



MAGNOLIA FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.magnoliaforest.net

Newsletter

• MAGNOLIA FOREST IS A RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS COMMUNITY •

MFHA

P.O. Box 1624

Pearl River, La. 70452

www.magnoliaforest.net

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MFHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 12/9/20

Our annual general meeting had a great turnout! Residents received updates from our 3 guest speakers on issues that matter to our neighborhood as well as informative MFHA Board updates.

Pete Giuffria reminded homeowners that the two primary purposes for our HOA are to promote safety and help maintain property values in our beautiful subdivision. This year, property values increased from \$100 to \$120 per square foot and typically sold within 4 to 6 weeks. Although Hurricane Zeta (October 28th) resulted in a lot of tree damage in our neighborhood, **Councilman Mike Smith** initiated a parish effort to pick up debris and made Magnolia Forest a priority for storm debris removal, with completion in mid-November. Also, MFHA added a Venmo account to make dues and annual garage sale registration payments more convenient.

Carrol Knowles read through the 3 proposed by laws changes which were all approved unanimously. The by-laws changes were printed in the November 2020 newsletter and will be edited to reflect these changes in early 2021. **Bob Meltz** reported that the HOA membership is 194 and gave a draft summary of the treasurer's report. **Gina Nash** reported on the 2020 Social Committee activities, including June's Bike and Ice event, the annual MFHA Yard sale in early October and the Halloween Hayride as well as a visit from Santa Claus on December 18th and Light Santa's Way on December 24th. **LJ Deris** reported that Magnolia Forest had 12 police patrol so far for 2020, with 2 more planned before the end of the year.

The business portion of the meeting closed with the presentation of the 2021 board, listed below.

- **Pete Giuffria**
- **Bob Meltz**
- **Allison Winkler**
- **Gina Nash**
- **Alisha Arieux**

Lynn Brandt will be leaving the board since she just completed her term. but will stay active as a consultant and help as needed for Magnolia Forest along with **L.J. Deris**, **Percy Courseault**, and **Carroll Knowles**. **Margo Necaiss** is moving, and we are all sad to see her go! A huge **THANK YOU** to these ladies and gentlemen for all their hard work they contributed over the years to help keep our neighborhood safe and help maintain our quality of life.

We need a new board member, or volunteer, to help pick-up Margo's job of updating the message boards at our neighborhood's entrances, and also filling the vacant Neighborhood Properties and Neighborhood Watch position. Please send any interested parties our way!

Waste Management's **Donald Hains** shared that when Waste Management pickup is delayed due to a holiday, the pickup will always be the next day, even if that is a Saturday. Waste Management will pick up whatever is in either WM's garbage bin, or separate trash cans. They do not pick-up loose garbage. And the Magnolia Forest contract with Waste Management is through 2024 and includes pickup twice a week as well as a weekly recycling service.

Councilman Mike Smith commended Magnolia Forest for being one of the better managed HOAs in his district and said it makes his job easier! Mike also discussed the storm drainage project on Military Road between Morgan Bluff and Forest Ridge nearing completion as well as upcoming development near the I-10 overpass. (continued on top of page 2)

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St. Tammany Sherriff **Officer Patrick Casnave** often performs the police patrols in Magnolia Forest. He mentioned that he has placed a mobile black box around the subdivision that monitors nearby traffic patterns and will use this device's data to better inform his future police patrols to catch speeders and stop-sign runners.

The meeting closed with a wine entertainment basket raffle, won by **Beryl Deris**. Thanks to **Select Brands Wine Company's Dwayne Schockley** and **Gina Nash** for the donations and **Pete Giuffria** for helping make this idea a reality!

SANTA COMES TO MAGNOLIA FOREST

On a very cold Dec. 18th, Santa visited over 50 youngsters throughout Magnolia Forest, bearing gifts and providing numerous photo opportunities. Santa's brightly lit and festive trailer arrived at almost 20 homes to the merry sounds of Jingle Bell Rock. Even though we had to practice social distancing, Santa's elves setup a bench in front of Santa so he could have a chat with the children and hopefully kept them still long enough for some wonderful photos.

Thank you to the **Arieux, Barrelle, Girod, and Nash Families** for your generous donations to help make this event possible and an extra special THANK YOU to **Pontchartrain Humane Society's Sam Bailey** and **Alexander and Marelise Nash** for helping bring Christmas joy to our Magnolia Forest family!



LIGHT SANTA'S WAY

Despite a windy Christmas Eve, over 20 Magnolia Forest homes helped to light Papa Noel's journey with brightly lit luminaries, filling our neighborhood with a warm, peaceful Christmas Spirit. The luminaries at our neighborhood's entrances gave an elegant and inviting appearance! (Check out the video footage on our MFHA Facebook page.) Thank you to **Alisha Arieux** for organizing this event. We look forward to an even larger turnout to light Santa's way next year!



