

Getting to Know our Board Members: Mr. Roger Evans

In each issue of The Ferncliff Newsletter, we include a brief introduction to one of our Board Members. We are extremely proud of each member of our Board and the contributions they make in strengthening our mission to serve our community with affordable, inclusive, end of life services. This month we are proud to highlight Board Trustee, Mr. Roger Evans.

Roger is a devoted member of the Springfield Cemetery Association and serves on the Board of Trustees, where he is also a Past-President. Roger was born and raised in Springfield, where he attended school and graduated from Springfield High. Upon graduation, Roger went on to study at several higher education facilities, including Clark State College, The Ohio State University, the FBI Academy, and University of Virginia. His area of study was Constitutional Law.

Roger served in the United States Army, including service in Korea for several years. Following service to his country, Roger returned to Springfield and was employed by the Springfield Police Department. After 35 dedicated years with the department, Roger retired as chief in 1998. Never willing to let the grass grow under his feet, Roger decided to re-enter the job market and work for several years at

the Ohio Masonic Home, where he was supervisor of compliance and security.

Roger's history of serving his community is vast and includes time spent as past President of The Clark County Board of Election, past President of The Springfield Rotary Club, past member of the Clark County Metropolitan Housing Board, the Mercy Hospital Board, and past board member of the Urban League.

Roger and his wife Sharon have been married 37 years and together they enjoy traveling as well as spending time with two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. When Roger has down time he enjoys painting and watching sports.

Roger highly values the need that Ferncliff fulfills in the community. He believes that Ferncliff is the most beautiful cemetery in the area with service superior to all. Roger is impressed that the compassionate staff and every trustee brings a unique value to the organization. In his own words, "It was the best decision I made when I was asked and agreed to serve on the board at Ferncliff."

We are honored that Roger chooses to invest his time and talents as a trustee and we are grateful for his commitment to Ferncliff's future success.



Ferncliff

501 W. McCreight Ave.
Springfield, OH 45504

Are you thinking about purchasing space at Ferncliff?

Perhaps near a loved one? Call about availability of spaces in some of our older sections.



Celebrating 160 Years of Service to our Community



SPRING NEWSLETTER

May - June 2023

Celebrating Life & Serving our Community Since 1863

It was the year of the Emancipation Proclamation and a midpoint in the Civil War when Ferncliff was established. 160 years ago, Ferncliff Cemetery began when 70 acres of land were purchased in Springfield, Ohio with \$300 from each of our founding members. The given name of "Ferncliff" was important and represented our founders' desire to highlight and feature the unique ferns that were growing in the rugged cliffs along Lagonda (now Buck) Creek, near the historic North Plum Street entrance. Then, as now, Ferncliff stands unequaled in its beauty, landscape, and perpetual care. Perhaps most important, is Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum's mission to serve the community with supportive, affordable, and inclusive end of life services in a beautiful, historic environment in perpetuity.

Today, the historic and beautiful Ferncliff Cemetery occupies an important location in Springfield and is comprised of 218 acres of natural beauty and wonder, 8.3 miles of paved roads, 5 buildings, and over 80,000 burials that remain (forever) in our custody and care. The buildings include the historic administrative office building and the caretaker's home. It is also a tribute to the insights and vision of the current

and former Trustees that Ferncliff still has enough unused space to meet and satisfy the needs of our community for the next 100 years, or more.

In an excerpt from the book, Beautiful Ferncliff, by Dr. Paul W. Schanher III and Anne E. Benston, we read that "Ferncliff Cemetery remains a special place for people who appreciate trees or enjoy a casual stroll to soak in nature's diversity, its sights, and its smells".

As the English artist and poet Minnie Aumonier has written, "There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it". At Ferncliff, we value and invest in the pastoral and reflective space that we can provide for our community.

Regardless of the season, Ferncliff's unmatched, natural beauty is certain to capture the senses and amaze our many visitors. Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum is passionately committed to preserving and maintaining its rich history and grandeur, in perpetuity.

