



Ferncliff

Celebrating 160 Years of Service to our Community

160

YEARS

1863 - 2023

Winter NEWSLETTER January - March 2024

Reflecting Forward: A Year in Review from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends of Ferncliff,

We have now bid farewell to 2023, and I am delighted to reflect on our journey this past year. It was the year that marked our 160th anniversary and my first year as your Executive Director.

Community

Our beautiful and historic cemetery was the site of a variety of events, including enlightening educational tours to celebrate our rich history and to fortify our commitment to the community. There were numerous trolley tours, guided and self-guided walking tours, a memorial lantern ceremony, the annual mausoleum crawl, and our Veterans Day service that were all testaments to a spirit of togetherness. Additional collaborations with community organizations were fundamental in promoting our shared values. This included hosting the popular Buck Creek Boom to celebrate Independence Day. The success of these gatherings has deepened our resolve to strengthen the bonds that tie us to the heart of our community, while more broadly sharing the reverence and beauty of Ferncliff.

Operations

The past year marked the beginning of a new business relationship to assist in our grounds care responsibilities. A positive result of this change permitted our highly qualified and dedicated cemetery operations staff the additional resources to better serve our families. This has enabled a focus on their efficiencies with foundation and memorial installations, work orders, repairs, and improvements in service excellence for the families who have entrusted us to care for their loved ones.

Master Plan

Excitement filled the air as three of our Master Plan projects took root, promising to enhance both the beauty and functionality of our service operations.

- Planning is well underway for the design and renovation of the former chapel space/administrative office building to meet current ADA Standards and compliance for accessibility, parking, and improving the space for the many families we serve.

- We are reimagining and designing enhancements to the Ferncliff Pet Cemetery to include a new entrance, central walkway with a focal feature, dedicated accessible parking, landscaping enhancements, and new signage.
- The list for 2024 includes the plans for a new service operations facility, relocated to make way for the design and creation of a Cliff Overlook Cremation Garden.

These initiatives represent a collective dedication by The Springfield Cemetery Association members and Trustees in preserving the sacred legacy of Ferncliff Cemetery and ensuring its timeless allure for generations to come.

Organization

As you may recall, following significant study and external input, the decision to close our Funeral Home was made in late 2022. We had fully recognized that our community is blessed with excellent and highly respected funeral homes, and the change allowed us to better focus on our core responsibilities. In 2023, the final steps of the closing occurred.

This past year we established a new path for Ferncliff, with the formation of the Ferncliff Foundation - an IRC Section 501(c) (3) charitable corporation. Ferncliff Foundation was created to help preserve, develop, maintain, and enhance the aesthetic, historic, and educational features within Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum. We must continue to honor the final resting places for over 80,000 souls. *(cont.)*



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

Daily Winter Gate Hours: McCreight Avenue: 7:30AM - 5:00PM | Plum Street: 7:30AM - 4:30PM

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM | ferncliffcemetery.org

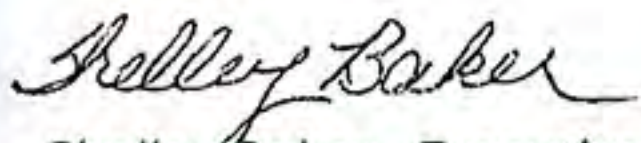
Reflecting Forward: A Year in Review from Our Executive Director

(cont.)

As we continue to connect the community with history and nature, and to provide tours, events, experimental programs for the natural sciences, and workshops on topics such as arboriculture, horticulture, ornithology, we are committed to maintaining a reflective, welcoming space for the entire community. You may want to consider a tax-deductible gift to the Ferncliff Foundation to help support our efforts.

As we focus forward to 2024, I gratefully acknowledge our dedicated staff, our Association Members, Trustees, our area funeral homes, and our community. Ferncliff will be a place of solace, remembrance, reflection, and a sacred space that celebrates life and honors the memories of those who rest here. Ferncliff will stand in perpetuity as a testament to the enduring connection between past, present, and future generations, strengthening our sense of community and leaving a legacy for the well-being of all who call Ferncliff home.

