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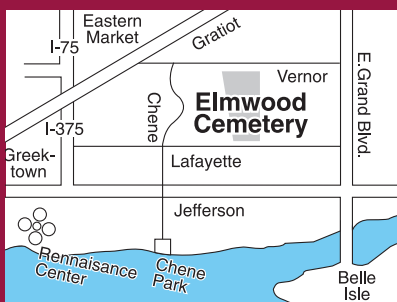
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1200 Elmwood Avenue  
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Phone: 313-567-3453  
Fax: 313-567-8861  
[www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org)

**Cemetery Grounds Access**  
7am - 7pm, Daily (May-Sept.)

**Office Hours**  
Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm  
Sat: 9am - noon

# 2017 Newsletter







## MESSAGE FROM SANDY McMILLAN PRESIDENT, TRUSTEES OF ELMWOOD CEMETERY AND TERRY P. BOOK PRESIDENT, HISTORIC ELMWOOD FOUNDATION

We are very proud of all that was accomplished at Elmwood this past year. The cemetery continues to serve as a unique place within the

community both honoring those who chose Elmwood as their final resting place as well as playing a role in the resurgence of Detroit. We are pleased to have increased awareness of one of Detroit's best assets, Elmwood Cemetery, through our many community events.

We invite you to come and experience the beauty and tranquility of the cemetery at this time of year! The trees and shrubs are in bloom and our recently renovated roadways are in great shape for walking and other activities you enjoy.

Perhaps you would like to learn more about Detroit's history through one of our guided tours? Or, would you like to learn more about the incredible collection of trees inside Elmwood, Detroit's first certified arboretum? Our spring events are in full swing. We hope you will take the opportunity to come to learn about birding and help us identify the migrating bird species and the fledglings that will call Elmwood home, even if only for a short while. Please join us in commemorating our loved ones this Memorial Day.

Please enjoy this issue of our newsletter, experience all we have to offer, and consider supporting Elmwood's continuing restoration efforts, educational programming and community events.

Warm regards.

## 2016 EVENT WRAP-UP



### Elizabeth Denison Forth Marker and Tree Dedication

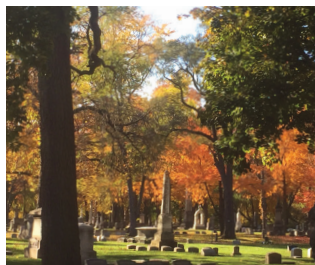
This past year approximately 100 people gathered to celebrate the life of Mrs. Forth, a former slave who was the first African American landowner in Pontiac and the founder of St. James Episcopal Church on Grosse Ile. Church members donated a marker and a beautiful tri-color beech tree

at Mrs. Forth's burial site in Strangers Ground. The choir from St. Pat's Church provided beautiful music to accompany the mass. Members of the St. Louisa Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution also attended the dedication and mass. We would like to thank Mrs. Kate Hartwell for her extensive efforts over the last few years to accomplish this dedication.

Learn more about Mrs. Forth through Elmwood's online biographies.

### All Souls Day

Fr. Steven Kelly of St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit once again celebrated a Requiem Mass in the Elmwood Chapel on November 2 to pray for and remember the deceased. The service was also broadcasted live via St. John's Episcopal Facebook page. We enjoyed a reception following the mass. Thank you Fr. Kelly for continuing this annual tradition at Elmwood!



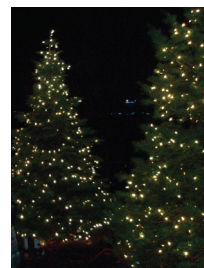
### Veterans Day Commemoration

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual program was held on November 11 and we had an excellent crowd. Media coverage was through WXYZ – Channel 7, and the Detroit News. We had two different fly-overs – a historic

plane and then the Tuskegee Gliders sent 4 gliders. Winged Occasions provided us with a 21-dove release that flew shortly before our 21-gun salute from the Civil War reenactors. We would like to thank Winged Occasions for their generous support and the Buffalo Soldiers who paid for the bus transportation for the Detroit Jr. ROTC programs' students in honor of a recently deceased member, as well as the co-chairs for the event, Mrs. Capuano, Mr. Robert Middleton of the Montford Point Marines and Sargent Edgardo Rivera, Operation and Training Officer of the Detroit Public School Community District, Army JROTC. Members of veterans groups from each branch of the armed services were represented.



