



January, 2022

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Last Sunday Open House



We will be hosting our regular Last Sunday Open House this coming Sunday. It's an opportunity to visit the inside of the beautifully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Sunday, January 30, 2022.

There will be two knowledgeable people on hand to answer questions you might have about the historic building, as well as the cemetery itself. Masking WILL be required in the building. Please park on city streets, because there is no parking on the cemetery grounds.

Sale of Grave Markers Supports the Cemetery

Morning Rose, Blue Pearl, and Red Wausau might be the names of flowering shrubs found in the Masonic Cemetery. Wrong. They are instead the names of some of the colorful choices of granite available for grave markers.

EMCA is now able to provide patrons with a selection of attractive granite monuments, polished and engraved with your lasting message. Because we are now able to offer our own selection of stone markers, it will be easier for you to focus on the appearance of the memorial and expression of sentiment.

We are offering grave markers in a selection of sizes and shapes that fit within the established specifications of the cemetery. Although we have always had guidelines on how tall a marker can be, we also limit how low a memorial is positioned. In addition, we have some width requirements. Although marble was used for markers in the past, we now know marble to be soft, easily breakable, and prone to deterioration in Oregon's climate. This is why it is not commonly used today. Granite is the most durable and workable material that you will see in our cemetery. Granite markers may have a polished surface, a rough surface, or a combination of the two. Lettering engraved into granite withstands our weather and remains legible and clear. There is a selection of granite colors readily available and several more available by special order. Because we are working with a large stone supplier, we have dependable options.

When it's time to order a grave marker, we can help you with the selection of color, size, and choice of wording. This information will be submitted to the stone company, which will then present a sample layout of how the memorial will look prior to actually being made. This gives you the option to make changes in color, finish, or wording.

All markers are set in a concrete foundation, providing stability on our challenging hillside. We also work with installers who are familiar with this site and can ensure proper placement of monuments.

Our intention here at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery is to create a process that works smoothly for you. Additionally, the money that we take in for services provided will be invested in the future of the cemetery. This is one more way EMCA seeks to ensure the cemetery's ongoing sustainability while providing a service that is useful now.

As always, you are free to use any memorial company of your choosing. This has not changed. We are committed to having the process work well for you, whomever you choose to work with. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our service (541-684-0949), or by email; emca1859@gmail.com
Sally Dietrich, Administrator

The Site Committee

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery is an active place. Even though most of the rehabilitation in Hope Abbey Mausoleum has been completed, there's a lot of activity outside the building to keep the grounds tended, the roads safe and tombstones in good condition.

Much of the responsibility for overseeing this work falls to the Site Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Southworth, and the five other board members on the committee. Our two groundskeepers are essential in performing the work. Here are a couple examples of items they've been working on lately.

The cemetery is proud of the network of paths, which allow easy access to almost all parts of the 10 acre property. There are some areas, however, that can be better served with some modification to existing paths, or by adding additional ones. Diego, the Landscape Manager, has created a plan that, when finalized, will allow greater and safer access for our visitors, and better access for grounds maintenance and burials.



Another focus of the Site Committee is the continuing repair of markers/tombstones. The services of an Oregon company that specializes in such work will be used for the 3rd year in a row. Professional help is needed for a variety of reasons, especially considering that some markers can weigh hundreds of pounds and require special winches to move. If the budget request is approved by the board of directors, this will result in repairs to 150 markers out of the approximately 2,500 in the cemetery.

One tends to think of markers as items of stone, but the EMC has some wonderful examples of metal tombstones, mostly zinc. Some have been vandalized, with one that was used as a fire pit. Panels are missing on some of them. Finding a source for repair parts is difficult, but

that's being researched.

These are just a couple of examples of the ongoing maintenance and repair work the Site Committee deals with.

REMEMBER THAT THE MASONIC CEMETERY

- Is privately owned, but opens its grounds to the public, subject to COVID-19 safeguards.
- Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is not subsidized by the city of Eugene.
- Is eligible for the Oregon Cultural Trust match.
- Has a website, eugenemasoniccemetery.org, with lots of information about the cemetery.
- Has free informational brochures available at the Garden Cottage, including a walking tour map.
- Has burial rights and cremains space for sale. Contact Sally Dietrich at (541) 684-0949 or [by email](mailto:sally@emca1859.com).
- Uses PayPal for on-line donations. Please [click here](#) to donate.
- Archives issues of both newsletters.

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John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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Mission Statement

To restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,
but it is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION

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