DECEMBER NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL REPORT

The Magnolia Forest Homeowners Association sponsored weekly patrols throughout the month of December to help keep our neighborhood safe, from safer road conditions for our pedestrians to deterring any criminal activity that might accompany increased holiday mail deliveries. There were a total of 17 traffic stops, with 6 citations issued. Most of these traffic stops were for failures to stop.

MFGC CHRISTMAS DECORATING JUDGING RESULTS

by **Barbara Burgueno**

The Christmas Decorating Contest for Magnolia Forest Subdivision was sponsored by the Magnolia Forest Garden Club.

The home of **Denny and Kathy McDowell** won the Door/Entrance category. Welcoming angels lit the path to this beautiful front entrance, featuring beveled glass doors adorned with large bell swags in red and gold. A touch of southern charm was added with the lighted Magnolia leaf garland that draped over the double doors and sidelights, accented with red bows, complementing the potted Poinsettias on the porch. Above the garland, an illuminated sign wishing all a very "Merry Christmas."



The home of **Nowell Therrien, Bobby and Tammy Rispoli** was chosen as winner in the Artistic Home and Yard category. With lights abounding everywhere, Santa had a clear path to this home. Illuminated candy canes along the driveway guided you to a large screen projecting a Christmas movie, as well as a large, lighted nativity scene and several of Santa's reindeer nearby. Looking up, you were surrounded by a wonderland of illuminated snowflakes everywhere. To complete this Christmas scene, life size nutcrackers stood guard on either side of the large, beveled glass doors, featuring a "gate" style wreath as well as lighted garland.

The home of **Florence Onstad** was chosen as winner in the Novelty Home and Yard category. At this home, you were greeted by a festival of lights displaying multiple colorful novelty scenes well positioned throughout the large corner lot. Bright red lights led you to the front entrance, where more lights meandered throughout the garland draped on the porch rails and posts. Wreaths with lighted candles hanging on the windows gave the entrance to this home a warm and inviting feel. The driveway featured a large lighted angel holding a star, followed by additional lighting in the shape of colorful Christmas tree bulbs, and more illuminated novelty items, including a Mickey Mouse Santa sitting in his wagon.

Judging was done December 14, 2020, by **Barbara Burgueno, Lynda Donaldson and Suzanne Robinson**. Each winner was presented with a gift card to **Garden Spot Nursery**.



MFHA MEMBERSHIP

Help keep Magnolia Forest beautiful and desirable! All Magnolia Forest residents benefit from the volunteer work of the MFHA board and committee chairs as they attend to the needs of the subdivision. Your dues show your support for our volunteers' efforts. (All board and committee members are volunteers... no portion of your dues are paid to MFHA "staff".) If you have available time and energy to devote to help keep our subdivision informed and looking good, please let a board member know! We would greatly appreciate the help. Contact information is listed on the news-letter cover.

All residents can help maintain and improve our property values, quality of life, safety, and community involvement by paying dues and/or making contributions to the beautification/maintenance or the extra sheriff's patrols funds. Please renew your membership or join for the first time.

Primarily, our dues are used for:

- Lawn service and maintenance at the entrances
- Water bills for the landscaping
- Sheriff patrols in the subdivision
- Printing neighborhood directories
- Legal expenses
- Garden beds maintenance and new plantings
- Message boards and signs repair and maintenance
- Printing the monthly newsletter for all residents
- Office supplies, postage, post office box rental

Annual membership in the Magnolia Forest Homeowners Association is \$50 per household. Dues for 2021 are currently due, as of 1/1/21 and annual membership will expire on 12/31/21. If you haven't already joined, PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE AND SUBMIT YOUR 2021 DUES or use Venmo, a new option to pay your HOA dues electronically.

Venmo is a mobile payment service owned by PayPal. Venmo does not charge fees for payments to and from a linked bank account, nor payments from a debit card or your Venmo balance. There is a 3% fee if you pay using a credit card. To set up payment through Venmo, setup an account using the <https://venmo.com/signup> website. Our username is [@MagnoliaForestHA](#) and our profile picture is a white magnolia. Save yourself some time and the cost of a stamp and pay your HOA dues with Venmo!

HAPPY MARDI GRAS!

Magnolia Forest Club Garden Club member and talented crafter artist, **Barbara Burgueno**, decorated the Fisher Drive and the Oak alley entrances for Mardi Gras. These eye-catching Mardi Gras gnomes will make you smile every time you see them... take a drive by!



MAGNOLIA FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

2021 Family Membership \$50 \$ _____ Name(s) _____

Beautification Donation \$ _____

Donation for Extra Sheriff patrols \$ _____ Street Address _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Email address – For Neighborhood Watch _____

Make check payable to MFHA

Mail to: MFHA
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