



# Ferncliff

## W I N T E R NEWSLETTER

January - March 2022

### FERNCLIFF FENCE – A CAR MAGNET

As you drive by Ferncliff's beautiful grounds, you will notice our cemetery perimeter is lined by decorative wrought iron fencing. For some reason, the fence seems to be a "Car Magnet" as it is struck regularly throughout the year. 2021 was no different, as the section of fence along W. McCreight Avenue curve had seven crashes. Four of these accidents occurred in December alone. The last accident of the year was quite involved as the SUV plowing through the fence, sheared off a telephone pole, disabling power to the area and shutting down W. McCreight Avenue to traffic for several hours.

There were surprisingly no injuries. However, there was significant damage to the SUV, and to our fence and surrounding area. The damage was cleared, and First Energy was able to replace the pole to restore power to the area by sunset. (See photo)



As you might imagine, some of the drivers lack insurance coverage. The Springfield Police Department has always been very responsive and although most drivers stay until they arrive, some leave the scene. Some are not able to leave the scene, as the damage to their vehicle is too severe.

In addition to the Springfield Police Department, we also appreciate the responsiveness of Spradlin Brothers Welding, as they quickly execute the replacement of our "Car Magnet" throughout the year.

Attempts to create barricades have not been approved by the city, and we continue to look for viable alternatives.



**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 | Fax: 937.322.3452

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM | [ferncliffcemetery.org](http://ferncliffcemetery.org)

## New Bridge Completed

We are happy to announce that the construction of the new bridge over Anne Benston/John Dick Lakes is complete! The old wooden bridge was deteriorating and raising concerns as to its safety. Rather than repair or build a new wooden bridge, the cemetery board decided to replace it with a stone bridge, designed to reflect the original stone walls here at the cemetery.

Craig Dillon served as the architect with Marker Construction completing the structural concrete deck. The masonry work was done by Don Rice. Bryce Hill provided nearly 27 tons of Ohio quarried natural limestone. Our thanks to everyone whose efforts went into creating an enduring landmark that so well matches the architectural integrity of Ferncliff.



## Daylight Savings Time Gate Hours

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 13, 2022**. As the time changes, so do our gate hours:

Summer gate hours go into effect on **Sunday, March 13th:**

**Main Gate:** 7:30 am – 6:00 pm

**Lower Plum St. Gates:** 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

***Note that gates may close earlier due to inclement weather.***

## The Governing Body of Ferncliff

The governing body of Ferncliff Cemetery is a non-profit, volunteer organization. The Springfield Cemetery Association is comprised of not more than twenty-five members from our community. The Association elects nine of their members to serve as Trustees. In addition, the Ferncliff Funeral Home, operating as an autonomous organization, includes their own board members.

### Current Association Members

- Pamela Bennett
- James Campbell
- Darnell Carter
- Martha Glendenin
- Harold Goodrich
- Larry McCoy
- Julie McGregor
- Daniel McGregor
- Steve Schumaker
- Jon Sterling

### Association Members Elected to Serve on the Board of Trustees

- Roger Evans
- Deborah Hill, *President*
- David Martin, *Secretary*
- Dale Miller
- Sheila Rice
- Reed Robertson
- Dr. Paul "Ski" Schanher, *Vice President*
- Dr. Richard Umbaugh, *Treasurer*
- Chester Walthall, *Immediate Past President*

### Funeral Home Board of Directors

- Deanna Brougher
- Kevin Rose
- Dr. Paul "Ski" Schanher, *President*
- Myles Trempe, *Treasurer*

# NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

## Announcing Spring Cleanup Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Every Spring, Ferncliff has a cleanup of the decorations on the cemetery grounds. To maintain the beautiful appearance and natural environment of our serene and contemplative grounds, it is necessary to have limits on certain types of decorations.

To ensure that our grounds are well cared for, only the following items are permitted: flowers in an approved vase, monument saddle; U.S. & military flags in a flag holder.

**We ask that any other decorations be removed by Sunday, March 13, 2022. Any remaining decorations will be discarded.**

Feel free to call our office if you have any questions.

