

# newsletter

## 2016

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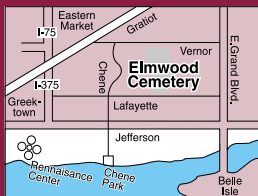
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1200 Elmwood Avenue  
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Phone: 313-567-3453

Fax: 313-567-8861

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

### Cemetery Hours

(May-Sept.) 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily

### Office Hours

Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sat., 9 a.m. - noon







## MESSAGE FROM SANDY McMILLAN, PRESIDENT, TRUSTEES OF ELMWOOD CEMETERY

Dear Friends and Families,

As Elmwood Cemetery celebrates its 170th anniversary, we have been honored to work with you, our staff, and advisors as we thoughtfully lead Elmwood in the 21st century.

Elmwood's future is bright!

We have regularly updated the cemetery's master plan to provide a deliberate approach in managing the cemetery's assets and in projecting burial capacity into the future.

We started the Historic Elmwood Foundation in 2004 to enhance the continued restoration of the cemetery grounds and buildings and to welcome more people to Elmwood through our community events and educational programs. Our goals were simple:

- The events would introduce more of the metro Detroit community to Elmwood.
- The foundation would be able to receive donations from not only Elmwood friends and families, but also seek donations from other foundations and corporations.
- These donations would grow to insure continued restoration and would provide a community purpose as burial space at Elmwood decreases.

Elmwood has always been a vital piece of Detroit's history and the trustees desire to have that continue.

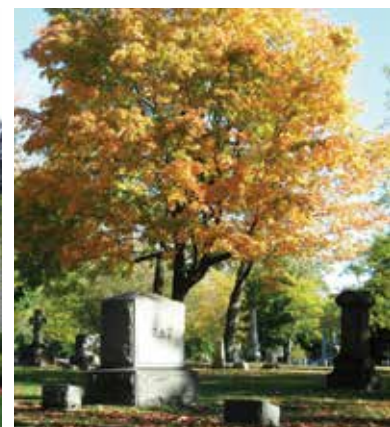
Our staff is hardworking and customer focused and they share best practices with others. This opened a new door for Elmwood in 2014 when we were approached by historic Glenwood Cemetery about how we might assist the Glenwood Trustees in the operation and management of Glenwood. Utilizing our knowledgeable and hard-working staff, we entered into an agreement to manage Glenwood Cemetery.

Since then, we have expanded the number of nonprofit cemeteries we manage so that, today, the Elmwood Family of Cemeteries is comprised of the following:

- Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit, MI (since 1846)
- Glenwood Cemetery, Flint, MI (since 2014)
- Greenwood Cemetery, Birmingham, MI (since 2014)
- Birchwood Cemetery, Macomb Township, MI (since 2015)
- Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo, OH (since 2016)

Our shared management and services approach with these cemeteries has allowed Elmwood to strengthen our core business, increase the capabilities of our staff, enhance maintenance and improvements throughout the Family of Elmwood Cemeteries and broaden the awareness of historic Elmwood Cemetery. Ultimately, we believe this business approach has further strengthened the future of historic Elmwood Cemetery.

It is an honor to serve you, your family and friends. On behalf of my fellow trustees and the Elmwood staff, I thank you for your continued support.





## ELMWOOD CEMETERY IS DETROIT'S FIRST ARBORETUM!

The Morton Arboretum determined that Elmwood Cemetery achieved "particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens...and is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboretum." As part of the certification process, Elmwood's trees were surveyed and tagged, creating a detailed report of the species, location and condition of each of its trees.

"The cemetery's trustees have provided our grounds maintenance team with the resources necessary to properly maintain our collection of trees," said Michael Shukwit, director of operations for Elmwood Cemetery. "With this certification, that commitment will continue and we plan on planting no less than 400 trees over the next ten years."

Sandy McMillan said, "The cemetery's certification as an arboretum is an important step in our education and outreach programs." Late this winter, we placed identification signs adjacent to some of the trees. This spring and fall the Foundation will offer tree tours that will highlight both the history of the cemetery and talk about the different species of trees across our 86-acres.

