



# Ferncliff Cemetery, Arboretum & Crematory Newsletter

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM,  
Saturday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Phone: 937.322.3491 Fax: 937.322.3452**

JULY – SEPT. 2019

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3

## Ferncliff Employee Celebrated for 40+ Years of Service

Robert D. Hayes Sr. started working at Ferncliff Cemetery on October 20, 1977 as a full-time mechanic with our Grounds team. This coming October, Bob will celebrate 42 years of dedicated service. Bob is currently our Grounds Foreman, a position he has held since 1990. When asked why he has been with Ferncliff all these years, Bob says "Because I like it here."

Bob was born in Springfield, graduated from Northwestern High School "sometime in the '60's" and has lived and raised his family here. He and his wife, Shirley (d. 2018) had 3 girls and 2 boys, all who still live in the area. Together, they enjoyed many family vacations renting a cottage at Russell's Point at Indian Lake. There used to be an amusement park there and the family has many great memories of time spent together.

Bob has seen and been an integral part of a lot of changes to the Ferncliff grounds over these past 40 years, including the construction of Mausoleum 3 and the Niche Garden, development of new sections, the creation of Benston Lake, and building new roadways with the backhoe. One particularly vivid memory is clearing the land around the current House of Reflections and the development of Section 25-E. Bob says that area around the house was heavily wooded. The current upper Plum Street gate was closed off and not used. Taking out the trees, running gas lines, and preparing the ground to be ready for burials was a lot of tough work.

Bob is proud of being here and helping to maintain this beautiful place. And Ferncliff is proud to have him as such a caring, loyal employee. Our thanks to you, Bob, and here's to many more years together.



## 2nd ANNUAL *SPRING TOUR* – A Huge Success

On Wednesday, April 24, Ferncliff Arboretum hosted our second Spring Tour; a horticultural trolley tour of Ferncliff Cemetery led by Pamela J. Bennett, of The Ohio State University. The trees and shrubs were at peak bloom, the weather was warm and we had a great turnout. Look for some changes to next year's tour to help accommodate more attendees as this has quickly grown into a crowd-pleasing event.



### Holiday Closures:

Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>



and

### Our offices will be closed:

Monday, Sept. 2nd



## Ferncliff to Sponsor Springfield Farmers Market

We are proud to be the weekly sponsor for the Springfield Farmers Market on Saturday, August 24. The Farmers Market is held weekly from 9 am – 12:30 pm in the North Market Alley adjacent to the Springfield Heritage Center in downtown. With 35 vendors featuring fresh produce, meats, cheese, flowers, artisan goods and more! Enjoy live music, food trucks and cooking demos. Be sure to stop by our booth.



## Clarification on our Decoration Policy

### Strict Enforcement goes into effect

Over the past several years our enforcement of Ferncliff's official decoration policy has been lacking and inconsistent. Over time this has resulted in visitors taking advantage of our non-enforcement by placing increasingly wild (and often dangerous) decorations at gravesides. This has made it necessary to start enforcing the decoration policy much more strictly and consistently. Decorations placed for holidays will remain at the graves for one week following the holiday. The policy is clearly posted at both the main and upper Plum Street gates. ***We have enclosed a copy of the complete policy with this newsletter.*** If you have any further questions, please let us know.

### Helping our Nearby Neighbors

Following the devastating tornadoes that touched down in the greater Dayton area on May 27<sup>th</sup>, Ferncliff Funeral Home and Crematory Executive Director, Rob Jones, volunteered at Dayton Memorial Park Cemetery and Mausoleum to assist clean-up efforts on the 200-acre property.

"By my estimation, nearly 25 percent of Memorial Park's grounds were significantly impacted, mainly in the southwest portion" said Jones. The damage from the F3 tornado included a maintenance building roof and approximately 175 toppled granite monuments, uprooted trees, and debris, some from nearby homes, strewn about. Roughly 500 concerned volunteers from all walks of life assisted Memorial Park and their hardworking staff on that day in their efforts.

Fortunately, none of Ferncliff's structures nor property were damaged by that storm.

In the photo at left: Jones is pictured (L) on Sat., June 1 at Memorial Park Cemetery and Mausoleum with fellow volunteers Angie Hoschouer (center) of Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum in Dayton and mutual friend, Kristen Bruns of Union, OH.



## Shout-Out to Amvets Post 25 - Thank You!!

Ferncliff Cemetery veterans' sections were once again decorated by volunteers, coordinated by Amvets Post 25, with American flags at the grave of each veteran in our GAR (Civil War), WWI, WWII and Annex sections. These looked beautiful and many of those visiting our grounds over the holiday weekend had very positive comments. WE THANK YOU.



*Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those effected by the recent tornadoes in our community. And to those who have given their service in this time of need, our thanks.*



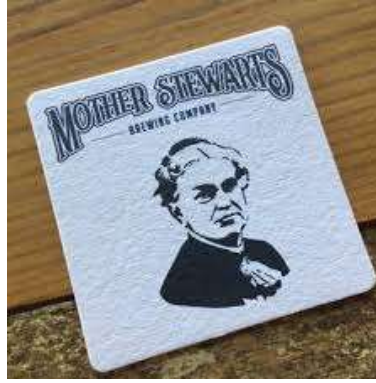
*Every day, people serve their neighbors and our nation in many different ways, from helping a child learn and easing the loneliness of those without a family to defending our freedom overseas. It is in this spirit of dedication to others and to our country that I believe service should be broadly and deeply encouraged.*

- John McCain  
1936 - 2018



## Do you know who Mother Stewart really was?

It is ironic that the brewery downtown is named for one of the most well-known leaders of the temperance movement. Eliza Daniels Stewart was born in 1816. While keeping house for her brother, who was postmaster here in Springfield, she was sworn in as his assistant under the administration of General Jackson. So far as is known, she was the first woman to ever hold such a position. She was one of the original members of the WCTU, or Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was a great crusader for this cause, and her speaking was known to draw large crowds to demonstrations and parades throughout the city. Affectionately known as Mother Stewart, she is buried here in Section L, Lot 570.



## New Creek makes Progress

The new creek addition is making great progress. Connecting Kelly's Lake with the lower Benston Pond, this new landscaping feature provides an additional location for placement of cremation boulders. Boulders are one option for interring cremated ashes here at Ferncliff. You will be able to choose your own location along the creek for placement of either a single or companion boulder. For more information or to select a space, please call to schedule an appointment with one of our family services reps at 937-322-3491.



Summer is the time when one sheds one's tensions with one's clothes, and the right kind of day is jeweled balm for the battered spirit. A few of those days and you can become drunk with the belief that all's right with the world.

Ada Louise Huxtable



Ferncliff Cemetery  
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