



## CHAIR'S REPORT

On December 10, "Light Up Magnolia Point!" took place, and what a night it was! Through the generosity of residents purchasing luminary kits and/or making donations, over \$9,000 was raised this year to help further education goals of girls at Clay High School! Since 2003, we've raised a total of \$146,000 through June of this year.

# LUMINARY NIGHT '22

I have experienced five Luminary Nights since moving here, and my

participation in and enthusiasm for the event has grown each year, leading me to chair the project for the Magnolia Point Women's Club this year. I was not always as appreciative of this event as I currently am; maybe some of you can relate.

I had not experienced a Luminary Night as an adult until I moved to Magnolia Point in December 2018. The ink had barely dried on my closing contract when Luminary Night took place my first year and I missed it entirely. It was a total non-event to me.

My second Luminary Night, I flat out did not participate. I was distracted, misplaced my paperwork, and did not pay attention to the details, plus I did not realize it was such a big deal for the neighborhood. The next morning, when I saw the bags on the street, I felt like a real party-pooper. I swore I would not let myself or my neighbors down again.

I participated in my third Luminary Night, but the experience for my poor block captain was akin to herding cats because she had to track me down at least three, maybe four times before she finally had my order and money. I remember being at home that night, thinking how lovely my street looked but how lonely I felt experiencing it all by myself. At that moment, I realized I needed to know more than my immediate neighbors so I could truly share in this communal experience. The onus was on me to make a change.

By my fourth Luminary Night, I had finally joined the Magnolia Point Women's Club to meet people and get involved in our community. I joined the luminary committee when I learned 100% of the profits of the event funds scholarships for girls at our Clay High. I knew I would be out of town on the actual night of the event, so I asked my neighbors if I could pay their son a few dollars to set up and tear down my luminary kits – it would be a win/win for both of us. They fortunately agreed, so while I was physically not there, my house was present in the moment, and I felt good about the outcome.

Finally, this year, my fifth Luminary Night, I went "whole hog" as the expression goes. I continued meeting new neighbors through the women's club and selling luminary kits, assisted neighbors in setting their lanterns up, invited family over, and even rented two golf carts from the golf shop to participate in the parade. It will be a precious memory for me, long after my 90-year old dad is gone, to remember him in the cart with me, yelling, "Ho! Ho! Ho!" to the neighbors as we passed. We finished our amazing evening ride at the clubhouse where truly delicious food was served from the food tents, then collapsed back at my house, laughing at our memories of the night. So, what's my point? I am not sure, except to say that participating in "Light Up Magnolia Point!" is so much better than NOT participating in it. I've done both! For me, our luminary event this year was a celebration of life, hope, fun, charity, community, beauty, family, and memory, and I hope it was for you, too. Let's do it again next year!

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# SO MANY TO THANK...



A heartfelt thank-you also goes to the Rothfels and the staff of Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club for putting on a fantastic Luminary Golf Cart Parade and providing Luminary Food Tents with specialty themed items for the event. The parade was great fun and the food creations clever and delicious. Your assistance and leadership in spreading cheer and enthusiasm for the evening's events is very much appreciated.

Volunteers are at the heart of this event because without them, it would not take place. Thank you, members of the Magnolia Point Women's Club (and spouses, in some cases), for your time and dedication to making the event so fun and enjoyable. From preparing the luminary kits to selling and distributing them, your passion for our fundraiser was evident and your enthusiasm contagious. This year's block captains were:

*Marguerite Martin • Marilyn Forbes • Nancy Nettuno • Melody Johnson • Barbara Phelps • Patricia Nisley • Dee Butler • Dianne Dearth • Nancy Seago • Kathleen Crook • Debi Austin • Marcia Blackwell • Jackie Maneval • Shirley Orvosh • Anita King • Sue Tucker • Bonnie Sprinkle • Lori Miller • Carrie Cardascia • Kathie Cardon • Sandy Waldrup • Joanne Montzka • Cheryl Kennedy • Nancy Zavislak • Brenda Frey • Alecia Dixon • Debbie Shvetzov • Donna Habing • Janine O'Connor • Barbara Coker • Susan Mitchell • Patricia Jolly • Kimberly LaPorte • Marty Essex • Sue Dake • Eloise Burman • Marlene Melton Jacobs • Cissy Burnette • Joan Braatz • Sara Spurrier*

-SARAH MCWHORTER  
MPWC LUMINARY CHAIR

