

Elmwood Cemetery  
1200 Elmwood Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48207-3897  
*Return Service Requested*

## DID YOU KNOW?

James Robinson (1753-1868) is the oldest person buried at Elmwood. He passed away at 115. He was a slave who fought for our country in place of his owners in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Once a free man, he became a preacher and headed to Detroit. He tried to fight in the Civil War but was considered too old for active duty.



## Save the Trees!

We would like to offer you the option to receive your newsletter via the US mail or electronically via email. Beginning in the spring we will email our newsletter and news flashes about events at the cemetery. If you would like us to use email to communicate with you, please email jcapuano@elmcem.org, or mail the completed form to 1200 Elmwood Ave., Detroit, MI 48207, or fax it to 313-567-8861.

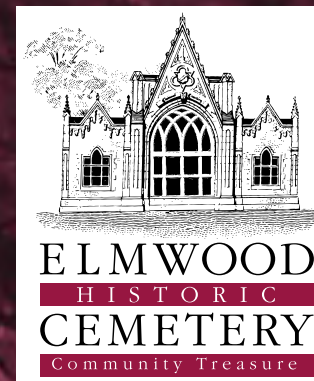
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reminder

Winter hours for grounds' access begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Cemetery grounds will close at 4:00 p.m. every day.



### Board of Trustees

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*President*

Michael Bernard, Esq.  
*Vice President and Secretary*

Allen Ledyard  
*Vice President and Treasurer*

John S. Snyder  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Terry P. Book

Mrs. Edward I. Book  
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### Historic Elmwood Foundation Board of Directors

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*President*

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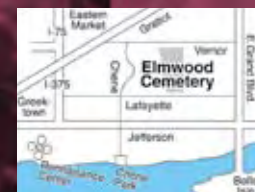
John S. Snyder  
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Duncan Campbell

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Joan Frear Capuano,  
*Executive Director*



1200 Elmwood Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48207  
Phone: 313-567-3453  
Fax: 313-567-8861  
[www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org)

### Office Hours

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm  
Sat: 9am - noon

**Cemetery Hours (Oct-April)**  
7am - 4pm, Daily

# NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

## Letter from Sandy McMillan, *President*



This has been an exciting time to be caretakers of Elmwood Cemetery! We have a great staff in place, excellent advisors, and a very supportive community. Hundreds have enjoyed our grounds this summer whether it is through our tours, bike clubs, walkers or visitors. We are delighted to have you here.

This summer we were chosen as a location for an upcoming ABC pilot, "The Prince of the Motor City". More than 250 crew and actors filmed at Elmwood over a two-day period. Other companies have approached us as well. Additional information will be provided on our website.

I encourage you to take a close look at the article from Michael Shukwit, our Director of Operations. Mike and

the grounds crew, Lou, Dave and Bob, are monitoring every aspect of the grounds and buildings for preventive maintenance and improvement. Please come and visit Elmwood, or arrange a tour, and see our progress.

We look forward to serving you and your families. Thank you for your continuing support.

## Elmwood Cemetery Board of Trustees

*Pictured from left to right:*  
Mike Bernard, John Snyder,  
Terry Book, Sandy McMillan,  
Allen Ledyard



## Upcoming Events

• **October 1**  
**Regular Cemetery Tour**  
10 a.m. Gatehouse.  
Reservations required.

• **October 11**  
**Annual Halloween Tour**  
9:30 a.m. Gatehouse.

• **October 18**  
**Regular Cemetery Tour**  
10 a.m. Gatehouse.  
Reservations required.

• **October 25**  
**Annual Halloween Tour**  
9:30 a.m. Gatehouse

• **November 3**  
**All Souls' Service**  
10 a.m. Chapel

• **November 11**  
**Veterans' Day Celebration**  
10 a.m. Civil War Section,  
by the Detroit Historic  
Commission. \$10 patriotic  
bouquets available through  
the office.

• **November 12**  
**Fall Bulb Planting**  
10 a.m. Gatehouse.  
Weather permitting.

• **December 2**  
**2008 Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
To honor those laid to rest  
in 2008. 6 p.m. Gatehouse.  
Reservations appreciated.



*Veterans' Day Celebration*





Message from Michael Shukwit, *Director of Operations*

Dear Families and Friends of Elmwood,

I am the Cemetery's new Director of Operations. I have been with Elmwood since 2001 and have 15 years of experience in the cemetery business. Prior to coming to Elmwood, I was superintendent of another Detroit area cemetery. I am responsible for managing the outside operations and purchasing. Also, I oversee capital improvements at the Cemetery, such as our restoration of the Chapel, the pond, and the next phase of the road. The Cemetery trustees and I believe preventive maintenance forestalls major problems and I manage the cemetery accordingly. The work we are able to do is made possible through your donations to the Historic Elmwood Foundation and the trustees' astute management of our endowment fund.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding staff of dedicated grounds men at Elmwood. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the improvements we have made this year to the Cemetery buildings and grounds.

