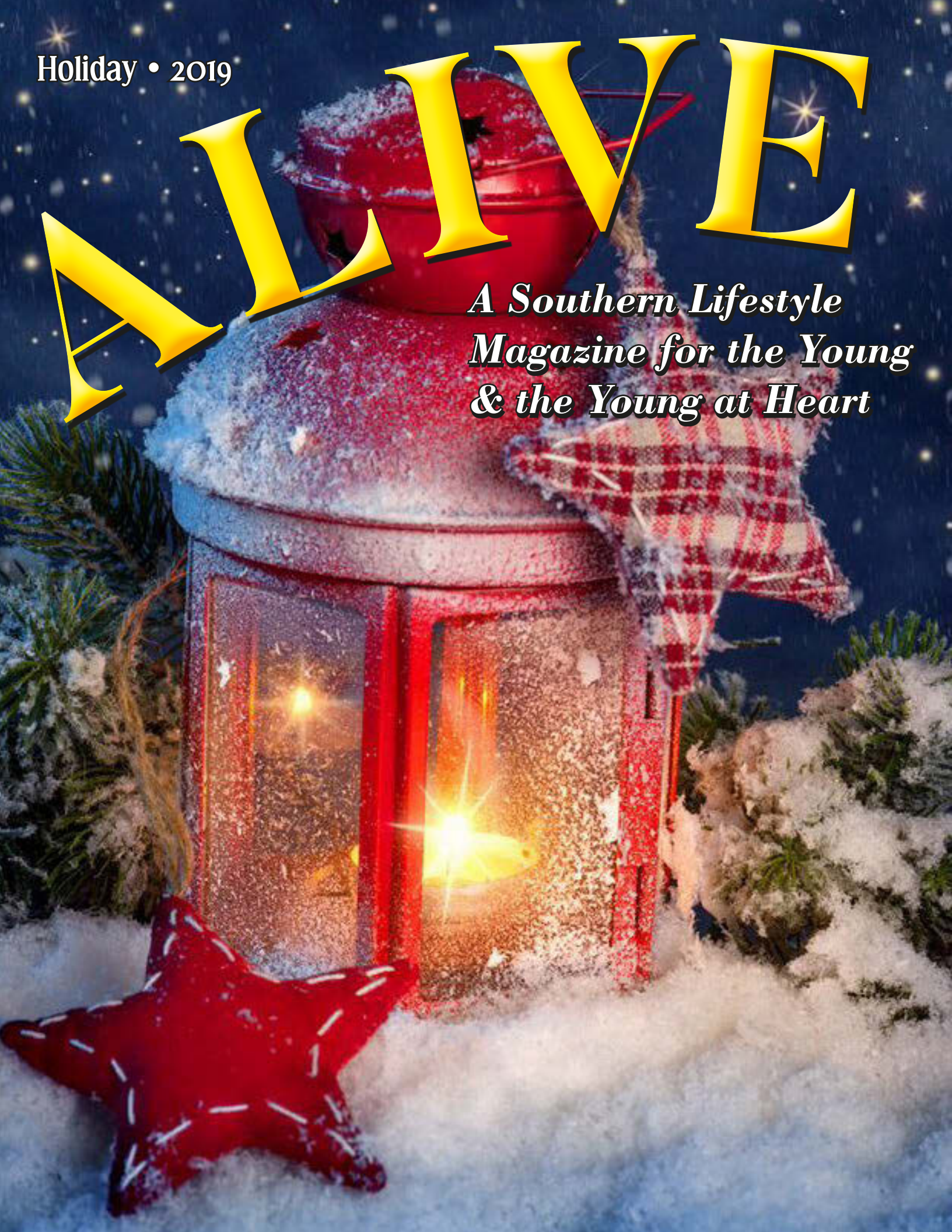


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Alive Magazine is just what it says it is. A southern lifestyle magazine for the young and the young at heart. Our area is rich in colorful characters, exciting community events, distant and not-so-distant history all wrapped up with some southern hospitality. We are proud of where we are from and want to celebrate those things that make us who we are. Hopefully you are holding in your hands one of many Alive Magazines and we hope you enjoy the dirt road with us.

IN THIS ISSUE

1 Southern Christmas Traditions and Legends

4 Wreaths Across America - a fitting honor

12 Lend Me Your Ears and Experience The Magic

15 Our Scrapbook

18 Lights, Camera ... Even More Lights!

23 Down Home Cooking Recipes

26 Santa's Village is a 35 Year Old Tradition

28 Downtown Paris has Holiday Fun for Everyone

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written by: Teresa Jones

Southern Christmas Traditions & Legends



Southern Christmas Traditions and legends run almost as deep as our own southern roots. Many are passed down through the generations and many are unique to one's own family. Although in 1831 Georgia was the first state to declare Christmas a state holiday, it was in 1834 when Alabama recognized Christmas a legal holiday. That same year, the week before Christmas, "A Christmas Carol" published by Charles Dickens appeared on bookshelves. The story's character named Scrooge demanded his employee, Mr. Cratchit work on Christmas day. At the time, the U.S. Congress also met on Christmas day. The book brought to light that Christmas celebrations were so important the state declared Christmas as a legal holiday.

