

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

FALL 2012

Moorer Library Features a New Front Entrance

The Village of Spring Hill partners with local foundations on project

The Monte L. Moorer branch of the Mobile Public Library, since its opening in 1968, has been a foundation for the Spring Hill community and an important asset to the City of Mobile as a whole. "Our" library in the heart of our village is one of the busiest in the Mobile Public Library system. Last year it served over 166,000 visitors, with over 240,000 items being circulated.

Through a generous donation from the **Monte L. Moorer Foundation**, the Village of Spring Hill has renovated the front exterior plaza of the library to better serve the people in Mobile. The plaza has been transformed from an unused area into a multi-function courtyard capable of hosting cultural, artistic and community events under the existing heritage Live Oak tree. Through the purchase of new security equipment the library has become more accessible to pedestrians by allowing the front doors to once again be opened to the public.

Additional renovations include attractive landscaping. Grass and low groundcover dominate the courtyard plantings creating a large outdoor green space for community events and allowing the library to expand its programming beyond its doors. Drake Elm trees have been planted for shade, outdoor seating has been installed for relaxing and reading, and an irrigation system has been added. A planter in the center of the courtyard enhances the space and is now home to the first public sculpture placed by The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. The sculpture, "The Flame of Knowledge,"

is the creation of local metal artist Frank Ledbetter. It was made possible through a generous donation from the **Hearin-Chandler Foundation**. Noted Mobile artist Eugenia Foster has painted a watercolor rendering of the courtyard (shown above), which she will gift to the library for display at the Moorer branch.

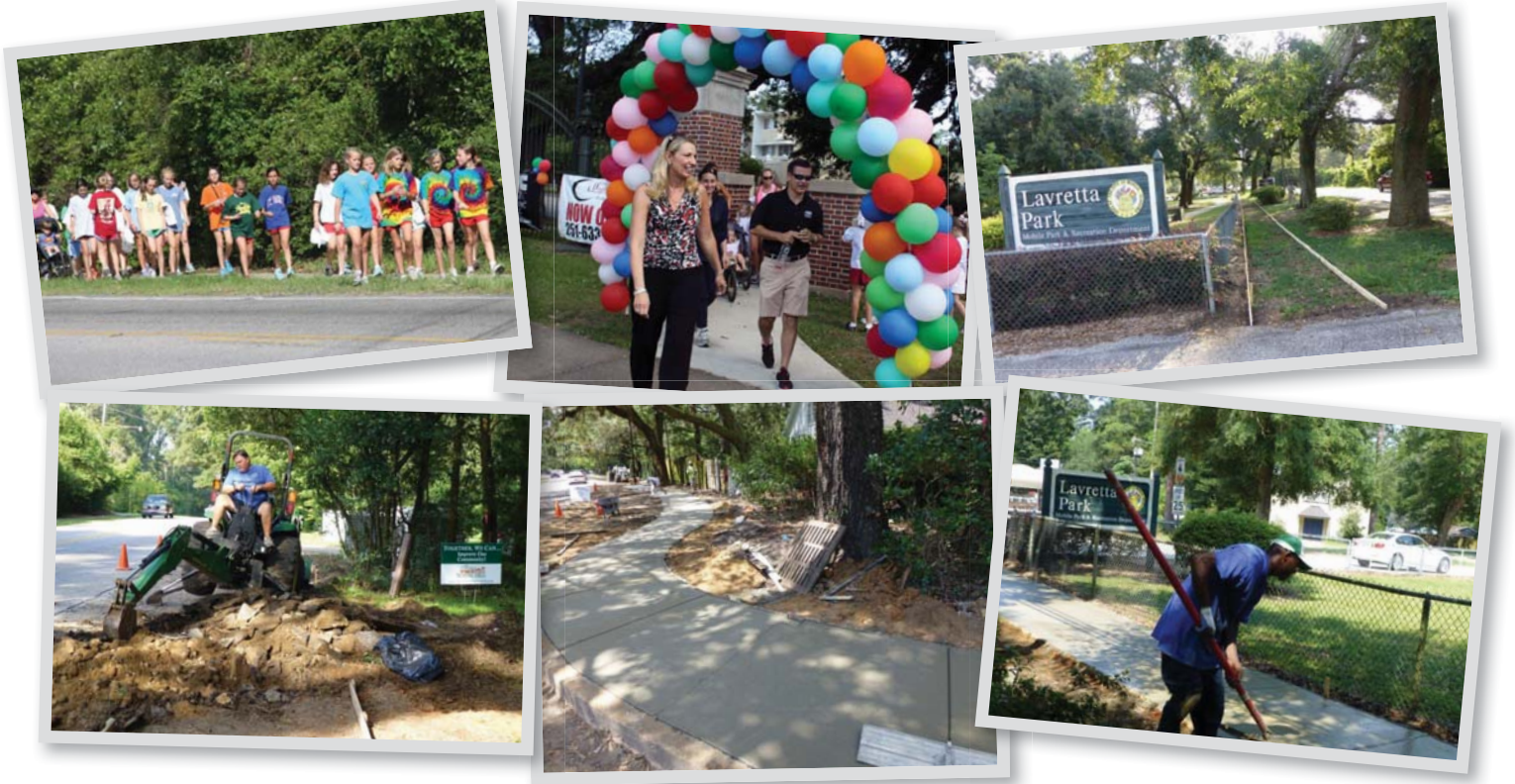
These improvements to the library not only complement the Village of Spring Hill Master Plan, but they also make the library more appealing and functional through the creation of this cultural pocket park for the benefit of the entire community.

