

Rockville Cemetery Association

DECEMBER 2021



President's Message

I have had the unique honor to attend most of the burials at Rockville Cemetery this year. I owe a debt of gratitude to RCA Vice President Rick Cranford for being with me to attend to the needs of families mourning and celebrating their loved ones. It has been gratifying to maintain burial, visitation, and sales services while respecting the limitations of a difficult, world-wide pandemic.

I have heard bagpipes, military gun salutes, rain falling on autumn leaves, the soft voices of widows and widowers, of families singing hymns, and the pleasure of families fresh from traveling to be with sisters, brothers, and cousins. I consider myself lucky that I can volunteer in this special place in the company of such outstanding individuals who give their time between monthly meetings to mark sites for burials and monument installations, rake and pull weeds, pick up trash, and to engage the public by disseminating information, researching genealogies, updating new burials on findagrave.com, and creating new RCA policy. A bonus is that these volunteer activities create bonding and friendships — how could they not?

This year has seen remarkable physical change at Rockville Cemetery, due largely to the City of Rockville's



The City's Baltimore Road Project helps give Rockville Cemetery a roadside facelift

Baltimore Road Project and start of its Croydon Creek Stream Restoration Project. The closure of Baltimore Road necessitated some creative ideas to tackle road closures with new directions and signage, walkie-talkies, and exceptional traffic management.

Big thank yous go out to our talented Board of Directors, to new director Ken Sonner, and to Claire McDonald, Sofia Santiago, Debbie Dwyer, and Mike Grant who were instrumental in successes this year. Heartfelt thanks also go to Anne Allnutt and Linda Lawton for their tenacity to make the beauty of Rockville Cemetery shine in every season. We appreciate our historic nonprofit partners Peerless Rockville, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Montgomery History, and Montgomery Preservation. To the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, we praise your progress in disseminating important information and providing a forum for historic cemeteries to network.

I encourage you to visit Rockville Cemetery if you haven't done so lately. While the property appears in good condition, many specific issues and concerns require attention and, yes, financial contributions large and small. Please contact RCA if you have questions or concerns, or if you wish to assist in any way. The easiest way to get in touch is to use the contact form found on www.rockvillecemeterymd.org

Sincerely,
Hannelore Quigley, President
Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc.

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

City completes Baltimore Road project, begins stream revitalization..... Winter 2021-2022

2022 Annual Meeting and Election April 12

Memorial Day posting of American flags at the graves of more than 400 veterans.....May 27-30

Veterans Day posting of American flagsNovember 11

RCA Board of Directors Meeting.....Second Tuesday of every month @ 7 pm

A NEWSLETTER OF ROCKVILLE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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Revised Decorations Policy

Rockville Cemetery Association's most challenging endeavor is maintaining our grounds in a condition that respects the nearly 5,300 souls interred here. As RCA employs no full-time maintenance staff, we rely on visitors and volunteers for clean-up support. Unfortunately, as



interest and interment use of Rockville Cemetery continue to grow, an increasing volume of items left on gravesites is creating unsightly appearances, particularly throughout the lower cemetery area. This situation is further compounded by a need to apply equitable standards to avoid confusion about accepted decoration practices.

In response, RCA completed a major revision of the cemetery's Floral and Decorations Policy in 2021. This revision provides clear guidelines that continue to permit placement of limited gravesite expressions in tribute while maintaining an appealing landscape appearance. RCA continues to encourage traditional holiday-themed

displays and fresh cut or artificial flowers, provided they are temporary in duration and remain attractive. Our concern is about prohibited objects that are potentially hazardous, that impede grounds maintenance operations, or involve the unauthorized treatment of sites. As headstone monuments and markers are the only perpetual objects permitted on gravesites, those various objects intended for permanent placement, such as banners, lighting features, or handmade displays are especially unacceptable. The Floral and Decorations Policy is available for review at www.rockvillecemeterymd.org/grounds_services/#policies.

Maintaining an attractive and appealing cemetery is everyone's responsibility. Families and visitors are encouraged to become familiar with these guidelines and remove non-compliant objects as soon as possible, particularly any keepsake items they wish to retain. All discarded items should be removed entirely from the cemetery for disposal and not deposited in nearby wooded areas.



In 2022, RCA volunteers will be increasing efforts to remove prohibited items observed on cemetery sites, and the cooperation of all visitors will be required – and fully appreciated – to achieve a clean and respectful overall appearance appropriate for our community cemetery.



Can you help Rockville Cemetery Association by joining the Board of Directors? Call 301-309-0191 if you are interested.