### Tree Lighting Ceremony



The December Tree Lighting Ceremony, honoring the year's deceased, was attended by over 250 people. The Men's Ensemble Vision choir from the Detroit School of Arts performed once again this year. They were outstanding as they provided moving numbers before and during the formal program. They then gathered in the gatehouse and put on quite a show for

our families. Elmwood would like to thank the many families who attended, Ms. Cheryl Valentine for her leadership of the choir, the students, and Elder Christopher Holden from Swanson Funeral Home who provided moving opening and closing messages. Families were given red carnations as they departed.

*None of Elmwood's events would be possible without our tremendous staff that works hard on behalf of our families and Elmwood's boards. Thank you to Bonita Smith, Mike Shukwit, Ciara Green-Lowe, Kimalyn Taylor, Phil Lovati, Bob Schroeder, Dave Hessel, Rich Brock, Stephen Shukwit, Sal Militello, Larry Sloane, Joan Capuano and Cheri Arcome. We are so very fortunate to have you all in our Elmwood family.*



# Enjoying Elmwood

## 2017 Upcoming Events

### APRIL 28

Arbor Day with  
Grosse Pointe Academy, 9 a.m.

### APRIL 30\*

Birding with Detroit  
Audubon Society, 9 a.m.

*\*Monthly birding dates are listed online*

### MAY 12

Spring Tree Tour, 10 a.m.

### MAY 29

Memorial Day Commemoration,  
noon – **NEW Event**

### JUNE 10

Tombstone Tales Tour, 8:30 a.m.

### JULY 15

Tombstone Tales Tour, 8:30 a.m.

### AUGUST 19

Tombstone Tales Tour, 8:30 a.m.

### SEPTEMBER 30

Tombstone Tales Tour, 8:30 a.m.

### OCTOBER 21

Fall Tree Tour, 8:30 a.m.

### OCTOBER 28

Tombstone Tales Tour, 8:30 a.m.

### NOVEMBER 2

All Souls Requiem Mass, 10 a.m.

### NOVEMBER 10

Veterans Day Commemoration –  
33rd Annual, 10 a.m.

Keep an eye on our website or send a message to [jcapuano@elmcem.org](mailto:jcapuano@elmcem.org) to be added to our email list to receive information about upcoming events.

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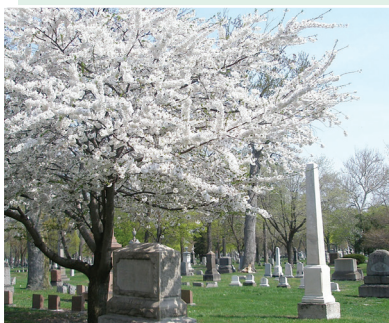
### Office Hours

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm

Sat: 9am - noon

## Your Support Matters

This past year, the generous donors to the Historic Elmwood Foundation provided educational and cultural opportunities to over 3,500 tour and event visitors. Elmwood's roadways were completely restored and our drainage system cleared. Our arboretum was added to and we now have 98 species in our collection. We



expanded our educational programming, placing tree identification markers on select species. The markers highlight the scientific and common name of the tree, and also include a query code for those visitors with smart devices who wish to learn more about the tree. We also began offering tree identification tours with our partners at Greening of Detroit and local certified arborists.

Please help us ensure Elmwood Cemetery and Arboretum remains a sanctuary for all by donating to the Historic Elmwood Foundation. Historic Elmwood Foundation is classified as a 501(c) 3 by the IRS. You may make your donation by completing the enclosed envelope or at Elmwood Cemetery's office. If you are interested in making a bequest to Elmwood through your estate planning, please contact Joan Capuano, Executive Director of the Foundation, at 313/801-1971, or review the suggested bequest language available on Elmwood's website.

Thank you for your continuing support of Elmwood.