Sincerely,



Shelley Baker - Executive Director
Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum

Medal of Honor Recipient Laid to Rest

James Richard Ward was the first man from Clark County to die in World War II on December 7, 1941, serving aboard the USS Oklahoma. Navy Seaman First Class James Ward was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor for his gallantry, giving his life so his fellow sailors could escape the sinking ship. A cenotaph (memorial marker), bearing Ward's name, was provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and was located in the center of Ferncliff's World War II section.

In 2021, Ward's remains were identified and recently, his family requested his interment service take place at **Arlington National Cemetery**. In accordance with the Department of the Army National Military Cemeteries, and the rules governing eligibility for interment at Arlington National Cemetery, the cenotaph marker at Ferncliff had to be removed before the interment at Arlington could proceed. Ferncliff graciously complied with the requirement to remove the marker, which was returned to Ward's family, thus permitting the interment of Navy Seaman First Class James Ward at Arlington National Cemetery to proceed on December 21, 2023.

Ferncliff will be furnishing a new cenotaph marker to replace the original marker, appropriately honoring Ward's brave service.

President's Day – Two Degrees of Separation

An interesting connection to Presidents Day – a little removed. Charles Warren Fairbanks was the 26th Vice President of the United States. Fairbanks was elected vice president in 1904 on the Republican ticket with Theodore Roosevelt and served a four-year term, 1905 to 1909. He became the first vice president to serve a complete term without casting any tie-breaking votes as President of the Senate.

Charles Fairbanks was born May 11, 1852, in Unionville Center, OH to Mary Adelaide (Smith) and Loriston Monroe Fairbanks, a wagon maker. This is where the connection to Ferncliff is made: his parents are buried here in Section Q, Lot 2 in the Fairbanks family plot.

In his youth, his family's home was used as a hiding place for runaway slaves. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University, he moved to Indianapolis, working as an attorney and railroad financier, and became the state's US Senator from 1897 to 1905. In 1898 he was instrumental in settling the Alaska boundary dispute with Britain and Canada.

Fairbanks died in his home in Indiana in 1918 and was interred in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. The city of Fairbanks, Alaska, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough within which it lies; the Fairbanks School District in Union County, Ohio; Fairbanks, Minnesota; Fairbanks, Oregon; and Fairbanks Township, Michigan, are all named after him.



Charles W. Fairbanks as
Vice President of the United States



Fairbanks (r) and
Theodore Roosevelt



Historical Series with Dr. Schanher

Dr. Paul W. "Ski" Schanher III has been a devoted member of the Springfield Cemetery Association and serves as the President of the Board of Trustees. "Ski" is a retired, 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.

People Continue to Come

Springfield, in its infancy and early development, attracted men, women, and their families whose patient endurance and enterprise attracted others to follow in their footsteps. As you might well imagine, the early pioneers faced many unforeseen difficulties that were common to settlements on the frontier. They had limited contact with other fledgling communities. Markets were few and inaccessible. Building supplies and machinery for manufacturing purposes were nearly impossible to find. Recurring danger of roaming Native American tribes kept the settlers in a cautious state of alarm which prevented others from coming. But in spite of these roadblocks, people continued to come.

Pearson Spining (Spinning) was among the first merchants who contributed "wealth and energy toward the prosperity of the village." He arrived from Dayton in the fall of 1812. He opened a dry goods business that served him well until 1834. Yearly, he traveled on horseback to New York City and Philadelphia to purchase goods that he transported in wagons over the Allegheny Mountains to Pittsburgh. His dry goods were placed on keelboats and floated down the river to Cincinnati and then placed in wagons destined for Springfield. Because of his entrepreneurial spirit, Spining invested in and accumulated a great deal of real estate, making him perhaps the wealthiest man in Springfield.

