

December 11, 2017

TO: Oak Lawn and Sand Hill Cemeteries Lot Owners and Families of Lot Owners
FROM: City of Decatur Cemetery Board of Directors – Ann Logue, President; Wayne Stone, Vice-President; Joyce Horton, Secretary; and Board Members: Gene Blagg, Cynthia DesRoches, Frank Perrin, Angela Smith, Jerry Watson, LaDonna Wren, Ann Williams

ENDOWMENT INCOME

Interest earned from the endowment fund is one of two main sources of income for both cemeteries. Although the endowment fund had \$439,998.30 in it at the beginning of the past fiscal year, because of the very low interest rates now being paid, only \$1,527.85 endowment interest was earned this past fiscal year. Because of this great decrease in endowment interest income, please consider making a contribution to one of the categories specified on the donation form enclosed. If you have already endowed your family lot and would like to make an additional donation to increase the endowment fund, mark category 1 on the donation form enclosed. Your name will be listed with other donors in the 2018 report. \$1,345.00 was donated in 2017 to the endowment fund, and their names are listed on the “Donors” page in this report.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special contributions not designated for endowments are earmarked as “Special Project” donations and will be used for capital improvements or special projects decided on by the Cemetery Board. Because cemetery expenses have been exceeding its income, Special Project donations allow the Board to do projects it could not do otherwise. \$16,668.00 was received this past fiscal year from special donations. A special thanks to those who made donations to the Cemetery in 2017 and whose names are listed on the “Donors” page in this report.

One special project completed this past year included repairing 80 monuments (by lifting/straightening, cleaning, or repairing broken ones) in block 4 in Oak Lawn at a cost of \$3,850.00. Additional monument repair is planned in Oak Lawn in the upcoming year. A list of monuments repaired in blocks 3 and 4 is part of this report. If you wish to help with the cost of these repairs, a \$50.00 donation will cover the cost of one monument. Please indicate on your donation form which one(s) it should cover. Work began last winter to clear sections on the north end of Oak Lawn and will continue this winter.

NEW REGULATIONS

To show respect for those buried in the cemetery and their loved ones who visit, we ask that a quiet and respectful conduct be observed in the cemetery. To help assure this, the City passed an Ordinance in 2017 stating no open consumption of alcoholic beverages are allowed in the cemeteries. Also, action taken in 2017 stating that no one is allowed in the cemeteries between the hours of 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. will show respect and also help prevent vandalism and accidental damage to lots.

CEMETERY INFORMATION

Remember that the pavilion on the east side of Oak Lawn, which has fourteen benches for seating, is now available to be used for grave side ceremonies. The Board encourages you to use this pavilion, believing it will be safer to use than holding services at the actual grave site. Having ceremonies at the actual grave site involves people having to walk over curbs, ant and gopher mounds, and uneven ground, and these obstacles increase the chances of someone falling.

With the increased trend toward cremations, the Board is discussing if there is a need to build a columbarium in Oak Lawn for the placement of urns containing cremated remains. Another option discussed is the designation of an area in the cemetery reserved exclusively for the burial of urns in small, individual plots. Current rules pertaining to the burial of cremains state that (1) only two sets of cremains will be allowed to be buried in one grave space, and (2) only one set of cremains can be buried in the same grave space with one other burial.

Please send us the names and addresses of your adult children or other family members who are not on our mailing list.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 10/1/16 - 9/30/17

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE:

Endowment Funds (includes \$6,795.00 new endowment deposits/donations) \$435,477.65

INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT:

Total Income Deposited into General Fund (includes \$3,843.50 endowment interest transferred from Endowment Fund into General Fund) \$ 35,679.50

Total Interest Income Earned on Endowment Funds \$ 1,527.85

Total Disbursements out of General Fund (operating expenses) (76,141.11)

Total Income Special Projects Fund (donations + interest) \$ 17,271.19

Total Disbursements out of Special Projects Fund (\$3,850.00 paid 10/19/17 after close of 2017 fiscal year)

DECATUR CEMETERY BOARD 2017 SUMMARY REPORT

Both Oak Lawn Cemetery and Sand Hill Cemetery are part of a single municipal cemetery system operated by the City of Decatur. The Board is appointed annually by the Decatur City Council and is under City supervision. Its financial operations are managed by the City. The Board meets bimonthly, in the odd-numbered months, on the second Monday, at the City Hall at 10:00 a.m. Meetings are open to all lot owners.