Louisiana and Arkansas soon followed suit and on June 26, 1870, the U.S. had declared Christmas an official holiday.

The beginning of Christmas traditions can be traced to the birth of Jesus. The Angels sang joyful songs to the shepherds announcing His birth. Today we

still celebrate Jesus' birth by retelling His story, live Nativities, displaying Nativities around our homes and singing Christmas carols. The sharing of gifts may also be attributed to the birth of Jesus, just as the wise men shared gifts for the baby. Legend has it on Christmas Eve at exactly midnight, animals in their stalls bow and pray just as the ox and donkey bowed down when Jesus was born. Today's modern traditions may include Santa Claus, lots of food, special homemade ornaments, friends and family. Seeing little one's eyes dance at the sight of Christmas tree lights and presents always warm our hearts.

We can thank the Jamestown settlers for the use of pine and magnolias in Christmas decorations. When they realized pine was an evergreen, they looked at it as a sign of hope and prosperity. Now these items grace our southern homes every Christmas. Although eggnog may not have been invented in the south, many will agree it was perfected here. Our nation's first

“Legend says in the 16th century a young Mexican girl who had no money had picked weeds to offer Jesus on Christmas Eve. When she brought the weeds into the church they turned into beautiful red flowers. It is said they changed because she had so much love in her heart.”



president, George Washington wrote one of the earliest known recipes for the custard-like beverage. His version called for the addition of Jamaican rum. Southerners might agree we perfected it with the help of our very own Kentucky Bourbon. Christmas day hunts are also a tradition many southerners practice. These bonding times with fathers, mothers and their children are treasured times to be smiled upon. Leaving citrus fruit in a child's stocking is another southern tradition that dates back to the 18th and 19th centuries. Before the invention of railroads, the only way to have access to citrus fruit coming in from Florida and tropical islands was from ships coming in to southern port cities. If they somehow made their way to rural cities, the cost was expensive and were considered a real treasure. The harvest of pecans in the Fall and early winter make these nuts readily available for delicious southern pecan pies, pralines, divinity and topping for sweet potato casserole.

If your mother ever told you she was going to “Pull a Lee” she may have been referring to the story of Robert E. Lee. Folklore claims three young girls had written to General Lee complaining because of the war, Santa Claus had not been to see them for the last three Christmases. It is said he wrote them back explaining he had instructed Santa to sell all the toys and use the money to purchase medicine, meals and clothing

for the soldiers. Many mothers reminded their children of this story if they misbehaved. Most southern mama's today just say “Santa Claus is watching you!”.

Christmas time is the perfect time to grace one's southern homes with beautiful seasonal poinsettias. Although they come in many colors, tradi-

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tional red is still the favorite. We have Mexico and Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett of South Carolina to thank for these lovely blooms. While Dr. Poinsett was working as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico in 1828, he discovered the plants growing in the southern Mexican wilderness. Legend says in the 16th century a young Mexican girl who had no money had picked weeds to offer Jesus on Christmas Eve. When she brought the weeds into the church they turned into beautiful red flowers. It is said they changed because she had so much love in her heart. In Mexico they are known as Flores de Noche Buena, "Flowers of the Night". Dr. Poinsett, who was also a botanist, fell in love with the plant and



sent clippings to his home in America. Although the plants were not originally in popular demand, by the 20th century they had become very popular. In 1920 Paul Ecke discovered a way to graft seedlings so they could be produced faster. He originally sold them at roadside stands and then advanced sales through marketing and shipping. In 2002, December 12 was named National Poin-

settia Day in honor of the plant, Dr. Poinsett and Paul Ecke.

Although some older traditions have fallen by the wayside, new traditions are forming every year with one's own friends and families. Traditions may be as special as matching pajamas, baking cookies, attending midnight Mass, a special aunt bringing her prized chocolate pies to dinner, playing games or just spending time together with the people you cherish most. Whatever your own southern traditions include, may they always bring you joy and warm your memories for many Southern Christmas Days to come.



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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

a fitting honor

written by: Bonnie Lill • photographs courtesy of: Donald Bailey

A peaceful hush fell over the 1,579 marked graves at Fort Donelson National Cemetery in Dover last December after over two-thirds of them were decorated with balsam wreaths purchased through the Wreaths Across America program. Don Bailey, Unit Coordinator for the Wreaths Across America – Fort Donelson National Cemetery and Commander, Dover Post 72, The American

Legion, Department of Tennessee, hopes that this year, all of the graves will be covered. He has good reason for his optimism.

Many Americans are appreciative of our military members, but in the South, the honor extended to those who have gone before us melds with an intense patriotism that makes a program such as Wreaths

Across America attractive indeed. Who wouldn't want to pay respect to a service man or woman, anyway? And especially with a wreath, whose very shape and living evergreen foliage represent everlasting life.

