 Frequently Asked Questions" articles under the News & Information section. Visit: <https://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/tax/default.aspx>



The BSCA has invited Keith Miller to discuss the Countywide Reappraisal 2021 at our virtual monthly meeting on November 16. There will be a presentation and an opportunity to ask questions. Send an email to bscaleadership@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list for the meeting invitation.

Announcements

Bear Sightings in the Community

A family of bears has been spotted in the Burton Street neighborhood and they have been raiding trash cans. Please be cautious and aware of your surroundings in the community and keep an eye out for bears. Here are some best practices to avoid bear encounters:

- Do not intentionally feed bears as a way to attract them.
- Ensure garbage containers are secure. Double bagging is a strategy to remove odors that attract bears.
- Avoid leaving pet food outside at night.
- Clean up grilling equipment after use and store in a garage or shed.
- Watch children closely when they are outdoors. The same goes for pets!

Source:

https://www.bearicuda.com/reference/bear_deterrant_n11.php

If you do encounter a bear, here are some tips to remember:

- Identify yourself and make yourself as large as possible. Speak to the bear in low tones and slowly wave your arms so the bear may recognize you as human.
- If the bear is stationary, move away slowly and sideways. This will allow you to keep an eye on the bear and move away in a way that is non-threatening. Do NOT run. If the bear tries to follow, stop and hold your ground.
- Always leave the bear an escape route that avoids contact with you.
- If you see a female with cubs, never get in between them or approach them. Chances of an attack increase if the mother thinks you are a threat to the cubs.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/bears/safety.htm>

BSCA News

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal packets have been mailed; renew your membership today! Didn't receive one but would like to join the BSCA? Send an email to the BSCA Leadership at bscaleadership@gmail.com and one will be mailed to you.

Monthly Meeting Info

The Burton Street Community Association monthly meeting will be held virtually on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 - 7:00pm. Notifications with the meeting link and details will be sent to residents prior to the meeting.

Announcements:

City Trash Pickup

Please set trash cans and recycling cans for pickup in the street at curbside instead of on the sidewalk. This increases accessibility of sidewalks in the neighborhood and makes trash pickup easier.

Police Reporting

All Community Resource Officers will now report to the newly formed Community Engagement Division of the Asheville Police Department. This department is led by Captain Mike Lamb, who can be reached at (828) 232-4501 (office) or mlamb@ashevillenc.gov.

Please report any concerns to the police. You may also contact the non-emergency number at (828) 252-1110.

Overgrown Vegetation Reporting

Report incidents of vegetation that is blocking the sidewalk or roads to Mark Foster via phone (828) 259-5979 or send photos and location information by email at mfoster@ashevillenc.gov.

Combat Neighborhood Speeding

Do you have any requests to lower speed limits on neighborhood streets or add speed bumps? Contact Andrew Cibor, the City of Asheville Traffic Engineer, at acibor@ashevillenc.gov.

Burton Street Plan Implementation Process Overview

The Neighborhood Plan was created by the City of Asheville and NCDOT. The two agencies coordinated to determine which agency would fund and implement each strategy of the plan.

Each month, a working group meets to set plan goals and strategies into motion. This group includes BSCA leaders, City of Asheville staff, and NCDOT staff.

Burton Street Plan Implementation Status

Below are notes on the implementation progress to date:

Strategy Status	Implementation Details
1.1.1 - In Progress	Support design standards and policies that aim to preserve or enhance neighborhood character. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Asheville is researching best practices for architectural reviews and identifying possible funding to hire a consultant to draft a pattern book for the neighborhood.
1.2.1 - In Progress	Improve existing sidewalks to meet ADA design standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AECOM created a map of sidewalk locations in the community in need of improvements. • NCDOT will work to obtain cost estimates for the necessary improvements.
1.2.2 - In Progress	Enforce neighborhood no parking regulations where appropriate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another neighborhood site visit will be conducted in the next few weeks to identify additional streets that are in need of “No Parking” signs.
1.3.2 - In Progress	Improve sidewalk connections between commercial corridors and include a pedestrian path from Buffalo Street to Patton Avenue that will connect to future greenways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCDOT completed an analysis of potential impacts to parcels surrounding the proposed path. • NCDOT also obtained cost estimates for constructing the greenway path.
1.4.2 - Completed	Install a sidewalk along Patton Avenue to connect pedestrian paths and transit stops. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-use path is being constructed along the south side of Patton Avenue as part of the I-26 Connector Project improvements on Patton Avenue.
1.6.1 - In Progress	Install Burton Street Community gateway signs at the northern (Florida Avenue) and southern (Burton Street) neighborhood entrances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BSCA will review City of Asheville signage guidelines along with Brenda Mills, the City of Asheville Neighborhood and Community Engagement Manager, and Shannon Tuch, the City of Asheville Principal Planner. Together, they will identify sign options to present to the community for feedback.

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Plan Implementation Status (cont.)

Below are notes on the implementation progress to date:

Strategy Status	Implementation Details
2.2.1 - In Progress	<p>Improve community center infrastructure by including additional parking, a computer lab and Wi-Fi, creating additional community meeting space, and improving existing outdoor basketball courts and playground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AECOM will develop two parking lot concepts: one for expanded street-level parking and one for a parking lot behind the community center. • NCDOT will obtain cost estimates for each concept proposal. • Status: In Progress
2.5.1 - In Progress	<p>Implement traffic calming measures on Burton Street and Florida Avenue, including improved speed bumps and consistent speed limits throughout the neighborhood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BSCA submitted a request to the City of Asheville to address neighborhood speeding concerns. • The City of Asheville will add speed sensors on Buffalo Street and other requested locations to monitor vehicle speeds.

Summaries of each monthly working group meeting can be found on the City of Asheville I-26 Connector Project website.

Buncombe County News

COVID-19 Testing Opportunities

Do you believe that you have been exposed to or contracted COVID-19? Testing is widely available at various locations across Buncombe County, even if you do not have a primary healthcare provider. Here are the steps to make a testing appointment at a community drive-through testing site:

- Complete the Buncombe County online self-checker to determine if you need to be tested. Please call the Ready Team at (828) 419-0095 if you need assistance completing the checker.
 - o The Ready Team is available for assistance from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- If your assessment indicates you qualify for testing and you are unable to get tested at your primary care provider or an urgent care, you can register for the testing site either online or by calling the Ready Team at (828) 419-0095.
- After completing registration, a Ready Team member will call you within two days to schedule an appointment.

Please note that you must schedule an appointment for drive-through community testing sites.

Here are other options to find testing locations near you:

- Call the Buncombe County nurse line at (828) 250-5300 to find out where you can get tested (press Option #1 to speak with a nurse) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Visit the Find My Testing Place website to find a testing location near you. This service will assist with finding a location anywhere in North Carolina.

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Buncombe County News (cont.)

COVID-19 Testing Opportunities (cont.)

New laws require that most health insurance plans fully pay for COVID testing when there is a medical reason for the test (i.e. experiencing symptoms or contact with a known positive case). If you do not have health insurance, some clinics use a government program to pay for costs for your test, and other clinics may offer assistance or sliding scale options for payment. Check with your provider for more information.

For more information and additional links related to COVID-19 in Buncombe County, visit this webpage: <https://www.buncombecounty.org/covid-19/>

North Carolina COVID Response: Phase 3

Beginning on October 2nd at 5:00 p.m., North Carolina moved into Phase 3 of its reopening strategy, and we will remain in this phase until at least 5:00 p.m. on November 13th. In this phase...