## New Video Series – “Ask the Arborist”

Meet Ferncliff’s on site arborist, Mark Goheen! Our new video series: “Ask the Arborist” features Mark, who will provide hands-on tips and answers to commonly asked questions for gardening enthusiasts. Check out the first Episode on planting bulbs in the fall, and Episode 2: Winter Tips, getting ready for winter.

These videos are available on our website, all Ferncliff social media platforms, and YouTube. Stay tuned for Episode 3 coming soon.



Spring cleanup makes visiting our magnolia trees even more enjoyable.

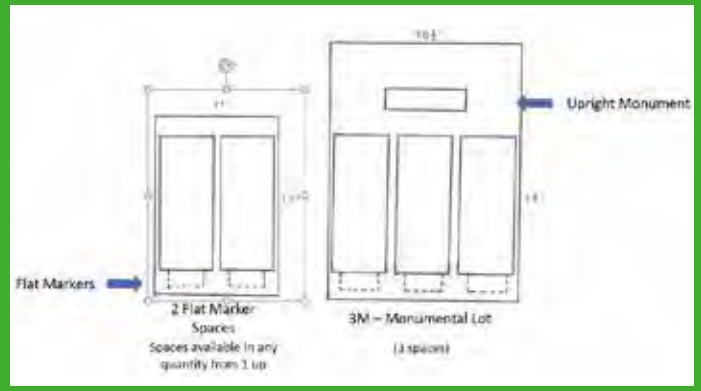
## Did you know...?

Though often referred to as “headstones”, this term is not correct for most memorials here at Ferncliff. We allow two types of memorials for grave spaces – flat marker or monument.

A **monument** is an upright granite gravestone that is placed at the head of graves and typically has names of multiple family members.

A **flat marker** (sometimes called a flush grass marker) is set at the foot of the grave. The size of space/s or lot purchased determines the type of memorials allowed.

As you can see from the diagram below, a monumental lot is larger and will accommodate both a single upright monument and/or flat markers.



# Historical Series with Dr. Schanher

Dr. Paul W. “Ski” Schanher III has been a devoted member of the Springfield Cemetery Association and serves on the Board of Trustees. “Ski” has recently retired as a prominent local dentist and is an active and respected member of the historical community in Springfield and Clark County.

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

## *Our Continuing Saga:* The Springfield Burying Ground

The word “cemetery” has a different meaning for different people. To some, a cemetery represents the final resting place for those who have gone before—a “graveyard” or “city of the silent” or “garden of stone.” But let us consider a different aspect of the meaning. Let us look upon that glorious ground in which many are laid to rest as a place of “living history,” a place where our community actually comes alive.

In the last issue of Ferncliff Cemetery’s newsletter, the historical series introduced us to James Demint, the founder of Springfield. In what is considered his Second Edition, on two adjoining lots outside of the boundaries of his original town plat, he set aside 1.49 acres for a proposed burying ground. It was located on Columbia Street, west of present-day Center Street. The original cemetery was 198’ wide and 198’ deep. He filed the plat in Champaign County on January 10, 1815 and recorded it on January 17, 1815.

In 1803, Demint’s first wife Elizabeth was the fourth, but first known, burial. Later in 1817, he was buried there “under a big tree in a corner” alongside his second wife. Early records indicated that Springfield’s earliest settlers, pioneer men and women who served as the backbone of the family, as well as emancipated slaves, seven Revolutionary War veterans, a War of 1812 veteran, and European immigrants lie in rest in the hallowed ground of the Springfield Burying Ground.

After years of neglect, in 1927, the regent of the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter spoke during a monument dedication ceremony to, “honor the memory of the early settlers of Springfield and our ancestors, and those seven Revolutionary War soldiers who are buried in this green and lovely spot.” As mentioned in Ferncliff’s 2021 summer newsletter, a present-day effort to renovate and rededicate the Springfield Burying Ground is progressing in its efforts to bring the venerable cemetery “back to life.”