## Spring Flowers Available

Every Spring Elmwood offers a beautiful bed of begonias (24" x 14.5") to be placed in front of your loved one's marker or monument. For \$60, the staff at Elmwood will plant, water and remove the begonias at the end of the season - weather permitting, they are installed just after Memorial Day and last until late September. Please contact the office at 313/567-3453 to order today. Quantities are limited.



## Large Family Lots Available

The Cemetery working with the Historic Elmwood Foundation has nine large family lots available. They are located throughout the property and are available only through the foundation. The purchase price of these special lots includes a donation to the foundation. The lots are the perfect size for your family mausoleum or large memorial. Please contact the office staff if you are interested in viewing a foundation available lot.

# Foundation Contributors

*We are thankful for the many friends who supported the  
Historic Elmwood Foundation and Elmwood Cemetery in 2016*

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*The Elizabeth, Allan &  
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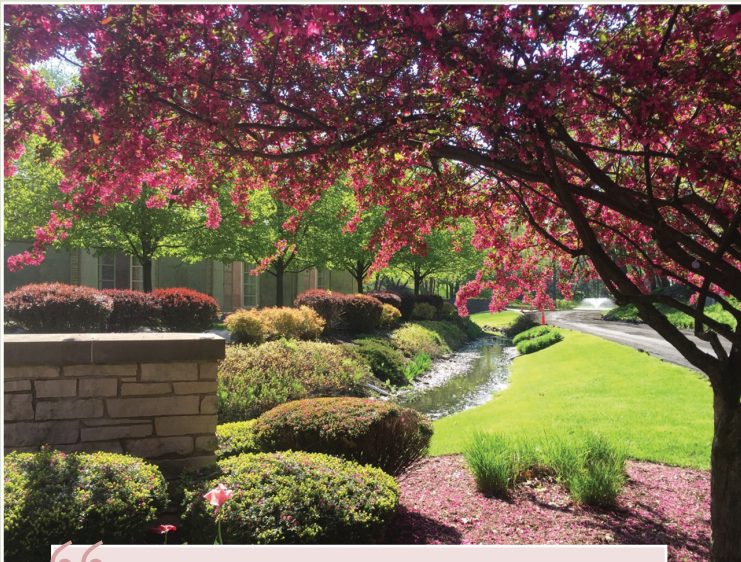
# Partnership News

## Greening of Detroit

In the fall of 2015 Elmwood Cemetery became Detroit's first certified arboretum. Elmwood boasts 98 species, among its nearly 1500 trees. We are excited about our partnership with Greening of Detroit, who uses Elmwood as its outdoor classroom, discussing the various species and the inherent strengths and weaknesses in the trees, and our Detroit environment. They have also been instrumental to Elmwood with tree identification, tours, and community events.

John Kost, Citizen Forester Coordinator for Greening of Detroit, led the class and said, "we are lucky to have Elmwood's trees here in Detroit. So many different species in one spot is great for our training."

Jac Kyle, Greening's Environmental Education Manager, recently joined Elmwood for one of its birding events and indicated she looks forward to expanding the partnership between Greening and Elmwood. We at Elmwood are excited about increasing knowledge about our trees and environment with our visitors and are thankful for Greening's enthusiasm and assistance.



*"The cemetery provides a unique opportunity to experience the nature, culture, and history of Detroit."*

— Detroit Audubon Society



## Detroit Historical Society

Elmwood is honored to partner with the Detroit Historical Society in sharing Detroit the stories of Detroit's past with our visitors. In addition to the highly successful DHS' *Behind the Scenes* tours, this past year we had joint school tours where students visited Elmwood and then toured the Detroit Historical Museum. Woodhaven schools sent four groups to Elmwood and DHS. They commented, "the ability that the ability for the kids to see the interesting monuments and learn the history of Detroit was outstanding." They especially enjoyed being able to run through the Black Walnut trees and check out the old bridge at Elmwood.

## Birding

Multiple birding events were held with both Detroit Audubon and

Wild Birds Unlimited/Grosse Pointe Audubon throughout the year. A typical event begins with a walk, and pointers on how to use binoculars, spot and describe species. The walks conclude at either the chapel or the gatehouse where light refreshments are provided and a general discussion ensues. Birding checklists continue to be placed in the information rack at the gatehouse and are used by visitors separate from the birding walks. Birders use the checklists to note the different species spotted or heard on the grounds. We have documented over 75 different species migrating through or living here at Elmwood.