This year, as we celebrate our 160th Anniversary of compassionate and caring services to our community, we invite you to visit and experience Springtime in Ferncliff for yourself.

Our Mission: Ferncliff serves its community with supportive, affordable, and inclusive end of life services in a beautiful, historic environment in perpetuity.

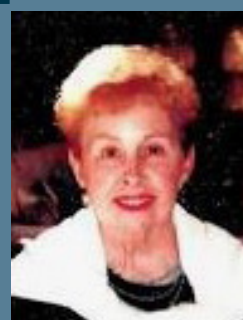
501 W. McCreight Ave. Springfield, OH 45504 | Phone: 937.322.3491
Summer Gate Hours: Monday - Friday: 7:30AM - 7:00PM
Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM | ferncliffcemetery.org

1890 Accident at Plum House

On August 20, 1890, the following story made headlines in several newspapers in the Ohio region:

"Superintendent Dick, of Springfield, Ferncliff Cemetery, laid on his veranda roof, Friday night, in order to catch his daughter, who had gone off with a suitor her parents disliked. He went to sleep and fell off the roof, breaking his leg."

This was the superintendent's home located at 705 Plum Street, built in 1890.

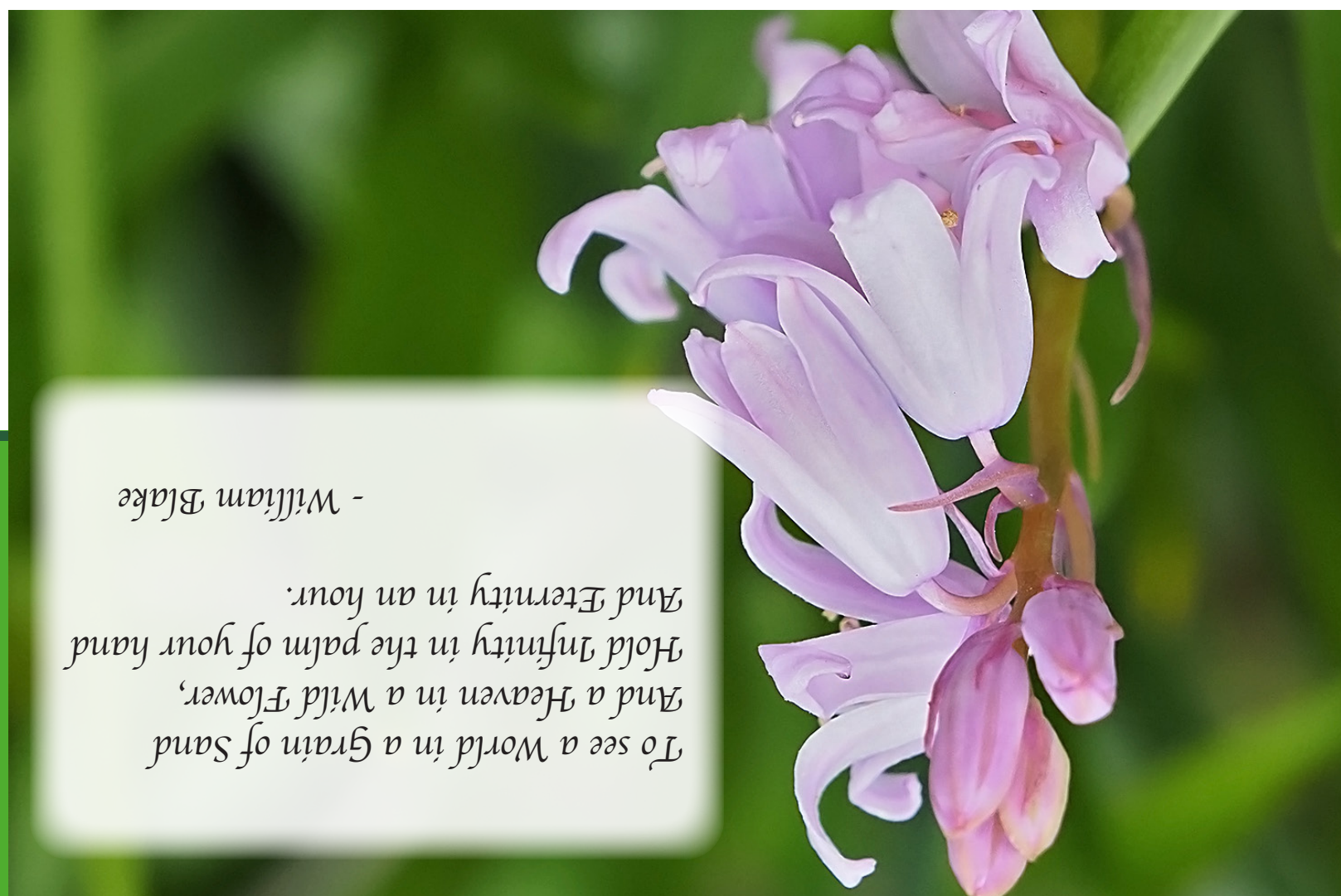


In Memoriam

Springfield Cemetery Association member, Martha Tice "Marty" Glendenin passed away on May 30, 2022. Martha was born in Columbus, Ohio to parents Herman and Gertrude Tice.

Martha was a past member of Junior Service League, a past president and associate member of Young Woman's Mission, past president and trustee of Clark Memorial Home and an associate member of Springfield Cemetery Association. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Dr. Don Glendenin, Jr, a daughter Kathy, a son Greg (Tesh), and three grandsons.

Martha served the Springfield Cemetery Association for many years and Ferncliff is grateful for her service and we offer sympathy to her family and friends.



- William Blake

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.*

The Springfield Cemetery Association

The Governing Body of Ferncliff Cemetery is a non-profit, volunteer organization. The Springfield Cemetery Association is comprised of 25 members from our community. Of these, nine members are selected to serve as trustees (* marked below).

