

The Legacy

East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

March, 2025

2024 - A busy and productive year!

The year started out a little bumpy first with the renovations on the chapel as we shared in last years newsletter and those were completed by Spring. Theta Chi came to help us with Spring and Fall clean up—those young men are so appreciated for all their hard work. They never cease to amaze us on what they can accomplish. We had some mower issues while trying to get ready for Memorial Day and then a tree that decided it was tired fell. But with some help as we will share later in the newsletter we got things on track.

We added two new Trustees to the Board this year namely Kenny Kremm who has family buried in the cemetery and spent the summer string trimming around all the headstones and helping me with mowing. The other trustee is Joy Jordan who came highly recommended by our President Bracy Lewis. We are excited and grateful for their involvement and assistance.

I did retire as of June 30th from my day job and starting early July spent more time at the cemetery mowing but also edged the driveway into the cemetery, did some power washing and painted the front gates. She still has more items on her to do list that will get some attention once the weather breaks. The apple tree pictured below was a retirement gift from some of my co-workers. I may have talked about the cemetery a little.

In November a Professor from Case Western Reserve University reached out at the suggestion of a member of Theta Chi to do a field trip to the cemetery as part of her English writing class that was comparing and contrasting cemeteries. There were two classes that included about 50 students that came to the cemetery and we talked about the history of the cemetery, what we do to maintain the cemetery and what we have accomplished in the past 20 plus years. It was a fun time, some of these students along with the Professor came back and assisted Theta Chi with the fall clean up.

Wayne, Amy and I will formally start back on Sundays in early April depending on the weather. We can't thank all of you enough for your on-going support of the cemetery. It truly means so much to us that you care as much as we do!

Warmest Regards ~ Nancy

P.S.—If you want to see color photos included in the newsletters, please visit our website: www.ectcf.org



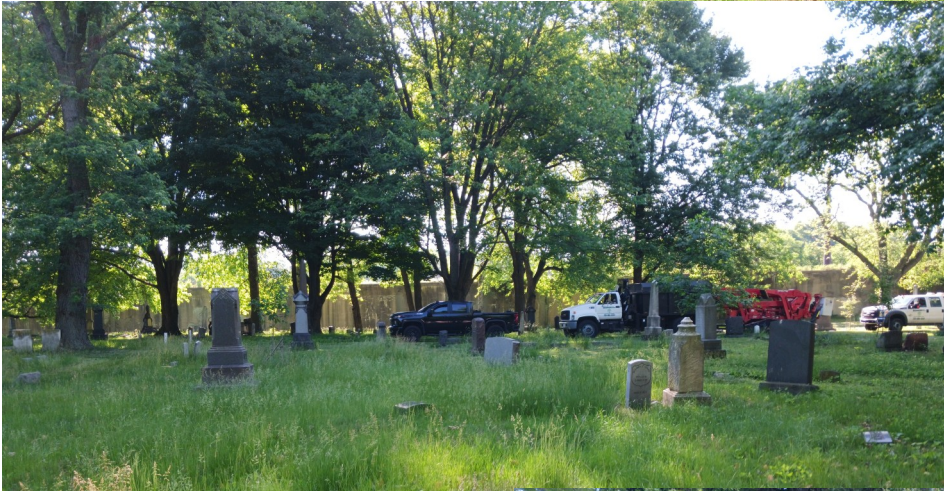
Spring Clean Up—Theta Chi

Theta Chi arrived in April to help us with Spring clean up. They picked up the branches that fell over the winter and we promptly loaded them into another 10 yard dumpster to get rid of them. We are working really hard to make certain we don't have a large back log of brush.



Spring Clean Up Continued

In the midst of trying to get the cemetery mowed for Memorial Day this tree decided it was tired and dropped a very large branch across the road. Since Nancy was already mowing with the John Deere tractor as the big mower was in the shop having some carburetor issues it was Ardmore Tree Service to the rescue!



August Storms

Once we got past Spring it was business as usual until the tornados and storms came through in August. We did not get hit as hard as some but we had some issues for sure. We lost most of three trees in the storms. There was so a lot of brush blown all over as well.



This tree blocked the road as soon as you entered making it impossible to drive through.



As you make your way around the road in the cemetery this was the second tree that was clearly blocking the road.

