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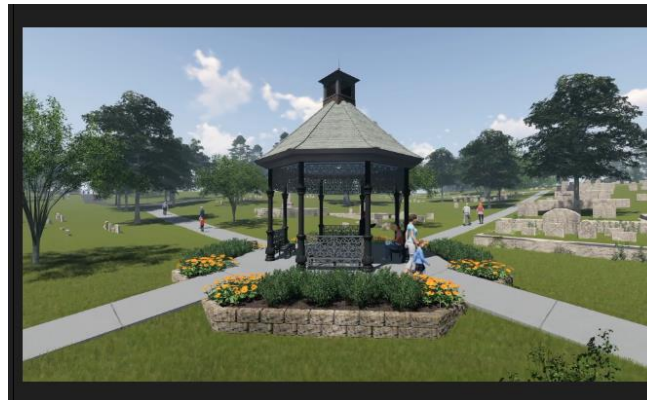
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## Annual Membership Drive

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.

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## Grand Gazebo!



The Alta and John Franks Gazebo

We are very pleased to announce that the Alta and John Franks Foundation Gazebo became a reality in 2017. It is a beautiful structure that will enhance Oakland Cemetery for generations to come. The gazebo was designed by Gene Hodgson of Pollard-Hodgson Architects and constructed by Jackson Construction Company. It is worth a trip to the cemetery just to see our new gazebo!

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## Cemetery Update

The past year was another very productive one for the Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society (OCPS). Thanks to a grant from the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners Association (NWLAMGA) and 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 2 of the cemetery’s overall landscape plan. This portion of the plan included plantings in the vicinity of the gazebo and extending to Sprague Street. The plantings included trees, shrubs, and ornamental grasses. Two new park benches were also installed in strategic locations, along with their associated plantings.

Also, an irrigation system was added to each plant group to keep them in good condition throughout the year. This effort allowed us to tie the cemetery into the recently renovated Grand Ave./Elvis Presley Blvd. and enhance the beauty of both. 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.

OCPS, in conjunction with the City of Shreveport (SPAR), continued to right and repair many monuments in the cemetery that were in danger of collapse or were on the ground. This not only improved the look of the cemetery but also saved the valuable monuments from irreparable damage.

Finally, the City of Shreveport constructed a new sidewalk and retaining wall along Milam Street. The new wall looks wonderful and replaces the prior one, built in 1905, which was falling down. The new wall was constructed by Hoogland's Landscape, LLC. Before and after photos are shown below.



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### 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**

## Plans for 2018

We have already turned our sights to 2018 with some exciting new plans for the year!

The City of Shreveport has approved two grants for Oakland Cemetery this year. The first is a Neighborhood Investment Grant to allow OCPS to continue its landscape work in the cemetery. After this year's work, almost half of the cemetery will be landscaped.

Another exciting development is a Community Development Block Grant that will allow us to bring usable electricity into Oakland for the first time. Part of these funds will be used to light the beautiful new gazebo. The others will fund period lamp-posts and lighting for Washington Street, the main street between Milam and Sprague Streets.

This lighting will allow Oakland Cemetery to provide security lighting for the cemetery and surrounding neighborhood, help anchor the new Shreveport Common District on its west side, act as a lighted bridge between Elvis Presley Blvd. and Oakland, and allow it to host evening events.

Landscape Architect and fellow board member, Jerome Nicholas has designed the next structure for the cemetery – A beautiful storage structure to be used for storing the many items necessary to run a cemetery. It is shown below. We are seeking one or more donors who would like to sponsor this great addition to the cemetery. If you know of anyone, please let us know.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Keith Evans - President*

Progress and improvements continue for Oakland Cemetery! Our partnerships with the City of Shreveport, Shreveport Green, Master Gardeners and the Alta and John Franks Foundation 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 our partners!

In 2017, we constructed the new Alta and John Franks Foundation Gazebo along with accompanying flower beds, 13 new trees, two park benches, 42 new shrub plantings, and the necessary irrigation systems for the new plantings. The Gazebo is absolutely beautiful and a real focal point in the cemetery. Our heartfelt thanks once again to the Franks Foundation for their generous gift to the people of Shreveport.

We also started and completed, early this year, the replacement of the Milam Street wall on the east side of the cemetery. Special thanks goes to the city of Shreveport for appropriating the funds and to Hoogland's Landscape for the magnificent job that they did in designing and constructing the wall. It looks great and matches wonderfully the original wall design and style.

Board member and historian, Steve Smith continues his efforts to save those monuments in most need of repair. His vigilance in the cemetery is a wonderful asset for us. To-date, OCPS, at his direction, has rescued over 100 monuments--works of art--from ruin, including several more in 2017.

Coming in 2018 is the first phase of our master lighting plan which will make the cemetery a beautiful place to visit at night. To keep these improvements coming, OCPS continues to reach out to our community for more supporters who might have an interest in underwriting these wonderful cemetery improvements. If you would like to assist in this effort, please contact Hines Vaughan at 458-6117.

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

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

this area. **Please join/re-  
new your membership this**

**month! WE AND THE CEMETERY  
NEED YOU!!!**

Nonprofit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Shreveport LA  
Permit No. 177

Twin Blends Video:

We invite you to go to our web site, [www.oaklandcemeteryla.org](http://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 new Gazebo! Go to our web site shown above, [www.oaklandcemeteryla.org](http://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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Society for donors and friends  
of historic Oakland Cemetery in  
Shreveport. OCPS is designated  
a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization  
by the Internal Revenue Service.

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

[www.oaklandcemeteryla.org](http://www.oaklandcemeteryla.org)

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