Elmwood is partnering with Greening of Detroit as a vehicle for its reforestation plans, as well as offering Elmwood's grounds as an outdoor classroom to their forestry program.



## BEAUTIFUL LOTS AVAILABLE

You can secure a family lot within historic Elmwood Cemetery and receive the benefit of donating to the Historic Elmwood Foundation. A select group of family lots of variable sizes are available through the foundation. These lots have monument privileges in one of the most prestigious areas within Elmwood and a portion of the lot cost will be tax deductible as allowed by law.

The lots are located in the valley at the lower edge of Hazel Dell, across from the creek. If you wish to have your family remembered within Detroit's most beautiful and historic cemetery, please contact Bonita Smith, our Director of Administration.



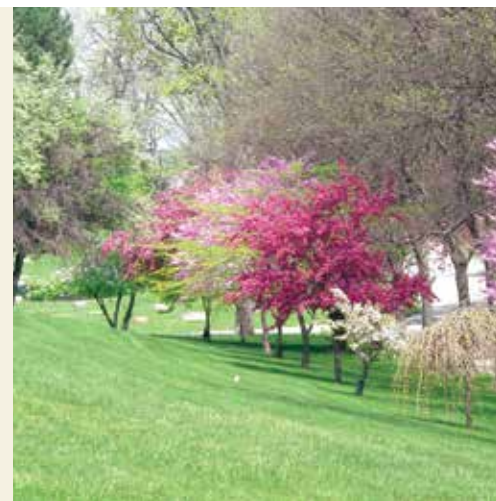
## MESSAGE FROM TERRY BOOK, PRESIDENT, HISTORIC ELMWOOD FOUNDATION

This has been an extraordinary year for the Historic Elmwood Foundation. The metro-Detroit community has been very supportive. In addition to generous donations from individuals and corporations, we are very grateful for the significant grants from The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, The Elizabeth, Allan & Warren Shelden Fund, and the Mary Thompson Foundation. These donations have permitted us to move forward with a number of key initiatives at Elmwood Cemetery. 2016 will be a year of continued improvement that will permit us to better serve the Elmwood family and the metro Detroit community.

We continue to offer many different opportunities for you to experience Elmwood. Please take a look at our upcoming events and join us. And, remember to keep an eye on our website for future happenings at Elmwood. We will be sending emails to update you directly as the year progresses and I encourage you to update your contact information to include your email address.

Our mission is to preserve the history and educational significance of the cemetery, and to develop social, cultural, and educational programs to benefit the community. Your donations make our work possible and meaningful. I thank you for your support and I hope you will consider donating again this year to the Historic Elmwood Foundation. The Foundation is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation today.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your continued support of our mission and Elmwood.



## The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Grant

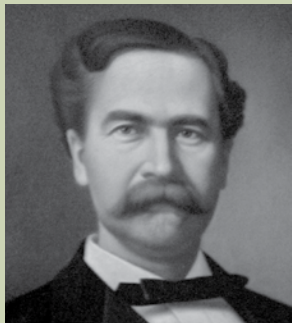
Sandy McMillan commented, "The Trustees of Elmwood Cemetery and the Directors of the Historic Elmwood Foundation were overwhelmed by the profound generosity of The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation."

Ralph Wilson and his wife Mary M. Wilson have been significant supporters of Elmwood since the inception of the Historic Elmwood Foundation. They made a deep commitment to our restoration and advancement of our community and educational programs.



This was never more apparent than last summer. Mrs. Wilson requested that we identify Elmwood's greatest needs. She and the other trustees responded generously. This year we will resurface the majority of our roadways and paint our northern fence-line through The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation's \$1 million grant.

"We are pleased to continue our support for the Historic Elmwood Foundation and the ongoing efforts to restore such a significant part of our community's history and legacy," said Mary Wilson. "It is truly a treasure in the Detroit community and it is important to see its beauty and history preserved for generations to come."



## The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Audio Tours Grant

"The Community Foundation is pleased to support the creation of audio tours for the Historic Elmwood Cemetery," said Mariam Noland, president of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

"These tours are a creative way to

teach Detroit's history and a unique contribution to the city's revitalization."