*"We love to Bring People and Nature Together! So special in the D."*

— Rosann Kovalcek, Wild Birds Unlimited, Grosse Pointe







## Tombstone Tales Tours

A stone's throw away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Detroit, lay 86 acres of Detroit's natural topography. Elmwood has graceful hills and a valley surrounding a calmly flowing stream. Large stands of trees, and roadways follow the natural slope of the land. They blend with the surrounding environment and our outdoor sculpture garden, creating a haven of peace for the living to enjoy.

Elmwood has four "Tombstone Tales" tours that we offer to the public FREE of charge. We share the many stories of those laid to rest at Elmwood, including Michigan Governors and Senators, Detroit Mayors, Civil War Generals, African American Heritage Leaders, and Detroit's Who's Who. We also highlight memorial art and symbolism, architecture, and our unique grounds. Our walking tours are held in all weather and last approximately 2 hours.

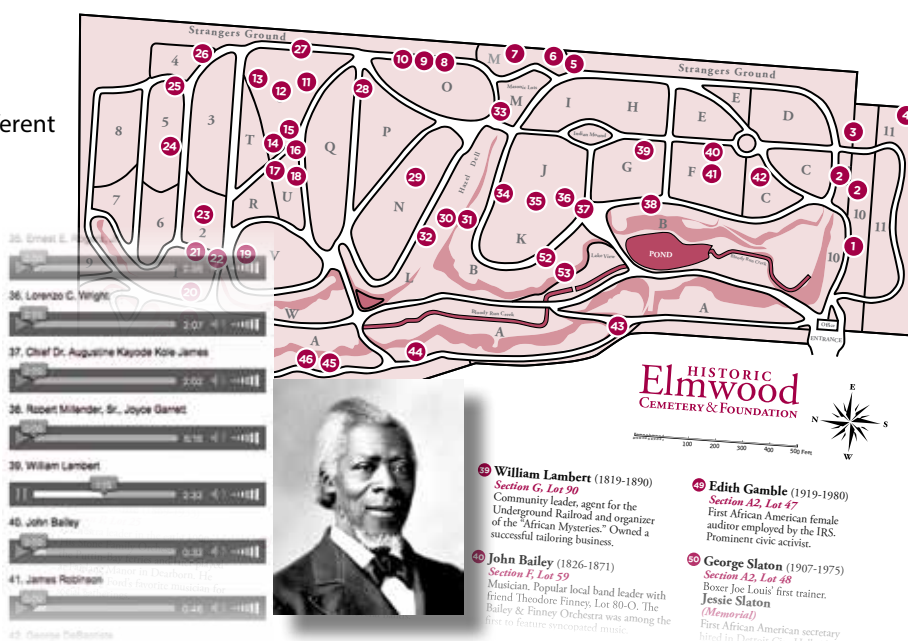
## Educational Enrichment

Today, educational opportunities occur on many different levels at Elmwood whether through our online biographies, our tours, daily interaction with staff, materials on the property, or through our website and other electronic means. Elmwood strives to remain current and monitors all educational pieces for necessary updates and accurate information.

This year we will have an extensive expansion to our online biographies as we work to include the many people highlighted through our self-guided tour maps and in our tours, including the more recently deceased.

We have an information rack in the office for our visitors to broaden our reach. All materials are underwritten by the Historic Elmwood Foundation and are available to our visitors free of charge.

If there are areas about which you would like to learn more, please contact Joan Capuano at [jcapuano@elmcm.org](mailto:jcapuano@elmcm.org) or 313/801-1971, or access our website, [www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org).



## 2016 Restoration Projects

In 2016, the Historic Elmwood Foundation undertook a very large project at the Cemetery, completely restoring the roadways across its 86-acres. We completed this extensive project in stages to permit continuing access to the property by our families and event participants. The drainage system throughout the cemetery also was checked and cleared where necessary. The final step is the continued regrading of the adjacent land. These restoration projects will make Elmwood increasingly accessible during all seasons.

We also restored the walkway in the Hazel Dell Section and rebuilt the dam at the southern end of the pond.