"In our first year, 2016, we had 105 wreaths. In 2017, that number climbed to 511. In 2018, 810 wreaths were

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ordered, and then the Fort Campbell Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol brought us 300 more, making 1,110," he said.

He said the growth in numbers has come as the program has become more well-known and better understood. And he credits the community at large with its involvement. "Small, rural communities know how to get things done," he said.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

It's pretty simple. Private citizens, groups, organizations, whoever, can sponsor a wreath or wreaths for \$15 apiece.

The wreaths are fresh balsam with a red bow. A group (in our case, Dover Post 72, American Legion) takes on the responsibility of overseeing the purchase and placement of wreaths as well as planning the wreath-laying ceremony. The American Legion family (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Riders and Sons of the American Legion, totaling almost 200 members) jumps right in to assist. They have some partners who help as well: AT&T, Veterans Motorcycle Association of Clarksville and the Girl Scouts. The partners help raise funds for wreaths and sometimes help with the other functions as well.

This year, wreaths needed to be purchased by Nov. 22, and the wreath-laying is on Saturday, Dec. 14, at noon at the National Cemetery in Dover. The public is encouraged to attend.

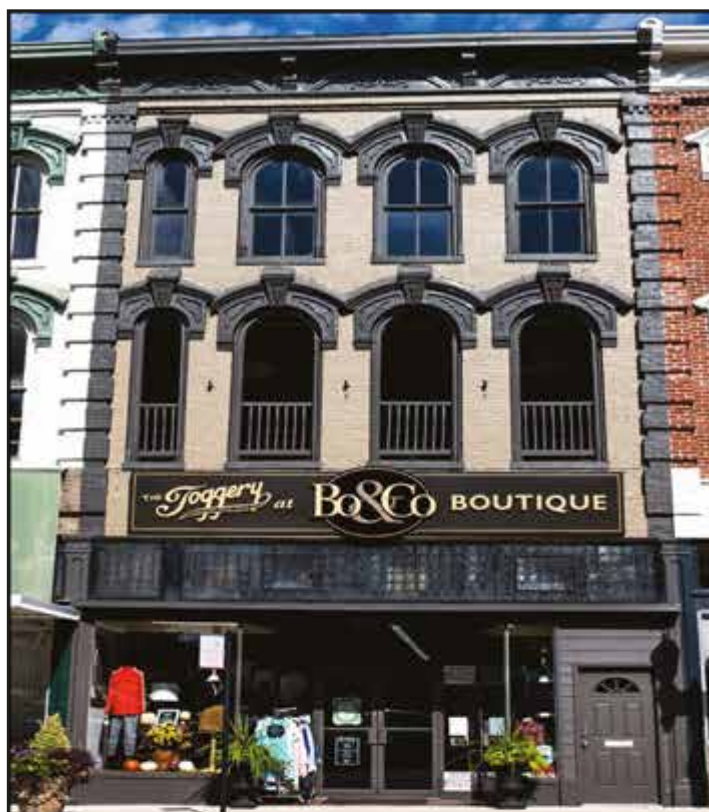
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Volunteers gather at Fort Donelson in 2018 for the Wreaths Across America observances.

REMEMBER – HONOR – TEACH

The three-fold mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and to teach our children the value of freedom.

A whole lot of effort goes into fulfilling this mission, especially since the program has grown to serve over 1,600 locations, most of whom will be laying wreaths at about the same time on December 14.

The Site Coordinating Unit and its partners solicit sponsorships for wreaths in the fall and then

order the wreaths from the Worcester Wreath Company in Maine, which sells them to Wreaths Across America at a discounted rate. (Although other companies may submit a bid to provide the wreaths, so far there have been no takers.)

Wreaths Across America eventually returns \$5 of every \$15 collected to the Site Coordinating Unit. Bailey said any monies that come back are put into sponsoring next year's wreaths.

A few days before the wreath-laying, semi trucks deliver the wreaths to the staging area where they are unpacked. Companies such as Tyson Foods generally donate the trucks and drivers.

The wreaths are then transferred to trailers for transport to the National Cemetery and placement on the graves, including two at the Confederate Monument and two at the Dover War Memorial by the courthouse.

The first year in Dover, Bailey said 13 folks showed up to place the wreaths. Last year, 226, one-third of whom were children, showed up. It took them all of 15 minutes to place the wreaths.

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This year, everyone who places a wreath will be able to take the tag off of the back of the wreath that says, "Today, I placed a wreath on the grave of an American hero."

A half-hour ceremony at noon is held as well, with ceremonial wreaths being presented for each branch of the armed forces and for POW/MIAs.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Wreaths Across America at Fort Donelson National Cemetery began with a casual conversation Bailey had with Park Superintendent Brian McCutchen. Bailey asked why there were no wreaths on the graves like at Arlington National Cemetery, and McCutchen said there was no Wreaths Across America sponsorship at

if they can come, they can place that wreath on their loved one's grave themselves. If they can't be there, their wreath will still be placed on their loved one's grave," Bailey said.