SALE OF GRAVE SPACES - The current price of \$600.00 for each grave space is the same for both cemeteries. This includes a perpetual care fee to provide upkeep of the space. Lots can be purchased from Joyce Horton or Chet Niblett. The phone number for Decatur Cemetery Board is 940-627-3980.

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP FEES - Because of the great decrease in income from endowment interest, it is very important that each family who has a lot purchased prior to 1984 in Oak Lawn or Sand Hill makes sure their family lot is being taken care of by either paying yearly dues or by paying the required amount to provide perpetual care for the lot.

(1) For all lot owners who purchased lots prior to 1984 and who have not endowed their lot, annual dues are required for upkeep of lots. The \$10.00 minimum, payable in January of each year, will provide upkeep for up to five grave spaces with \$2.00 added for each additional space

(2) Lot owners who purchased lots prior to 1984 may choose to endow their lots instead of paying annual upkeep dues. The \$125.00 minimum will provide upkeep for up to five grave spaces with \$25.00 added for each additional space. The money is placed in a perpetual care fund, known as the endowment fund. Only the interest earned from the endowment fund can be used for general operating expenses. Endowments deposited into the endowment fund cannot be used.

Since 1984 a perpetual care fee is included in the purchase price. If you purchased a lot after 1984 you DO NOT owe anything for upkeep; however, with the low interest rates, donations to increase the endowment fund or to Special Projects are appreciated.

RULES AND REGULATIONS - Because of the challenges presented in keeping a cemetery the size of Oak Lawn maintained, **special Rules and Regulations were adopted in 2010 to improve the efficiency in maintaining both cemeteries.** Whereas in the past the Cemetery Board has been more lenient concerning enforcement of rules and guidelines in place, it has become necessary to begin enforcing all Rules and Regulations. **Trees, shrubs, benches, toys, fencing, statues, glass/ceramic items, excessive flower arrangements, and other items interfere with the mowing, with some of these items posing a potential safety hazard for the mowing crew and visitors to the cemetery.** Benches placed before 2010 are allowed to remain but no new benches are allowed to be placed after 2010. All deeds state that ownership of a lot is subject to all rules in place at the time of purchase and also subject to all rules which the Board puts into place at a later date. We ask that you comply with all the Rules and Regulations and remove prohibited items.

Important Notices listing some of the main rules were published in the Wise County Messenger in 2016 in both English and Spanish. In 2017 signs in both English and Spanish listing some of the main rules were placed at cemetery entrances at both cemeteries. **A complete list of the rules and cemetery information, can be viewed on the “decaturtx.org” website** by typing “Cemetery” in the search box on the home page. You can also contact the secretary to request a copy of the rules.

Remember that **no curbs** are allowed in the new sections opened in Oak Lawn, these being blocks 35 – 41 which are north of 9th St. **No additional curbs** are allowed in Sand Hill. Only corner lot markers are allowed in the sections where curbs are prohibited. Headstones, footstones, and corner lot markers in all sections of both cemeteries must be made of granite, marble, or bronze metal and set at ground level.

MEMORIAL FUND - A memorial fund was established by the Board for those wishing to contribute to the memory of a friend or loved one. A card will be sent to the family informing them of the memorial gift. The names of those who made memorial donations in 2017 are listed with other donors in this report.

2017 CEMETERY OPERATION – Both Oak Lawn and Sand Hill Cemeteries are maintained by private mowing firms. In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, Oak Lawn was mowed and trimmed numerous times at a total cost of \$53,048.88 and Sand Hill was mowed six times at a total cost of \$2,250.00. We appreciate the assistance provided by the City’s crews who worked at Oak Lawn throughout the year providing routine services including trimming trees and shrubs, removing trash, repairing roads and water leaks, and adding dirt to graves needing maintenance.