Currently, these members include:

- Pamela Bennett
- Bill Brougher
- Jim Campbell
- Darnell Carter
- John Detrick
- Roger Evans*
- Sharon Evans
- Harold Goodrich
- Dale Henry
- Deborah Hill*, *President*
- Ed Leventhal
- Atty. David Martin*, *Secretary*

- Larry McCoy
- Julie McGregor
- Daniel McGregor
- Dale E. Miller*
- Sheila Rice*
- Reed Robertson*
- Dr. Paul "Ski" Schanher*, *Vice President*
- Steve Schumaker
- Laurel Shouplin
- Jon Sterling
- Dr. Richard Umbaugh*, *Treasurer*
- Chester Walthall*, *Immediate Past President*

Shelley Baker Promoted to Executive Director of Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum



Ferncliff Cemetery & Arboretum is pleased to announce the promotion of Shelley Baker to the role of Executive Director effective January 2023. Ms. Baker previously held the title of Director of Family Services and Marketing at Ferncliff since 2018.

In her new role, Ms. Baker will have all management and operating responsibilities of the organization, and will report directly to Ferncliff's Board of Trustees.

Ms. Baker has a breadth of experience in death care management, business development and marketing. She is a funeral director licensed by The State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, and a former crematory operator. Ms. Baker received her Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Wright State University.

Ms. Baker succeeds Darrell Kitchen, who most recently served as Executive Director at Ferncliff. Mr. Kitchen will continue working on special Board assignments for a portion of the year with plans to retire in late 2023. He will continue as the Board's assistant secretary.

"I could not be more pleased," said Mr. Kitchen of his successor.

"Shelley's appointment as Executive Director of the Ferncliff organization marks an exciting and important time for the Ferncliff community. Shelley is a professional who has prepared herself through education and experience, with a proven emphasis on service to our community. She is eager to proceed with her new challenges and I am equally eager to watch and enjoy her future successes," he said.

