



# River Talk

Volume 18  
Issue 1  
June 2018

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## Magnolia Springs Annual 4th of July Parade & Celebration



**Our Independence Day Parade & Celebration, 2018  
will be held on Wednesday, July 4th, at 10:30 am.**

At the end of our World Famous Parade, we will serve an All-American hotdog lunch On-The-Green, in front of the MSVFD Firehouse.

**Bikes, Cars, Tractors, Floats are all invited! Bring out your best!  
All Adults, Children, Businesses, Organizations are Welcome.**

Lineup will be at 10:00 on Woodland Drive and we will proceed at 10:30 from Woodland to Oak and end on The Green.

**This year's Grand Marshals are Elaine & Buster Slay, generous contributors to our community activities and services for many, many years!**

*The hotdog lunch is provided compliments of the Magnolia Springs Community Association, Magnolia Springs Fire and Rescue, Jesse's Restaurant and the Town of Magnolia Springs.*

## President's Letter

### *“Reflect and remember why this holiday is so important.”*



Holy Smoke! Have you looked at the calendar lately? July 4th is right around the corner and plans are underway for our Independence Day celebration. This is a time when we all get together and celebrate our country's heritage. But before we get to the party, maybe we should take a few minutes to reflect and remember why this holiday is not only one of the best parts of summer, but why it is so important.

The spirit of Independence Day is not only about the United States challenging the authority of the British crown and officially becoming a country, it is about celebrating the values on which our country was founded. The original Declaration was written with the theory that every person has inherent rights, called “self-evident truths” in the official document. It reads: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Being somewhat of a student of history, I know that when Jefferson penned these words, it was a very different time and for Jefferson and many of our Founding Fathers, the phrase “...that all men are created equal...” really meant that “all free, property-owning males are created equal”. Even while these words are inspirational, through the years they have rung hollow for many Americans. Jefferson's restrictive definition, that “people are of equal moral worth, and as such deserve equal treatment under the law”, made distinctions for free men vs. slaves, men vs. women, property owners vs. debtors, et cetera. Fortunately for all races and genders, the United States has moved and continues to move towards achieving full legal equality. However, we have to remember... equality is hard to define because its meaning keeps changing as our society changes.

In an article for Psychology Today entitled “We Are Not Created Equal”, Karen Seifert, Ph.D., challenges our thinking by stating, “the truth is that we are not all created equal in our ability to achieve success.” She continues by stating, “Not everyone is lucky enough to grow up in a nurturing environment and it is these people that we should try and provide support to. If a child is born disabled or grows up in a poor, abusive, or criminal home, they do not have the same chance at success as a child born healthy, to a high-income, loving family that lives in a nice neighborhood. The former will start school approximately 1.5 years behind other students and by 3rd grade they will be three years behind his peers educationally. These are the facts. In this situation most children will never be able to catch-up and this will subsequently affect the rest of their lives.” The author proposes that by “lending a helping hand because you were born with some advantages that others may not have can make this world a better place for all of us.”

In my travels around the world, I have seen first-hand that other countries do not have advantages equal to those of the United States in respect to individual freedoms and standard of living.

In Guyana, armed guards stand at shopping entrances searching bags as shoppers enter and leave. In Suriname and Mexico, children beg for food and money on the street. Across Europe in almost every country—the U.K., Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Turkey, Estonia—you see people displaced by violence searching for the very freedoms we take for granted.

Yes, we all have different views and opinions and we are free to express these views as we wish.

But we need to remember, tyranny has meant different things to different people since 1776. Our search for liberty, however defined, must continue. Harry Rubenstein, a curator of American politics at the Smithsonian Institution, suggests that “Independence Day celebrates those very ideals of democracy, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and is for anyone who finds faith in the words all men are created equal.” But he says, “it is also a holiday to remember and honor those first Americans who made sacrifices to create the Republic and then defend it over the years.” So

like John Adams, have all the fun you want this Independence Day, and show your patriotism by celebrating, watching parades and illuminations! Happy Independence Day.

—Judith Miller, President

The by-laws of the Magnolia Springs Community Association  
instruct the officers to share an annual financial report  
with all the membership. Here 'tis!

