

# OCA Journal

September 2016 | Volume 6 | Issue 4  
Publication of the Ohio Cemetery Association

## President's Message

The OCA Annual Conference was held August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. We had a nice turnout for a great event. The convention kicked off at the Zoar Village Golf Course. There were four teams that played in the 18 hole scramble. The course played well and the winning team came in at four under par! The winning team members were: Marilyn Brandt, Greg Brack, Jim Pellegrine, and Paul O'Brien.



Days 2 and 3 were held at the Schoenbrunn Inn and Convention Center. We had a wide array of speakers lined up for these days. Hopefully everyone in attendance enjoyed the presentations and was able to take something new back to their operations. This is always one of our goals for the convention.

The City of Dover hosted the field day and lunch at the Dover Burial Park Cemetery on August 2nd. We had some great BBQ for lunch followed by 2 informative sessions given by Mark Morton with Gravestone Guardians and David Yearsley with Ensure-A-Seal. After the sessions were finished, we all got to spend the afternoon visiting with our equipment suppliers. While testing and viewing the equipment, everyone had the opportunity to participate in a couple contests. We had a mower obstacle course that was setup and sponsored by Pace Inc. We also had a backhoe skills competition sponsored by JCB and Southeastern Equipment. Both these events were timed events.  
**continued...**

## Fall Maintenance Seminar

The Fall Maintenance Seminar is fast approaching. Download the Agenda, Cemetery or Supplier Registration forms at [ohiocemeteryassociation.com](http://ohiocemeteryassociation.com).



**When:**  
Thursday October 6, 2016

**Where:**  
Forest Hill Cemetery &  
Arboretum  
8660 St. Rt. 66  
Piqua, OH 45356

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## Upcoming Events

**Fall Maintenance Seminar**  
October 8, 2016  
Forest Hill Cemetery &  
Arboretum  
Piqua, OH

**2016 Awards Banquet**  
February 2017  
Location TBA

**2017 Spring Conference**  
March 2017  
Location TBA

***President's Message continued...***

The winner of the mower obstacle course was Garson Darrin from Toledo Memorial Park. The backhoe skills winner was Trevor Garrett from Davids Cemetery. Congratulations to all that participated and showed off their skills!! Tuesday evening was capped off with a performance by David Crone with, "I'm no Dummy Productions". Mr. Crone gave a great magical and ventriloquist show for all to enjoy. The audience even got to see Mr. Mark Funke show off his awesome singing voice!! I'm sure we have some videos to share in the future of his performance. Pictures from the convention can be found on the OCA website.

[ohiocemeteryassociation.com](http://ohiocemeteryassociation.com)

Again, I wanted to thank all that took the time to attend and participate with this convention. I know everyone has busy work and home schedules to juggle. Without the participation from our membership and suppliers our great association would not be the same. Hope everyone has a great rest of the summer heading into fall.

***Scott Harmon***  
***OCA President***

## Annual Convention Sponsor Thank You

Thank you to the following organizations for their generous sponsorship and continuing support of our association and this annual convention.

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# Annual Convention Participating Suppliers

Thank you to the following suppliers who presented their products/services and equipment at the Schoenbrunn Inn and Dover Burial Park. See the following pages for more information on these suppliers. Give them a call!!!!

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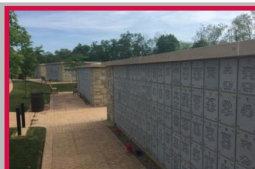


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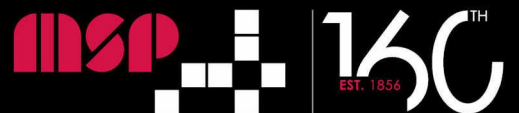
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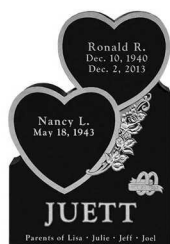


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# Cemetery Spotlight

## Host of Fall Maintenance Seminar

### Forest Hill Cemetery & Arboretum Piqua

Welcome to Forest Hill Cemetery and Arboretum located in Piqua, Ohio a city of just over 20,000 located 25 miles north of Dayton, Ohio.

Forest Hill is a Union Cemetery which under Ohio Revised Code is jointly owned by two governmental bodies. In our case the land is owned by the City of Piqua and Washington Township. The land was purchased by both in 1868 but at the time was not permitted and the State of Ohio took up the matter and changed the Ohio revised Code to allow the joint purchase of land for the purpose of a cemetery. Neither are permitted to run the cemetery and a board of trustees made up of three members oversee its operations and met once a month. All employees are government employees and work for the cemetery and no other agency.