IN MEMORIAM: To those interred at Rockville Cemetery during the past year

(December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021)

Jasmin L. Andrade	Ruth C. Fort	Lester T. Myers Jr.	Jesus Soto Jr.
Dorothy M. Brault	Edith Jackson Gregg	Frank C. Orifici	John R. Teringo
Edward Brown	Paul E. Hawkins	Kyree S. Prather	Masoomah Varcheei
Emily Carpenter	Daniel H. Ingraham	Miriam Prideaux-Cole	Loren O. Waddell
Jill Cromwell	Alexander Jones	Richard Roe	Jack Wert
Phyllis Cromwell	Olga Kopylevich	Mary K. Rogaski	Michael Wert
Fernando Cruz-Villalba	Anna K. Krysanova	Thomas R. Rogers	Keith R. Wichman
Marcia P. Davis	Parris Ligouri Lee	Roland W. Schwartzbeck	Calvin L. Williams
Rene Cuzon du Rest	Lora Levina	Nasser Shahrooz	Nathan L. Willis
Scott E. Emmons	Paul A. McGuckian	Angela Spuria	

Rockville Volunteer Fire Department and Rockville Cemetery

In honor of the centennial year of Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, Rockville Cemetery Association congratulates RVFD and takes this occasion to feature the relationship existing between our two community organizations over time.

While protecting Rockville citizens and properties from fires has always been a priority for local government as well as residents and businesses, the way it played out evolved over 200 years. A State lottery enabled citizens to purchase a hand-drawn barrel on wheels in 1806, then more equipment followed. Able-bodied boys and men were on call to pull hose reels connected to deep town wells and to help out with individual buckets at fire scenes. Pistol shots into the air summoned black and white citizen volunteers to emergency situations that often were caused by primitive lighting and heating practices. After a fire in 1873 nearly destroyed the Presbyterian Church on Court Street, the Town Commissioners purchased more equipment, set up hydrants, and called on nearby jurisdictions for help when needed. Still, it took a nighttime blaze in February 1921 that started in John Collins' candy store and threatened to destroy the entire main street to convince the 1,200-person town to formally organize the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department.



First piece of pumping apparatus bought by the town in 1895

Fifty-one local businessmen, residents, and elected officials stepped up to incorporate the new organization, raise funds for a fire siren in the Courthouse tower, and purchase a Waterous-Ford triple combination pumper. In 1924 a firehouse was erected on Perry St. (now Maryland Ave.), acknowledging RVFD's vital work and readiness to grow. A Rescue Squad augmented service and a Ladies' Auxiliary formed, and annual Carnivals at the fair grounds raised funds. Community-minded, well-trained, dedicated volunteers have always been key to the organization's success.

Between 1972 and 1988, career personnel and community volunteers wrestled with how best to serve the expanding community, deciding on a combination of specific responsibilities to each. By the turn of the 21st century, 33 fire and rescue stations operated in Montgomery County. Today, RVFD operates out of four fire stations and is manned by volunteers and paid firefighters on call 24 hours a day.

As members of the community, many RVFD members came to be buried at Rockville Cemetery. Someone walking through the lower and upper cemetery sections would note orange flags posted next to graves of RVFD members.



Buried in Rockville Cemetery: Original officers of RVFD were (Mayor of Rockville) Dr. Otis Linthicum (president), Joseph W. Howes (chief) and Clifford Robertson (vice president). Other members buried in Rockville Cemetery are Donald Wilt and George Wilt, Sr., Eva Wilt (Auxiliary), Barrett P. Willson, F. Barnard Welsh, W. Randolph Talbott, David Shaw, Harry T. Riley, Preston E. Ricketts, James Nicewarner, Woodrow Marth, Russell D. Karn, R. Lee Hutchinson, Frank H. Higgins, John M. Heagy (monument maker), A. J. Freeburger II, Dr. George Edmonds (Rockville postmaster), Harry A. Dawson, Jr., W. D. Clark, William M. Burrows, Gordon Burrows, and Charles Eagle and Frank Morgan (killed in 1895 and later named Honorary Members). The most recent burial was that of Deputy Chief Scott Eric Emmons in 2021.

Rockville Cemetery Association is honored to maintain the final resting place of these men and other community leaders and protectors who served in the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department.

Appreciation to Tim C. Jones, Anne Allnut, and Mike Grant for assistance with this article



Neighborhood volunteers Lynn Pastore, Carol Bundell and RCA VP Rick Cranford joined Linda Lawton from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021 clearing brush and trash from the Rockville Cemetery roadside pre-construction.

Volunteer Linda Lawton and former board member Anne Allnutt spent months removing invasive growth and debris from the entire Rockville Cemetery boundary adjoining Baltimore Road.



The City of Rockville's much-anticipated Baltimore Road Project finally began during Fall 2020 during full Covid-19 pandemic response. The creek area, now owned by the City, and part of the Lower Cemetery have been utilized as the project's "staging area" for machinery and materials during the various work performed. The cemetery's service roadway section, formerly located on the creek's west side (foreground), will ultimately be relocated to the far (east) side of the creek to restore this entrance into the Lower Cemetery area. The entire project, particularly affecting all Rockville Cemetery areas, is expected to be completed in 2022.



