

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

July 2023



From the President

This has been a busy year so far at Lee Mission Cemetery. We have worked with our landscape maintenance company to continue their care of the cemetery and further improve the overall appearance of the cemetery.

There have been several happenings this year, with more coming. Be sure to read the **Happenings at Lee Mission Cemetery** article on page 3 to learn more.

We will be producing a Spanish version of the Newsletter beginning with this issue. We are happy to be able to provide this to the members of our community and hope they find it helpful. In addition, we are striving to develop new and improved methods of communication in addition to our website and the newsletter.

Unfortunately, we continue to experience homeless people cutting holes in our fences and building camps within the cemetery grounds. If you happen to see a hole in the fence or a homeless campsite, please let us know so we can address it quickly.

As always, we greatly appreciate our volunteers and all the work they do to help keep Lee Mission Cemetery a special place. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact us at admin@leemissioncemetery.com and we will add you to the volunteer list. There are so many ways to be a volunteer—we are interested to hear from you.

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Special points of interest

- Newsletter now in Spanish
- Increase in plot prices
- Upcoming cemetery cleanup day

DONATIONS

Lee Mission Cemetery is a 501(c)13 not-for-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible. 100% of donations made to the Cemetery go toward improvement and maintenance. Officers and board members volunteer their time and receive no compensation.

Lee Mission Cemetery, P.O. Box 2011, Salem, OR 97308

Lee Mission Cemetery is licensed through the Oregon State Mortuary Board. Phone: 971-673-1500.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can lower your tax bill by donating part or all of your required minimum distribution [RMD] directly to Lee Mission Cemetery or a qualified charitable organization.

For more information see [IRS.gov/qualified charitable contributions](https://www.irs.gov/qualified-charitable-contributions).

From the President (*cont.*)

The Board continues attempting to address decorations that are not allowed on and around gravesites. The cemetery has rules which set forth what can and cannot be placed on or around a gravesite. These have been adopted to help minimize the amount of impact on the landscaping company as they do their work to keep the cemetery looking its best when they mow. They also allow the digging required for adjacent burials. Please help us by observing these rules.

As a final comment, I want to recognize our many donors. Without their financial contributions to Lee Mission, we would not be able to do most of the projects and routine maintenance activities we are able to take on. Please read the article inside on how you can become a donor and perhaps receive a tax break at the same time.

Lee Mission Cemetery Donations January—June 2023

Friend: \$1-\$49

Karen Ro Heuberger
*In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Roe
Betterton*

Mary J. Brock
*In memory of Margaret Hadley
Irvine*

Supporter: \$50-\$99

Kathryn A. Karr
In memory of Bert & Ada Karr

Sponsor: \$100-\$249

Lisa Sargent
In honor of Jean Miller
Albert Furtwangler
David R. Shaw

Thomas and Patricia Glass

Mike and Julie Staten
Elizabeth Walton Potter
In honor of Ted & Mimi Stang

Preservation: \$250-\$499

Cora A. Hallauer
In memory of Robert Hallauer
Marilynn Wright

Historian: \$500-\$2,499

Diane Newport
Sherrill Hochspeier
Phyllis L. Gillis
In memory of Richard M. Gillis

Effective August 1, 2023

Plot prices will increase to \$1,500. This provides for one casket, one casket and one cremains, or two cremains.

Happenings at Lee Mission Cemetery

The Cemetery Board is happy to share with you the progress we are making in maintaining the Lee Mission Cemetery as an important historic site and place of respite for the Salem community.

In preparation for Memorial Day, we had a work day that was well attended by members of the LDS, Salem 1st Ward, Church. Much work was done to beautify the grave sites and prepare the cemetery for the holiday. Thank you to all those who volunteered! We will have another service day on September 9 (see Cemetery Cleanup article on page 4).

The Board also decorated the cemetery for Memorial Day by putting out 97 clergy flags and 173 veteran flags to honor those who have served.

The Board is in the process of repairing grave stones that have broken or fallen over. We have initially identified 25 grave stones for repair and received a bid from Historic Preservation Northwest for



\$7,000. To partially fund this work, we will seek a grant from the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries. Since this grant will only cover part of the expense, we will need to provide in-kind work and other monetary donations to match the amount received. Please consider donating toward this important project.

