

*Mission: To make the Village of Spring Hill a neighborhood center by improving the pedestrian, aesthetic and commercial amenities of the area*

FALL 2011

## POCKET PARK DEDICATED

The Village of Spring Hill's first pocket park was proudly dedicated to the people of Spring Hill on the evening of May 16, 2011. The rousing sounds of the Excelsior Band greeted residents and guests as they gathered near the park. **Linda St. John**, President of The Village of Spring Hill, Inc., welcomed all to the milestone event. **Mayor Sam Jones**, Council Member **Gina Gregory**, and Regions Bank South Alabama President **Joel Daves** all praised the community effort that made the park possible and the commitment of the people of Spring Hill to improving their community. Other elected officials present were Council Member **Reggie Copeland** and County Commissioners **Connie Hudson** and **Merceria Ludgood**.

Following the dedication, the crowd was led by the **Excelsior Band** up Old Shell Road to a delightful reception in the garden of Shamrock Rose & Thistle Tea Room and Gastro Pub in Holiday Place. The Village of Spring Hill is grateful to Tea Room owners **Rhonda and Bill McGinnis** for their warm hospitality. TVSH Board Member **Bradley Sanders** chaired the dedication and reception, ably assisted by **Day Peake** and **Sherry Pierce**.

This little jewel of a park in the heart of the Village was made possible through the generosity of the community. *It was totally private funded. No government funds were used.* Regions Bank granted The Village of Spring Hill use of the land for the park. Initial funding came from The J. L. **Bedsole Foundation**. **Terry Plauché**, landscape architect, donated the design for the

This mini-park, dedicated in May 2011, is designed in keeping with the rich history of Spring Hill. It complements the mission of The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. to make the Village a neighborhood center by improving the pedestrian, aesthetic and commercial amenities of the area. Its realization is made possible through the generosity of the following:

**The J.L. Bedsole Foundation**

**Regions Bank**

**Maynard & LaVeral Sanders**

(Pop Pop and Dolly)

**Alabama Power Company Foundation**

**Hand Arendall LLC**

**Bagby & Russell Electric**

Rotary Club of Mobile-Sunrise

Dorothy S. Outlaw

Donors to The Village of Spring Hill, Inc.

Park design donated by  
Terry Plauche, Landscape Architect

park and provided guidance during its construction. A number of individuals donated benches and trees in honor or in memory of loved ones. Many other individuals made monetary contributions to the project, and other businesses and individuals made in-kind contributions of services and materials. There is a permanent plaque on site that thanks the generous donors (*see inset*).

Spring Hill's first pocket park was designed in keeping with the history of Spring Hill and as an attractive complement to the improvements already in place. The lights, pavers, benches, and tree grates used in the park can be found elsewhere in Village streetscapes that have been implemented. The park is another step in the realization of *The Blueprint for Spring Hill*, the master plan that was adopted to create a safer, more walkable and more beautiful Spring Hill community.

*Enjoy your park! Relax on one of the benches! Admire the seasonal blooming flowers!*

--MORE DETAILS INSIDE!

*This newsletter is made possible by generous contributions of:*



**FAMILY  
PHARMACY  
OF SPRING HILL**



**Hancock Bank**



**WHITNEY**

# Thank You, Hap...



His heart was in Spring Hill where he grew up. Just as his parents before him, he was dedicated to his community and to his church, and when called

upon, he broadened his reach of service to the State of Alabama as a Senator in the state legislature from 1994 to 2006. Harry E. Myers, Jr., known affectionately as Hap (later shortened to Hap when he ran for Senate), wore many hats as a community leader and earned great respect and admiration among those with whom he served. He and his lovely wife, Toni, had the successful business Antoinette's Antiques for a number of years in the heart of Spring Hill.

With a warm smile and a positive attitude, Hap Myers was always ready to step forward to help his community or to advocate a cause. Such was the case when the newly formed non-profit organization The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. sought his counsel in 2006. He immediately embraced the organization's vision and secured a \$300,000 state grant to hire a city planner who could help the residents, businesses and city representatives come together for a plan to preserve the future of the Spring Hill community. Thus was born *The Blueprint for Spring Hill*. The grant also funded initial improvements to our neighborhood center, in particular the purchase of 10 old Mobile benches which grace the streets of the Village. Our community will forever be grateful for the key role Hap Myers played during those early, important beginnings of The Village of Spring Hill.

The Board of Directors mourns the loss of one of Spring Hill's finest. Let us all look around at the improvements in our Village and salute this man who had an important part in making it happen.

# POCKET PARK MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Memorial and special gifts of benches and trees by community members were a major part in making the Pocket Park a reality. The wording on each plaque is listed below:

## BENCHES

In loving memory of  
C.L. "Buddy" Cookson  
Polly Cookson

In memory of Russell Terry  
Given by his Family

Given in the Spirit of Community by  
Sissy & Doug Hungerford

Given by Linda & Sam St. John

In loving memory of  
Ibby McDonough  
James Bailey McDonough, Jr.

