



OAKDALE
CEMETERY

INSIDE OAKDALE

A Newsletter of the Oakdale Cemetery Company
520 North 15th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 • (910) 762-5682

Winter 2006

Editor: Catherine Solomon

Happy Holidays!

Message from the President

Dear Lot Owners and Friends:

Since our last newsletter, there has been a great deal of activity in the cemetery. Thanks to the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery for their continued support. One of the greatest things that has gone on and is continuing is the progress of restoring the iron fencing. Most of this is being done on our "orphaned lots" those with no descendents. Again this year, the Friends sponsored successful events such as birding tours, floral tours, hayrides and most recently last month the Graves, Grapes and Gossip tour. These were all well received and enjoyed by those who attended. Next year for our walking tours, for those who are unable to walk the routes, we will be able to provide transportation as we now have a golf cart. The golf cart is also available for the Superintendent to use on the grounds as well as show prospective buyers lots that are available. "Thanks" to the Friends for this generous gift.

Our Superintendent, Eric Kozen, continues to provide us with his excellent abilities and expertise. Improvements are continually being made throughout the cemetery. The majority of the damage done by vandalism and recent storms has been repaired, trees trimmed, removed and replaced.

More Eagle Scout projects have been done under the direction of Mr. Kozen and more are in the planning stages for next year. The most recent has been the construction of a new pergola in the Yellow Fever section. The area was landscaped and more daffodil bulbs planted.

The Board of Directors is always available and anxious to hear your ideas and/or suggestions as to how to help maintain, beautify and preserve our historic cemetery. We are very fortunate in that we are the oldest rural cemetery in North Carolina that still has burial spaces available. Most other cemeteries of this age are running into a problem with available space. Oakdale has planned for the future and continues to have land available when the time arises to expand.

I personally consider it an honor to be serving as your President and encourage any of you to contact me, any board member or Mr. Kozen, if we can be of any assistance to you.

In closing, I would like to ask that as you visit Oakdale Cemetery, please remove any "out of season", faded, or dead flowers from your lot. This helps our employees to maintain the cemetery and its natural beauty. With the holiday season upon us, a memorial contribution is a special way to remember our loved ones who rest in Oakdale Cemetery.

Catherine Solomon

President

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Tyler Beverage of Rocky Point has obtained his **Eagle Scout Merit** by performing a project here in Oakdale Cemetery. An area was chosen in the public grounds section of the cemetery to build a pergola. This location was once used for the burials of both Confederate and Union soldiers who died in surrounding hospitals from wounds suffered from campaigns in the area, especially Fort Fisher. Mr. Beverage and his team of scouts constructed this garden accent for the pleasure of visitors to use as a place to relax and enjoy the surroundings. After the pergola was built he completed the site with landscape plantings and is soon to plant an additional 3,000 daffodil bulbs in the area to complete his project. We thank Mr. Beverage for his hard work and adding a beautiful addition to Oakdale Cemetery for everyone to enjoy.

BOUNTIFUL TREES AND SHRUBS



More trees and shrubs were planted this past spring to replace many of the ones lost over the past few years. We extend a big *thanks* to the **Friends of Oakdale Cemetery** for

supporting and funding this project. These past few years a number of our large oaks and dogwoods have been greatly compromised by disease and insects. There are still more that are threatened and will have to be removed in the years to come. It is very important to follow behind these removals with replacements in order to maintain the beauty of Oakdale for years to come. More trees are scheduled to be planted this winter to continue these efforts of keeping Oakdale Cemetery one of the most beautiful sites of our city.

WATER

Please keep in mind that **water is costly**. The cemetery is on the city water system and people who are watering lots in the summer longer than 1 hour are **creating additional costs for the cemetery**. For those who have installed sprinkler systems on their lots, they must maintain their systems and be sure they are running properly.

ANNUAL LOT OWNERS MEETING

The Annual Lot Owners meeting is scheduled for on **Monday, March 12, 2007**. The meeting will take place at the cemetery office at 8:30 a.m. All lot owners are encouraged to attend for the election of officers and, an annual report on the cemetery will be presented. If you cannot attend and wish to vote by proxy, please stop by the office and obtain the form.