As Executive Director, Ms. Baker intends to nurture relationships internally with Ferncliff team members first and foremost.

"I will strive to inspire our Ferncliff staff to improve at the things we value as an organization and challenge them to serve in such a way that Ferncliff will be known by our consistent superior excellence," said Ms. Baker.

"I also look forward to cultivating relationships with community organizations and partnering in ways to share the beauty of Ferncliff with the residents of Clark County," she said.

"Ferncliff is so much more than a final resting place for the dear departed. Rich in history, Ferncliff offers a peaceful retreat for visitors. Miles of hilly roads wind throughout the natural beauty, accompanied by over 100 varying species of trees. Visitors are encouraged to come to Ferncliff for a walk or self-guided tour, take a jog, a bike ride or to attend one of our special events," added Ms. Baker.

When she is not at Ferncliff, Ms. Baker enjoys time with family, cooking, entertaining or enjoying the outdoors with her husband, Jeff, and their chocolate lab, Daisy.

Ferncliff is pleased to announce two new additions to our Family Services team



Melinda Massie, Tom Pamer

Melinda Massie joined Ferncliff as a Family Services Advisor last fall. Melinda, a Springfield resident for over 25 years, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Wittenberg University. Melinda has spent much of her working career committed to helping others in many roles such as a Wraparound Services Worker, Parent Aide, and Respite Provider for Oesterlen Services for Youth. She has also dedicated over ten-years serving families and youth as a Community Psychiatric Support Treatment Worker for Mental Health Services of Clark and Madison Counties. Melinda is an active member of her church and in her free time, she enjoys reading, artistic endeavors, and spending time with her family and her pets.

Tom Pamer joined the Ferncliff team at the end of February, as a Family Services Advisor. Tom is a lifelong Springfield resident who graduated from Catholic Central High School and Clark State College with a degree in Graphic Design. He has been involved in the community with The American Cancer Society for over 25 years and is the current ACT Lead Advocate for Ohio's Congressional District 10 for The American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN). Tom and his wife of 20 years, Hillary, have a 14 year old son Joshua. His interests include genealogy, local history, art, photography, and time with his family. Both Melinda and Tom are dedicated to serving our community and helping families through a difficult time. Ferncliff is blessed to have such caring and compassionate individuals to add to our Family Service Team. **Welcome Melinda and Tom!**

Historical Series with Dr. Schanher

Dr Paul "Ski" Schanher, a local, retired dentist, is a respected member of the historical community in Springfield and Clark County. "Ski" has been a devoted member of the Springfield Cemetery Association and serves on the Board of Trustees.

The article below is next in the series written by Dr. Schanher.

If You Build It, They Will Come

One of the greatest baseball movies ever produced by the film industry, Field of Dreams starring Kevin Costner, reminds us of early Springfield's steady growth. In March 1801, James Demint, along with surveyor John Daugherty, laid out the original town plat that consisted of 96 lots. In 1804, nearly a dozen houses built from logs could be found lining the street corners. Some even had stone chimneys, a luxury of the time. Businesses began, a small repair shop, a cooper shop, a general store, two taverns, and even a two-story log house that served as a blockhouse for protection from roving Native American hunting parties. The fact that there were only four grave plots in the original burying ground, one being Mrs. James Demint, who died in the fall of 1803, indicated the overall health of early Springfield.

The early settlers, hardy men and women and a few children, overcame seemingly incomprehensible odds and nearly impassable frontier country in order to forge a new life for themselves. One can only imagine the hardships that they encountered along the journey. Let us look into the life of a one of those who ventured west in hope of a new beginning.