Given by  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H. O'Melia

## TREE PLANTINGS BY:

Dr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Myers  
In loving memory of  
Margaret Cookson Myers  
Betty Bell Greer

Mrs. R. Denny Wright  
In memory of Dr. R. Denny Wright

In loving memory of  
Sarah & Jim McLean  
By their Children & Grandchildren

Audrey & Max Goldberg  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Herman Ungar

In memory of  
Fred W. Taul By his Family  
Spring Hill Garden Club

## Planted in the Pocket Park...



OKAME CHERRIES  
(deciduous trees with pale pink blooms in the spring)



SAVANNAH HOLLIES  
(tall evergreen trees with red berries)



MINE-NO-YUKI SASANQUAS  
(evergreen shrubs with white blooms in fall)



ABELIA (evergreen shrubs with small white flowers spring through fall)



SHI-SHI SASANQUAS (small evergreen shrubs with pink blooms in fall)



LIMELIGHT HYDRANGEAS  
(large hydrangeas with soft green summer blooms)



KNOCKOUT ROSES

**Seasonal flowers** planted by Mike Chadwell of Spring Hill Landscape, who also maintains the park at no cost to the Village. *Thank you, Mike!*





## The Seen & Behind the Scene

The scene in the Village of Spring Hill has undoubtedly changed for the better over the past five years. Great strides have been made in creating a more attractive, safer and walkable community, thanks to the wonderful response of residents and businesses who have continued to support TVSH's efforts and those property owners who have made the necessary improvements to meet the streetscape codes set forth in the master plan.

Both the **seen** and the **unseen** aspects of our improvements rely heavily on the support of membership dues and contributions. Readily visible are the **flowers** in the plaza planter in front of CVS and in the recently completed **pocket park** next to Regions Bank. These beds are replaced seasonally. Our Village clock which was purchased with dues and donations by residents and community businesses requires yearly maintenance. In the early years of our organization, TVSH board members worked diligently with city and state officials to obtain funding for **sidewalks**, **benches** and the improved Old Shell/McGregor **intersection**, all of which greatly enhance the aesthetics and enjoyment of our Village scene.

Many improvements, projects and expenditures, however, are less visible or unseen. Much planning goes on behind the scene as Board members actively give of their time and talent to make things continue to happen in the Village.

▶ Whenever given the opportunity, Board members **meet** with individuals who may be interested in developing property in the designated areas of *The Blueprint for Spring Hill*. It is important to inform developers of the benefits of using the new optional coding found in the *Blueprint* and facilitate their understanding of its use.

▶ The Board continues to encourage property owners to build out the **streetscapes** in the Village. A built-out streetscape includes trees, grates, sidewalks and street lights. The Board has worked with Holiday Place, CVS, Regions Bank, and AT&T to implement their streetscapes in keeping with the master plan. The Village of Spring Hill is happy to work with any property owner or group within the designated areas of the *Blueprint* who wishes to im-

prove their streetscape. Further, the Board can act as an advocate to help them with city of Mobile department contacts and to facilitate the completion of their project.

▶ The VSH has funded **electrical boxes** which had to be installed to furnish power to the decorative street lights now in place. Two boxes have now been installed to date and additional ones will be added as the streetscapes are built out in the future.

▶ **Feasibility studies** and **engineering** costs have been expended so that several projects can be "shovel-ready" when it is time to apply for a city, state or county grant. A "**shovel-ready**" project has a better chance of being funded over those that are in the initial planning stage. **Engineering** has been done for sidewalks down the north side of Old Shell Road to connect Lavretta Park with the already existing sidewalks to Langan Park. A **feasibility study** has been done for the proposed roundabout project at McGregor and Museum Drive. The Board is continuing to work with City Council Members **Gina Gregory** and **Reggie Copeland**, County Commissioner **Connie Hudson** and State Representative **Jamie Ison** to complete construction drawings so that the project will be "shovel-ready" once funding is secured.

▶ **Communication** is vital to the success of TVSH. Board members donate their expertise to maintain the organization's website, produce a yearly newsletter which is generously sponsored by community businesses, and distribute updates through its extensive emailing capability.

▶ The Board continues to **write grants** for funding to improve our community and to make it a safer and more attractive place to live.

Your continued membership and support is appreciated and is vital if we are to see additional improvements to our community. Building on our spirit as a close knit community is not only good for the health and wellbeing of our neighborhood, but it opens many doors as we work together to make our community the best that it can be. The Board thanks you for your contributions, your ideas and your volunteer services!! As our motto says, *Together we are Improving our Community.*



# The Changing Landscape...

Below are just a few **Before & After** photos that show how the landscape of our Village is changing. There are so many more--sidewalks, benches, beautiful street lighting and safer, more attractive intersections, to name a few. Be proud of what our community has accomplished. Your continuing support will maintain the positive energy needed for future improvements.