Terry Book indicated this provides vital support to further Elmwood's education and community outreach programs in metro Detroit, saying, "We are thrilled to have the support of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. We have worked diligently to develop three self-guided tours concentrating on individuals of historical significance who are buried in Elmwood Cemetery: 1) African American Heritage; 2) Business Visionaries; and 3) Political Leadership Legacies. This grant will ensure that we can take our educational programming to the next level by providing audio tours in each of these areas of interest."

## Mary Thompson Foundation Grant

We would like to express our gratitude to the trustees of the Mary Thompson Foundation who have once again generously supported Elmwood's bench program and the provision of our small transportation cart used to help transport the elderly and disabled around the cemetery grounds.



## The Elizabeth, Allan & Warren Shelden Fund Grant

The Shelden Fund responds year after year with generous support to the continuing care and preservation of Elmwood Cemetery and the education and community outreach programs offered through the Historic Elmwood Foundation. This year's grant is significant to our programming as well as continued growth of the Historic Elmwood Foundation Endowment Fund.



## BEQUESTS

This past year we were fortunate to receive a generous donation from the estate of Mary Owen Harper. Mrs. Harper was a descendant of one of Elmwood's founding trustees and longest serving treasurer, Mr. John Owen. In the last few years, several people have chosen to remember Elmwood in their will and we are quite grateful for their generosity.

If you would like to include the Historic Elmwood Foundation, language for a gift to be made following your death is simple and can be incorporated into a new will or added by an amendment to your existing will. We encourage you to discuss the language in preparing your bequest or trust designation with your professional advisor. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your advisors to develop language tailored to your specific needs. Please contact Joan Capuano, Executive Director of the Historic Elmwood Foundation, for assistance.







## ELMWOOD'S OUTDOOR SCULPTURE GARDEN

Elmwood Cemetery has a unique display of memorial art that has been chosen to honor those at rest and create a lasting legacy, from towering obelisks to flat markers. The decorative symbolism of memorials has much to do with the period of time and the status of the honored individual. Did you know that several different items are associated with military service? These include the eagle, stars to indicate rank, cording, sword, laurel wreath, gun, and helmet.

## 2015 EVENT WRAP UP

Elmwood celebrated the fall with great programming. Our fall tours, regular and private, were greatly appreciated by our participants. These were followed by the All Souls' Service in the Chapel on November 2, our 31st annual Veterans Day program partnering with Detroit schools, Elmwood's Tree Lighting Ceremony, and our inaugural celebration of Wreaths Across America at the Civil War section.

## EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Check our website, [www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org), and our office for new educational material, free to the public, including our self-guided tour maps:

- ***African American Heritage Map and Audio Tour*** – From the 1800s through present day, Elmwood is proud to honor many key African American leaders in this tour. It includes, among others, abolitionists, attorneys, business leaders, entertainers, religious leaders, teachers, and historians.
- ***Business Visionaries Map and Audio Tour*** – Many Detroit business leaders were visionary, persistent, and influential. This tour highlights some of the people who had a significant impact on growing Detroit into one of the most dynamic cities in the world.
- ***Leadership Legacies Map and Audio Tour*** – Elmwood is the final resting place of 7 governors, 11 US senators, and 30 Detroit mayors. They, along with many others, took advantage of the ability to establish and grow businesses here. They also recognized and met the real need for civic responsibility at times when the city and country were undergoing dramatic change.
- ***Elmwood's Biographies*** – Elmwood has significantly expanded its information on key people in the cemetery.

Tours are accessible via your smart phone or smart device and may be used with the accompanying map available in the office free of charge, or through our website as a foldable pdf.



# 2016 SPRING EVENTS

*Come and enjoy Elmwood!*

We hope you will visit Elmwood to participate in one of our bird walks, take a tour, or enjoy our beautiful grounds and arboretum. All events are free of charge but they do require advance reservations by emailing [jcapuano@elmcm.org](mailto:jcapuano@elmcm.org) or by calling Joan on (313) 801-1971. Listed below are some of our events that will be held this spring. Additional event dates and information are available through the Elmwood website.