Besides building a magnificent residence on Limestone Street in 1827, in anticipation of the National Road soon to be arriving in Springfield, in 1830, Spining built the Buckeye House on the northwest corner of Main and Limestone Streets for the convenience of travelers staying overnight in Springfield. When seventh President Andrew Jackson denied federal money to continue the National Road to the Ohio-Indiana border, Spining contracted with the public works of the state to continue the road. However, due to unexpected construction costs and delays, he lost a considerable amount of his fortune. His Buckeye House continued to thrive as Springfield became known as "Innkeeper of the National Road."

Another successful merchant, "Granny" Isenbarger was one of the most extraordinary characters in the early history of Springfield. Along with her four children and an unruly, drunken husband, "Granny" arrived in Springfield during the War of 1812. Due to these unfortunate circumstances, she became the sole supporter of the family by selling cakes and beer. Quickly, she became extremely popular among the townspeople and was described as a woman of "unblemished character and diligent in her calling." She attended every camp meeting and was a regular of all military musters and other public gatherings where her cakes and beer replenished "many a hungry and thirsty soul." She was widely known for "her kind disposition to all, especially to the children, gained her the respect of every individual."

She conducted her business in a log house situated on the west side of Market Street, now Fountain, not far from the southwest corner of Main Street. This portly and good-natured motherly woman lived in Springfield for more than a quarter of a century. She followed her husband in death in 1839.

In Memoriam



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Lawrence "Larry" McCoy, a dedicated member of the Springfield Cemetery Association. Larry, born on June 14, 1935, in Springfield, Ohio, and youngest son of George and Olive McCoy, passed away on November 6, 2023.

A distinguished graduate of Springfield High School and Wittenberg University, Larry contributed his talents to OMCO Products, Thomas Tape Company, and various divisions of the International Paper Company. His commitment extended beyond his professional endeavors, as he served as a member, council member, and council president of First Lutheran Church.

Larry's impactful community service included presidencies of the Community Welfare Council, Mental Health & Recovery Board, Clark County Hearing & Speech, Springfield Kiwanis Club, and Clark County Historical Society. Notably, he chaired the Wittenberg Kiwanis Basketball Classic for numerous years.

His service to the Springfield Cemetery Association has left an indelible mark, and Ferncliff expresses gratitude for his unwavering dedication. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Larry's family and friends during this time.

A Tribute to Nature Shots by Terri & David Norris

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated cemetery photographers, Nature Shots by Terri & David Norris. Terri and David are based in Springfield and are the artistic visionaries behind the lens. While their primary focus is on nature photography, they enjoy sharing their scenic artistry which graces our newsletters, social media pages, and website, capturing a glimpse into the beauty that defines Ferncliff.