POCKET PARK



CVS CORNER



FRONT OF HOLIDAY PLACE



*'After' photos by Dave Synder*

## Another step on the sidewalks...

Sidewalks have been at the top of the Spring Hill wish list from the beginning of our organization. They are a key component of the Village Master Plan, supporting the connectivity of neighborhoods to schools, churches and parks and to our commercial areas within the Village.

The Village of Spring Hill, with the help of Representative **Jamie Ison**, was successful in securing a Transportation Enhancement Grant for \$379,000 to construct sidewalks down the south side of Old Shell Road. The popularity of these sidewalks has led us to pursue the necessary engineering for sidewalks on the north side as well. **TVSH continues to seek funding for this project through every source possible.**



*'After' photos by Dave Synder*





# CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL

## Sunday, December 4th

Every year the merchants in Spring Hill work hard to showcase their businesses with an open-house style event and to spread the Christmas spirit throughout the Village. This year's event will be on **Sunday, December 4th from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.** in the heart of the Village shopping area. The traditional celebration will include carriage rides and photos with Santa, lighting of the Christmas tree and an art walk with dozens of artists displaying their work. The stores will be open for shopping and refreshments. This is the Spring Hill Merchants Association gift to you and your family each year!! *Hope to see you on the Hill!*

### TIRED OF SEEING PEOPLE LITTERING?

Hate to see cigarette butts or trash flying out of a vehicle window?

Take matters into your own hand!

**Call the AT&T Litterbug Hotline and report the litterbug!**

AT&T users can dial #KMB  
Others can dial **208-6025**

We'll need the tag number, location, what was tossed and if it was the driver or passenger.

*Feel better about life! Report a litterbug today!*



### NEW SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Perhaps your neighborhood would like to follow the lead of some other neighborhood groups and replace old street signs with new, attractive ones available through the City of Mobile. The decorative street signs are iron-like black posts with ball finials and winter green nameplates. The street signs as well as new stop signs are in keeping with the signage used by the Village of Spring Hill in the main intersection of Old Shell Road and McGregor Avenue. For neighborhoods who would like to raise funds for new street signs and would like more information, contact:

Ira Wells  
City of Mobile Traffic Engineering Dept.  
(251) 554-9481  
[ira.wells@cityofmobile.org](mailto:ira.wells@cityofmobile.org)

or view information online at  
[www.cityofmobile.org/govt\\_sign\\_post.php](http://www.cityofmobile.org/govt_sign_post.php)



Friend:	\$35 - 99
Contributor:	\$100 - 249
Supporter:	\$250 - 499
Sustainer:	\$500 - 999
Patron:	\$1,000 +

*The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.*



**Mail form to:**  
The Village of Spring Hill  
4354-A Old Shell Rd. #145  
Mobile, AL 36608-2011

## Time to Renew...

your yearly membership. Invest in the community where you live by joining The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. Your generous contributions are KEY to successfully improving our Village.

2012 Membership the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation in honor or memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also choose to pay online at [www.thevillageofspringhill.com](http://www.thevillageofspringhill.com)





4354-A Old Shell Rd. #145  
Mobile, Alabama 36608

[www.thevillageofspringhill.com](http://www.thevillageofspringhill.com)

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# Kudos To...

- ▶ **Susan Carley** (for seizing the initiative to get a crosswalk in place at Old Shell Road and Ridgelawn Drive East)
- ▶ **Bert Hoffman** (for encouraging Regions Bank to place the bicycle rack in front of their Spring Hill branch)
- ▶ **Private Collection** (for adding the attractive tile roof to their building, which enhances the beauty of the new pocket park adjacent to their property)
- ▶ **Dave Synder** for area photographs and **Carolyn Miller Design** for newsletter layout
- ▶ Pocket Park Dedication and Reception Assistance:
  - ◆ **Shamrock Rose & Thistle Tea Room and Gastro Pub** (refreshments)
  - ◆ **Carpé Diem Coffee & Tea Company** (coffee)
  - ◆ **Susan Thompson** (refreshments)
  - ◆ **Elizabeth's Garden** (flowers)
  - ◆ **Vic Companies LLC** (printing)
  - ◆ **Justin Fobes** (music)
  - ◆ **City of Mobile Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services**—Greg Cyprian (logistical set up for pocket park dedication)
  - ◆ **City of Mobile Police Department**—Capt. Eddie Patrick (traffic control)
  - ◆ **Friends of The Village of Spring Hill**



## IN MEMORIAM

Members of the Board of The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. wish to express their sympathy to the family of **Sullins Stuart Arendall**. With her love for her community, her years of business experience and her devotion to the Spring Hill Baptist Church, she had much to contribute to TVSH board on which she served since its inception. Her warmth and outreach touched many in our community, and we will all miss her terribly.