**Mausoleum.** As you can see from the pictures the old mausoleum's roof needed to be replaced. We chose a modified cap roof.



**Arboretum.** We had to remove 9 trees due to disease and damage. We developed a reforestation plan and planted 26 trees with the help of your donations and grants received. These new trees can be seen near the gate-house, along the fence line across from section A and in front of the historic Chapel.



**Flowers and Gardens.** This spring we enjoyed the beauty of the 300 daffodil bulbs planted on the hill and the 200 scilla bulbs planted under our beautiful beach trees. In addition, the crew planted vinca around the 115 sign posts throughout the property. Perennial lilies were split and relocated along the eastern fence line. A new thirty foot bed was installed in ornamental ground between two of the reflection benches down the road from the new mausoleum. This bed is comprised of native Michigan grasses and perennials. As it matures, we will split the plants and develop beds in other areas.



**Pond Hillside.** The hillside across the road from the pond was very overgrown. We cleaned out the debris, leaving the trees and ground cover in place, and now have a view of the pond from section A. This careful cleaning returned the area to its original design. We will plant 500 daffodil bulbs in this area later this fall.

**Retaining Wall.** There is a 3½ foot tall retaining wall that runs along section A at the roadway. The wall, installed many decades ago, was crumbling and needed to be replaced. The new wall is under construction as this newsletter goes to print. It is in keeping with the style of the traditional stone used at the Cemetery.

**Roads.** The first phase of our road restructuring program was completed in 2007. This year we seal-coated the area to further protect it and extend its life.

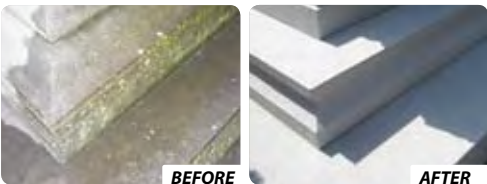
**Chapel.** The walkway into and around the chapel had become dangerous due to cracking and settling from our cold Michigan winters and we therefore replaced it. We also transplanted two Japanese maple trees from in front of the chapel to section B. These trees had grown too large for the Chapel area. We have placed weeping cherry trees and relandscaped in front of the chapel entry. All the former landscaping was utilized elsewhere on the grounds.



**Memorial Cleaning.** This is a new service available through Elmwood. The dramatic difference is best illustrated in the photos below of the Ford family monument.

**Individual flat markers**      **\$120 each**  
**Companion flat markers**      **\$200 each**  
**Monuments**                      **\$100 per linear foot of base**

Large monuments or family mausoleums need to be quoted individually. Please contact our office staff to make arrangements or download the memorial cleaning form from our website.



If you would like a photo of your monument emailed to you, please contact the office.

# Historic Elmwood Foundation



Message from Terry Peck Book,  
*Chairwoman of the Historic Elmwood Foundation*

We in Michigan are in the throes of a tougher economy. This has shown itself in charitable contributions across the board and also here at Elmwood. Our donations are down significantly when compared to this time in 2007 and 2006. We are very pleased that 33% of this year's contributors are new donors. Thank you for supporting Elmwood. For those still making donation decisions, I strongly encourage you to support the Foundation.

Completion of our projects, restoring the treasure that is Elmwood, is not possible without your support. Please fill out the form below and return it as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

This year, the Historic Elmwood Foundation chose to begin restoration of the Cemetery pond. We hope to rebuild the crumbling dam to increase water retention and to stabilize the nearby banks, aerate the pond to create a healthier environment for our wildlife, clean out the overgrowth on the island and around the pond perimeter, add native Michigan plants near the banks of the pond, relocate a sculpture to the pond, and restore the bridge. This is an aggressive plan for the pond restoration. We will move forward as we receive funding through donations and grants.

Michael Shukwit mentioned in his letter to you the various projects that he and the grounds crew have accomplished these past several months. This work was made possible because of your support of the Foundation. On behalf of the trustees and the Foundation, we thank you for your continued support.



*Crumbling dam we hope to rebuild.*

## PLEASE JOIN US TODAY!

You are cordially invited to become a member of the Historic Elmwood Foundation. All members will receive a copy of the bi-annual newsletter, free tour admission, and will be listed on the Elmwood website. Those contributing \$250 or more may choose to also receive a commemorative poster.

