



# St. Joseph Cemetery & Holyhood Cemetery

## N E W S

Spring 2014

Volume Six



### “Find a Loved One”

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Over the past year, Holyhood Cemetery Association has been focused on rejuvenating the experience of our visitors by turning to technology to enhance a visitor's experience. The first step to this process was a facelift of our web page ([www.holyhood.com](http://www.holyhood.com)). The hope in executing the revisions was to offer a reference for visitors to turn to for information regarding upcoming events, to allow visitors to discover Holyhood's proud history, and to learn more about the services that the Association offers. We believe that the makeover was a resounding success. The web page now allows for the Association to distribute information to the community while offering a bright and vibrant setting which we feel suits our personality.

The next step of this facelift will be to add even more functionality to the site. A “Find A Loved One” feature has recently been deployed as a function of the web page. This feature allows site visitors to find loved ones who are laid to rest on our grounds from our office kiosk, their home pc, or even from their

smart phone or tablet. Standard information is displayed such as name of deceased, grave site location, date of death, age of deceased at the time of death, and date of burial.

In addition to the standard information listed above, we envision families having the opportunity to submit a photograph and short biography of their loved one which visitors will have the opportunity to view when they search for a loved one. This will allow families to add a personal touch for family and friends to experience for years to come.

This “Find a Loved One” feature will first be available for deceased who's final resting place is located in St. Joseph Cemetery. We hope to make this feature available for deceased in Holyhood Cemetery in the near future.

As always, the Association is committed to making our visitor's experience both pleasant and memorable. We hope that you will take advantage of these enhancements and enjoy your experience with us here at St. Joseph Cemetery and Holyhood Cemetery.

## N E W S

## Letter from the President

The first phase of the Holyhood Master Plan construction is complete. The overall goal of the plan is to enhance the beauty and historic value of the Cemetery. In addition the plan will provide approximately 3,500 new full burial and cremation graves. The completed first phase has provided approximately 250 cremation graves which are available for purchase. Beautiful field stone walls identify this area and blend with the aesthetics of the historic Fitzpatrick Chapel and staircase.

Technology improvements continue to be the focus of the Board with a unanimous vote to appropriate funds for additional upgrades of computer programs. The cover story of the 6<sup>th</sup> annual newsletter explains this process. The "find a loved one" technology will allow families and loved ones to locate a grave site from their personal computer at home, iPad, or iPhone. The program will be extremely user friendly. Families may also access this program on a touch screen in the lobby of the administration building.

The St. Joseph main cemetery has been upgraded in various areas with the installation of granite curbing and the development of additional graves for purchase. New landscape design plans have been approved by the Board for the Veterans Memorial at the main entrance. Funeral Director, Richard

Gormley has offered a generous gift of a granite sitting bench which will be placed next to the memorial. In back of the Maguire Chapel a design is in process for developing a new section on the hillside called Chapel Hill 4.

The St. Vincent section of the cemetery received a substantial amount of restoration. The main entrance road was resurfaced, a new water system installed, landscape improvements at the turn arounds and 240 new grave sites developed. These grave sites are available for purchase.

The St. James the Apostle section of the cemetery received additional plantings in various locations adding distinctive color to the landscape. The irrigation well was repaired and upgraded to provide increased water pressure throughout the cemetery. The Board is also reviewing plans for the possible construction of a crematory in this section. This would allow the association the ability to provide an additional service to families and increase sale of graves for cremation burials.

Beautification of the grounds and increased safety for visitors continues to be a priority for the Board. Tree maintenance, tree replacement and lawn care remain an everyday on-going task. Morin's Landscape Company provides the majority of this service. The Board has been pleased with

their performance and voted a two year extension to the existing contract.

Budgets continue to be a challenge for the Board and management. We continue to find ways to cut expenses, provide more service, and increase yearly revenue. This year a strategic plan was adopted and will be used as a planning guide for future years.

The annual Memorial Day Observance continues to be the event of the year. It is a great tribute to our veterans and continues to attract younger families every year.

2013 was very productive. The Association adjusted to the retirement of a long term superintendent, Ken Jorgenson and a reduction of employees in the work force. The General Manager, staff and work force employees displayed a sincere commitment to continued quality service for our families and loved ones. They must be commended for a great job.

I want to thank all of you for your support in 2013 and look forward to another successful year.

Sincerely,



George A. McLaughlin, III  
President

### Web Site

*Information regarding our history, services, regulations, hours of operation, lot sales, genealogy, and directions, is available at*

**[www.holyhood.com](http://www.holyhood.com)**

**Phone 617-327-1010**

**Fax 617-327-0526**

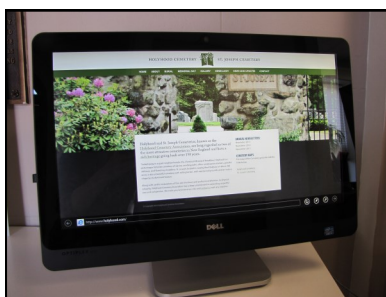


## Administration Building Renovations

Spring 2014



The Administration Building is the center of the Associations daily business function. The historic structure is made of granite with limestone trim. Designed by R. F. Johnson and built in 1924. The walls and floors of the building are 18 inches thick. Improvements to the building in the past few years have made the structure more energy efficient, and comfortable for the staff and visitors. Technology and electrical upgrades throughout the building have adapted it to better serve our visitors and provide secure record keeping. The front lobby of the building has a newly installed touch screen monitor which will allow



cemetery visitors to quickly and easily locate loved ones, relatives, and friends simply by touching a computer screen.

