

Lee Mission Cemetery Newsletter

June 2015



Lee Mission Cemetery 2204 D Street Salem, OR 97301

From the President;

Once again several groups have volunteered their time to do weeding and cleanup at the cemetery. Saturday, April 18th a group from Salem First United Methodist church donated their time to do cleanup at the cemetery. May 9th the Fairgrounds Ward of Latter Day Saints was at the cemetery doing additional work. It is all very much appreciated!

A thank you to Jerry Shay of JP Services for donating his time to work with the volunteer groups and for the work he does at the cemetery.

As the newly elected President I want to express my gratitude to the board for all the help and assistance they have given to me. We have accomplished quite a bit in the last 4 months. While there are many more projects on my list we are making huge strides. It would not be possible to have come as far as we already have without their co-operation and help.

Stephenie Flora

What's Been Going On?

The Board has been busy the past few months. In February we added a cell phone that is dedicated solely to the cemetery so that anyone with questions or concerns will have a contact number to call. The number, (503) 851-1803 has been noted on our website and on the contact information on our kiosk.

Rick Hilts has taken on the responsibility of handling grave sales for the cemetery. He volunteers his time and has been a wonderful help! I cannot express enough my gratitude to him for taking on that task. Grave sales are continuing with about 1-2 sales a month.

Board member Sherrill Hochspeier took on the task of looking into security companies to patrol the cemetery at closing and lock the gate. We decided on Prostar/AAA Security and contracted with them in March. They have been doing an outstanding job. Cemetery neighbors, the Merrills, have been kind enough to open the gate each morning.

Board member Margaret Stephens has been our intermediary with the Northeast Neighborhood Association. In addition, she has spent countless hours at the cemetery pulling invasive ivy and trimming shrubs.

Board member Tom Bowers is handling the cemetery cell phone calls and is also in charge of all the maintenance issues. There have been several trees that have come down this spring. They had to be removed and fences repaired.

Board member Mimi Stang is still fulfilling her duties as Secretary-Treasurer. She picks up the mail, pays the bills, she writes thank you letters and much more.

Board member Phyllis Gillis took on a special task this spring. As incoming President my first project was to see that the pillars at the entrance to the cemetery were restored. Phyllis took on the job of contacting the City and State Preservation agencies and finding a mason that does historic restoration. She accomplished both task admirably. While she was involved in dealing with those issues I took on the task of applying for grants to help cover the cost. As of June 12th we have been notified that we received both grants that we applied for and reconstruction of the pillars will begin around July 1. We are all very excited.

Board member Pat Glass and I have been discussing the possibility of having a headstone cleaning clinic at the cemetery in the Spring of 2016. More on that in future newsletters.

And finally, it is my pleasure to announce that we have added Sean O'Harra to the board. He is currently Director of Operations at Willamette Heritage Center and will be a valuable addition.

Cemetery Visitor



An owl watches over the cemetery with interest. The good news is that he didn't seem interested in attacking visitors as was the case in at least one local park. [photo by Jim Momyer]

Memorial Day

Jerry Shay of J.P. Services, his son, Cory, board members Phyllis Gillis, Tom Bowers, myself and Tom's daughter, Julie, and her friend, Haley, put flags on the graves for Memorial Day. The cemetery looked colorful with all the flowers and flags. Thank you to all who made it possible.



Newsletter Delivery

I know some of you prefer to receive your newsletters via email. If you would rather have your newsletter delivered to your email address you can make the change by contacting Stephenie@leemissioncemetery.com and your preference will be noted.

Pillars



As noted above, we will be moving forward around the first of July to restore the pillars. Upon inspection by Mike Tappan of Tappan Masonry, Joy Sears of the Oregon State Historic Preservation agency and Kimberli Fitzgerald of Salem Historic Preservation, it was determined that restoration was no longer an option. As noted in the accompanying photo, the brick has been painted in the past to cover graffiti and water seepage has damaged the base. It was decided that total reconstruction using aged brick and the original format would be necessary to achieve the original appearance. Grants obtained, as well as previous donations toward the project, will leave us with some additional expense in the form of graffiti protection and landscaping. The current laurel bushes will be removed to allow for the necessary construction. The project is expected to be completed around September 1 and at that time we will plant smaller, more manageable shrubs.

Future Projects

Our primary goal at this time is to see the pillar project completed. As soon as that is accomplished we will be turning our attention to upgrading the kiosk and restoring the railing around Diamond Square. Over the years the railing has deteriorated and rusted through. The Anna Maria Pittman Chapter of the DAR has made a donation toward that project and it is hoped that additional donations and grants will make the project possible. In addition to those projects it is hoped that we will be able to eradicate the blackberries at the back of the cemetery and restore that area. Plans are also being discussed regarding additional landscaping practices throughout the cemetery to control weeds and aid in the overall appearance.

Warning For Dog Owners

Despite the fact that both city and county laws require dog owners to keep their dogs on a leash, the cemetery continues to have problems with those who think the laws do not apply to them. Lee Mission Cemetery is a privately owned non-profit entity with the right to set and enforce the rules and regulations it deems necessary to provide a comfortable environment for all who visit. We ask that everyone respect the rules as provided on the kiosk. Not only are a few dog owners disrespecting the rights of others but they are putting their animals at risk. Pesticides and herbicides will be in use in the near future and could cause injury to pets allowed to simply roam without supervision. Dog owners who continue to ignore the leash law do so at their own risk.

LEE MISSION CEMETERY DONATIONS SINCE JANUARY 1-MAY 30 2015

Monument Builder <u>\$500 – 2500</u>	
Sponsor <u>\$101 – 499</u>	
Supporter <u>\$51 – 100</u>	
David and Marian Poindexter	
Jim & Karen Momyer	
Lela Jackson	
Jean Hand	
Ted and Mimi Stang	
	Friend <u>Up to \$50</u>
	Genevieve Bridges
	Elisabeth Walton Potter (in honor of Jim Momyer)
	Bill and Mary Mainwaring
	Kathleen Coleman
	Leona Claire Fuller
	Kathrin Karr
	Ed Heberlein
	Gayle Gilmour
	Kendrick Simila (baby Robert Simila)
	Pamela Lyons-Nelson
	Bishop Calvin McConnell
	Nettie Karr
	Ken Betterton
	Kim Blanding
	Carolyn Greiner



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.

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

Board of Directors:

Stephenie L. Flora, President
Mimi Stang, Secretary
Tom Bowers
Phyllis Gillis
Pat Glass
Sherrill Hochspeier
Margaret Stephens
Sean O'Harra

Contact Information:

Lee Mission Cemetery @ (503) 851-1803
Lot Sales: Rick @ (503) 559-2242

Web Site:

<http://www.leemissioncemetery.com/>

Comments, additions and corrections regarding the website or the newsletter can be sent to

Stephenie@leemissioncemetery.com



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