Just fill out and send the member card below along with your check or credit card information.

Your fully tax deductible donation will go toward Board identified projects that further the mission of the Foundation. Past projects have included the Chapel restoration, bench installation and ground beautification. Please contact Joan Capuano at 313-567-3453 for additional information.



Enroll me at the following level:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$5,000*
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1,000*
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$500*
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	\$250*
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Member	\$25

☐ My check is enclosed, payable to Historic Elmwood Foundation.  
☐ Visa/Mastercard

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/Mastercard: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Note my updated address

☐ I would like to know more about joining the Corp of Volunteers to help with tours, educational and/or community programs.

☐ Please send me information electronically.  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Memorial Donations

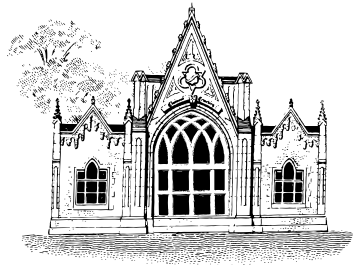
The Historic Elmwood Foundation is pleased to accept memorial donations and will note them as such in our annual reporting of donations. Merely indicate this donation is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_. If you would like your memorial donation to be listed as "A Friend of Elmwood," please so indicate.



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Friends of Elmwood Cemetery*

1200 Elmwood Avenue • Detroit, Michigan 48207-3897 • 313/567-3453 • Fax: 313/567-8861



Elmwood Cemetery is currently looking to expand its corps of volunteers. There are interesting opportunities in horticulture, wildlife, preservation, development and events. Volunteers work with our professional staff to help further Elmwood's mission of providing a place of beauty and commemoration for families and visitors and ensuring the preservation of this important part of our community's cultural heritage.

If you would like to contribute your time, talent and expertise, please let us know by completing this form and returning it to Elmwood Cemetery.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Please check all areas that interest you:

- ☐ **Gardening (outdoors):** help with fall and summer annual plantings, flower beds, weeding, mulching, edging (seasonal)
- ☐ **Historical Collections:** assist with light office work including photo-copying, archival cataloguing, research, public relations file
- ☐ **Plant Collections:** catalog plantings, help maintain database records, help with identification of plant materials
- ☐ **Bird Watching Guide:** catalog and photograph different species of birds on the grounds
- ☐ **Events:** assist with public programs; help with refreshments and welcoming participants at public events
- ☐ **Tours:** participate in training program and lead tours throughout the Cemetery
- ☐ **Membership and Development:** assist with mailings

## Availability

Please check the days and times you are available:

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Morning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would you prefer to volunteer (circle whichever applies):    Weekly    Monthly    Occasionally

## Contact Information

(Please print)

*Certain aspects of our volunteer program are still under development. Joan Capuano, Executive Director of the Historic Elmwood Foundation, will contact you after receipt of this completed form to further discuss your participation in specific Elmwood volunteer opportunities. Some volunteer opportunities may be limited and may require special expertise. Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Elmwood Cemetery!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Daytime)\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City:\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

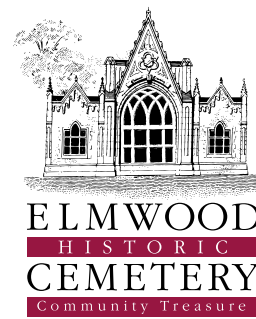
Areas of interest/experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why is Elmwood Cemetery particularly meaningful to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently a Member of the Historic Elmwood Foundation: \_\_\_\_\_



## Restoration of Elmwood Cemetery

### *Restoring Elmwood Cemetery with careful management and ambitious vision*

**WITH THE TURN OF THIS CENTURY**, the Trustees of Elmwood Cemetery determined the entire infrastructure of the Cemetery needed to be restored and made manageable for the long term. The initial step was the completion of a physical master plan for the entire Cemetery.

The first major project was the restoration of the Gatehouse. This project retained the historic structure and image while creating a state-of-the-art Administrative Center with a quality customer service environment, and a secure record retention facility.

To assist in the Cemetery's restoration and, as an outreach vehicle to make Elmwood a community destination, the Trustees formed the Historic Elmwood Foundation in 2005. This entity, a 501(c)(3) corporation, complements the not-for-profit cemetery corporation.

**Some of the initial steps to make Elmwood more beautiful include annual and perennial plantings, tree reforestation, monument restoration, benches for visitors and a transportation vehicle for the disabled.**

Through the Foundation, the Historic Elmwood Chapel has been preserved and restored. Some of the initial steps to make Elmwood more beautiful include annual and perennial plantings, tree reforestation, monument restoration, benches for visitors, and a transportation vehicle for the disabled.