The courtyard and sculpture will be formally dedicated and the Foster painting will be presented on November 15.

This newsletter was made possible in part by the generous contribution of



Sidewalks in the Village Keep Us on the Move!



Did you know that in the seven years since The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. began the sidewalk initiative in the Village, over **63,360 square feet of sidewalks** have been installed along Old Shell Road?

In addition to the sidewalks down the South side of Old Shell Road, sidewalks have recently been installed on the North side of Old Shell Road fronting Lavretta Park and continuing to Ridgelawn Drive West. Funding for this stretch of sidewalks was initiated by the children of the Spring Hill community with the first annual Village **Sidewalk-A-Thon** held on April 27. With over 500 participants, the walk began on the campus of Spring Hill College and proceeded one mile west to Lavretta Park. "More than \$21,000 was raised by these ambitious children," said Linda St. John, president of The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. "We are proud of each and every one of them." The children enthusiastically embraced the project with fund raising endeavors such as lemonade stands and solicitation of their neighbors and adult friends. The lead sponsor of the event was **Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic PC**, with TVSH board member Susan Carley chairing the event. *(Please see listing of all sponsors of the Walk on TVSH website.)*

This sidewalk project started by children in the community was able to expand thanks to a generous grant from **The J. L. Bedsole Foundation**, which funded the sidewalks fronting Lavretta Park and the adjacent parking lot. The Foundation recognized the benefit of a sidewalk network not only to

improve the connectivity and safety within the community but also to extend health benefits to everyone using them to walk, run and stroll in the area.

It requires community support to bring projects like this to fruition. Just shy of the funding goal to extend the sidewalks all the way to Ridgelawn Drive West, generous donations from the **E. E. Delaney Foundation, International Shipholding Corporation, Lap's Grocery & Grill, Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Madonia, and residents of Ravine Woods** gave the project the boost it needed to be completed.

Enhancements planned for the crosswalk at the intersection of Parkway West and Old Shell Road will connect these new sidewalks on the North side to the existing sidewalks on the South side of Old Shell Road, giving safer access to the commercial center of our Village.

In addition to the sidewalk funding, a generous grant from the **Hearin-Chandler Foundation** provided five signature Village lights for placement in front of the sidewalks by Lavretta Park, thereby improving the safety of anyone enjoying this wonderful amenity in our

community. The Foundation's interest in our efforts helped complete an exciting project for our Village.

A dedication ceremony for the sidewalks is scheduled for April 26, 2013, in conjunction with the second annual Sidewalk-A-Thon. Check the Village website or Facebook page for details as the date approaches—www.thevillageofspringhill.com.