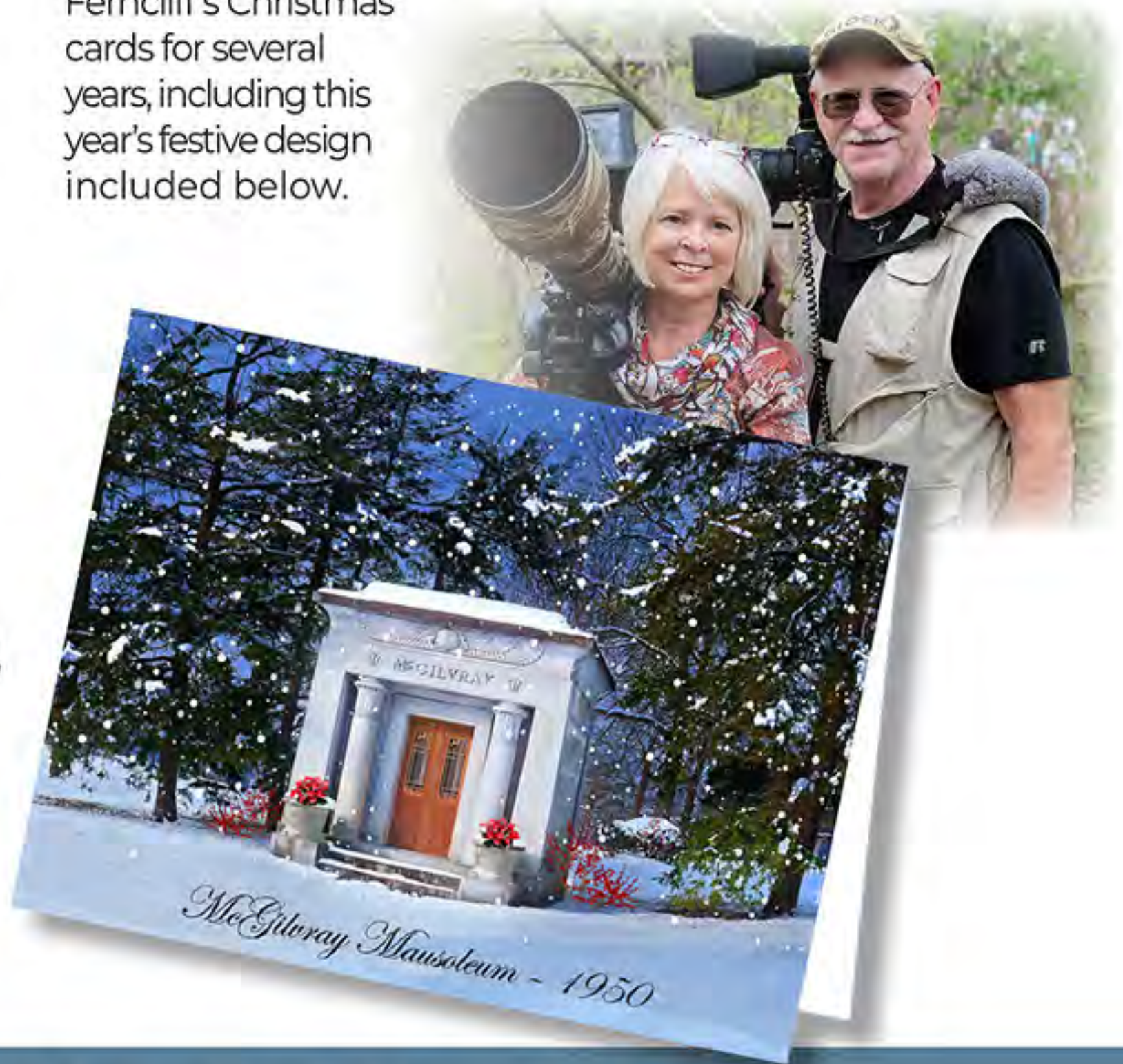
This issue features snapshots of Terri and David's artistry. From the angel in the snow gracing our back cover to the exquisite close-up of a Virginia Spring Beauty in our article on changing gate hours, their images tell stories of seasons, transitions, and the enduring spirit of Ferncliff.

Terri's connection with Ferncliff dates back to her teenage years, fostering an appreciation for Ferncliff's history and beauty. Following her retirement as an RN, she devoted her free time to photographing the diverse birdlife and wildlife in the Clark County area.

David, a retired Utilities Supervisor from the City of Springfield, brings a unique perspective to their collaborations. Initially describing himself as a "pack mule," he adeptly captures dynamic action shots, complementing Terri's artistic focus. Together, they provide multifaceted views of the events they photograph, enriching our community's visual experience.

Terri and David enjoy traveling and you can explore more of their remarkable photography and nature excursions on their blog at www.natureshots.net and our photo and video gallery at www.ferncliffcemetery.org.

Terri and David have been the creative minds behind Ferncliff's Christmas cards for several years, including this year's festive design included below.



Daylight Savings Time Means Gate Hours Changing

Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour Saturday night or **Sunday morning on March 10, 2024.**

Starting that Sunday, we will be extending our gate hours: The main McCreight Avenue gate will close at 7:00 pm. Both gates along Plum Street will still close at 4:30 pm.

GOLDEN TICKET FOUND ~ In Ferncliff's Infamous Fence ~

Champion City Pops Sweets & Treats and **Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop** partnered up to bring you The Golden Ticket Challenge during this past holiday season. Five (5) Golden Tickets were hidden around Springfield and a clue was dropped on social media daily at 9AM.