When the wreaths are being removed after the holidays, they can have their loved one's wreath if they would like it. Wreaths Across America itself had humble beginnings as well.



Folks unload the boxes of wreaths in preparation for staging the event in 2018.

Bailey said the ceremony and the wreath placing is moving and well worth coming out to see and participate in.

"All you have to do is show up," he said.

He said that following the remembrance, many folks go to the Sykes Museum to warm up and view the impressive Christmas Tree exhibits.

Fort Donelson. Bailey looked into it, found it a worthy endeavor and had the full support of the park.

Once he began to publicize the event, it really took off. Bailey has had sponsorships from as far away Nevada (they saw it on Facebook).

"If people want, they can sponsor grave-specific wreaths and,

Morrill Worcester was a 12-year-old paperboy for the Bangor Daily News who won a trip to Washington DC, and he was particularly impressed with Arlington National Cemetery.

As he grew up, married and embarked on a successful career as owner of Worcester Wreath Company, he never forgot that his success was due in large part to the values of this nation that were

assured by the veterans who sacrificed so much for this country.

Fast forward to 1992, when Christmas was approaching and he had a surplus of wreaths. He decided to donate them to Arlington, and his senator helped with the arrangements to place them at one of the less-visited areas of the cemetery.

Along the way, many others stepped up to provide transportation to Virginia, to hand-tie red bows on each wreath, and to orchestrate the wreath-laying. He did this quietly every year until 2005, when the internet took the quiet part away.

A photo of the headstones adorned with wreaths and covered in snow went viral, and the project received national attention.

Many people wanted to be involved, but he was unable to donate as many wreaths as people wanted across the country, so he donated seven wreaths to each state, one for each branch of the service and one for POW/MIAs. They now donate seven wreaths to any site that will be holding a Wreaths Across America ceremony.

In 2007, the non-profit Wreaths Across America was created. It now includes a number of other programs designed to teach children about

our freedom and those who protect it.

GET INVOLVED

If you step into the sphere of infectious enthusiasm given off by Don Bailey, you will have no choice but to become involved in Wreaths Across America, and you will enjoy every minute.

For more information about what all is available to be involved with, go to www.wreath-sacrossamerica.org. Bailey can be reached at 931-232-7039.






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written by: **Teresa Jones** • photographs courtesy of: **Gail Dyer Jercinovick**



The David Johnson Chorus will be lifting their beautiful voices this winter with magical songs of the season. The auditioned community chorus, currently made up of 35 members, under the direction of former Dresden High School chorus teacher David Johnson, was the brain child of Gail Dyer Jercinovick, general manager. As an alumni of Dresden High School, Gail came up with an idea of forming an alumni choir during a 1998 Project Graduation meeting. The plan was to get previous chorus students together to perform one concert for this event. The chorus was so well

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received, they decided to stay together as a group and continue performing. Twenty one years later, the chorus is still going strong and performs all over the United States.

The chorus is made up of a diverse group of men and women from all walks of life. They stem from areas of West TN and Kentucky. Although the original chorus was alumni of Dresden High School, which still includes some of the original members, the chorus is open year round to auditions. They feature a wide variety of music that includes classical, spiritual, show tunes, calypso, and pop music. Depending on the season, Patriotic or Christmas music is added to their repertoire. The David Johnson Chorus have lifted their voices all over the United States to hundreds of thousands of people. They have sung in Washington D.C., Walter Reed Hospital, The Biltmore Estate, Discovery Park of America and Bethesda Medical Center. They have also entertained LeBonheur Hospital, Shriners Hospital, St. Jude, as well as various schools, theaters and churches. Mrs. Jercinovick mentioned one of her most memorable performances was when they sang with the Paducah Symphony.



The chorus will be performing Dec. 6 at the Magnolia Manor and Chapel in Humboldt, Dec. 7 at Dresden High School, Dec. 13 at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Dyer and The Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Jackson on Dec. 14. Concert times are 7 p.m. and more information can be found on The David Johnson Chorus Facebook page.

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Our SCRAPBOOK



Ashley Tynes of Murray, KY and her sons (Dallas, Dalton, and Duncan) talk to the boys' grandpa, Shea Castleberry, at the Peddler ADvantage booth during the 2019 Downtown Paris Spooktacular.

A rare photo... four generations of Wheatley men. Gordon, Tony, Tony's son, Drew, and Drew's son, baby Will. This taken not long before the passing of Gordon Wheatley, co-owner of Stockdale Malin Funeral Home and recent Benton County Chamber of Commerce's Person of the



Family



don, his son
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(Above) Members of the Historic Atkins-Porter Neighborhood Association Mary Hickman, Julie Leach, and Susan Jones plant hydrangeas during a recent workday at the Atkins-Porter Neighborhood Botanical Garden at 311 Jackson Street in Paris. This will be the first garden of its kind in Paris.