## Magnolia Springs Community Association

### Profit and Loss

June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018

		Total
Income		22,171.79
Cost of Goods Sold		3,948.18
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,223.61</b>
Expenses	\$	16,513.12
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,710.49</b>

### Balance Sheet

As of May 31, 2018

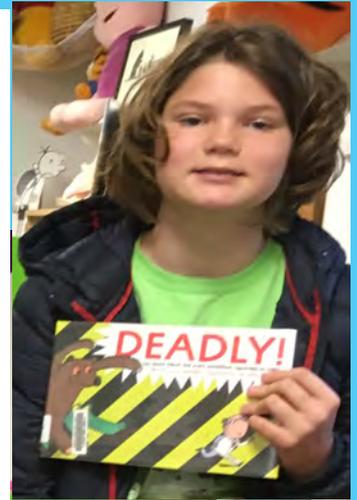
		Total
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		38,210.12
Furniture and Fixtures		1,509.32
Building and Improvements		80,749.00
Land		155,700.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>276,168.44</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities		1,863.10
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Net Assets		249,657.19
Retained Earnings		22,937.66
Net Income		1,710.49
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>276,168.44</b>



**The library's summer reading program is happening now! If you missed the kickoff on Saturday, June 9, kids can still stop by the library to sign up for the program.**

**We will be making fun alligator crafts on Saturday, June 16! Read your books by June 26 and turn in your reading logs to be eligible for prizes to be awarded on June 30.**

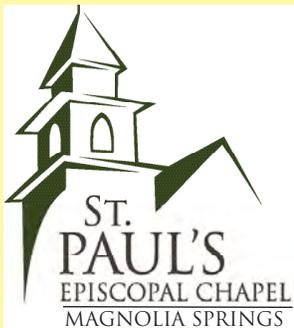
**—Elise Nodar, MSPL Director**



**Read on!**



## **St. Paul's Free Summer Classic Film Series: Hollywood Tells Stories of the Spirit**



Academy Award winner and Fairhope resident Tod Jolson will be our guide to five classic Hollywood movies telling stories of Jesus and of people whose lives he changed over the centuries. Come to St. Paul's at 7pm on the third Wednesday night of each month for a film, commentary, fellowship, and popcorn! Children welcome.

**June 20 THE SONG OF BERNADETTE**

**July 18 THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY**

**August 15 KING OF KINGS**

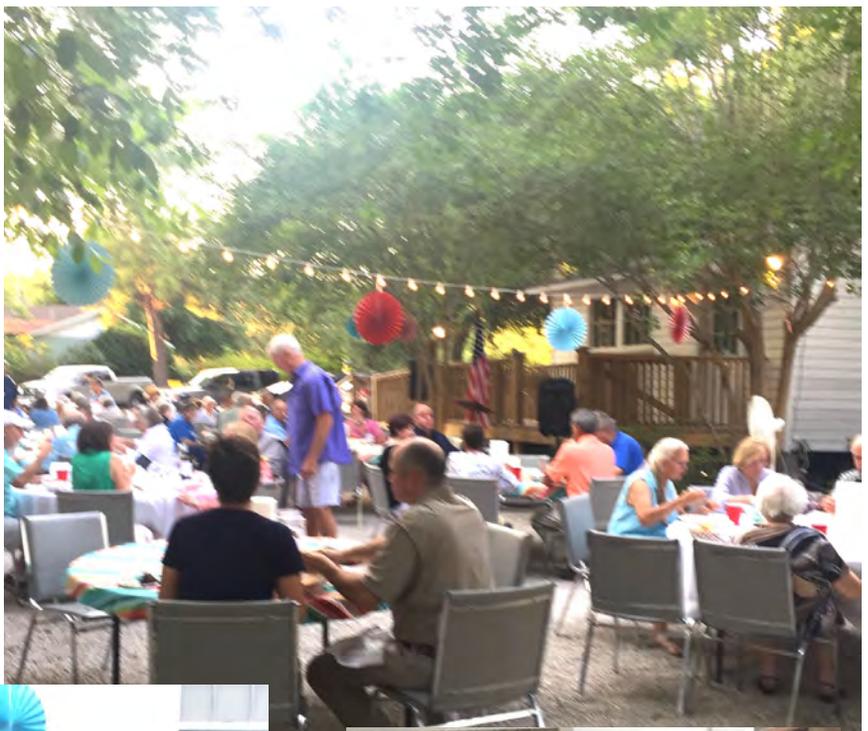
**September 19 JOAN OF ARC**

**For the summer (at least), St. Paul's has added a Saturday evening service. Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 6pm, eclectic music. Dress code? Come as you are. All are welcome.**

**From the Editor** River Talk is published monthly, October to May, and once (or maybe more) in the summer. Please send your news to [pruitt.jan@gmail.com](mailto:pruitt.jan@gmail.com). Deadline for each issue is the 15th of the previous month unless otherwise announced.