## Getting to Know our Board Members



Dale Edwin Miller

With each issue of The Ferncliff Newsletter, we strive to feature one of our Board Members. Together, their unique life experiences, strengthen our mission to serve our community with supportive, affordable, and inclusive end of life services. This month, we are proud to highlight Dale Edwin Miller.

Dale was born in Urbana and attended Urbana High School, graduating in 1947. Upon graduation, he went to work for Ohio Fuel Gas Co. After three short years, he joined the United States Air Force. While stationed overseas, his bride, Barbara, traveled to England, where they married in Oxford in March of 1952. During their time in England, they were fortunate enough to have “front row seats” in downtown London on the parade route of Queen Elizabeth’s coronation. After leaving the Air Force in 1954, Dale returned to Springfield and began his insurance career that spanned 53 years, as owner of Foster-Miller Insurance.

He later sold the company, merging with Wallace & Turner. Dale was an avid golfer, playing at Springfield Country Club for over 45 years. He has served the community of Springfield in various positions with several organizations. His history of service includes time spent as the Board President for Springfield Country Club, board member for the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, Deacon and Trustee at Covenant Presbyterian Church, and a long-time member of the Independent Insurance Agents of Springfield. He was blessed to have shared 68 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Barbara, who passed in 2020. They share three children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandsons. Dale considers it a true honor to serve as an elected member of the Board of Trustees for Ferncliff. In his own words it “has been the most interesting and rewarding experience I’ve ever had and continues to be, serving with a great group of fellow board members and staff. Ferncliff is an amazing facility which has served the area well and I am grateful to be associated with it.” Thank you for your service to Ferncliff, Dale.

# News From Ferncliff Funeral Home & Crematory

You can follow Ferncliff Funeral Home and Crematory on Facebook! We regularly post current obituaries and articles of interest such as Funeral Etiquette, How to Shop for Cremation, and How to Plan a Celebration of Life.

So, "Like" and "Follow" us today on Facebook at Ferncliff Funeral Home & Crematory.



**Ferncliff**  
Funeral Home & Crematory

# Veteran Arrangements and Benefits at Ferncliff

Ferncliff Cemetery has designated sections for veterans of our armed forces. These spaces are owned by Clark County Veterans Services and are available at no charge for approved veterans. An honorable discharge (DD214) form is needed for this approval. Keep in mind that the spaces are assigned by the cemetery and spouses are not able to be buried next to deceased in the VA sections.

Although the space is free, there is still a charge for a vault (required for a casket burial), the opening/closing or interment fee, and the foundation for a veteran's marker. The marker is also available at no charge to the family and can be requested in either granite or bronze. Application for a marker can be made by the funeral home, or the cemetery. A DD214 is REQUIRED for application. A VA marker can also be placed at any location within the cemetery.

Arrangements for burial, including pre-payment of the vault, interment fee, and foundation for the marker, can be made prior to death. (Note that the marker itself cannot be ordered until after passing.) We can keep a copy of your DD214 in your pre-need records so that it would be available when needed.

We would like to stress how important it is to keep a copy of your discharge paperwork, the actual DD214, in a place where your family can locate it easily if needed. Another option available is to have the DD214 registered with your county clerk of courts. Requesting a copy from the county clerk is quick and easy. Currently, requests made to the U.S. government for a copy of a DD214 is taking in excess of a year.



# News From Ferncliff Pet Cemetery & Services

Did you know Ferncliff Cemetery & Arboretum's spacious campus includes a pet cemetery? In addition, we offer a full menu of pet-care options including cremation, urns, monuments, markers, caskets, vaults and ceremonies for your faithful companions.

"Like" and "Follow" Ferncliff Pet Cemetery & Services on Facebook today to learn more.



**Ferncliff**  
Pet Cemetery & Services



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501 W. McCreight Ave.  
Springfield, OH 45504

## We want your photos!!

If you have a good shot you'd like to share, please feel free to post on our Facebook page, or better yet, send a jpeg image to [mknize@ferncliffcemetery.org](mailto:mknize@ferncliffcemetery.org).

Are you thinking about purchasing space at Ferncliff? Perhaps near a loved one? Call about availability of spaces in some of our older sections.

*"Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people."  
- Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart*