

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Memorial Day Weekend Events

May 24—25



On Sunday May 24th and Monday May 25th Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association will host a series of events honoring those who have fought and died for our country. Flags will fly over veterans graves

Taps will be played both days at 12:15 p.m. by Barry Barreau in the Public Square.

The cemetery gates will open at 11 a.m. both days for drop-offs, but there is no parking in the cemetery.

Hope Abbey will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. Please come in to enjoy some refreshments while you explore the mausoleum. Consider a donation to help us maintain the beauty and serenity of this historic building and grounds.

“History Hunts” is a fun scavenger hunt for older children and families. Pick up the map in the mausoleum and then explore the cemetery to find the historic graves. All participants get prizes.

Cemetery tours begin at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. Meet in the mausoleum for your host.

The Sunday tour will focus on the landscape of the cemetery and be given by our site manager Diego Llewellyn-Jones.

The Monday tour is given by Caroline Forell an experienced guide focusing on the history of the cemetery.

Brochures and maps for self-guided tours are also available in Hope Abbey.

The first *Music on the Square* free concert of the season is on Sunday, May 24. The Dubious Rubes are scheduled to play at 6 p.m. Bring blankets or low chairs to be comfortable on the grass. 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 much elevation changes.

We are adding a new event this year! If you look at some of the graves you may see a ghost or two, and they will tell you their stories. Keep your eyes open! Check in with the volunteers in the mausoleum if you need help finding the ghosts...

Our Memorial Day weekend program is the cemetery’s largest outreach effort of the year, and is full of opportunities to learn about Eugene and Oregon history while enjoying the cemetery’s peaceful and natural setting. The Eugene Masonic Cemetery, established in 1859, is the final resting place for many of Eugene’s luminaries.



In Flanders Fields
by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian surgeon, wrote “In Flanders Fields” in 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium, also known as Flanders. McCrae referred to the battle as “Seventeen days of Hades!”

The day before he wrote his famous poem, McCrae buried a friend that was killed in the fighting in a makeshift grave with a simple wooden cross. Wild poppies were already beginning to bloom between the crosses marking the many graves.

McCrae died at 41 just a few years later of pneumonia in 1918 towards the end of the war.

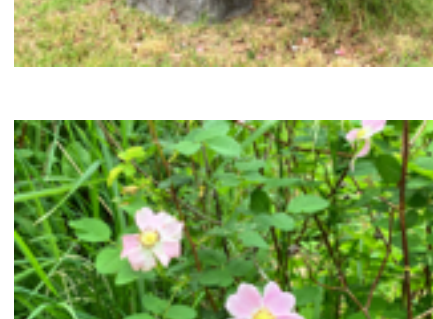
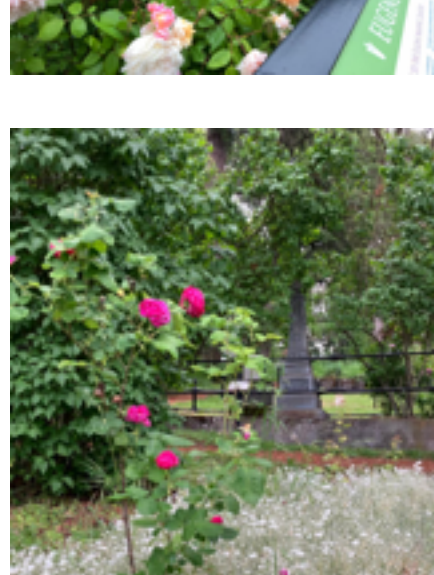
The Poppy, inspired by McCrae’s poem, is a lasting symbol of remembrance, sacrifice and honor of military personnel who have died in war.



Cemetery Arboretum/Landscape Update

The roses are in full bloom throughout the cemetery this month. There are small individual rose bushes standing regal next to historic markers, wild 5-petal roses peeking out through the tall grasses, and rose thickets make hedges along paths. The scent fills the air on warm afternoons.

The rose was a common favorite among the pioneers. They traveled the Oregon Trail with cuttings taken from plants they left behind. Unlike modern roses, which are typically grafted, old garden roses grow on their own roots providing the opportunity to easily propagate new plants from cuttings. The cemetery is home to a wide variety of these heritage roses.



Music on the Square

Sunday May 24th at 6 PM

Our first free concert of the year is on Sunday May 24 of Memorial Day Weekend.

Music on the Square presents **The Dubious Rubes** at 6 p.m. in the Public Square. Bring a picnic and blanket or low slung chair.



Playing in Eugene and the Willamette Valley for many years, The Dubious Rubes have entertained crowds in many local venues and parts beyond. They play Americana; a unique blend of melodic originals and jam rock covers from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Put on your best tie dye and join the fun!

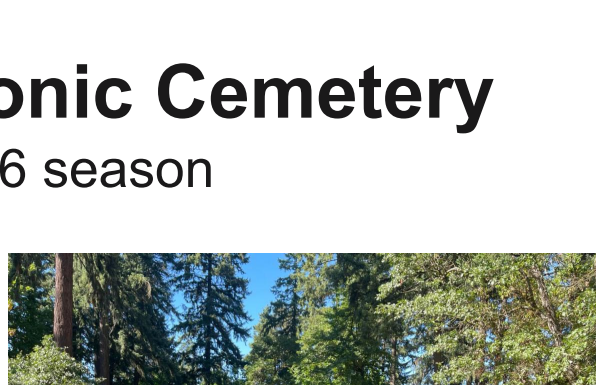
NOTE: There is no parking on the cemetery grounds, please park on city streets. Be courteous to our neighbors, do not block driveways. For easier access to the Public Square, people with mobility issues can be dropped off at the south east cemetery entrance at the end of Elinor St. This is a pleasant level walk without much elevation changes.

Music in Eugene Masonic Cemetery

Schedule for the 2026 season

Music On The Square:

Sundays at 6 p.m. in the Public Square
May 24—The Dubious Rubes
June 14—Blugene Brass
July 26—The Sugar Beets
August 9—Natsukashaii Soul
September 13—The Feel Goods



Music To Die For:

Sundays at 2 p.m. in Hope Abbey Mausoleum, unless otherwise noted.

June 14—Linda Danielson & Janet Naylor—*Fiddle & Celtic Harp*

July 12—Kara Eubanks & Nathalie Fortin—*Violin & Piano*

August 9—Casera—*South American music*

September 13—Wild Hog in the Woods—*Skiffle band*

October 11—Oregon Bach Collegium—Start time at 1 p.m.

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 Eugene Masonic Cemetery

- Is an active, operating cemetery
- Is non-denominational
- Has no requirement to be a Mason or association with Masonry
- Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Is operated for the public benefit, but is private property.



Sara Besch, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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