The markers which identify the different sections of the cemetery were repaired and replaced as necessary. New caps were put on the posts so they will last longer.

The Board is also working on finding a contractor who can repair and replace the historic fencing around Diamond Square. Our goal is to repair the pieces of the fence that are still usable and have the missing parts fabricated to match the original

fence, so that we can reinstall the entire fence around the square. Unfortunately, there are not many companies that do this type of work. Once we find such a company and get an estimate, we will submit an application to the City of Salem for approval of the project and a grant request for funding. This has been a long-term goal of the Board and we hope to see progress on it in the next year. Again, if you would like to make a donation toward the fence repair, let us know!

Finally, to maintain the financial stability of the cemetery, the Board voted to raise the cost of cemetery plots to \$1,500 beginning August 1, 2023. This allows for one coffin and one urn OR for two urns in the plot. Plots initially purchased as a single burial site incur a fee of \$400 to add an urn to the gravesite.

Cemetery Cleanup Saturday, September 9

In keeping with the National Day of Service on September 11, Lee Mission Cemetery will be having a cleanup day on Saturday, September 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please bring gloves, lawn tools such as rakes, clippers, etc., and wheel barrows if you have one. Light refreshments will be provided.

As part of the cleanup, we will remove items from around the individual gravesites that do not comply with the cemetery rules. This is necessary for us to maintain the cemetery and have access for new burials. The rules provide:

“Lee Mission Cemetery is not responsible for any damage or missing items to headstones or items placed on graves.

A. Artificial flowers are not allowed April thru September.

Fresh flowers are allowed year round.

B. The following items are prohibited:

- breakables including glass or ceramic vases and candles,
- rocks, tiles, and marbles,
- fencing or other structures.

C. No plants, flowers, or decorations may be placed more than 12 inches away from headstone.

D. Trees, shrubs, or flowers may not be planted on the plot.

The cemetery board maintains the right to remove any article, keepsake or planting which is not consistent with the historical, natural and maintenance needs of the cemetery.”

Each owner of a gravesite was provided these rules and regulations when they received the gravesite deed. Notices will be put on the graves in July and August to remind people visiting the cemetery to remove items they do not want discarded.

We welcome all and appreciate everyone’s help in this effort to provide a peaceful place of rest for our beloved who are buried at Lee Mission.

Board of Directors

Michael Staten,
President

Sherrill Hochspeier,
Secretary-Treasurer

Tom Bowers

Phyllis Gillis

Page Merrill

Julie Staten

Blake Ritz

Contact Information

Cemetery Phone
503-851-1803

Lot Sales Phone (Rick)
503-559-2242

Web Site

www.leemissioncemetery.com

Comments, additions and corrections regarding website or newsletter:

admin@leemissioncemetery.com

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

*Now available in Spanish
as well as English via our
website, postal delivery,
and email.*

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

If you are receiving the print version of our newsletter via postal delivery and would prefer an email copy, please contact us at admin@leemissioncemetery.com and give us your email address. We will remove you from the print version and add you to the email version.

If you are receiving an email version of our newsletter and would like to change to a print version via postal delivery, please contact us at admin@leemissioncemetery.com and give us your postal delivery address. We will remove you from the email version and add you to the print version.

If you are not currently receiving a copy of our newsletter and would like to be added to our distribution list, please contact us at admin@leemissioncemetery.com and give us your postal delivery address or email address and we will add you to the appropriate distribution list.

We are now offering a Spanish version of our newsletter. If you would like to receive a copy in Spanish, or you know someone who would, please contact us at admin@leemissioncemetery.com and give us your/ their postal delivery address or email address and we will add you/them to the appropriate Spanish distribution list.

Records and Photos

We are undertaking a large project to help improve record keeping for the cemetery. Missing information is being researched and added to the records, inconsistencies are being checked and corrected between records and the website, and photos of gravestones are being added to the website's [Burial Search by Name](#) section.

If you see any missing information or inconsistencies that you can help us with, please contact us at admin@leemissioncemetery.com.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Cemetery is on Kalapuya Illihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of Kalapuya peoples who were forcibly removed to what are now the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations.



*Lee Mission Cemetery
PO Box 2011
Salem, OR 97308*