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Annual Membership Drive

It’s time once again to send in your tax-exempt contribution to our annual membership drive. These funds are a major contribution to the work we do throughout the year at Oakland Cemetery. Please use the membership renewal/signup coupon on the next page and give generously.

Cemetery Update

The past year was another very productive one for the Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society (OCPS). Thanks to a Neighborhood Improvement (NIP) grant from the Community Development Department of the City of Shreveport, as well as the Friends and Families of Oakland, OCPS was able to implement Phase 3 of the cemetery’s overall landscape plan. This portion of the plan included plantings in the northwest portion of the cemetery. At this point, more than half the cemetery has been planted in trees, shrubs, and ornamental grasses.

As a part of the landscape plan, the irrigation system was expanded to each new plant group to keep them in good condition throughout the year. Also, the City has agreed to take over the irrigation system maintenance – a big help to the cemetery. We are very appreciative to all our donors for their support. We would also like to thank Shreveport Green for their assistance in securing and planting the plants and trees.

During 2018, OCPS was forced to abandon plans to illuminate portions of the cemetery. Due to the age of the property, and lack of good mapping, it was determined that the foundations needed for the lighting fixtures might disrupt burial sites. Accordingly, OCPS looked into its list of priorities, utilizing its Master Plan, for other suitable projects. It found two with high priorities. These projects are financed by Federal Block Grant Development Funds administered by the Community Development Department of the City of Shreveport.

At present, visitors to the cemetery have no information about the cemetery. Jerome Nicholas, a board member and noted landscape architect, has designed a kiosk to be located inside the front gates. Interpretive signage located on the kiosk will detail the history of Oakland, notable burial plots, and a map of the cemetery, including a walking tour.

Many persons do not realize it, but Oakland was designed with streets, and they were named. The streets had turned to grass and were unmarked. As a result of the 2011 City of Shreveport bond issue, most of the streets were paved with sidewalks; however, they were still not identified. The OCPS board has elected to erect street signage throughout the cemetery that ties into the map on the kiosk. Visitors will be able to locate burial plots shown on the map, and others, with actual street locations.

Lastly, an exciting development has emerged regarding Oakland and the discovery of the possible burial site of William Bennett, one of Shreveport’s pioneers. Drs. Gary Joiner and Cheryl White, OCPS board members, have discovered what could be the final resting place of not only Bennett but 27 unknown

grave sites. The plot is located on the corner of Travis Street and Mary Court – across Sprague Street from Oakland Cemetery. It is believed that Bennett’s burial site was connected to Oakland at one time and became separated at a later date.

Plans for 2019

We have already turned our sights to 2019 with some exciting new plans for the year!

First, the new kiosk will be constructed inside the main Milam Street gate. The kiosk is designed to complement the architecture of the Alta and John Franks’ gazebo constructed last year and the new street signs. A rendition is shown below.



Next, street signs will be placed throughout the cemetery at each street intersection. The street sign posts and signs reflect the period of time the cemetery was in use. A map showing the signs is shown on the next page.

The City of Shreveport has approved another grant for Oakland Cemetery this year. The Neighborhood Investment Grant, in conjunction with a grant from the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners, will allow OCPS to continue its landscape work in the cemetery with the implementation of Phase 4 of the landscape plan.

Lastly, work continues on the William Bennett site. The original plan was to locate Bennett’s grave, obtain DNA evidence, and match it to a known donor descendent of Bennett’s in California. However, with so many potential graves sites, the plan had to be modified. Excavation will continue in a methodical manner. The new plan is to analyze the entire site and permanently memorialize it. Eventually, the site would be included as a part of Oakland Cemetery. Presently, it is unofficially known as “Oakland Cemetery Annex.” More information about the project can be found on the OCPS Oakland Cemetery web site; www.oaklandcemeteryla.org. The information that is posted there is an article entitled “On the Hunt for William Bennett”, courtesy of The Best of Times Magazine.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF OAKLAND

YES, I want to help by joining or renewing my membership to the “Friends of Oakland” organization to further the Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society’s efforts to restore and preserve the cemetery.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