(Right) Members of the Historic Atkins-Porter Neighborhood Association Mary Hickman (standing), Julie Leach and River Byrd examine plants during a recent workday at the Atkins-Porter Neighborhood Botanical Garden on Jackson Street in Paris.

(Below) Historic Atkins-Porter Neighborhood Association member River Byrd describes a piece of artwork that will be erected at the entrance of the Atkins-Porter Neighborhood Botanical Garden on Jackson Street in Paris. The two were enjoying a recent planting day at the garden.



Want to see your memories in the next edition of *Alive*? Send your scrapbook photo, a description, and your contact information to alivemagazineparis@gmail.com for a chance to have your photo featured on the next "Our Scrapbook" page.

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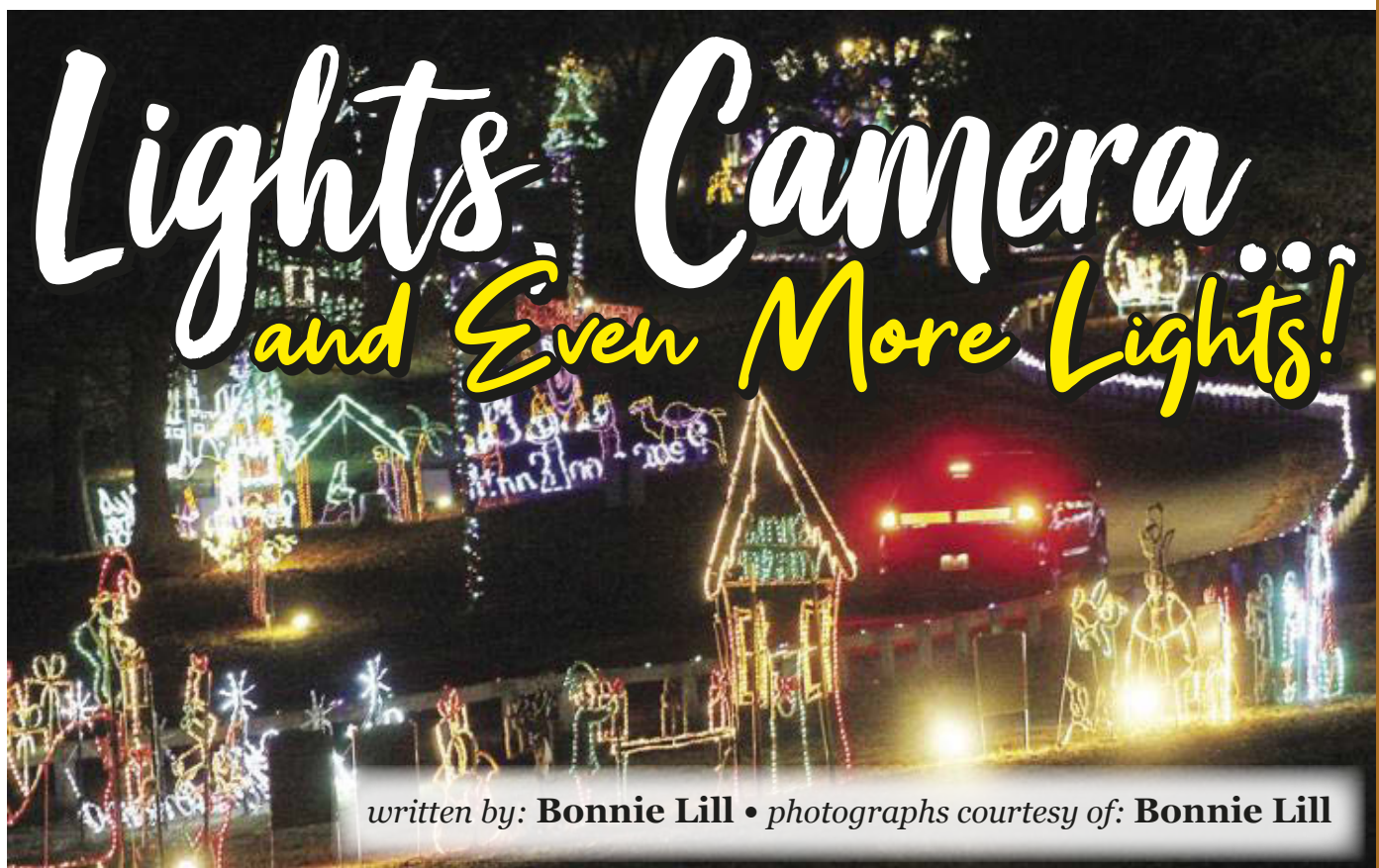
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And it has erupted into dazzling light shows for the benefit of those who believe, those who don't, and those who may not be sure – in short, for every one of us.

Who, what, where, when and why?

Town of Dover, TN, City of Murray, KY, - Christmas in the Park, Festival of Lights – Dover City Park, Murray's Central Park – Thanksgiving on into the New Year, beginning at dark - to bring us joy and to foster family traditions!