Forest Hill became the first Union Cemetery in Ohio in 1868. The land that the cemetery sits on was owned by Jacob Schmidlapp a smart business man that would lend you a dollar but you owed him back a penny or two in interest. He moved to Cincinnati, Ohio later and started a bank. After many bank buyouts and consolidations today the once ***continued...***



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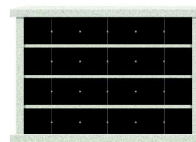
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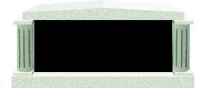
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## **Cemetery Spotlight on Forest Hill Cemetery & Arboretum continued...**

small bank is known as 5/3rd Bank. While the vast majority of his family is buried here at Forest Hill with Lions overlooking the area Jacob was buried in Cincinnati along with his daughter.

In 1873 a canal was dug separating the land in half. While the cemetery itself is located on two different elevations the canal was build separating the lower elevations from the higher elevations. The purpose of the canal was to supply the city with its first water plant and allow for gravity water fed system. Today the canal is used for recreational usage and runs 3 ½ miles with three lakes.

Today the cemetery holds over 30,000 burials and conducts on average of 140 burials per year. We have 4 full time employees consisting of 2 grounds keepers, a superintendent, and an office or business manager. Forest Hill Cemetery also employee's four part time college students during the summer months and one part time employee during the fall and winter season. The cemetery also has a part time arborist and horticultural director.



The cemetery works to ensure that the cemetery is mowed and weeded with mowing the complete cemetery each week and having each monument trimmed every two weeks. Of course this does not always work out due to burials and the weather.

The mowing and trimming involves over 80 acres and over 27,000 monuments plus the many ground level markers.

All cemetery maintenance on equipment as well as road work during the summer, building repair snow plowing and salting during the winter are done by cemetery personnel. We try to hold down all cost in order to put more money into the cemetery itself.

Over the last 8 years we have added a number of new gardens and this year added a new garden with a water feature.

In 2012 the cemetery build a labyrinth garden, the second **continued...**

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## ***Cemetery Spotlight on Forest Hill Cemetery & Arboretum continued...***

largest labyrinth in the Dayton, Ohio area, which includes a single columbarium and in the upcoming years will have additional columbarium's added for a total of five by the time it is all full.

In 2014 we added the Christmas Angel of Hope to the labyrinth garden and is one of only 123 across the world.

Forest Hill Cemetery has received a number of awards including a Ground Water Guardian Green Site, as well as being awarded an Arboretum in 2016. The cemetery has ties within the community with a number of local businesses and industries that provide resources or financial gifts.

We are proud of the fact that Forest Hill Cemetery and Arboretum was chosen to be the site of the 2016 OCA field day activities. We are looking forward to provide a great day of learning and fun. At this time we have on the schedule a talk on cemetery preservation from a woman coming out of Georgia. She is very interesting to listen to. What's going on in the last year as to the type of cemetery complaints, a talk on cemetery tree preservation, maintenance and selection of trees from a local company who takes care of the trees within the cemetery here at Forest Hill. Also I am looking forward to a roundtable discussion so please bring on open mind and lots of concerns and questions.

In the afternoon we will have hands on all equipment and planning a contest to determine the best dug grave site, just enough to peak your interest. Also don't forget to visit the many vendors on site that day. Do you have any questions about the field day activities call or email the OCA, if you would like to see something that can be provided during field day activities please email me at [jrothfhc@bizwoh.rr.com](mailto:jrothfhc@bizwoh.rr.com).

I look forward to seeing many of you here on October 6th so let's make it the largest showing on any one field day. I am sure OCA will be proud and the vendors and equipment vendors that you get to work will be very happy.

***Jim Roth-Superintendent  
Forest Hill Cemetery & Arboretum***

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# Cemetery Spotlight

## Toledo Memorial Park Toledo

Toledo Memorial Park was founded June 5, 1922, a time when memories of World War I were still very vivid. It was founded along the east boundary of the Ten Mile Creek, a branch of the Ottawa River. This was the approximate burial place of the co-founder of Sylvania, General David White.

Now in existence for more than ninety-three years, the cemetery encompasses 380 acres including 147 in the state of Michigan. There are more than 86,000 burials in Toledo Memorial Park; it is a full service cemetery with four mausoleums featuring chapels, on-site crematory and various traditional and cremation burial options for individual preferences. The cemetery is non-sectarian, non-denominational, nonprofit and solely owned by the property owners. Toledo Memorial Park is maintained with funds from several investment trusts valued at over \$14,000,000, funded over the years to take proper care of the structures and grounds in perpetuity.

