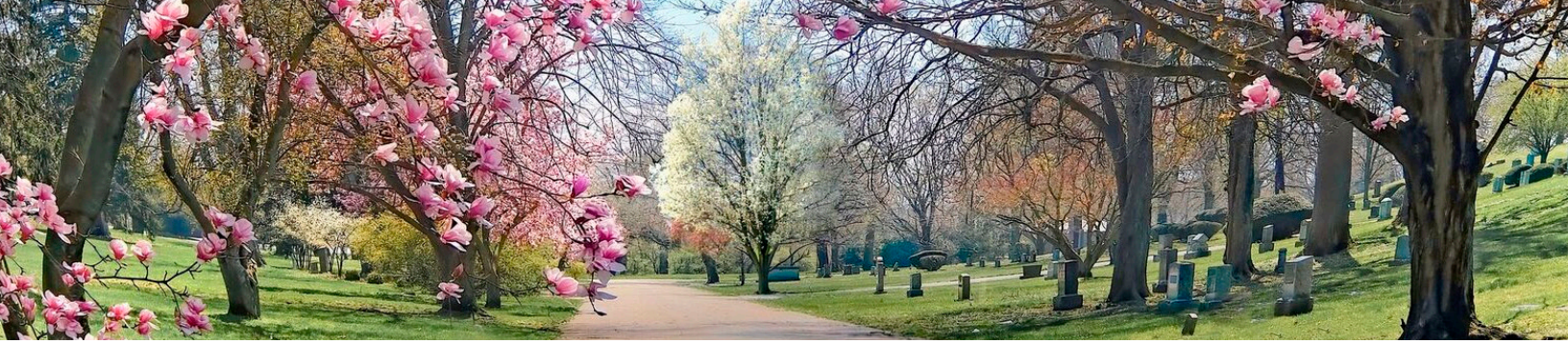




# Ferncliff

**SPECIAL EDITION  
NEWSLETTER**

May 2020



## **FERNCLIFF'S COMMITMENT TO SERVE - COVID-19 Pandemic -**

The past several weeks have been extremely difficult for our community and humanity. We are learning more about this situation each day and many things remain unclear regarding the impact of COVID-19. But, through it all, our care and compassion remains constant, as does our commitment to serve and safely care for you and your family.

As a provider of "essential services", defined by The Department of Homeland Security, our work is critical and we have a special responsibility to maintain our services during this time. Rest assured that Ferncliff is here to help guide you in ways that allow you to meaningfully commemorate the life of your loved one.

We have made some difficult decisions to adhere to the guidance of the local, state and federal public health officials while keeping the public and our employees safe. We are partnering closely with other area funeral homes so we can continue to offer seamless service. In keeping with the suggested guidelines, these are a few of the changes have been put into place:

1. Our office door is closed to walk in traffic, however, we are available for appointments by calling 937-322-3491. Our answering service is available 24/7 should we not be available to answer the phone.
2. Our gates remain open every day from 7:30am to 6:00pm.
3. We have temporarily ceased Saturday interments.
4. We are asking that cremation services be postponed until a future date.
5. Our chapel is not available for services during this time.
6. We are asking that no more than 10 persons attend the graveside committal, preferably immediate family only.

We appreciate your understanding during this time of uncertainty. It is our hope that we will be able to resume normal operations soon and, of course, we will do so only when we have been advised that is safe to do so. Be well, stay safe and know we are always here for you . . . in this together.

**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)

# Memorial Weekend Events Postponed

The *Floating Lantern Remembrance Service* originally scheduled for the evening of Sunday, May 24 is postponed. Even as things slowly reopen during this time of Covid-19, we recognize that large group gatherings are still not recommended. This event, where families who have lost a loved one during this past year gather to pay tribute, enjoy dinner, prizes, and a time of fellowship, is a special one here at Ferncliff. We hope we can reschedule the event for late summer or early fall.

A *Civil War Monument Dedication*, originally planned to occur after the parade on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, is also postponed. The monument recognizes 139 U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) buried in Ferncliff, will be installed at the GAR mound. We hope to reschedule the dedication ceremony later this year.

You can follow us on Facebook for all updated news regarding events here at Ferncliff at <https://www.facebook.com/FerncliffCemeteryArboretum/>

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## Annual Meeting Postponed

The annual meeting of the Springfield Cemetery Association has been postponed. Members of the Association meet once a year and this year, it was scheduled for Tuesday, April 28. Due to the pandemic, the meeting will be rescheduled for later this year.

*The article below is the second installment of Dr. Schanher's Historical Series.*

### *Preparing the Way*

Welcome back to our series delving into Clark County's early history. The first settlers in the area arrived in what is now western Clark County in 1790. The John Paul family established a fine homestead near present day New Carlisle. Unfortunately, marauding Indians killed John Paul and several of his family members. Two survived.

With the American victory, led by General Anthony Wayne over the Shawnee, led by Blue Jacket, and the Miami, led by Little Turtle, along with a small British contingent, the Battle of Fallen Timbers, near Toledo, on August 20, 1794, was the decisive victory that led to the 1795 Treaty of Greenville. This significant treaty, between the United States and midwestern Indian tribes, opened the avenue for settlement in western Ohio territory.

# COVID 19 Creates an Unexpected Economic Downturn

Like most good organizations, The Springfield Cemetery Association adopted a thoughtfully considered mission statement. Quite simply, "Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum will serve its community with supportive, affordable, and inclusive end of life services in a beautiful, historic environment". One thing that makes this mission statement different and more powerful, is the responsibility to execute these responsibilities "in perpetuity".

There are nearly 900 people and families who have entrusted Ferncliff with pre-need funds to handle the expenses of their final resting and the ongoing care of their property. In addition, over 77,000 people have entrusted Ferncliff with the care and custody of their memorials. Since inception in 1863, a portion of funds received have been placed in a reserve for this responsibility. The reserve funds are actively managed to ensure the fulfillment of this perpetual care responsibility.

With the recent economic downturn, Ferncliff is blessed to have adopted a thoughtful investment and spending policy and to have the expertise of a talented external partner for the oversight and active management of funds. Park National Bank Trust and Investment Services, a long-time service provider, guided by the insights and management of the Ferncliff Board of Trustees, continues to produce fruitful relative outcomes to support the perpetual care responsibility.

Even though most of the domestic and global investment categories dropped significantly between December 31, 2019 and March 31, 2020, the Ferncliff investment portfolios changed by less than the comparative benchmarks. With responsible investing and spending, Ferncliff is properly braced to manage the perpetual care responsibility that makes the mission complete.



## A Word of Thanks

*We offer our thanks to our area funeral home directors and staff, as well as families, for your understanding and cooperation during these recent difficult times. We have had to limit our services to immediate at-need only burials, as well as limit the number of family and friends attending services. We know this has been difficult for everyone, so please accept our sincere Thank you.*





# Ferncliff

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).



*Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!*  
- Sitting Bull