The North and South of it

Area folks have only to go a little bit north – to Murray, KY – or a little bit south – to Dover, TN

– to put themselves in the holiday spirit with these amazing lighting displays.

While there is a North-South connection, both displays, in true Southern fashion, are free to attend.

At Murray's Festival of Lights, the attendees are also given the opportunity to donate non-perishable food items for Soup for the Soul and Needline of Calloway, County, KY, or cash for those same entities. Volunteers from the major sponsor, Murray Bank, faithfully



man the event to collect the charitable donations, as do Murray City and Calloway County folks.

Christmas in the Park

Christmas in the Park is held nightly in the 54-acre Dover City Park at 341 Colson Road, this year nightly from Nov. 30 to Jan. 4, 2020. The displays are lit up at dark and stay on until about 9 p.m.

The roads into the spacious park are lined with well over 50 lighted Christmas displays, beginning at the entrance to the park down to the Cumberland, as well as up on the hill past the pavilion on the left (once you get there, it is clear where to go).

"It's like the World's Fair," said City Administrator Gerald Camp-

bell. "It gets bigger and better every year."

There are awards given out for the displays: Best Overall, Best Church, Best Business, Best Organization. These give a few bragging rights, but the focus is more on the experience of seeing all those lights in one place. "The kids ask to go every night," said one Dover resident, "And we take them!"

Murray Bank's Festival of Lights

A few miles north, in Murray, KY, in Central Park, which is off of Chestnut Street on Arcadia Circle, the area is awash in lights this year from Nov. 29 to Jan. 5, 2020. Hours of opera-

tion are from dark to 10 p.m. nightly.

Murray Bank is the principal sponsor of the city event, and the impressive lighted representation of the two-story Murray Bank structure offers an awe-inspiring welcome to the tens of thousands of folks who drive through the displays. According to Project Coordinator John Gorrell, "This is the most participated program we have. People come from all over to see it!"

Makin' it Easy

Unlike most things associated with the Christmas holidays, Dover and Murray make it easy for organizations, businesses and churches to participate.

WE WISH YOU A VERY

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Kirk & Sweeny Rum 12 Years Old 750ML	\$35.99	Jose Cuervo Golden Margarita RTD 1.75LT	\$22.99-25.99
Kirk & Sweeny Rum 18 Years Old 750ML	\$46.99	TGI Fridays RTD 1.75LT	\$15.99
Kirk & Sweeny Rum 23 Years Old 750ML	\$51.99	Bird Dog RTD 1.75LT	\$18.99
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Entities can purchase their own displays or can choose from catalogues provided by the cities. Dover and Murray set up the displays and do not charge for the electricity. If the group so chooses, they can buy and set up their own display from other sources. The cities make sure the lights are turned on nightly for the duration of the holidays. The cities will take them down and store them until next year if the group so chooses. In Murray, there is a small fee for storage; in Dover, so far it is free. Groups can “grow” their displays from year to year if they choose.

We Have a History...

Murray’s Festival of Lights was started many years ago with some plywood cutouts, and Dover’s started in 2013 with several lighted displays. Even though Murray’s event has been ongoing for far longer than Dover’s, both events began with the same thought: to give business, churches and organizations a way to participate in what could become a Christmas tradition for folks in primarily rural areas. Indeed, Stewart County’s

494-square-mile sprawling area, half of which is owned by state and federal governments, does not lend itself to having displays in close enough proximity to see many at any one given outing.

Both cities gladly do the work of setup, takedown and storage, efforts that begin by early November, if not before. By 2019, both events have far exceeded initial expectations.

Gorrell said that the volunteers in Murray (there are many, especially from Murray Bank) take non-perishable goods to various agencies quite frequently during the light show’s run, and cash donations really make a difference for area residents in need.

But Wait...There’s More!

Both areas have events associated with the lighting displays, and both involve a tree-lighting. In Murray, Main Street Merriment will take place in downtown Murray on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5-8 p.m. Designed to get even someone as grumpy as the Grinch into the Christmas spirit, Main Street Merriment features a host of family-friendly activities and the lighting of the court square Christmas tree.

The ice skating rink will open that night from 6-8 p.m. on Maple Street in downtown Murray, and it will be open periodically throughout the holidays.



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There are plenty more things going on in Murray, and the best way to plan your outings would be to visit their websites, www.tourmurray.com/events-calendar/ for a general overview, and www.murraymain-street.org for some specifics. In Dover, the Town of Dover Facebook page would be the best way to get up-to-date information on related events.

At press time, the decorations are going up in the center of Dover at the gazebo, and in early December (date TBD soon) there will be a tree-lighting at that structure, as well as Christmas music and pictures with Santa. Many local downtown merchants plan to stay open that evening as well. Dover Mayor Lesa Fitzhugh said that they are planning

something special in terms of decorations for the gazebo, which is what greets visitors entering the town from the east as they cross the Dover Bridge.

"It's going to be just as pretty in the daytime as at night," she said.