On Wednesday, November 29, the morning clue for the fourth Golden Ticket led participants to Ferncliff, specifically our infamous fence along McCreight Ave.

Congratulations to Cathleen Irwin Ruf for finding the Golden Ticket. She is the happy winner of:

*Year of rolled ice cream at
The Champion City Pops Sweets & Treats.*

*Year of World-famous candy buffet box at
Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop.*

We were pleased to be one of the special locations in this popular event, and our fence was especially happy in welcoming visitors, rather than enduring car collisions.



Ferncliff is Forever

Perpetual care is one of the most important responsibilities at Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum. With 218 acres of beautiful natural space, an 8.3-mile road system, hundreds of trees, several lakes, cliffs, and over 80,000 interments, it is a daunting task that is always present. It is one of Ferncliff's highest priorities. Ferncliff endeavors to fulfill this obligation and ensure that funds are appropriately allocated to help meet this responsibility. Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum maintains and manages a Perpetual Care Fund that is responsibly invested with a vision of "lasting in perpetuity". Also, additional funds are added through a disciplined allocation from cemetery revenues. For example, 35% of all lot sales are directed to the Perpetual Care Fund, thereby adding new dollars each year to the Fund.

An important example of fulfilling this obligation, is the new work to clean and renew designated markers, monuments, and mausoleums. Currently, the Centennial Preservation Group of Columbus, Ohio is working to clean and preserve monumentation in several designated areas. They are specialists in historic restoration techniques and committed to the importance of their work and outcomes. The work to date, includes the GAR (Civil War) Mound, the Bookwalter and Bushnell Mausoleums. There is more work planned, and the photographs in this message help demonstrate the difference that is being made as the obligation of perpetual care is fulfilled.

Ferncliff is Forever.



Ferncliff Welcomes New Employee

Ferncliff is excited to welcome Valerie Adams who joined our team in September as our new Administrative Assistant. A native of Springfield, Valerie graduated from Springfield South High School. After being away from family and friends for many years she enjoys being home again. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and is a Certified Life Coach with a focus on holistic healing.

Valerie has an extensive customer service background - from the airline industry to the medical field to the education field. She says she loves working at Ferncliff and really enjoys helping people. Valerie also enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, outdoor activities, golfing, live music, roller skating and cooking. She aspires to learn gardening, playing the guitar and seeing the Aurora Borealis live and up close.



"Let's Play Jeopardy!"

Ferncliff to host Lunch & Learn at USS in March

Join Ferncliff for a Lunch & Learn program event at the United Senior Services Center, 125 W. Main St, on Thursday, March 14 at 12 noon. Come enjoy lunch while learning about Ferncliff as we present an interesting slide show presentation with "answers" on topics like:

- Oddities and Unusual Tidbits
- Contemporary Prominent People
- Programs and Events
- Flora and Fauna
- Updates and Upcoming



To schedule a presentation for your community group, please call us at 937-322-3491.

Team Member Spotlight

One of our Family Services associates, Tom Pamer, is the ACT Lead Advocate for Ohio's Congressional District 10 for **The American Cancer Society - Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)**.

ACS CAN is the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, and since 2001, it has successfully advocated for billions of dollars in cancer research funding, expanded access to quality affordable health care, and advanced proven tobacco control measures.

Volunteer advocates like Tom meet with local, state, and federal legislators to urge them to make cancer a national priority.

Pamer, a prostate cancer survivor, has shared his story by testifying in support of bills at the Statehouse and, in September, traveled again to Washington D.C. with 20 advocates from Ohio and nearly 700 other advocates from across the country for ACS CAN's National Lobby Day. His meetings on Capitol Hill were held with Rep. Mike Turner, Sen. Sherrod Brown, Sen. J.D. Vance, their staff members, and other Ohio legislators to discuss their support for increased funding for cancer research and legislation to help cancer patients. Bills discussed included the Multi-Cancer Early Detection Testing Act and the PSA Screening Act for men who are most at risk for prostate cancer.