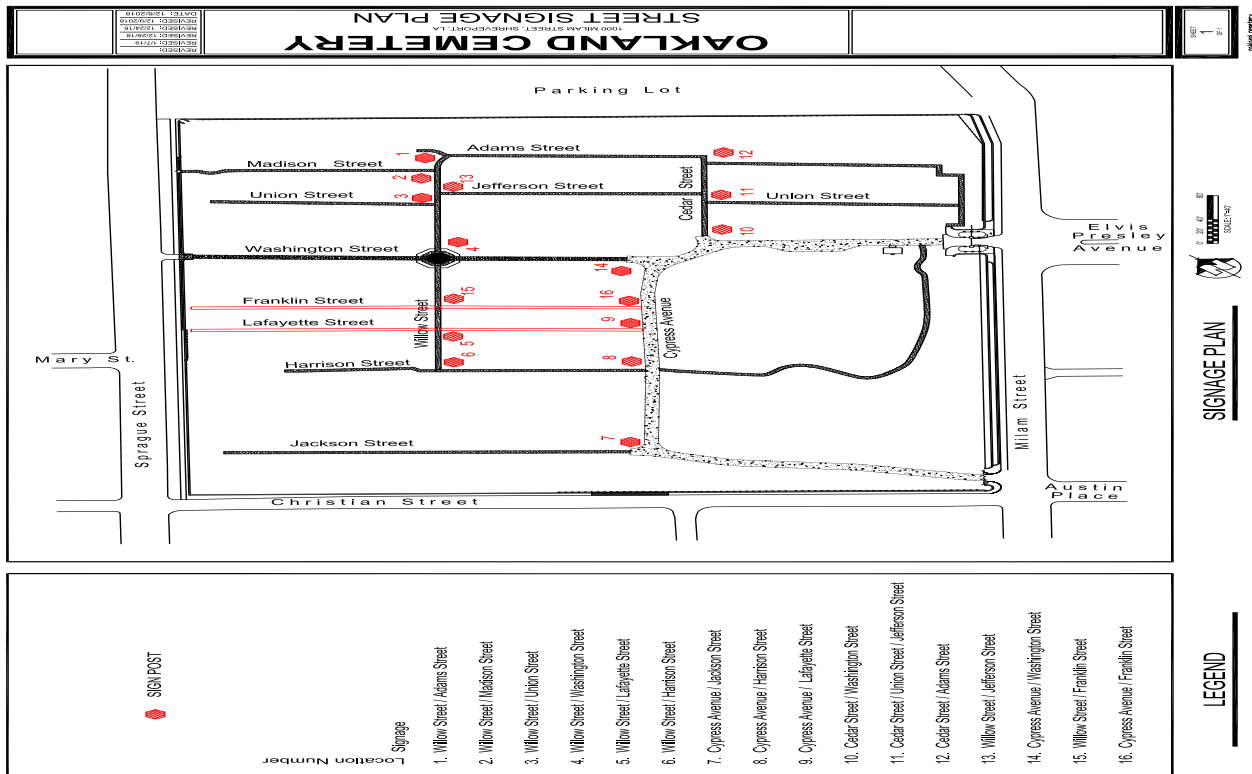
- Individual \$50 Family \$75 Friend \$150
 Patron \$200 Benefactor \$250 Founder \$500

Memorial/Honorarium Contribution \$ _____

In honor/memory of: _____

Please Notify (name and address) _____

Address: OCPS, P.O. Box 52131, Shreveport, Louisiana 71135



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Paul Strickland - President

Progress and improvements continue for Oakland Cemetery! Our partnerships with the City of Shreveport, Shreveport Green, and the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners continue to demonstrate how special Oakland Cemetery is to our community. As always, these types of alliances benefit the whole community, and we are grateful for all our partners!

In 2018, OCPS sourced and planted 23 new trees and installed the necessary irrigation systems for the new plantings. Shreveport Green was instrumental in locating the proper planting material and ensuring that they were planted in the proper manner.

Many of our friends and supporters do not know that the City has records of the four cemeteries it maintains. Oakland is one of them. You can do a burial search by going to: <https://www.shreveportla.gov/945/Cemetery-Burial-Search>. Also, many of the gravesites have been entered into the database at the website: www.billiongraves.com. If you are looking for a particular person that may be buried in Oakland, give these a try.

Lastly, the board of OCPS has elected its officers for 2019. They are: Paul Strickland- President, Cheryl White-Vice-president, Marsha Gill -Treasurer, and Steve Smith -Secretary.

We look forward to working with you again in the coming months and years to continue to polish Oakland Cemetery to be the jewel in the crown of this area. **Please join/renew your membership this month! WE AND THE CEMETERY NEED YOU!!!**

Oakland Cemetery
Preservation Society
P.O. Box 52131
Shreveport, LA 71135

Nonprofit Org.
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Twin Blends Video:

We invite you to go to our web site, www.oaklandcemeteryla.org, to view the video of the cemetery by this up and coming local company - Twin Blends Photography, LLC. It is a spectacular drone fly-over of the cemetery. While you are there, take time to view all the web site has to offer!

Alta and John Franks Gazebo Video:

See an animated video of the Alta and John Franks Gazebo! Go to our web site shown above, www.oaklandcemeteryla.org

Like Us on Facebook - @oaklandcemeteryshreveport!

We've been getting 5-star reviews! We want to know what you think about the good things going on in Oakland!

Give for Good – The OCPS is now a participant in the Give for Good campaign. Usually held in May, it is a great way to make a donation to Oakland and have your donation matched by the Community Foundation.

OAKLAND
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Checks and Change of address
notices should be sent to
OCPS, P.O. Box 52131,
Shreveport, LA 71135

www.oaklandcemeteryla.org

Oakland Cemetery is Located at the
intersection of Milam St. and Elvis
Presley Blvd. in Downtown Shreve-
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