Joy to the World

As you take in the radiance of all those lights at Murray Bank's Festival of Lights, Dover's Christmas in the Park, and the other areas all decked out for the holidays, remember to take a moment to give a thought to where it all started and, more importantly, who it's all for. The joy is for ALL of us in this world.

Merry Christmas to ALL, and may your lives be full of light!

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Down Home Cooking Recipes



Roast Pork with Cranberry Glaze

2 (16 ounce) cans jellied cranberry sauce • 1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup cranberry juice • 1 teaspoon mustard powder • 1/4
teaspoon ground cloves • 4 pounds pork roast • 2 tablespoons
cornstarch • 2 tablespoons cold water • salt to taste

Mash cranberry sauce with a fork or a potato masher. Stir in sugar, cranberry juice, mustard, and cloves. Place pork roast in a large, roasting pan. Pour cranberry sauce mixture over the roast. Cook at 275 degree F for 6 to 8 hours, or until meat is tender. Remove roast, and keep warm. With a metal spoon, skim the fat from the liquid in the roasting pan. Pour 2 cups of the remaining roasting liquid (add water to fill out the measure if necessary) into a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Blend cornstarch and cold water to make a paste; stir gradually into boiling liquid. Continue cooking, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens. Add salt to taste. Serve with the roast.

Soft Ginger Cookies

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour • 2 teaspoons ground ginger • 1 teaspoon baking soda • 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon • 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves • 1/4 teaspoon salt • 3/4 cup margarine, softened • 1 cup white sugar • 1 egg • 1 tablespoon water • 1/4 cup molasses • 2 tablespoons white sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Sift together the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, then stir in the water and molasses. Gradually stir the sifted ingredients into the molasses mixture. Shape dough into walnut sized balls, and roll them in the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Place the cookies 2 inches apart onto an ungreased cookie sheet, and flatten slightly. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container.





Hasselback Potatoes

4 (8 ounce) baking potatoes • 2 tablespoons butter, melted • salt and pepper to taste • 2 tablespoons finely grated fresh Romano cheese • 1 tablespoon seasoned dry bread crumbs

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Peel the potatoes, and place in bowl of cold water to prevent browning. Place potatoes into a large wooden or metal spoon. Using a sharp knife, make slices across the potato the short way about 1/8 to 1/4 inch apart, making sure to cut down to the lip of the spoon, not all the way through the potato. The slices should stay connected at the bottom, and the spoon helps keep the depth even. Return the potato to the bowl of water, and proceed with the remaining potatoes. When all of the potatoes are cut, place them cut side up in a shallow baking dish or small roasting pan. Drizzle with half of the butter, then season with salt and pepper. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes in the preheated oven. Remove from the oven, and drizzle with the remaining butter. Sprinkle Romano cheese and bread crumbs onto the tops of the potatoes, and season with a little more salt and pepper. Return to the oven, and bake for an additional 20 minutes, or until nicely browned.



Lemon Pepper Green Beans

1 pound fresh green beans, rinsed and trimmed • 2 tablespoons butter • 1/4 cup sliced almonds • 2 teaspoons lemon pepper

Place green beans in a steamer over 1 inch of boiling water. Cover, and cook until tender but still firm, about 10 minutes; drain. Meanwhile, melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Sauté almonds until lightly browned. Season with lemon pepper. Stir in green beans, and toss to coat.

Chocolate Cookie Cheesecake

2 cups chocolate sandwich cookie crumbs • 2 tablespoons butter, melted • 1/4 cup packed brown sugar • 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon • 2 pounds cream cheese, softened • 1 1/4 cups white sugar • 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream • 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour • 1 teaspoon vanilla extract • 4 eggs • 1 1/2 cups chocolate sandwich cookie crumbs • 16 ounces sour cream • 1/4 cup white sugar • 1 teaspoon vanilla extract • 1 cup heavy whipping cream • 1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips • 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Combine 2 cups cookie crumbs, melted butter, brown sugar, and cinnamon in a medium bowl; firmly press mixture evenly onto bottom and 1 inch up sides of a 10-inch springform pan. Bake at 350 degrees F for 5 minutes; set aside. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Gradually mix in 1 1/4 cups sugar, 1/3 cup whipping cream, flour, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Pour 1/3 of batter into prepared pan. Top with 1 1/2 cups cookie pieces; pour in remaining batter. Bake at 350 degrees F for 45 minutes. Remove cake from oven. Combine sour cream, 1/4 cup sugar, and 1 teaspoon vanilla; spread evenly on cheesecake. Continue baking for 7 minutes. Turn oven off and leave in oven 30 minutes. Remove cheesecake, and let cool completely on a wire rack. Combine 1 cup whipping cream and chocolate chips in a saucepan; stir over low heat until chocolate melts, and then stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla. Pour mixture over cheesecake while still warm. Refrigerate until serving time. Should be at least 8 hours for refrigerator time, remove about 1/2 hour to 1 hour before serving, remove ring from springform pan, decorate to choice and get out your fork!



