



The Place Where Kindness and Caring is a Way of Life

Shady Pines is a small town located somewhere in the South. The much bigger River City is next door, just over the bridge spanning the Macaw River. The locals will tell you there are about six thousand people who live in Shady Pines, but no one knows for sure. Visitors discover a quaint place that harkens back to a bygone era where people treat one another with respect. The neighbors are a bit quirky, but always fun-loving. One thing is obvious. The humans and animals of all ages and backgrounds who live here are real characters. They love to tell stories anytime of the day or night. As a community they work together to solve problems with conversation, not confrontation. Their goal is to inspire youngsters to grow up to be good citizens. That's why the stories they tell are loaded with bedrock American values like decency, tolerance, honesty, and compassion.

History

There are no known records of exactly when Shady Pines was founded, but we know it was a long time ago.

Our Community Center Director, Rita Mallena, did some



research about the history of the town.

She discovered that it's believed two men,

Ben Collins and Mack Bullard, were exploring the Macaw River by boat.

One day they came upon some people living along the banks of the river. Those folks hitched up a horse-drawn wagon and took them into town. They were told some of the early settlers arrived here by boat and others travelled on the railroad that runs through the middle of town. Why they chose this area to build a town is still a bit of a mystery.

The Name Shady Pines

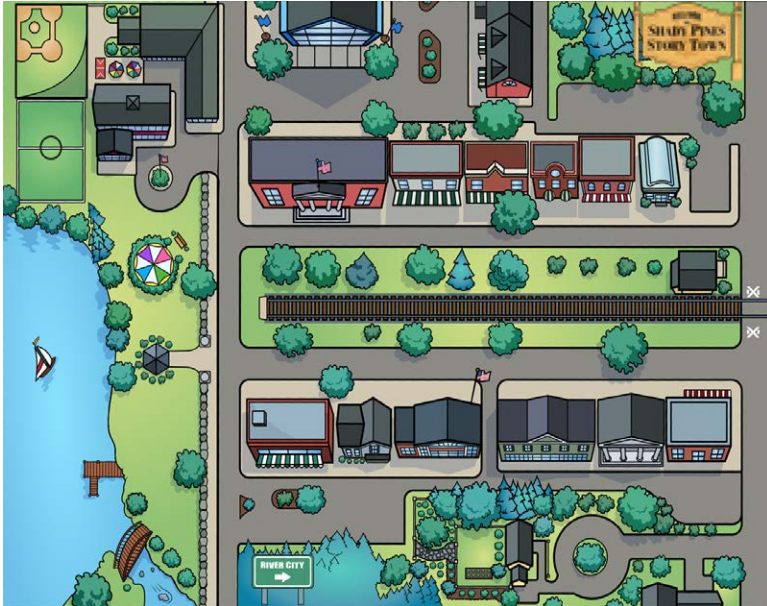
When you ask how the town got its name you're told, "Just look around you." Sure enough, big 'ole clusters of long leaf pine trees are everywhere. Those trees are all along Main Street downtown. People sit on benches in their shade and children pick up



pinecones for school projects. One day, a fella visiting the town for the first time declared, "These are some really shady pines!" And that's how the town got its name.

Macaw River

There are competing theories on how the river got its name. The one you hear most often is that a couple of Macaw birds escaped from a zoo many miles away. Those flying critters followed the river and were first seen by early Shady Pines settlers perched in the trees near the river. The other theory is that the river got its name from a hometown hero named Burt Macaw. Burt was a big man with a big personality who loved to fly fish in the river. He became something of a legend



when he rescued a young boy from certain drowning in the waters of the racing river. Some say the river was named after Burt, but no one knows for sure.

Stonewall Park

Here again, there are two versions of how the park with its signature gazebo got its name. Some folks will tell you it's named from the stacked stone wall that runs all along the edges of the park. Others will tell you it was named for the Civil War general, Stonewall Jackson. In Shady Pines it's hard to get a straight answer.

One thing's for sure, between the signature white gazebo smack in the middle of the park, the carousel with its colorful horses going up and down to music, the swings and slides, the nearby lake for sailing and swimming and the neighboring Dog Park, Stonewall Park is the place to have a lot of fun!



Boomer and Halley Book Series



Meet the Sanders

They're the most famous family of Shady Pines Story Town. Harold and Edna Sanders never had children of their own.

They thought they lived a peaceful life. That all changed the day they adopted a couple of strays. Boomerang, an Australian Shepherd dog, and Halley's Comet, a silver streak of a cat, turned Harold and Edna's life upside down.

Suddenly, the challenges of being a parent became very real. Each Boomer and Halley book includes four life lessons embedded in the fun-filled storylines. They pop up on the page with a paw print.



A perforated bookmark with prompting questions makes it possible to find out if the child reader (4-8 yrs old) understands bedrock values like manners, tolerance, respecting property, honesty, and so on. You can find the Boomer and Halley **Mom's Choice Gold Award-winning book series** [HERE](https://www.shadypinesstorytown.com).

