

Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition

GET INVOLVED

LNC meetings are by invitation only. Connect with one of the following organizations. Go online to AshevilleLegacyNeighborhoods.org to send us a message.



Burton Street Community Association (BCSA)

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Burton Street Community Center, 134 Burton Street in Asheville. Call (828) 259-8020, go to burtonstreet.org, or email burtonstreetinfo@gmail.com.



East End Valley Street Neighborhood Association (EEVS)

Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at Stephens-Lee Community Center, 30 George Washington Carver Avenue in Asheville. Go to eastendvalleystreet.org, or email EastEndValleyStreet@gmail.com.



PODER Emma Community Ownership

Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 17 Westside Drive in Asheville. Call (828) 276-3544, go to poderemma.org, or email info@poderemma.org.



Shiloh Community Association (SCA)

Meets the 1st Monday of every month at Linwood Crump Shiloh Center, 121 Shiloh Road in Asheville. Call Mrs. Norma Baynes, (828) 277-9654, Go to shilohnc.org, or email shilohgarden59@gmail.com.



Southside United Neighborhood Association (SUNA)

Meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at Wesley Grant Southside Center, 285 Livingston Street in Asheville. Call (828) 259-5483, go to www.southsideunitedavl.org, or email unitedsouthsideavl@gmail.com.

Many Neighborhoods, One Village

BY SEKOU COLEMAN

VillageFest celebrates Asheville's legacy neighborhoods.

The Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition (LNC) knows better than anyone the power of community and the stories that live on our front porches, around our dinner tables, and throughout our neighborhoods.

They are stories of families who built lives here. Of neighbors who looked after one another. Of churches, schools, businesses, and community centers that became the heart of generations. They are stories of resilience, celebration, sacrifice, and joy. They are the stories that shaped Asheville long before many of us arrived, and they continue to shape the city today.

This August, LNC is inviting the broader community to experience those stories through the inaugural VillageFest, a free two-day celebration on August 28 and 29 at Memorial Stadium, 32 Buchanan Place in Asheville.

The LNC VillageFest is a celebration of Asheville's legacy neighborhoods and the people who have called them home. It is an opportunity to honor the generations who built Burton Street, East End/Valley Street, Emma, Shiloh, and Southside while celebrating the neighbors who continue building their future today.

The festival reflects the work LNC has been doing since 2019. Every meeting, every conversation,

every neighborhood gathering, and every policy discussion has been rooted in the belief that communities become stronger when people know one another, understand the history of the places they call home, and work together to shape what comes next.

VillageFest is one way to bring that work into the broader community.

Throughout the weekend, families will enjoy local music, food, art, storytelling, games, and cultural experiences that highlight the rich history and traditions of Asheville's legacy neighborhoods. Residents will also have an opportunity to meet neighborhood leaders, learn about the work happening throughout the year, and discover ways to become involved.

The festival is also an invitation to the next generation.

For many families, these neighborhoods hold generations of memories. Parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents helped build communities whose influence can still be felt across Asheville today. VillageFest creates space for those stories to be shared so that young people can understand the legacy they have inherited and the one they are now helping to build.

It is also an invitation to those who are newer to Asheville.

Every strong neighborhood grows because people choose to become good neighbors. Learning the history of a place, building relationships, and investing in the people around us helps strengthen the village for everyone.

We hope VillageFest becomes a tradition that brings generations together, welcomes new neighbors, celebrates our shared history, and inspires more people to join the work of strengthening Asheville's legacy neighborhoods.

Save the dates, invite your family, bring a neighbor, and join us on August 28 and 29, 2026.

*Many neighborhoods.
One village.*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

VillageFest

August 28 & 29

Enjoy local music, food, art, storytelling, games, and cultural experiences that highlight the rich history and traditions of Asheville's legacy neighborhoods. This free, two-day celebration takes place at Memorial Stadium, 32 Buchanan Place in Asheville.

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ABOUT THE LEGACY NEIGHBORHOODS COALITION

The Legacy Neighborhoods Coalition protects historic communities most impacted by displacement, honors the legacy and culture of historically under-resourced residents, and builds collective power that strengthens community voices, expands civic participation, and stewards opportunities where future generations can thrive.