- The mass gathering limit remains the same: 25 people indoors, 50 people outdoors.
- Businesses, restaurants, salons, etc. remain open and must continue to follow capacity limits.
- Face masks are still required in public when with someone not in your household and unable to socially distance. Within Phase 3, this requirement now applies to both indoors and outdoors.
- Meeting spaces, conferences halls, reception venues, etc. may now host events, subject to reduced capacity limits.
- Large outdoor facilities (that hold 10,000 or more people) can reopen at 7% capacity.
- Bars are able to reopen outdoors only and must follow capacity limits. Indoor bars remain closed. Alcohol sales must continue to stop at 11:00 p.m.
- Non-bar nightclubs and lounges are able to reopen provided they follow the gathering capacity limit (25 people indoors).

Buncombe County Libraries Survey

Buncombe County is conducting a survey about their libraries to determine how they can best meet the needs of the communities they serve! This quick, anonymous survey will ask you for your thoughts about libraries and what you want to see the facilities provide! Take the quick survey here to share your input: <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/fMfB87>

Share the survey with friends and neighbors of Buncombe County so they have the opportunity to share their opinions as well! The survey will be open through November 16th, 2020.

Stay Updated

Sign up for the City of Asheville email newsletter to stay updated by [clicking here](#) (for electronic version of this newsletter). You can also visit <https://www.ashevillenc.gov/> and click on "Subscribe" under "Stay in the Loop" at the bottom of the page.

Interested in City neighborhood news and newsletters? You can stay up-to-date on them here: www.ashevillenc.gov/Neighborhoods.

Get Involved

Want to participate more in local government but unsure where to start? Check out the City of Asheville's engagement hub for information on City projects and how to get involved: <https://PublicInput.com/hub/88>.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACTS

Burton St. Community Association

President | Vivian Conley
Vice President | Thomas Davidson
Treasurer | Zanie Davidson
Secretary | Margaret Fuller

bscaleadership@gmail.com

Burton St. Community Center

For questions regarding facilities and activities:
 Kyle Autrey, Facility Manager
 kautrey@ashevillenc.gov
 828-254-1942

Neighborhood & Community Engagement

Brenda Mills, Neighborhood & Community
 Engagement Manager
 bmills@ashevillenc.gov
 828-259-5506 (office) or 828-712-2324 (mobile)

Asheville Police Department

Captain Mike Lamb
 APD Community Engagement Department Head
 mlamb@ashevillenc.gov
 (828) 232-4501
 You may also contact APD's non-emergency
 number: (828) 252-1110

West Asheville Police Lieutenant

Lieutenant Evan Cowan
 ecowan@ashevillenc.gov
 828-259-5625
 Lieutenant Cowan oversees the
 West Asheville area.

Join the BSCA to receive a Burton Street Neighborhood Watch magnet!

Non-members can complete the membership form on the BSCA Leadership website to receive a Neighborhood Watch magnet.

TO REPORT AN ISSUE:

The Asheville App

You may use The Asheville App to report or view the status of a variety of issues, including abandoned vehicles, missed trash or recycling pickup, missed brush pickup, animals, fire hydrant leaks, graffiti, sidewalk safety, and more.



You can download the App in iOS or Android. Or you can report an issue through the app website at:

<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/service/report-a-pothole-sidewalk-issue-or-street-light-outage/>

Neighborhood Flooding

Bobby Austin
 Labor Crew Coordinator
 baustin@ashevillenc.gov

828-259-5980

Tree Maintenance Issues

Mark Foster
 mfoster@ashevillenc.gov

828-259-5979

City Customer Service

828-251-1122

Non-Emergency Police

City of Asheville Police Department

828-252-1110



The Burton Street Community Association is promoting educational, social, economic and culture welfare of its members in the Burton Street Neighborhood.



LAW ENFORCEMENT	PHONE NUMBER
EMERGENCY	911
Asheville Police Department Non-Emergency	828-252-1110
TEXT a Drug Tip to APD	828-259-5692
Crime Stoppers Anonymous Tip Line	828-255-5050
Community Resource Officer: Alec Dohmann	828-251-4032
CITY OF ASHEVILLE	
Customer Service	828-251-1122
Neighborhood & Community Engagement Manager	828-259-5506
ART Station (Asheville Transit)	828-253-5691
BUNCOMBE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	
Covid-19 Information	828-419-0095