Other cemetery expenses include insurance and taxes on cemetery property, installation of gates at two Oak Lawn entrances for \$2,753.47, purchase of dirt to fill in graves (\$1,110.00 for six loads), rental of portable restrooms at Oak Lawn (\$98.66 per 28-day rental), signs at Oak Lawn listing Rules for \$868.00, electricity for flagpole light at Oak Lawn, water at Oak Lawn for those needing to water flowers/trees, telephone and other office expenses, and upkeep on the secretary’s house/office owned by the Cemetery Board.

COMMENT/DONATION FORM

TO: City of Decatur Cemetery Board

FROM: _____
(Name) (Address)

(A) If a donation is enclosed, please use it for (check one or more):

- 1. _____ Endowment Fund
- 2. _____ Special Projects
- 3. _____ To be used as needed
- 4. _____ To cover the cost of monument repairs (list the names if you wish to cover specific monuments on the Comments line below)

Memorial - If your gift is intended to honor or memorialize someone, please give that person's name:

and name and address of the person to be notified of your memorial:

(B) Comments - Please include any suggestions for improvement.

Below is a list of monuments repaired, cleaned, or straightened--Block 3 in 2015; Block 4 in 2017.

If you wish to help with the cost of repairs to any of these monuments, a \$50.00 donation will cover the cost for one monument.

Block 4 (north of 1st St.; between Pecan & Hickory St.)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexander, Andrew | Gill, Mother |
| Alexander, Cynthia | Gill, S. M. |
| Alexander, Joseph | Grider |
| Alexander, Mary | Hawkins, Baby 1892 |
| Alexander, Nannie V. 1893 | Hawkins, Daughter |
| Alexander, Nannie | Hollie |
| Alexander, Rachel | Hughes, Carter |
| Anderson, Hugh | Jeffers/Jeffress |
| Brown, Infant (S.L. & Mollie) | Joseph |
| Burks, Charlie | Kinsey, Charley |
| Burnett-Martineau | Kinsey, Marie |
| Caldwell, Artie | Long, Lula |
| Caldwell, B. W. | Long, Nancy |
| Caldwell, Harless | Martin, Lucy |
| Caldwell, Lizzie & Sam | Mater (Master?), Eli |
| Cartwright, Infant | Millhollon, Eli |
| Cartwright, Joe | New, Effie |
| Cates, Dena | New, Milton |
| Chaffin, Sallie | Potts, Dorothy |
| Charles, Hattie | Potts, Martha |
| Clark, Addison | Potts, Robert |
| Clark, Baby | Renshaw, Jessie |
| Clark, Elmer | Rice, Amelia |
| Clark, Infant | Riffe, Eliza |
| Clark, Kitty | Riffe, J. C. |
| Clark, Nellie | Roach, Carrie & George |
| Claterbaugh | Shanner (Shanker?), John |
| Cook, Anderson | Shoemaker, A. C. (A. L.?) |
| Cook, Joseph | Shoemaker, A. H., Malinda |
| Cook, Mamie | Shoemaker, Billie |
| Cook, W. A. | Simmons, John |
| Cook, William | Smith, John T. |
| Delaney | Williams, Mary (May?) |
| Delaney-Pittman | Williams |
| Donald, Frank | |
| Donald, H. D. | |
| Donald, Matt | |
| Douglas, Elmo | |
| Faith, Ara & Carl | |
| Faith | |
| Ford, J. D. | |
| Gill, G. T. | |
| Gill, G. W. | |

Block 3 (between 1st & 2nd St. between Walnut & Pecan St.)