With Cemetery funds, the Trustees updated and repaired the Cemetery's Maintenance Center, improved signage and implemented the initial phase of the roadway reconstruction. In its

permanent road system, Elmwood has just over five miles of roadway. The total roadway project is a \$1.2 million capital improvement, of which the initial phase consumed the first \$180,000 of this cost and was completed in 2007. In addition to the increased safety inherent with new roads, project completion, which also includes adding curbs, will enable better maintenance of the grass and roads and help prevent water and soil runoff. Section and lawn renovations can begin once the roads are completed. These significant steps complement our other projects.

The lawn renovations tie into the pond restoration. "Bloody Run Creek", so named following the battle between the British and Chief Pontiac in 1763, feeds our pond as do the runoff and storm sewers in the Cemetery. We hope to dredge the pond, increasing its capacity and enabling it to be a source of partial irrigation for the Cemetery grounds. In addition, we will enhance the pond with a sculpture, fountain, and flowers. The Pond Civil and Environmental Engineering Study is a project we hope to begin in 2008.

We have received grants for two small reforestation projects and plan to apply for others. We are pursuing grant opportunities for audio tours including maps and signage, tree identification and signage, Chapel tuck-pointing and repair and restoration of important monuments on our grounds. Administratively, we want to continue our records automation program and the imaging to preserve historic files and family profiles.

All of these projects need to be accomplished while our investment advisors strive to grow our Endowment Fund to twice its current principal amount over the next decade. With careful management of our operating income and expenses and with the help of the Friends of Elmwood, this ambitious vision can be fully implemented before 2018.

**Please support our effort to restore the Elmwood Cemetery. Join the Historic Elmwood Foundation.**

[www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org)





**A**ll  
grave blankets and  
wreaths are made  
to order from  
natural, freshly cut  
evergreen boughs  
decorated in  
seasonal colors  
and trimmed  
with a beautiful  
all-weather bow.



**WREATH**  
18" diameter with Red Bow  
and 5 Pine Cones on stand

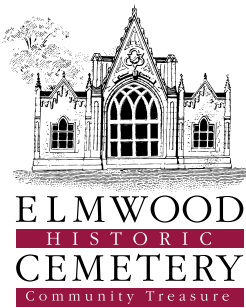
**\$20**



**BLANKET**  
Regular Bow  
6 Poinsettia blooms  
Red & White

**\$40**

*Weather permitting, placement begins Nov.14. Removal begins March 1st.  
You may arrange now for annual placement of a wreath or blanket. For additional information,  
please contact the office or visit the website, [www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org)*



All orders must be pre-paid  
by cash, check, money order,  
or credit card. Call 313-567-3453  
to place your order or mail to:

**Elmwood Cemetery**  
1200 Elmwood Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48207  
Fax: 313-567-8861

Total Quantity	_____
Total Price	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check    Check Number: _____	
MC / Visa Number: _____	Exp. Date _____
Signature _____	
Purchased By: _____	
Street Address: _____	
City/State/Zip: _____	
Phone: _____	

## Elmwood Cemetery Tours

Regular guided are led by retired Cemetery Director Mr. Chancey Miller who regales tour participants with the interesting stories of those laid to rest at Elmwood. Typically, our tours are held in all weather and are walking tours. We do have a small transportation vehicle to assist the elderly or disabled. This must be arranged in advance.

Bus tours of forty individuals or less can also be accommodated. Advance reservations are required for all tours. Please contact the office staff to arrange your tour.

Members of the Historic Elmwood Foundation receive free tour admission depending upon their level of donation. Non-members incur a charge of \$5 per person for regular tours. Group tours are \$50 for 10-20 people and \$100 for more than 20 people. Special tours are priced separately. Proceeds from all tours are given to the Historic Elmwood Foundation.



## Floral Tributes

Please consider commemorating that birthday, anniversary, Veterans' Day, date of death, or other special occasion with a floral arrangement. Two sizes are available, \$50 or \$100.

The office staff will need at least three business days' notice.

**This winter we offer sprays of evergreens and berries for \$30.**

You can choose to purchase a floral arrangement each year or buy them now and have them in place every year for your loved one. More information about perpetual flowers and an order form can be found on our website or by contacting the office staff.

## Fall Mums Available!

This summer our bed of begonias was a tremendous success. If you would like to have mums at your loved one's site, please contact the office at 313/567-3453.