In addition to meeting with elected officials, Pamer organizes the local display of ACS CAN's Lights of Hope Across America in downtown Springfield with hundreds of decorated luminaries honoring those touched by cancer and then taking the lights to D.C. for the national display.

To learn more about ACS CAN, please visit
<http://www.fightcancer.org>
or contact Tom at the main office at
937-322-3491



Spring is Coming – We Promise! *Now is the Time to Think about Trees*

Ferncliff Arboretum offers an array of packages for tree adoption or dedication. If you've thought about adopting or planting a tree, or memorializing a loved one with a unique tree marker, now is the time to act. Ferncliff plants new trees in the Spring, so call our office now for details or an appointment at **937-322-3491** and ask for Marilyn.



Mark Your Calendars For Spring Cleanup Monday, March 18, 2024

To ensure that our grounds are well cared for, only the following items are allowed:

- Flowers in either a vase or a monument saddle
- U.S. & military flags in a flag holder.

We ask that any other decorations be removed by Sunday, March 17, 2024. Any remaining decorations will be disposed of.

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



Getting to Know our Board Members:

Sheila Rice

In each issue of The Ferncliff Newsletter, we include an introduction to one of our Board Members. We are extremely proud of each member of our Board and the contributions they make to strengthening our mission to serve our community with affordable, inclusive, end-of-life services.

This month, we would like to introduce you to Sheila Rice, a dedicated member of our Board of Trustees. As a lifelong Springfield resident, born and raised, Sheila's journey includes graduating from Springfield South High and attending Clark State Technical College. Currently, Sheila wears multiple hats - serving as the Clerk of Clark County Municipal Court, a Coldwell Banker Heritage realtor, and the proud small business owner of "The L," an event center.

Sheila's family is an integral part of her life. Her family, consists of four successful adult children, including two daughters thriving in Atlanta, another the business manager at Catholic Central locally, and a son who owns and operates the Southern Village License Bureau.



Sheila balances a passion for travel and cherishes moments with her grandchildren, who reside in Atlanta and Los Angeles. An interesting fact is that Sheila's daughter at Catholic Central recently earned her mortuary science degree from Wayne State University, passed her state licensing requirements, and is on her way to completing her apprenticeship. Additionally, in December, Sheila married Alan Henry, the owner of Robert C. Henry Funeral Home. Sheila states that her connection to funeral service was unforeseen when she became a Ferncliff Trustee.

In 2011, Sheila was approached by then Trustee, Roger Evans, and was asked to join the Springfield Cemetery Association as one of the twenty-five members. In 2020, Sheila was appointed to the Board of Trustees. Recognizing its profound impact on our community, Sheila commented, "It became clear that the public needed to know that they have a voice and a resource to express concerns and compliments alike. Many are unaware that a committed Board of Trustees is the governing body of the cemetery association, genuinely caring about the community's concerns."

Sheila reflected that her involvement with Ferncliff stemmed from a less-than-ideal experience during her mother's passing. Now, armed with a clearer understanding of available options, Sheila strives to make the public aware of their choices. When asked, Sheila commented, "What resonates deeply with me about Ferncliff is not just its role as the resting place for my immediate deceased family but also its standing as one of the most aesthetically pleasing grounds anywhere."

We are truly fortunate to have Sheila Rice as a resolute Trustee, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to her for her commitment to Ferncliff and the community.

The Governing Body of Ferncliff Cemetery

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*, Immediate Past President
- Darrell Kitchen*
- Ed Leventhal
- Atty. David Martin*, Vice President/Secretary
- Julie McGregor
- Daniel McGregor
- Dale E. Miller*
- Sheila Rice*
- Reed Robertson*
- Dr. Paul "Ski" Schanher*, President
- Steve Schumaker
- Laurel Shouplin
- Jon Sterling
- Dr. Richard Umbaugh*, Treasurer
- Chester Walthall*




Ferncliff

501 W. McCreight Ave.
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Did you Know?

All service animals, with proof of service, will receive burial in our Pet Cemetery free of charge.



*"Kindness is like snow
- It beautifies
everything it covers."
- Hakil Gibran*