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Allen, Charles | Foster, M. | McGuyre, Myrtle |
| Allen, Maude | Fox, Maranda | McMurray, Thomas |
| Allen, Sarah | Fox, Zina | Miles, Hubbard |
| Beard, William | Foxall, Myrtle | Millhollon, Francis |
| Bennet, Laura - 3 markers | French, Mary | Millhollon, M. B. |
| Bishop, Mary | Fullingim, Julia | Miller, Alma |
| Blanton, Sarah | Gale, Rosalie | Miller, E. |
| Blythe, Mattie | Gililand, Edgar | Miller, Lena |
| Borders, R (Rebecca?) | Gililand, Walter | Miller, Mary |
| Boydston, Dana | Gililand, Katherine | Mooney, Edward |
| Brady, Henry | Gililand, Lou-Ella | More, Harriet |
| Bray, John | Good, Claudia | More, Mary |
| Burke, Leona | Gordon, Adam | Nash, Sam |
| Cardine, ? | Gordon, Mary | Owens, Carl |
| Carey, leaac E. | Gose, John-4 markers | Parish, W. C. |
| Carl, Ethel | Gose, Joseph | Parker, Mildred & Beatrice |
| Casey, S. E. | Gose, Stephen-3 markers | Parr, Joanna |
| Champion, Emma | Gragg, Virginia | Perrin, Charles |
| Clark, Bernice | Highland, James | Peters, Thomas |
| Clement, Nettie | Hogg, Joseph | Pettice, Nina |
| Cooper, Dennis | Holt, Joe | Petty, Dr.-4 markers |
| Cooper, Elizabeth | Hoyl, Elizabeth | Philpot, Louella |
| Crisp, Florentine | Innis, Eula | Pickett, George |
| Curtis, Nettie | Jackson, Jebe (Jere?) | Pickett, Maggie |
| Darnell, Infant, Son of C.W. | Jennings (Jinnings?), Cora | Pickrell, William |
| Davis, ? | Johnson, D. | Plaxco, Ganey |
| Dennel, B. W. ? | Johnson, Mattie | Pond, J. J. |
| Donald, Mattie | Johnston, John | Prigmore, L. W. |
| Drew, Ellis | Jones, Billy (Billie?) | Reeves, Claude |
| Duncan, Nancy | Jones, Willie | Renshaw-6 markers |
| Edwards, Lizzie | Key, Porter | Rhoads, A. M. (Wm. M.?) |
| Embry, Cynthia | Knox, Joseph-3 markers | Rhoads, Cynthia |
| Embry, W. G. | Laird (1st name ?) | Rich, Thomas |
| Evans, Charles | Laird, Andrew | Rush, Mary |
| Ford, Alma | Laird, Williamie (William?) | Sagerser, Donald |
| Ford, Belle | Lay, D. (Dr. J. L.?) | Sharps, Mandy |
| Ford, Clarence | Lowrance, W. | Shoemaker, Clifford |
| Ford, Jeff | Lyon, Fred | Shoemaker, Dollie |
| Ford, John | Malcolm, William | Shoemaker, M. W. |
| Ford, Maggie | McClary, Dora | Simmons, Sara (Sarah?) |
| Ford, Pat | McClure, Thomas F. | Spencer, Forest |
| Ford, Sam | McDaniel, Walter | Spencer, William |
| Foster, Daris (Doris?) | McElroy, Jettie | Standley (Stanley?), Willie |

Standly (Stanley?), Cade
Taylor, Allie
Taylor, C. C. (C. G.?)
Terrell, S. L.-3 markers
Tippen, Rebecca
Tucker, Claude
Tucker, Winston
Twitty, Ruth
Vess, R. E. (son of R. E.?)
Whipp, Margaret
White, James
White, John
Willard, Annie
Williams, Uriah (Upiah?)
Williams, Zera
Witt, Jewell
Wood, Cary
Wood, Cecil
Woods, Jewel

Thus far, repairs have been made to monuments in Blocks 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, and IOOF in Oak Lawn at a cost of \$26,625.00.

Block 3 has been known as the "old well house" section and also is the section where the Waggoner mausoleum is located.

Block 4 is directly east of Block 3.

Please remember names are difficult to read on many of these old monuments. This explains the uncertainty of the spelling on some names.