## Tombstone Tales History Tours

Elmwood is delighted to offer guided walking tours. Learn the stories of those interred at Elmwood. Park along the pond road and meet us in the gatehouse. The tours are approximately 90 minutes and are held in all weather.

- June 11th at 8:30 a.m.
- New July 13th at 5:30 p.m.
- August 27th at 8:30 a.m.

Private and group tours are also available by contacting Joan Capuano or one of our tour partners, listed on the website.



## Birding

Elmwood is excited to continue our partnership with the Detroit Audubon Society and Rosann Kovalcek of Wild Birds Unlimited to offer programs for our birding enthusiasts. Please join us and park along the pond road. Following the guided walk we will meet in the chapel to discuss the various species seen.

- Detroit Audubon Society spring walks begin at 9 a.m. on April 15, May 13 & 22.
- Wild Birds Unlimited spring walks begin April 23 at 8 a.m., May 10 at 6 p.m. and May 25 & 27 at 7:30 a.m.

## Firemen's Memorial Day Parade

- May 30th at 10 a.m.



## Elmwood Arboretum

- Arbor Day Celebration April 29th at 9:30 a.m. Join our grounds crew as we plant trees in honor of Arbor Day. This event is in partnership with Greening of Detroit.
- Spring Tree Tour, May 21st at 9:30 a.m. Join us as we talk about the history of Elmwood and some of the different species among our 1,450 trees across our 86 acres.





# FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTORS

*We are thankful for the many friends who supported the Historic Elmwood Foundation and Elmwood Cemetery in 2015.*

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*Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan*  
*The Elizabeth, Allan & Warren Shelden Fund*

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*We also wish to thank those who prefer to remain anonymous. We are truly grateful to all our donors and supporters.*

**Please contact Joan Capuano at (313) 801-1971 with listing corrections.**

## ORDER SUMMER FLOWERS TODAY! Begonias

You may purchase a bed of begonias (24" x 14.5") to be placed in front of your



loved one's lawn-level, slant marker or family monument. The begonia beds will be in place during late spring. We will plant and water your flowerbed through September. The price is \$60 and must be paid in advance. Quantities are limited. Order forms are available in the office or through the website.

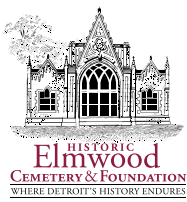
## Floral Arrangements

Available to commemorate that birthday, anniversary, Mother's Day, date of death, or other special occasion. Two sizes are available, \$50 or \$100. The office staff will need at least four business days notice.



## Perpetual Flowers

You can choose to purchase a begonia bed or 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 on (313) 567-3453.



1200 Elmwood Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48207  
Phone: (313) 567-3453

## ELMWOOD CEMETERY CELEBRATES ITS 170TH ANNIVERSARY!

In May 1846, six gentlemen, all leading citizens of Detroit, decided to establish a non-profit cemetery noting in the organizational meeting minutes:

“The grounds of this Institution comprise about forty acres, and are situated about one mile from the City of Detroit, in the township of Hamtramck. They are beautifully placed on the highest land in this vicinity, and command fine and extensive views of the city and river of Detroit, and the surrounding country.”

These trustees, and those who followed, guided Elmwood through growth to today's 86-acres, Frederick Law Olmsted's design recommendations, slow economies and better times. This year marks Elmwood's 170th year serving the Detroit community. As in the 1800s, people continue to view Elmwood as an asset to the City of Detroit.



## DISCOVER MORE ABOUT ELMWOOD

Thousands visit Elmwood each year. Perhaps you would like to participate in an event, sit by our restored pond area, run or bicycle on our roads, watch for the migration of birds, photograph or sketch, walk along our grounds appreciating our outdoor sculpture garden, perennials and majestic trees, or simply relax in this quiet setting just minutes from the hustle and bustle of downtown Detroit. We hope you and your friends will come experience Elmwood in 2016.

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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

We would like to make sure we have the most recent contact information for you. We know you would like to be kept informed of rule changes or issues that affect your lot, as well as cemetery activities. Please update your telephone number, address, and email through our website [www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org). **Contact us**, by calling the office on (313) 567-3453, or by mail.