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Santa's Village

is a 35 Year Old Tradition

written by: **Teresa Jones** • photographs courtesy of: **Teresa Jones**

It is said to be the most wonderful time of year and the 35th annual Santa's Village in Martin, TN is the most wonderful place to see. When the West Tennessee Agriculture Pavilion was completed in May, 1984, director Rodney "Dot" Thompson wanted to use the pavilion to do something special for the community. The University of TN Martin and the Parks and Recreation Department in Martin partnered to create a free Christmas Village for the community to enjoy. The first year was a relatively small village in the middle of the arena consisting of decorations and Santa Claus. Roughly 750 people attended. Today this event draws more than 20,000 people from Martin and surrounding counties and covers the entire Pavilion.

The Pavilion, renamed The Ned Ray McWherter Ag Pavilion in honor of Gov. McWherter in 1995 is located at 111 Moody Street on the main campus of the University of TN Martin. The building is 82,000 square feet with a 24,000 square foot arena and seats 3,000 people. It also contains animal holding areas, tack room and large restrooms. In 1989 a 150 stall barn was built adjacent to the pavilion. Throughout the year they host FFA Jr. livestock judging, Equestrian Competitions, Rodeos, horse, cattle and livestock shows as well as barrel racing, 4-H dairy shows and workshops.

The Santa's Village is a feast to the eyes and ears. Local resident, Reba Wade will provide live entertainment throughout the event. There

will be 55 arts and crafts booths upstairs for Christmas shopping and Leon Forrester will provide mule rides. The village will also feature an exotic petting farm and an Enchanted Forest. Pope's Concessions will provide rides and Santa Claus will be on hand to greet the children. The event takes place December 12 - 15 and is free to the public. Donations of \$5 worth of food or a child's toy is suggested. The food and toys are donated



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to We Care and Toy Care of Weakly County and surrounding areas. To date over a million dollars in donated items have been contributed through this very special Christmas event. Santa's Village hours are Dec. 12, 6-9 p.m., Dec. 13, 6-9 p.m., Dec. 14, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Dec. 15, 1-5 p.m. For more information on the Ned Ray McWherter Ag Pavilion or Santa's Village contact the Parks and Recreation Dept of Martin, TN at 731-587-6784.



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written by: **Teresa Jones**
photographs courtesy of:
Downtown Paris Association

It is going to be a Holly Jolly Christmas in Henry County thanks in part to the Downtown Paris Association. The North Pole Family Fun Day

festivities will kick off when Santa, Mrs. Claus and Friends arrive on the Courthouse lawn via the Big Red Truck at 10 a.m., November 29. There will

be many fun things for all the family including 4-H Christmas Crafts, a Petting Zoo, a Trackless Train ride, and other activities on the courthouse lawn. Santa will begin receiving visitors in his gingerbread house upon arrival until 2 p.m. that day. Santa will be in his gingerbread house each Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and each Sunday from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. through December 22. There is no charge, cameras are welcome and don't forget to bring your letters for Santa.

Everyone is invited to the 52nd Annual Community Concert at the First United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on December 1. This event is sponsored by the Paris- Henry

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County Arts Council. Downtown Paris Churches invite everyone to meet on the Courthouse lawn at 6:30 p.m., December 4, for the annual Candlelight Advent Walk. Then on December 7 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Lee Academy of the Arts will host the annual Holiday Bizarre where you may find one of a kind holiday gifts made by local artisans. The Old Paris 5 & 10 Event Center located at 110 West Washington Street will be hosting the Festival of Trees beginning November 26 through December 18. Hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. For only \$1 donation, you can explore wonderfully decorated trees exhibited by local businesses, organizations, and individuals

The Polar Express will come rolling in to The W. G. Rhea Library on Friday December 13 at 5:30 p.m. They will be offering rides until 7:30 p.m. This fun event is free and for children of all ages. Everyone has so much fun riding the train, decorating cookies, eating snacks and drinking hot chocolate. Santa Claus will be on hand to talk to the children and read their letters.

The Downtown Paris Association is very excited to invite everyone to come to downtown Paris for the 13th annual Downtown Christmas Festival, followed by the Holly Jolly Electric Christmas Parade. The Downtown Christmas Festival begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, with the Holly Jolly Electric Christmas Parade following at 5 p.m. This year the Downtown Paris Association is excited to announce the Grand Marshal is our very own hometown lady and renowned Tony and Emmy winning actress, Cherry Jones. The Downtown Paris Association Ambassador is Dan Knowles and Henry County High School in honor of its 50 year anniversary. There will be coloring contests for children K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade and The Paris Fire Department will be on hand making s'mores. The 4-H will be helping make Christmas crafts and the Trackless Train will be available for free rides. This is a FREE event and fun for all ages. Bring a chair, a blanket and most importantly your families and join us in downtown Paris!

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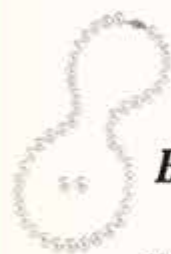
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