—Jan Pruitt, Editor

Magnolia Springs Community Association • Post Office Box 6 • Magnolia Springs, AL 36555



## **We're getting the hang of this al fresco thing!**

Our end-of-year May low-country-boil potluck and annual business meeting was such a success that we're planning two more al fresco potlucks in the coming year. At the event, Taylor Tillman (above) received her MSCA scholarship, the 2018-2019 board was introduced by continuing president Judith Miller (front row center, above left), and a good time was had by all.

# News from the Magnolia Springs Garden Club



Our 2017-2018 season kicked off with a social at Mary Freeman's house on the river on Cotton Stocking Lane. It was a good opportunity to meet and greet old as well as new members of our Club.

At our first business meeting on October 25, 2017, for the first time we recognized our Heritage Members by presenting them with gold, silver and bronze stars to be pinned on their nametags for their years of membership and service.

In November we invited the Foley Garden Club to join us for social activities and for a lecture on Container Gardening by Michelle Johns.

At every monthly meeting we had special invited guests and interesting speakers who told us about so many things from the language of flowers to flower arranging.

We remembered our veterans at the William F. Greene Veterans home with Christmas gifts. The Garden Club also presented the students at the Head Start program conducted on the grounds of St. John's Church with a variety of Christmas presents.

Once again, the Garden Club coordinated Arbor Day activities with the Town and the Fire Department. We ordered the trees to be distributed, packaged them and distributed them to so many people who joined us in celebrating this very important day. Mayor Bob Holk lead the day with opening remarks while our local Boy Scout troop lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Significantly, we completed the Plant-a-Tree program by purchasing and installing the final memory stones in the Magnolia Springs Arboretum.



We also conducted two clean-up days at the Arboretum.

And, we planted around 110 plants in the Arboretum that represented the plants as described in the original plan that is on file in Town Hall. Just last week, the Town further cleaned up the tree situation in the Arboretum by removing dead trees and excess limbs.

We also managed to fit in three trips as follows: a guided tour of Weeks Bay by pontoon boat; a guided tour of the Mobile Botanical Gardens; and a guided tour of the Weeks Bay Bog.

You, as a member of the Garden Club, made all this possible. I want to thank you for your support and attendance during the 2017-2018 season. I look forward to working with you in 2018-2019, and **I am happy to pass on the gavel and the cowbell to Luanne Matson who is our incoming president.**

Regards,

**Gerry Lester**

**2017-2018 President, Magnolia Springs Garden Club**



You know what a great venue for a gathering our historic Community Hall can be—please help pass the word!

The Hall is available for gatherings large and small: birthday parties, showers, wedding receptions, family reunions, etc.

Hall rental rates

Under 2 hours: \$125  
 2-5 hours: \$350  
 More than 5 hours: \$600

*Beginning with their second consecutive year of membership, MSCA members receive a 20% discount.*

Use of tables & chairs included; cleaning fee additional.

Interested renters can contact Judith Miller at [drjudithmiller@bellsouth.net](mailto:drjudithmiller@bellsouth.net).

**The 2018-2019 Magnolia Springs Community Association Board of Directors**

President	Judith Miller	Director 1	Maury McPhillips
Vice President	Todd Puckett	Director 2	Andrew Monaghan
Recording Secretary	Helen Soulé	Director 3	Lyndy Kouns
Treasurer	Kim Koniar	Director 4	Ann Bowers
Corresponding Secretary	Luanne Matson	Director 5	Lolly Holk
		Director 6	Jan Pruitt



**MSCA's new membership and fiscal year began June 1—the 2018-2019 renewal form is on the last page of this newsletter. Please send yours in by October 1!**

**2018-2019 Magnolia Springs Community Association Directory Information**

*Please fill in all information even if you are renewing so we are sure to have your most current information.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**2018-2019 Membership Type and Payment**—*The MSCA fiscal and membership year runs June 1-May 31.*

Family (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

**EXTRA:** Mailed Paper Newsletters (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Tax-Deductible Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and your check to: **MSCA,  
PO Box 6, Magnolia Springs, AL 36555**

If Family Membership, please list any additional members of household for nametags:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Magnolia Springs Community Association  
PO Box 6  
Magnolia Springs, AL 36555**