

May, 2025

## Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



### Memorial Day Weekend Events

Sunday, May 25 and Monday, May 26



You are invited to the EMCA's Memorial Day Open House featuring these events:

**Hope Abbey** will be open to the public from 11 AM to 5 PM on both Sunday, May 25, and Monday, May 26. Refreshments will be served

both days. (Although the cemetery grounds are open on Saturday, there are no scheduled activities.)

**"History Hunts"** (similar to scavenger hunts) are a family activity with prizes. Families are given a list of clues to find interesting historic places in the cemetery. The clues are available at Hope Abbey on both days.

**Taps** will be played on the public square on both days at 12:15.

**Cemetery tours** will be held each day starting at 12:30. The meeting place is Hope Abbey.

On **Sunday**, the tour will be led by Diego Lewellyn-Jones, our Site Manager. The focus is "The Landscape and Arboretum."

On **Monday**, the tour will be led by Board member Caroline Forell. Caroline will focus on the "Historic Highlights" of the cemetery.

If you miss the tours, you can enjoy self-guided tours at any time using the graveside historic plaques and walking-tour brochures describing the site's occupants. Brochures and other information are available at Hope Abbey during open house hours, or at the Garden Cottage anytime.

A Concert will be held on the public square on top of the ridge starting **Sunday** at 6 PM. The Blugene Brass will play patriotic music.

Please park on city streets, because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Hope Abbey is the large concrete structure at the end of E 26th Ave. For easier access to the 6 PM concert in the public square, people with mobility issues can be dropped off at the southeast cemetery entrance at the end of Elinor St. This is a pleasant level walk to the public square without any major elevation changes.

### Cemetery Arboretum/Landscape Update

By Diego Llewellyn-Jones, Site Manager

*Hey, Diego, What's happening in the cemetery? It's May!*



You know, I wanted to say "May is for the birds," and write something about the red-tailed hawks that are nesting in a Douglas-fir tree far above the Geary family plot. They spend much of their time together, one perched in a tree, one soaring around, screeching back and forth as if to say "I'm still here." Some days we can even hear the chirping cacophony as parents return to feed the nestlings.

Down below, the turkeys display their beautiful tails and bright red necks, and thump their chests. And a pair of house finches that have nested in the arborvitae outside of Hope Abbey come flitting out as we walk by.

But I also want to mention the flowers. The roses are all starting to bloom. Clouds of narrowleaf onion puff up in the tall grass. Irises, columbine and checkermallow (checkerbloom) add some color to the green. And just outside the cottage, the sedum (stonecrop), is bursting with yellow flowers, all aflutter with flies and bees.

It changes almost daily, but you're guaranteed a beautiful visit no matter what happens this time of year.

### Cemetery/Hope Abbey Tour

Sunday, June 15



For those of you who may have missed the cemetery tour by Caroline Forell on Memorial Day weekend, here's another opportunity. She will conduct another tour, on Sunday June 15. The tour begins at 1 PM and will last about 90 minutes. Please meet at Hope Abbey.

### Music To Die For Concert Series 2025



June 8: Clefs Of Insanity  
July 13: Porch Band  
August 10: TBA  
September 14: Oregon Bach Collegium  
October 12: David Helfand

All concerts are on a Sunday, are free and held in Hope Abbey mausoleum at 2 PM, and finish about an hour later.

Please park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Enter either at 25th and University or the entrance at the end of E 26th St. Walk uphill to the Hope Abbey Mausoleum.

### Music on the Square Concert Series 2025



Yes, we are back for another season of great music in the gorgeous Masonic Cemetery Public Square! These concerts are sponsored by Lane Forest Products. Admission is free.

May 25: Blugene Brass  
June 7: Oregon Brass Society (Note that this is a Saturday.)  
July 6: Kef!  
July 20: Oregon Tuba Ensemble  
August 24: Kyzyl Gul-Red Rose  
September 21: Kara Ubanks and Nathalie Fortin

Bring a folding chair or a blanket to sit on and a picnic dinner if you wish.

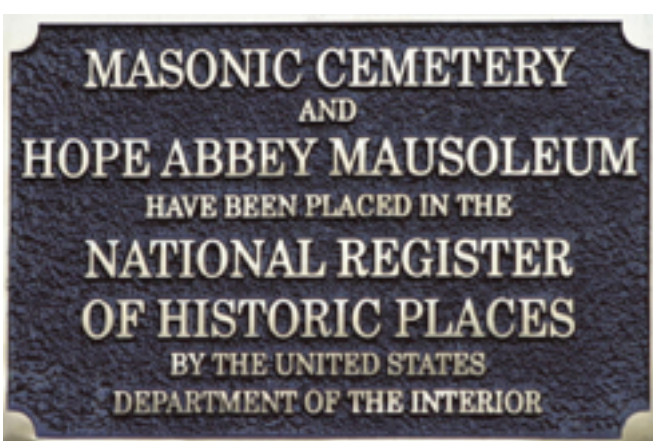
Please park on city streets, because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Enter either at 25th and University or at the end of E 26th St. Walk uphill to the public square.

For easier access to the public square, people with mobility issues can be dropped off at the south east cemetery entrance at the end of Elinor St. This is a pleasant level walk without major elevation changes.

### —Full of Life—

The History and Character of Eugene's Masonic Cemetery

Something worth reading one month at a time.



Last year we began a serial presentation of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery's publication *Full of Life*, a short book on the history and background of the cemetery. A link to this month's chapter appears below.

A little-known fact is that the northeast corner of the cemetery was the site of a clay pit, the contents of which were molded and fired into construction bricks. Where were they used, you ask? This chapter tells all.

Click on the title below to access this month's chapter.

Chapter Seven: [The Old Clay Pit](#)

Because of the size of the print in the original book, it's suggested that you read these chapters on a laptop or large computer screen.

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

Back issues of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery's *eNewsletter* and the semiannual printed *Monumental News* are available on our website listed below.

[Visit our website](#)