Surveyor John Daugherty, a native of Virginia, was most likely the first to arrive at Demint's double log cabin on the cliffside overlooking the Buck (Lagonda) Creek. He was a very persuasive man of considerable natural ability, yet somewhat "uncouth in person, but endowed with the faculty to make friends among all classes." He was elected to several local and state offices. While on the campaign trail, politicking on horseback, he always carried a jug of whiskey in each saddlebag as a token of appreciation for public support. As he directly appealed for support from towns people, Daugherty found that "the jug prevailed." However, his "ready wit, fluent speech, and courtroom bearing gained him a large following." At the end of his political life, Daugherty moved to Springfield Township, two miles south of Springfield. He passed away in 1832.

He was one of the first to "build it." Soon, people came.

Save the Date!

Memorial Day is quickly approaching. Ferncliff will have extended gate and office hours all Memorial Day Weekend. Please watch our website for further details and times.

Dedication of The Springfield Burying Ground

The historic burying ground located on West Columbia Street in Springfield has received a new life. The project was a community-wide effort that involved many different people and organizations. Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum was honored to be a part of this important work.

A dedication has been scheduled for the Springfield Burying Ground. It will take place at the Columbia Street location and will begin at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, May 27, 2023. Please mark your calendars and be present for this historic event. Among other things, the short ceremony will include the unveiling of the statue of Springfield's founder, James Demint.

2023 Buck Creek Boom

The 2023 Buck Creek Boom will take place this year on Monday, July 3. The fireworks display is a collaboration with the National Trail Parks & Recreation District and Ferncliff.

Our staff and Board are both excited to support this community event which allows for atypical use of our grounds, while connecting and engaging with local residents. Launching the fireworks from our grounds makes for great viewing from many locations in Springfield.



A Permanent Place of Remembrance

Ferncliff offers a variety of options for families selecting cremation. Keeping your loved one's urn at home may be just what you need in the beginning. After that, a permanent resting place will ensure your loved one is cared for long after you are gone and will be in a place to visit and reflect for generations to come. Call one of our Family Service Advisors to discuss the options.

The Master Plan

Using a thoughtfully executed Strategic Plan in 2019, the Board of Trustees moved forward with a Master Plan initiative to help identify relevant priorities and the most responsible use of capital. The plan was also informed by an operations assessment that looked at techniques and best practices within the national historic cemetery communities. A planning team selected Meisner + Associates as the planner and the L. F. Sloane consulting group for the market and operations assessment. The result was a comprehensive plan that was approved by the Springfield Cemetery Association at their Annual Meeting on August 18, 2022. A Project Priorities Task Team was established to prioritize several projects from the plan that represent the first projects to move forward into planning for their implementation. **These initial projects include:**

Family Services Area

Connected to the historic office building there was a maintenance garage. This was converted to a chapel many years ago. The chapel accommodated small gatherings, but not without the challenges of accessibility. There were no restrooms, parking, technology, or appropriate ventilation. The Family Services area would move a portion of their operations into this space to better serve our families. There would be accessibility standards and regulatory mandates incorporated, close pull-in parking, and compliant restrooms. This is a space to meet and serve our many visitors and customers.

Pet Cemetery

The Pet Cemetery was established as an operating unit of Ferncliff. The space was identified and has been used for interments over the past several years. This project would commit dollars and attention to embrace a thoughtful and special place for the beloved pets who have, and will be, interred in the Ferncliff Pet Cemetery. This is a distinctive offering for the many pets who are important in the lives of our community's many families. People love their pets as family members and Ferncliff chooses to honor their place and importance with the improvement of this space.

Ground Services Building

A new maintenance, storage, and ground services building is planned for an area near the western border of the Ferncliff grounds. The design would improve the use of space and provide our highly valued grounds team with a better facility for their work in fulfilling the expectations and needs of our community. This also enables the current structures to be razed, with the goal of developing a new cremation garden in a beautiful natural setting at the cliffs' edge, overlooking the Buck Creek corridor. This creekside development will further help support and meet the needs and desires within our community.

There have been no set schedules or dollars established for these projects. However, the process for their planning has started.

