Wildwood Cemetery News

Dear Members of the Wildwood Community,
I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the change of season. As the days shorten and the weather cools the work continues apace at Wildwood. I'm especially delighted by how the new memorial garden took shape over the summer. And though the plants are now preparing for their winter rest, I have no doubt they will emerge in the spring more beautiful and abundant than ever. I'm also so appreciative of the Lorber Family Foundation grant which will support the planting of a new garden near the front entrance. The generosity of community members such as the Conlon and Lorber families, along with the hard work of our dedicated staff, all contribute to making Wildwood Cemetery the beautiful, serene place we all love.
Sincerely,
Rebecca Nordstrom
President, Board of Trustees

The new Maintenance Center is progressing slowly and surely. This fall the heating and plumbing systems will go in, the walls and ceiling will be finished and then it is a matter of waiting for the electrical transformer to be installed. Transformers are hard to come by these days, but the wiring is all in place.

Wildwood Memorial Garden

Over the summer the seating wall and columns rose up like a three dimensional puzzle, masterfully constructed by stone mason Barry Kuzmeskus. At the same time, Candace Currie and Stephen Jackson of Garden GIS began to put in close to 1500 native plants. Almost immediately the birds and the bees began to feast and shelter in the garden. This fall the grass in the oval is growing ever greener. By summer of 2024 the area should be ready for programming events and families will be able to hold memorial services in the space. *We are very grateful for Jim and Carol Conlon's generosity.*

Lorber Family Foundation Donation

Wildwood is excited to announce a $25,000 donation given by the Lorber Family Foundation for the purpose of restoring the field stone wall at the main entrance and for the design and implementation of a cremation garden behind the stone wall. A UMass Landscape Architect student intern is working on a garden plan this fall and into the spring. This garden will feature flowering bushes and will be used for a future cremation burial section.

General Managers Report

There is always a lot of work happening inside and outside at Wildwood Cemetery. People like to say that we must have quiet jobs, and of course there are peaceful times, but there is usually a lot of activity throughout the day.

Inside—General Manager, I continue my cemetery database work. Uploading burial records and photographing and uploading monument records. It turns out that the perfect weather for monument documentation is cloudy with a chance of showers. The online database allows me to access the system from anywhere. The past few months, I have been working with the Board to establish the ***Friends of Wildwood Cemetery***. I have also been planning new cremation lots and working with Silas on new planting areas to replace the invasives that are smothering the trees on the edges of each section. The General Manager's job is to simultaneously protect the past and plan for future expansion and care. With this in mind, I am working with Nat Larson (Assistant Treasurer) on a 100 year plan so the ACA can anticipate its needs far into the future.

Outside— Grounds Superintendent Besides the normal mowing, leaf raking and burial duties, Silas Ball and his assistant Paul Boucher continue to work on road drainage and tree care. This spring, summer and fall they planted over 60 new bushes and trees (Thank You Wanzcyk!) in areas that used to be choked by invasives.

Thanks to Silas's skills, a lot of time is spent on equipment maintenance and repair and he continues to be instrumental in helping with the Maintenance Center site work. If you see Silas or Paul out working, stop and say hello and let them know how much you appreciate the care they are taking with the groundskeeping.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY REBECCA FRICKE, GENERAL MANAGER

Thank you to Wanczyk Evergreen Nurseries! Wanczyk donated another fifty bushes and trees including a variety of fruit, spruce, maples and cedars. These trees have been put in place around the cemetery, mostly in spots that used to have trees. Please support their business and let them know how much you appreciate their support.

New Roof Installed on the Dickinson Farmhouse. Town of Amherst Community Preservation Funds almost completely funded the recently completed project**.** Sexton Roofing stripped off all of the old layers and installed a composite slate roof. The composite material should last for a very long time. The end result is beautiful and we are very grateful to the Town and to Sexton.

Grant Work Continues With New Designation The Wildwood Executive Board is pleased to announce the **Friends of Wildwood Cemetery Inc.** is now a 501c3. All donations will now go through the Friends and be distributed to the Amherst Cemetery Association on a regular basis to help cover the operating expenses.

Looking for ways to honor your friends and loved ones?

New opportunity! Join the Wildwood Garden Work Crew - donate one hour or a season of hours! No experience necessary. Contact the office to find out more.

Memorial Library - We continue to accept books, music and artwork for our library shelves.

Or check out our website to see the different ways you can donate in honor of a loved one or friend.