August Storms (Continued)

We eventually had to call for help and Ardmore Tree Service came to our rescue. *Mark, Matthew and their crew are the best!*



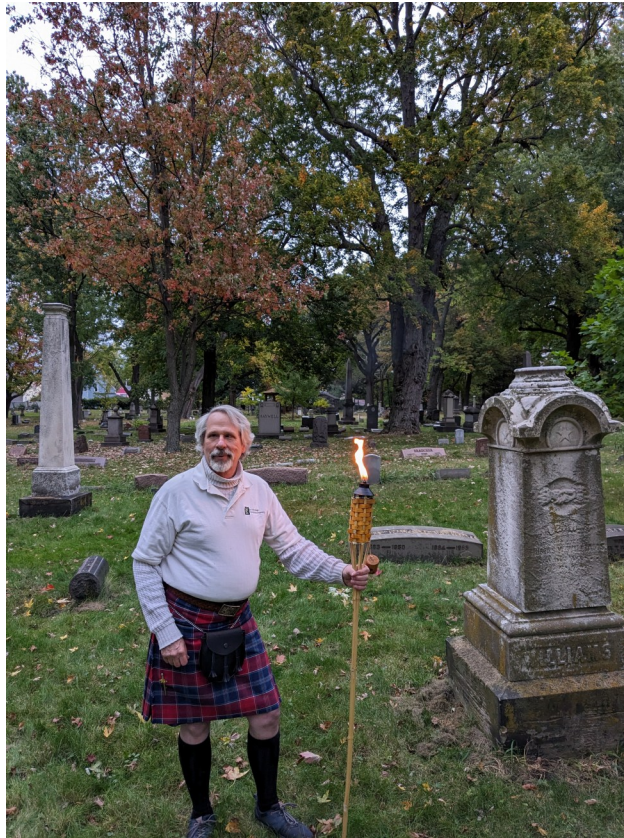
Underground Railroad Tour

In September we did an underground railroad tour, inspired by the book *Hidden in Plain View, A secret story of quilts and the underground railroad*. Nancy made the wall hanging in the picture below based on this book.



Halloween Tour

We did have our annual Halloween Tour after dark. We had so many people come out for the tour again this year we didn't have time to take any pictures. Both tours took place with so many guests, we had a great time and they did as well.



Fall Clean Up—Theta Chi

Theta Chi helps us with Spring Clean Up but also with fall clean up to get the cemetery ready for the winter. They always just want to know “what do you need us to do” and 25 or so guys show up and happily do whatever is needed. This year we had two projects.

The first was to clear the back fence line of vegetation. Bamboo grows like wild along that fence line but it was cleared.

The second major project was to move the two big piles of mulch made when Ardmore Tree Service was chipping all the branches from the August storms. This group of young men was so much fun to work around as they were loading the wagon attached to the back of the John Deere mower with mulch they would sing 99 bottles of beer on the wall and/or one of the songs they sang in Boy Scouts. Those piles of mulch was nearly all moved and spread along the railroad wall.

While all this was going on others were out picking up branches and piling along side the road. So that all this didn't sit all winter in the cemetery Ardmore Tree Service came and chipped it all.



2025 Calendar of Events

Halloween Tours

ECTCF will be hosting our annual Halloween Tours after dark on Saturday, October 25th. The first tour will start at 7:00 PM and the second at 8:30 PM. Costumes are optional, no reservations are required and this is kid friendly. Please bring a flash light as we do walk the grounds.



Exciting New Opportunities to Create a Legacy through East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

How often do you tell your friends and family about East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation and the important work we do in the community? If you are reading this article, then you are most likely contributing your time, talent, and resources to help East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation accomplish its mission. The question becomes, however, how can you help ensure East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation will be able to sustain itself when you are no longer involved with it? One easy answer is for you to consider contributing to East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation's newest fund. A number of years ago, we partnered with the Cleveland Foundation to establish the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation Endowment Fund.

The fund is held and managed by the Cleveland Foundation, which invests the gifts for greater return on investment and prudent growth. Each year, a percentage of the fund is available for the needs of East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation. Gifts to the fund provide East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation with an important source of revenue now and into the future, as well as a measure of security that allows us to focus on our mission.

There are many different ways you can show your support now and for generations to come. Here are a few examples:

Bequest A simple way to support East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation is to include a bequest to East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation in your will. If you typically give \$50 annually, leaving \$1,000 to the fund could continue to provide \$50 to East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation. If your annual contribution is \$200, then a \$4,000 bequest could do the same. Talk to your attorney about how you can make this change.

