

THE INTOWN INSIDER

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December 2020

Looking Back and Moving Forward

Annual Open Meeting Held Virtually and Goals Set for the New Year

This sure has been a challenging year for InTown residents and citizens of the world alike. It has been difficult missing your friendly faces and the togetherness that makes InTown Macon such a great place to live.

Despite an inability to host events, the board has been hard at work all year and the annual open meeting was held virtually on Nov. 8th. Attendance for the virtual meeting was low as we are still learning the best way to connect with members in the current environment. It was still a productive meeting, however, and InTown has high hopes for the upcoming year.

The first goal is to increase and improve communication, starting right here with this newslet-

ter! Next, is to ensure the following year involves opportunities to serve the downtown community. Another goal is to improve use of technology. This includes taking ownership of the Lights Over Macon website and improving the InTown Macon website. Last, but not least, is to foster relationships amongst neighbors. This last objective is obviously challenging in the current climate, but your board is determined to maintain and enhance the community of InTown Macon.

Here's to an improved 2021 and a future filled with community togetherness and solidarity. Until we are able to operate with some sense of normalcy, please let us know how we can best support you and your family right now.

Halloween Success, Tour of Homes and More

It has been disheartening to see so many beloved InTown events cancelled this past year. It was especially sad to cancel the annual Holiday Party and postpone the 2020 Holiday Tour of Homes, but the safety of InTown residents remains a top priority. There are tentative plans for social events and community service projects in the upcoming year. Decisions on these events will be made as public health data and recommendations of health experts are updated and reviewed.

For those who signed into the annual meeting, the possibility of an outdoor holiday gathering was discussed. The



Deborah Byrne accepts the first InTown Halloween decorating contest award for her spooky setup on High Street. Deborah is already hard at work on her Christmas decorations, so be sure to check them out.



See SOCIAL on Pg. 3

Walking Tour Lights up InTown Homes

Lights on Macon Sees Major Progress in 2020

You may have noticed little grey numbered lamp post signs in front of homes in your neighborhood. These signs designate a home on the "Lights On Macon Illuminated Tour."

Lights On Macon is an illuminated walking tour organized and managed by InTown Macon. The tour, which features 156 properties, is funded with grant money, so homeowners have no cost for installation.

The tour is a great socially distanced ac-



Little gray lamp post signs mark homes on the tour



The home of Lee and Becky Oliver sits on the corner of Georgia Avenue and College Street. The lighting system was recently upgraded to more energy efficient LED lights

tivity and a fun way to learn about many of the beautiful homes in your neighborhood.

A lot of progress was made

Find more information www.lightsonmacon.com

this year, to include multiple new installations and LED light upgrades. None of this would be possible without the hard work of Zone 2 board member, Art Howard.

If your system is in need of repair or are interested in being a part of the tour, please email secretary@intownmacon.com.

You can learn more about the tour and download a map of the featured homes at <http://www.lightsonmacon.com>. The InTown Macon board is in the process of taking over that website, so be on the look out for updates and improvements!

Holiday Cheer

It's hard to beat Suzan Rivers of High Street for holiday cheer. Even her outdoor lions are caught up in the spirit of the season.

You can see her decorations in all their glory on the next InTown Holiday Tour of Homes, which will now take place in December 2021.

InTown Advocates for Preservation of Historic Roads, Sidewalks, Curbs

Historic preservation goes beyond the maintenance and upkeep of homes. Part of InTown Macon's charm comes from the historic sidewalks, brick roads, and granite curbing. InTown would like to ensure that when maintenance is performed, these features are repaired correctly with like materials and the neighborhood is not left with poor patch jobs.

Please help Intown identify other areas of concern and send pictures and information to secretary@intownmacon.com or message us on Facebook.

Matt Widner, Zone 1 board representative and 2018 President, is working with Historic Macon and city maintenance



A section of Orange St was recently dug up for water line maintenance and was not restored with matching brick

crews to establish protective policies to ensure the preservation of these neighborhood features.

2020 INTOWN MACON HALLOWEEN



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board will not move forward with this event in light of current safety recommendations.

We are optimistic about the possibilities for informal, outdoor gatherings when the weather warms up. A private area has also been reserved for InTown Night at the Macon Bacon game on June 12th, Star Wars Night and planning is underway for the 2021 Holiday Tour of Homes.

The board is extremely grateful to the community for pulling off a safe and fun evening of trick-or-treating this Halloween. The impressive and creative methods of passing out candy allowed trick-or-treaters and residents to participate safely. As always, decorations did not disappoint. Since a Halloween party was not possible, a decorating contest was held. Many homes were worthy of recognition, but Deborah and Kevin Byrne on High Street took home the trophy. A huge thank you to everyone that participated.