The Ferncliff Cemetery Grounds

To gain more concentration in the fulfillment of our obligations that we have to our families, there has been a little shift in how our business priorities are managed. The goal is to continue having a clear direction that demonstrates, with clarity, our commitment to excellence as we conduct our many burials, committal services, monumentation, perpetual care, and the activities that better serve our families and area Funeral Home partners. One distraction has been the challenges with accessing and maintaining seasonal labor.

Their work has been aligned to the important responsibilities of mowing, trimming, and cleaning the 218-acre Ferncliff grounds. To better fulfill these needs, this seasonal work has been contracted to a qualified and professional specialty company, GroundSystems, Inc. The process of evaluation began in May 2022 and resulted in a completed contract in December. Ferncliff looks forward to this new partnership.



Ground System, Inc.

Tips For a More Attractive Cemetery

On January 27, 1967, the article (as shown on the left) appeared in the Springfield News-Sun. This newspaper item was jointly written by the Greater Springfield Cemeteries, namely: Calvary, Ferncliff, Glen Haven, Rose Hill, and Saint Bernard cemeteries. Clearly, enforcement has always presented challenges. There are times when the individuals who seem less interested in following these time-honored rules are not the original people who purchased the property and accepted the standards. These good and faithful people who decorate the graves of their loved ones may be friends, neighbors, descendants, visitors, or others who merely follow their own sense of appropriateness.

With 218 acres of property and more than 80,000 burials, the cost of maintenance is always a concern. More importantly, presenting their remembrances in a pastoral setting of natural beauty that Ferncliff is blessed to have is a benefit to the entire Ferncliff community. For the many people who consider the cemetery's goals and regulations, we give our thanks.

FOR A MORE ATTRACTIVE CEMETERY TO ALL CEMETERY LOT OWNERS AND VISITORS DECORATIONS OF LOTS

Cutting and trimming grass is one of the largest and most costly maintenance activities in your cemetery. The use of artificial flowers and wreaths on graves greatly hides the grass cutting and increases its cost. Furthermore, our cemeteries have a great abundance of natural beauty from early spring until late fall in their trees and flowers. Artificial flowers and wreaths are not in harmony with the landscape during the growing season and are truly not needed at this time of the year.

A—In order that the entire cemetery may always present as neat and orderly an appearance as possible, it is requested that flowers be placed on graves only in approved sub-surface containers. Inexpensive containers of the approved type are on display at our office.

B—One bouquet of artificial flowers will be permitted on each grave in a suitable container. They will be removed when they become unsightly. Natural flowers will be permitted at any time and will be removed when wilted.

C—The cemetery shall have the right to remove all floral designs, flowers, trees, shrubs, evergreens and plants of any kind from the cemetery if, in the judgment of the management, they do not conform to the standards maintained.

D—The placing of house shells, toys, metal designs, ornaments, chairs, vases, glass, wood or iron cases, glass and plastic blocks, artificial animals, tinware, crockery, waste baskets, path, cardboard cartons, etc. shall not be permitted.

E—Potted plants will be permitted upon lots and graves only at Easter, Mother's Day and Memorial Day and they will be removed after a period of one week. If pots are allowed to stay too long, they will kill the grass.

F—Winter decorations such as natural and artificial wreaths placed on outside and approved arrangements will be permitted from November 15th to March 15. All winter decorations will be removed after March 15th during the spring cleanup.

G—Articles made of concrete—urns, benches, boxes, etc. are not permitted because concrete is not approved as an ornamental material, and such articles on lots add greatly to the cost of maintenance.

H—Imitation plants, ribbons, styrofoam designs and similar decorations are not permitted during the mowing season—March 15 to November 15.

If in doubt about any decoration, please consult your cemetery for complete information and assistance.

Each spring—the 15th of March—the grounds are given their annual house-cleaning. A second cleanup is made within the week following Memorial Day. Your assistance in helping us keep your cemetery beautiful at all times is greatly appreciated.

THE GREATER SPRINGFIELD CEMETERIES
Calvary Ferncliff Glen Haven
Rosehill St. Bernard