Insurance Policy Unused life insurance policies make excellent charitable gifts. Talk to your insurance agent to find out how you can add East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation as a beneficiary to your existing policy. There is no cost to you.

IRAs and 401(k)s Retirement assets passing to someone other than a spouse are typically subject to taxes when inherited and later withdrawn. Due to the tax consequences, these assets make excellent choices for benefiting nonprofit organizations. Talk to your advisor about adding East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation as a beneficiary to your retirement assets.

These are just a few ideas of how you can create a legacy and allow East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation to receive your support in perpetuity. There are many additional gift vehicles for you to consider, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts. Both can provide benefits to East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation, as well as to you or your loved ones.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation through its fund, please contact Nancy West at 216.536.7432. The Cleveland Foundation's staff is also available to discuss gift ideas with you. Contact the Gift Planning and Donor Relations team at 216.861.3810 or toll-free 877-554-5054. We look forward to helping you continue to show your support for East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation!

ECTCF—Memberships/Donations

The on-going maintenance of the cemetery grounds including the office/chapel and gardens generates on-going expense that include utilities, equipment maintenance, supplies, etc. None of the Board members are paid for the hours of work we put into the foundation/cemetery every year. We donate our time and resources.

We count on donations from the families of our permanent residents and others who enjoy the urban park we have created and those that participate in our tours. We are excited about our annual newsletter that lets us share with you everything that has occurred over the past year, however, there are costs associated with the newsletter as well. With a mailing of nearly 500 newsletters this cost is substantial. We want to continue to share our successes with you and are therefore initiating an annual membership to the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation that includes the receipt of the annual newsletter and continued notification of our annual events. We have several levels of membership:

Individual—\$25.00—Includes annual newsletter that includes advance notification of all events.

Sustaining—\$50.00—Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events and helps to support the on-going preservation of this historical site.

Patron—\$75.00—Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events, supports the on-going preservation of this historical site and includes a free copy of the book: *To Dwell With Fellow Clay, The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery* .

Lifetime—\$250.00—Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events, supports the on-going preservation of this historical site and includes a free copy of the book: *To Dwell With Fellow Clay, The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery* along with a new updated East Cleveland Township Cemetery t-shirt.

Because of the Foundation's non-profit status (501(c)3) status your membership is tax-deductible and allows you to continue support to preserve the pioneer Victorian legacy for your children and grandchildren. Please utilize the enclosed form to submit your membership application.

We thank you for your on-going support of us and the East Cleveland Township Cemetery!



East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation 2025 Membership Application/Donation Form

Information (please print or type)

Name	
Street Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Telephone (home)	
Telephone (business)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

Both the membership fees and donations are completely tax deductible.

Membership Levels

Individual Membership - \$25.00

Includes annual newsletter and advance notification of all events.

Sustaining Membership - \$50.00

Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events and helps to support the on-going preservation of this historical site.

Patron Membership - \$100.00

Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events, supports the on-going preservation of this historical site and includes a free copy of the book: *To Dwell With Fellow Clay, The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery*.

Lifetime Membership - \$250.00

Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events, supports the on-going preservation of this historical site and includes a free copy of the book: *To Dwell With Fellow Clay, The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery* and an East Cleveland Township Cemetery shirt. Designate size for shirt: ___ Medium ___ Large ___ Extra-Large

Donations Greatly Appreciated

In addition to the membership fee any and all donations to continue to support the on-going work are greatly appreciated. Donation included: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

Mail to: P.O. Box 1874, Cleveland, OH 44106-0074

Trustees/Officers

Allen H. Ford
Honorary Chairman
Bracy E. Lewis
President
Nancy L. West
Vice President & Secretary
William L. Garrison
Vice President & Treasurer
J. Wayne Rhine
Vice President, Operations
Mark Derrickson
Trustee
Hunter Havens
Trustee
Kenny Kremm
Trustee
Joy Jordan
Trustee



The mission of East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation is to provide educational and patriotic events for the community in an urban park setting that demonstrates the honor and respect due the early pioneer settlers of the Western Reserve.

The East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation's vision is to restore and maintain the East Cleveland Township Cemetery as a historic landmark, creating an urban park where the community can relax, reflect, and discover the historical significance of the area, and to build a solid financial foundation for its future.

*East Cleveland
Township Cemetery
Foundation*
P.O. Box 1874
Cleveland, OH 44106
Phone: 216.536.7432
Website: www.eclcf.org