

THE OAKLAND CEMTERY PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.

Great News!!!!

Dear Oakland Supporter,

As you know, the Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society (OCPS) has been working diligently for several years to put in place a master plan for Oakland Cemetery and find the funds needed to implement the plan.

First, OCPS held a community-wide strategic planning session to gather input from the public. A comprehensive, prioritized strategic plan was then developed from the information gathered.

Then, OCPS solicited a study from Fran Gale, Architectural Conservator, University of Texas. This report provided a brief site description, summarized existing conditions and discussed the work needed to restore the cemetery. This study set the stage for later preparatory work.

OCPS then retained Suzanne Turner, of Suzanne Turner and Associates, Baton Rouge. Her report presented a preservation strategy and its implications for the upcoming landscape plan.

A landscape architectural plan was then received from Jon Emerson, Emerson and Associates, Baton Rouge. Jon's plan outlined the physical changes that needed to be made to the cemetery.

The final study was made by Shelley Sass, of Shelley Sass Conservation, Inc.(SCI). Ms. Sass' report delineated the necessary emergency work and top priority sites in the cemetery as they relate to the monuments, headstones, etc.

Using the above strategic plan and studies, OCPS developed a master plan for the rehabilitation of the cemetery. This plan was submitted to the City of Shreveport, the cemetery's owner, for their approval.

Thanks to the citizen's approval of the recent bond issue, our Mayor, the Shreveport City Council, the Friends and Families of Oakland organizations, and you, the effort to rehabilitate Oakland Cemetery has finally begun.

In December a contract was awarded to Douglas Construction and Remodeling to begin work in the cemetery. Items included in the contract are:

1. A new main road through the center of the cemetery. The old one was nearly impassable.
2. Paved walkways over the original streets, which are now overgrown with grass.
3. Shoring up the fallen wall on Christian Street.
4. An upgraded security fence completely around the cemetery as recommended by the Shreveport Police Department.
5. Installation of a water system.
6. A handicapped parking area.
7. Pruning/removing damaged trees; as well as, planting new ones.
8. Other improvements.

You Are Invited!

You are invited to a groundbreaking event to be held at the entrance of the cemetery, at the intersection of Milam and Elvis Presley Ave, across from the Municipal Auditorium, on February 3, 2013. The event will be held at 12:00 noon. In the event of rain, the event will be cancelled.

Watch for developments on our website: www.oaklandcemeteryla.org.

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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 have been and continue to be a major contribution to the work we do throughout the year at Oakland Cemetery. Please use the membership renewal/signup coupon below and give generously.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF OAKLAND

YES, I want to continue the work being done by OCPS 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 \$25 Family \$40 Friend \$100
 Patron \$250 Benefactor \$500 Founder \$1000 Student \$10

Memorial/Honorarium Contribution \$ _____

In honor/memory of: _____

Please Notify (name and address) _____



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

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