**Help us continue
the sidewalk initiative
in our Village
by planning now to
support the
2013
Sidewalk-A-Thon
to be held
Friday, April 26th**

Alabama Power Brightens Spring Hill Substation

Have you noticed the new look of the Alabama Power substation on McGregor Avenue? The Village of Spring Hill appealed to Power Company executives to camouflage the equipment that brings us power with a decorative wall and landscape features. The Village submitted plans and drawings that also included TVSH streetscape with a 12' sidewalk, two trees with tree grates and one of our signature streetlights. The new wall that now surrounds the station consists of wooden arches between columns of old brick, selected with the help of architect Craig Roberts, and a planter for seasonal flowers. Citing broad community support and financial commitment in recent improvements by TVSH, Alabama Power made the plan a reality. *Thank you, Alabama Power, for your partnership and investment in our community!*



Christmas on the Hill Sunday, December 2, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Join your friends and neighbors for this favorite, fun-filled holiday happening! Christmas on the Hill is the annual family event created and promoted by the **Spring Hill Merchants Association** and the individual merchants of the Spring Hill area. Shopkeepers will once again open their doors with special store hours, holiday refreshments, sleigh rides and photos with Santa, holiday music and a variety of children's activities as well as sales and special merchandise promotions. Plus, the afternoon will feature an "Art Walk" with dozens of artists displaying their work in front of Spring Hill merchants' shops. Capping the day's activities will be a family-friendly holiday movie shown at 5:30 p.m. The movie will be free to the public. For additional information, visit the "Spring Hill Merchants Association" on Facebook.



Kudos To...

- **BankTrust** for enhancing their signage with plantings according to TVSH landscape plan.
- **Mike Chadwell** for landscape maintenance of clock plaza and pocket park and for planting azaleas in a section of the new sidewalks on the north side of Old Shell Road.
- **Gene Hendrix** of Hendrix Tree Service for stump removal along Old Shell Road.
- **Tommy Latham**, with Clark, Geer, Latham & Associates, Inc., for engineering services in the Library courtyard project.
- **The Cedars neighborhood** for landscape improvements at the entrance on McGregor Avenue.
- There is a new little garden tucked away in **Holiday Place**. "Mickey's Garden" was created as a memorial to Mickey Crosby, a co-owner of Holiday Place, who always wanted to see this part of the property become a quiet place for visitors to sit and enjoy.

Recognition for the Village

At the Historic Mobile Preservation Society's Annual Meeting on May 10, The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. was presented the **New Commercial Construction Award** in recognition of the organization's involvement in influencing the design and construction of the CVS building and plaza at the corner of Old Shell Road and McGregor Avenue. This is the first year the award has been presented, and HMPS wanted to recognize the historical significance of the Spring Hill community and the efforts of the Village in preserving the character of the neighborhood.

Two TVSH board members also received individual recognition of their contributions to historic preservation: **Ruth Austill** was presented the Croom Award by the Historic Mobile Preservation Society for her ongoing efforts to preserve her historic home in the heart of Spring Hill. **Day Peake** was presented a banner and shield by the Mobile Historic Development Commission for his neoclassical revival home in Spring Hill in recognition of the historical significance of the home and his recent restoration. *Congratulations, Ruth and Day!*



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- Carol Hunter
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What's Next?

TREES: Imagine waking up one morning and someone had planted 67 additional Drake Elm trees in our Village center! Well, it won't happen overnight, but it is going to happen very soon. Many have commented on the beauty of the Drake Elms that now grace Old Shell Road. This variety of elm tree is selected for its drought and disease resistance and for its tolerance to pollution. Yes, they will replace the current Bradford Pear trees which are *many* years beyond their prime. Next April look forward to the beautiful new green growth that these trees will provide in the heart of Spring Hill.

ROUNDABOUT: In continuing the efforts to implement elements of our Master Plan, The Village of Spring Hill funded a feasibility study along with preliminary design and engineering for a traffic roundabout to replace the dangerous, dysfunctional intersection of North McGregor Avenue and Museum Drive. TVSH met with **Commissioner Connie Hudson** and County and City engineers to discuss the proposed intersection improvements. We are pleased to announce that through this Village initiative and with the support and assistance of **Councilmember Gina Gregory**, this project has been included for funding by Mobile County's proposed 2012 Transportation Pay-As-You-Go Road Improvement Program. Construction may occur as early as 2015.



Time to Renew...

your **yearly** pledge to invest in the community where you live by supporting The Village of Spring Hill, Inc. Your generous contributions are KEY to successfully improving our Village.

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

2013 Pledge in the amount of: \$ _____

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