

**STEVE MITCHELL IS ASHEVILLE'S
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!**



The City of Asheville Neighborhood Advisory Committee will be honoring Steve Mitchell with the first annual Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year Award at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 28 at 5:00 PM in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the City Hall. He was chosen from the many nominees submitted from Asheville's neighborhoods. The committee found Steve to be uniquely qualified, a dedicated volunteer who has worked not only in Malvern Hills, but also in Wilshire Park, (where he lived before moving to Malvern Hills) and for his Alma Mater, Biltmore School.

Steve is an exceptional person with outstanding leadership and organizational skills. He revitalized both the Wilshire Park and Malvern Hills Community Clubs and served as President for both. He has served as a longstanding board member in Malvern Hills. At Biltmore School, he was President of the student body. He was a tri-captain of the football team and played in the Optimist Bowl of 1955. At his 50th class reunion, Steve was awarded "The Golden Classmate Award". Steve has fought fiercely and successfully to save Biltmore School which is safe at this time. His work goes on with the school and alumni.

Steve and his family moved to Malvern Hills in 2003. Even before his move here, he was working to

improve life in our neighborhood. Among his many accomplishments, Steve is credited with reestablishing a working board of directors and a written budget. He instituted the street captain system for expediting communication. He laid the groundwork for much of the traffic safety and started a neighborhood watch. Over the years, he planted and maintained the triangles along with repairing the wall holding our sign. He organized many neighborhood picnics and other gatherings. Steve has collected and preserved community history. Known to many as "Mr. Malvern Hills", Steve is the "go to" person for solving problems. He calls it "running down the details" which means tenaciously working to find resolution. He has responded to every concern from every neighbor. Throughout the years, Steve's successful collaboration with the churches and the Patton Avenue businesses has been mutually beneficial. Steve is always working for the best for his family, his neighbors and his community.

Steve has been married to his wife, Ellen for 56 years. They have two children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They are active members of Trinity Methodist Church. The Mitchell children and grandchildren are all following in Steve and Ellen's footsteps, excelling in their work, schools, churches and communities.

Steve retired from Asheville City Schools following a stellar 35-year career in education. He began as an elementary education teacher then served as a principal for 20 years. He moved to the Central office in Personnel and finished his career as the Director of Maintenance. Throughout his career, Steve was always known as the "go to" person.

Steve enjoys organic gardening and doing projects around the house. His lucky neighbors enjoy his beautiful flowers and the fruits of his labor, delicious homegrown tomatoes. Steve and Ellen are avid fans of Asheville High football and Carolina basketball. The Mitchells enjoy traveling, and they enjoy coming home to Malvern Hills.