Tiny Space, Big Potential

The new year will kick off with a focus on community service. The Thomas Cleveland James Park on the corner of Georgia Avenue and College Street is affectionately known to many as “The TARDIS Park.” This small patch of land has a big visual impact in our community.

Sadly, The Dr. Who themed little library had fallen into disrepair and was deemed structurally unsound. Parts were salvaged

and the city recently cleared the remaining structure.

The good news is the parks department has given InTown permission to redesign the park. The board is currently soliciting ideas for how to use this space. If you have an idea or wish to be involved please email secretary@intownmacon.com or text 478-952-0236. A committee will be formed after the new year and will begin working on the space.



The Little Library, now removed, from Thomas Cleveland James Park

Historic Macon to Sell Birthplace of Sidney Lanier

Historic Macon voted to close the museum honoring noted poet, musician, and solidier, Sydney Lanier this past year. The historic landmark was listed for sale this month and was under contract the same day. Proceeds from the sale will go towards the Lanier Education Fund

and stipulations were made to ensure future owners keep it a single family home in perpetuity and follow guidelines to maintain the historic integrity of the property.

For more information on Sidney Lanier and the home, visit www.historicmacon.org/sidney-lanier-cottage.



The Sidney Lanier Cottage on High Street

Volunteers Needed

Email secretary@intown.com or text 478-952-0236 to learn more about the following opportunities:

Zone Captains

Zone captains are needed for zones 1, 2, 4, & 6 (see map to the right). Zone captains serve as social contacts for each area, getting to know members and keeping an eye out for new residents.

2021 Holiday Tour of Homes

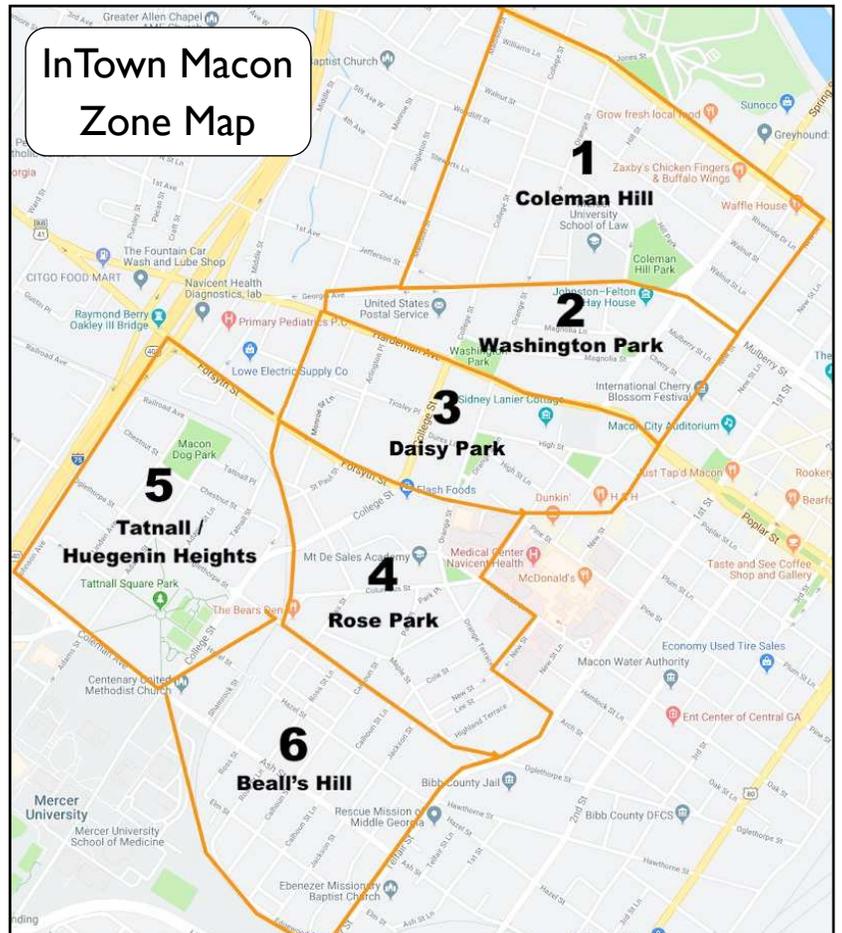
We need assistance with planning, budgeting, and marketing for the tour taking place December 2021.

Admin. Assistance

Non recurring assistance with distribution of fliers and communication. Also need detailed oriented volunteers to assist with records management.

Newsletter

We need editors, writers, photographers, and those skilled at planning and organizing to publish on a regular basis



The InTown Macon Neighborhood Association is a voluntary association consisting of members who live in and/or care about the downtown Macon neighborhoods. We are a non-profit 501 c3 organization. Our goals are to make InTown Macon a wonderful place to live by helping neighbors meet and connect, advocating for the historic preservation of our neighborhoods, and by giving back to our community.

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