*The gates of the  
cemeteries will be  
open 7 days per  
week from 8:00 am  
to 7:00 pm and in  
winter 8:00 am to  
5:00 pm*

## Tree Removal/Replacement Program

Continuing tree care and replacement is essential throughout the cemetery grounds. When windstorms pop up, dead and dying trees drop limbs and large sticks, and those trees in general deter from the visual appeal of the cemetery. In the past two years the Board has approved a removal/replacement program in the Capital Budget. The Master Plan for Holyhood Cemetery in particular has identified a number of trees in need of removal. In some cases these older trees have caused structural damage to the perimeter walls. As we move forward with the program they will be replaced.



**A tree company removes a dead tree from Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline.**

## N E W S

## Memorial Day Mass

**Memorial Day St. Joseph Cemetery 2013****Monsignor Helmick and his dedicated staff from St. Theresa of Avila, West Roxbury****Sarah Mitchell, Cantor; Patrick Stout, Bugler; Brandon Santini, Organist**

*"For love of country  
they accepted death,  
and thus resolved all  
doubts, and made  
immortal their  
patriotism and their  
virtue"*

*James A. Garfield*

Memorial Day 2013 was a festive event, hundreds of people attended the 10 a.m. Mass in St. Joseph's Field of the Sacred Heart. Monsignor William Helmick of nearby St. Theresa of Avila Church in West Roxbury was the celebrant.

At Holyhood, about 100 people gathered for a 9 a.m. Mass celebrated by Father Jack Ahern, Pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Dorchester.

Veterans' organizations and volunteers from various schools did an excellent job placing flags. Once again, the weather cooperated and the grounds were in excellent condition.

**Memorial Day Holyhood Cemetery 2013****Father Jack Ahern, St. Ambrose Parish, Dorchester**



## Holyhood Cemetery Superintendent Retires

Spring 2014

Ken Jorgenson retired from the Association this past year. Ken was a superintendent for 26 years. His previous retirement was from a long term service in the United States Air Force. He was an outstanding employee and very compassionate. His historic interest and knowledge was very helpful to our visitors. His research of prominent military figures interred over the years was exceptional. Ken plans on enjoying his family and staying busy biking, swimming, and caring for his favorite hobby bee keeping. We all wish Ken a wonderful healthy retirement.



**Ken Jorgenson**

## Holyhood Cremation Graves

Cremation statistics are increasing across the country as noted in an article in Time Magazine last June. Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline, as part of a long term master plan, identified a prime location to develop additional cremation grave sites. This location adds to the historic value of the cemetery and the Fitzpatrick Chapel. The first phase of development is complete. It provides approximately 250 new cremation burial sites. These graves are now available for purchase and will include a flat granite marker.



*The cemetery is a place for meditation and prayer, hallowed by symbols of our faith and our devotion in the memory of those who rest in eternal peace.*

## Veterans Memorial

The Veterans Memorial located at the front entrance of St. Josephs Cemetery will be refurbished this year. The Board of Directors have approved a new landscape design which will include a granite bench donated by Richard Gormley in honor of his brother Brigadier General, William Gormley. The new design will also include a weeping cherry tree which signifies the Holyhood Cemetery Association logo.



**Conceptual Landscape Plan for Veterans Memorial**

The Association had a very productive 2013. This was evident through the Board approved small projects throughout the grounds and structures. The new technology allows our dedicated office staff to keep diligent records of those buried in the cemetery as well as detailed maps of the cemeteries to better serve our families and friends of loved ones buried here.

All our employees continue to adjust to a smaller work force. Their dedication and work ethic helps to stabilize our operating costs on a daily basis.

As always our staff and Board of Directors would like to thank our churches, families, monument dealers and funeral directors for

their support and understanding throughout the year. We encourage you to call with requests, constructive suggestions or any questions.

Sincerely,



A. Thomas DeMaio,  
General Manager



*"The A-Team should consist of every employee of the cemetery, because we are only as strong as our weakest link" - John Toule*

### St. Joseph Cemetery & Holyhood Cemetery

990 LaGrange Street  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Phone: 617-327-1010

Fax: 617-327-0526

Website: [www.holyhood.com](http://www.holyhood.com)

#### Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

The gates of the cemeteries are open

7 days per week from 8:00 am to

7:00 pm and in winter 8:00 am to

5:00 pm



### Holyhood Cemetery Association

990 LaGrange Street

West Roxbury, MA 02132