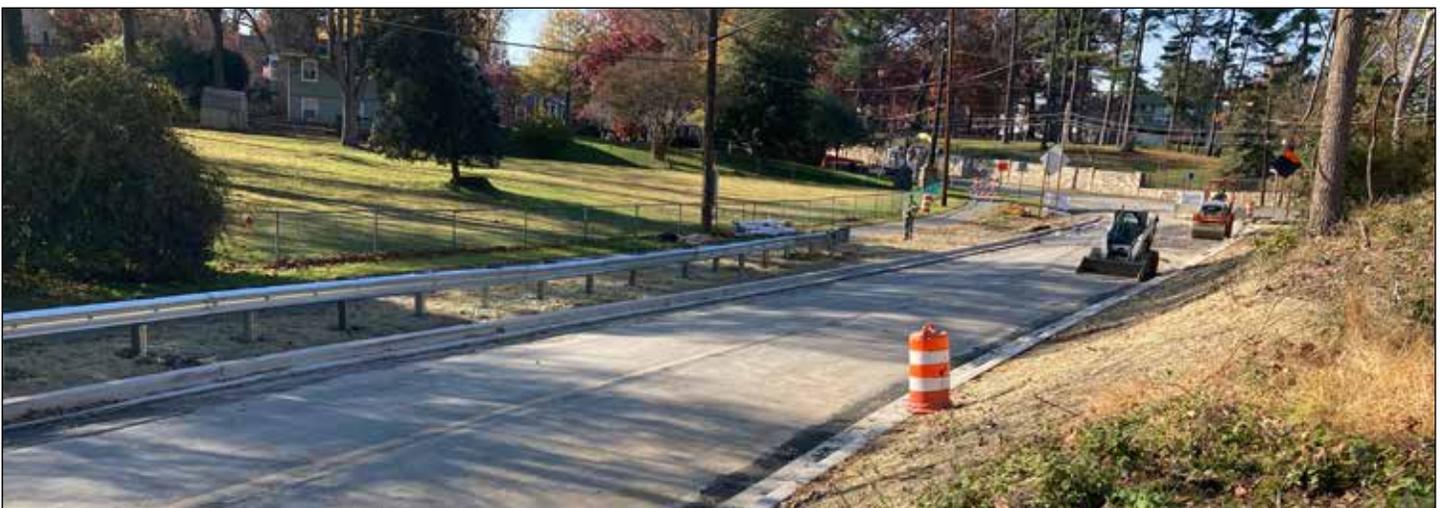
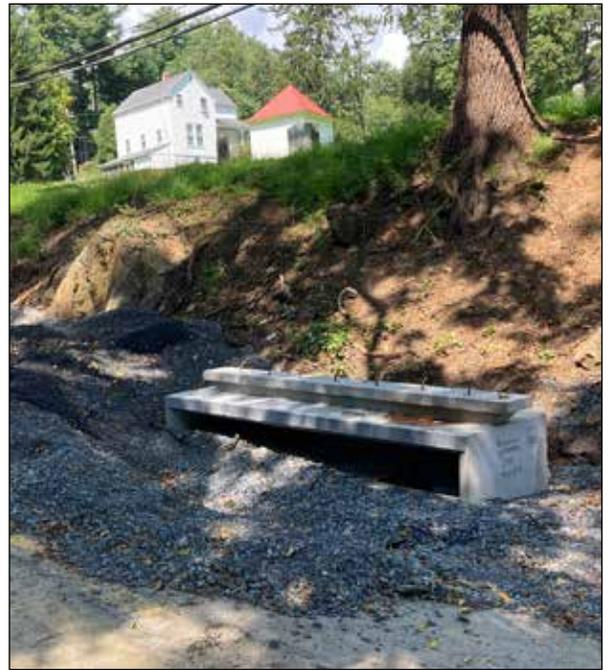
Yes, overhead wires used to be covered with vines. No more!



The bank of the upper cemetery was pushed back a bit and heavy drains added (below)



Injured and dying trees have been removed. New trees planted.



Drains, curbing and new guard rails!



A Veterans Day scene in the lower cemetery area's Section 2



Through the efforts of its volunteers, contractors, supporters, and visitors, Rockville Cemetery continues to be a perpetual site of tranquility and respect befitting the many generations interred here.



Judge Richard Johns Bowie (Sec D1, Lot 3, Site 6), owner of Glenview farm (now Civic Center Park) also served as the first president of the Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County, MD in 1880.



Winter scenes often highlight dramatic cemetery landscape variations.

Please include Rockville Cemetery Association when making your end-of-year gifts. *Thanks!*



Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution:

Please make checks payable to Rockville Cemetery Association

OR

Quick & Easy! Donate online at www.rockvillecemeterymd.org
At the bottom right of any page hit the **DONATE** button.

To be used for:

- Drainage and Erosion Control
- Section Identification Markers
- Steps in Strategic Areas
- Road Repair
- Gravestone Conservation
- Tree Work (planting new, pruning old)
- However funds are needed

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$500
- Other \$ _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: _____

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____



Rockville Cemetery Association appreciates everyone's ongoing efforts to respect the dignity of our grave sites, appreciate the rights of other visitors, maintain the tranquility of its wildlife community, and especially recognize our tenants which utilize the historic Caretaker's House as their private residence. We thank all for your cooperation!