SPEEDING



There have been some very close calls with cars speeding in the cemetery. Please be aware that the posted speed limit is **15 mph**. This is for the safety of everyone including the staff who work the grounds and may not hear you when their machinery is running.

CHRISTMAS FLORAL REMOVAL



Please be advised that the cemetery will remove Christmas arrangements starting **February 5, 2007**. This will also be a general sweep of the cemetery for faded flowers that appear to be unsightly and have not been removed by lot owners.

PHOTOS



Do you have old photos of the cemetery? The cemetery is looking to expand its archives of how the cemetery looked many years ago. If you ever come across some photos taken of the cemetery, please contact the Cemetery Office at (910) 762-5682.

LOTS AVAILABLE



There are lots available for sale at the cemetery. They start at \$700.00 and go to \$2100.00 **per grave space.**

Anyone interested, please come by the office or call 762-5682 to make an appointment.

HOW TO CLEAN A MONUMENT

The following **do's** and **don'ts** should help you clean your monuments. Always keep this in mind that once a monument is damaged.... it is damaged and there are no do-overs.

- Determine the **type of stone** to be cleaned – marble, granite, slate or sandstone
- Evaluate the **condition of the stone** – look for cracks, see if the surface is eroding and appears to be sugary. If these symptoms are visible, **DO NOT CLEAN THE STONE**, it will cause more harm than good.
- What type of soiling or staining is visible. The most common types are:
 - * Dirt
 - * Lichen (green leafy growth)
 - * Algae (green or black staining)
 - * Moss
- To start cleaning always moisten the monument well with water. It is best to clean a monument after a good rain. **Never apply any products or remove growth from a dry stone.**
- If a layer of moss or lichen is on the stone, it can be removed gently with a plastic or wooden spatula or paint scraper (**NEVER USE METAL !!!**).
- Always consider the gentlest method possible to clean a stone. A soft natural bristle brush and toothbrushes for smaller areas are acceptable to use. **DO NOT USE WIRE BRUSHES, STEEL WOOL OR ABRASIVE SPONGES.**
- Gently brush the areas to be cleaned and flush with water constantly to remove stains and soil. Clean from the **bottom up** to prevent streak staining.
- If a cleaning agent is to be used, proceed with caution and **NEVER USE FULL STRENGTH**. Here are some products that are recommended:
 - o **Ammonia** (household variety) with no additives, mixed at one cup ammonia, one cup water. This will help remove some staining on light colored stones.
 - o **D2** (antimicrobial cleaner) can be ordered from www.cathedralstone.com. This is the best and safest product on the market now. They will even give you a free trial size.
- **DONOTUSEBLEACH,ORANGECLEANERS, COMET, OR ANY OTHER HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS. DO NOT USE MURATIC ACID FOR MASONRY CLEANING.** All of these products may result in ferrous staining (rust) and all result in the deposition of soluble salts.

If you have any questions or concerns about your monument please contact Mr. Eric Kozen, Superintendent at (910) 762-5682.

OAKDALE CEMETERY
520 North 15th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

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We would appreciate your consideration of a donation to Oakdale.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Please mail to the
Oakdale Cemetery Office
520 North 15th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

Amount of tax deductible gift _____

Given in memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

Address of person(s) to be notified _____

Rules and Regulations

If you are unfamiliar with the rules of the cemetery, either come by the office or call and a copy will be mailed to you.

With the hard work that our superintendent and his staff are doing, we all want to do our part to continue to make Oakdale one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the region.

Contributions

Through some very generous contributions to the cemetery since the last newsletter, a number of wonderful things for the operation and beautification of Oakdale have been realized. Among them is the completion of the computerization of all the cemetery records, the purchasing of a riding lawn mower and a golf cart.

With your continued monetary help, many more projects will be possible. A gift to the cemetery is a lovely way to honor a loved one or friend and is always a fitting memorial.