The art deco style Swan Lake Mausoleum was constructed in 1929, this stately structure houses semi private rooms and alcoves. This mausoleum was expanded twice allowing for 2,000 crypts and niches. Along with a chapel that features "Lord Is My Shepherd" and various other stained glass windows.

The central feature of the cemetery is the Veterans Memorial Tower; this iconic watchman was erected in 1929  
**continued...**



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## Cemetery Spotlight on Toledo Memorial Park continued...

out of limestone bricks and stands eighty-five feet tall. This most patriotic symbol that overlooks down town Sylvania was restored in 2012. During this time the tower had granite front niches added to the base of the tower. This allows Veterans and their spouses an opportunity to become a permanent part of the tower.

Another unique section of Responders Last Call especially for our First personnel are crucial to deserve special The cornerstone of the one of the towers of the symbol of the freedom every day.



the cemetery, 911 First Memorial, is designed Responders. Police and fire our everyday safety and recognition for their service. area is an actual beam from World Trade Center, a true these individuals protect

Within the last five years cremation options that provided majestic environments filled with the sights and sounds of nature. our focus has been creating

Take a walk around the Perennial Gardens overlooking one of our oldest sections in the park, or seek a spot in the shade that overlooks our Wall of Honor on the east landscape. The wooded path of the Park's Nature Walk area features cremation boulders surrounded by the natural beauty of the woods. Various wildlife and flowering plants adorn this picturesque trail carved out to remember your loved one.

Swan Lake features a 400 foot long formal reflection pool with a signature fountain providing endless reflection and beauty.

As pets of all shapes, sizes and species find their way into our hearts they become a part of the family. With this in mind Toledo Memorial Park opened Reflections Garden in 2014; this six and half acre section of the park offers families an affordable cremation burial for their pets. With a



variety of burial locations ranging from private estate lots, room for up to six pets or single marker lots. Reflections Garden is a comforting peaceful

environment for all to come and remember.

Visitors come from many miles away to see the majestic lakes, flowering plants, blooming trees of over twenty five varieties and the hundreds of birds, snapping turtles, deer, wild turkeys and other wildlife.

**continued...**



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## ***Cemetery Spotlight on Toledo Memorial Park continued...***

More than 5,000 tulips make their spring debut in May, while throughout the summer additional bedding plants paint the landscape with a wide range of color and texture.

The many picturesque views throughout The Park make for serene visits, as you and your pet stroll around the various lakes, ponds and wooded areas here at Toledo Memorial Park.

Special events throughout the year allow us to remember and pay tribute to those who have passed before us. The “Sea of Flags” on Memorial Day is truly a moving experience, honoring the more than 14,000 Veterans laid to rest here.



The annual Sylvania Memorial Day Celebration gathers the community around the Veterans Memorial Tower for a brief ceremony joined by The Mayor, Town Crier, Sylvania HS band and color guard. The Annual Car show to support Northwest Ohio’s Local Wreaths Across America Chapter invites local car enthusiasts to help in raising money to make sure every veteran here has a wreath for the holiday season. On National Wreaths Across America Day community volunteers come out rain, sleet or shine to place a

wreath on every Veteran’s grave in our Veterans section here at Toledo Memorial Park as well as Veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. Our Annual Tree Lighting Remembrance Service has become a holiday family tradition, families decorate a bulb in remembrance to those they have lost and that ornament then adorns an evergreen tree covered in over 5,000 lights.

Toledo Memorial Park can be summed up in three words “always something new”. The cemetery has stood the test of time and looks on to the future with classic bold ideas. Visit the Gallery page on the OCA website to view all the pictures of Toledo Memorial Park at [ohiocemeteryassociation.com](http://ohiocemeteryassociation.com).

## Hummingbirds at Woodland Cemetery, Dayton





## Hummingbirds at Woodland Cemetery, Dayton continued...





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## Visit OCA on the Web

Logon to the OCA website for the latest news.

[ohiocemeteryassociation.com](http://ohiocemeteryassociation.com)

If you have any articles for the Journal/website, please forward them to the OCA office at [jburrowes5@gmail.com](mailto:jburrowes5@gmail.com).



## Welcome New Members

Columbarium By Design  
Union Cemetery Association - Steubenville

## Mark Your Calendar

### **OCA Fall Maintenance Seminar**

October 6, 2016  
Forest Hill Cemetery  
Piqua, OH

### **2016 Awards Banquet**

February 2017  
Location TBA

### **2017 Spring Conference**

March 2017  
Location TBA

See [ohiocemeteryassociation.com](http://ohiocemeteryassociation.com) for up to date information.