



MAGNOLIA FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.magnoliaforest.net

Newsletter

•MAGNOLIA FOREST IS A RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS COMMUNITY•

MFHA

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FROM THE EDITOR

Carroll Knowles
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WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

It has been my pleasure to be the editor of the Magnolia Forest Homeowners' Association's Newsletter for seven years. It's time for a change, and we need another association member to step up to the challenge and possibly provide some fresh ideas. As I explained during the December general membership meeting, the editor is part of a team. The editor writes the newsletter, another association member formats it and another association member takes charge of distribution, which includes several members who do the actual distribution to the homes.

This will be the last newsletter I will write.

Hopefully someone will volunteer to take over because, going by the amount of feedback I have received over the years, residents feel the newsletter is an important part of our community. The newsletter is given to all residents and not just association members. Although some association members feel the newsletter should only be given to those who actually pay association dues and participate in keeping our subdivision viable; I have always felt that including all residents in the distribution encourages residents to join the association and take pride in our subdivision. It goes without saying that the editor needs to be a member of the association, but he/she does not have to be on the Association's board.

It has been a rewarding experience to serve on our board in various capacities, including several years as President, and to write the newsletter. Magnolia Forest may be aging, but it is still unique with a strong sense of community. If you have any interest in writing this newsletter or would like to make a suggestion, please contact our 2018 board president, Bernard Ory, or me. I will be happy to answer any questions.

2018 MAGNOLIA FOREST HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION BOARD



L.J. Deris, Pete Giuffria, Bernard Ory, Bob Meltz, Mary Jean Herman, Percy Courseault, Jr. Not Pictured - Larry Campo

The list of 2018 officers and the positions they will fill, along with their contact information, is listed on the front page heading of the newsletter. Congratulations to all and especially a big **thank you** to them for serving. Without a homeowners' association and a board to run it, we would not have maintained entrances, improvements, newsletters, patrols, enforcement of covenants and a host of other duties the board does to protect our property values and keep our subdivision viable.

It goes without saying that we can only have an association if residents join the association. We must have dues to pay for maintenance and improvements. This brings us to a reminder that **2018 DUES ARE DUE**. An envelope is attached to this newsletter to use to mail your dues along with the membership form on the last page. Please be sure to include email addresses for all adults in your household.

The entrance signs at Oak Alley and Fisher have been repainted, and they look great. The short posts at both entrances are on the TO DO list to be painted and may be completed by the time this newsletter is delivered. The custom-made "little roofs" have been installed on our message boards.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR DECEMBER 2017 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- Pete Giuffria was elected to serve on the Homeowners' Association Board. Carroll Knowles and Richard Koen will roll off the board.
- To the delight of the attendees at the meeting, our parish councilman Gene Bellisario announced he will run for another term. The election will be in October, 2019.
- Councilman Bellisario also announced that the 2018 St. Tammany Parish budget has funding of \$66,750 to raise a 550 ft. section of Oak Alley Dr. A request for FEMA to pay the remaining cost has been submitted. It will be the summer or fall of 2018 before we know whether we have been awarded the funding from FEMA. If the funding is secured, the roadway at it deepest point will be raised 12 inches to approximately 10 ft. MSL. The roadway width will remain the same, which is 21 ft. We all know how slow FEMA is, so if all goes according to plan, construction should be completed in the spring of 2019.
- There was a discussion about improving drainage in the subdivision. Residents were asked to help by not planting irises, elephant ears, etc. in the ditches and not dumping leaves and tree trimmings into the ditches. The parish has been cleaning clogged ditches, but that isn't going to help if ditch planting and dumping continues.
- There were also requests that residents cut back branches that are encroaching on the roads or blocking drivers' views of intersecting streets.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR DECEMBER 2017 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (contd)

- Once again, residents complained about litter, including beer cans and bottles, being tossed on to their yards. If you witness this happening or know who is doing it, by all means report it. Instructions for reporting littering can be found on the KSTB website and the parish website. Several residents pick up litter at our entrances and along our streets, but we would appreciate a little more help. Please join the effort if you are physically able.
- Our guest speaker, **Rick Moore**, St. Tammany Litter Enforcement Officer, gave an informative talk about Keep St. Tammany Beautiful (KSTB), which he is Executive Director. Under his leadership, St. Tammany has created a Litter Court which makes it easier to impose fines on litterers. KSTB has also implemented two full-time crews using parish prisoners and a third crew made up of those required to perform community service to pick up litter in unincorporated areas of the parish.

WHAT TO DO



ROOSTERS CROWING

If you are annoyed by rooster crowing, call Animal Services 809-0183.

DITCHES

If you want a ditch cleaned, call Public Works 863-5392.

Christmas Decorating Contest Winners



**DOORS/ENTRANCES
Ginny & Frank Morton, 208 Elmwood**

The home of Ginny and Frank Morton at 208 Elmwood Drive (which actually faces Ormond) won the Door/Entrance category. There were live cone-shaped trees on each side of the door with tiny clear lights woven through them. A door piece with festive red ornaments highlighted the door, and the entire entrance was accented with spotlights. Its elegant simplicity highlighted the entrance.



**ARTISTIC HOME AND YARD
Barbara & Max Boos, 411 Ormond**

The home of Max and Barbara Boos was chosen as winner for the Artistic Home and Yard category. The entire home and yard resembled a Christmas wonderland. The many lights followed the outline of the home's chalet architecture, and continued along the lines of the fences. The circular fountain near the center of the yard was draped with lights, which added to the beauty of the display and nearby was a picturesque nativity scene. The entire home and yard resembled a magical Christmas scene.



**NOVELTY HOME AND YARD
Margo and Greg Necaize, 805 Pine Alley**

The home of Greg and Margo Necaize was chosen as winner in the Novelty Home and Yard category. The string lights wrapped around the large trees were eye-catching, as were the lighted snowflakes in the oak tree. Santa in his sleigh with his reindeer hung high above in the trees. The windows and front door of the home were artistically framed with garland. There were trains, a choir of angels, and a nativity scene all of which gave the yard a magical ambiance.

Christmas Decorating Contest Winners

(Contd.)

Thank you to all who decorated and made our subdivision look spectacular. Judging was done December 15, 2017, by **Carol Hodge, Janet Fouert, Beryl Deris, and Janet Bernard**. The contest is sponsored by **Magnolia Forest Garden Club**. Many other homes and yards deserved to be recognized, which made it difficult for the judges to come to their decisions Each winner was presented a congratulatory card and a lovely potted plant decorated in a holiday theme.

COVENANTS REMINDERS

The covenants for every phase of our subdivision state:

"Permanent parking of recreational vehicles and boats must be in the rear yard or within a carport or garage." The intent of this covenant includes other obvious vehicles such as large commercial trailers, cabs of 18 wheelers, horse trailers, etc.

"No advertising displays or signs shall be permitted on any lot except a sign offering said property for sale or rent."

MAGNOLIA FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

2018 Family Membership \$50 \$ _____
 Beautification Donation \$ _____
 Donation for Extra Sheriff patrols \$ _____
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to MFHA
 Mail to: MFHA
 PO Box 1624
 Pearl River, LA 70452

Name(s) _____

 Street Address _____
 E-Mail Address(s) _____

 Phone _____