

# Friends of Fairmount NEWSLETTER

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

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## FAIRMOUNT CEMETERY

Jeremy Walker, *Supervisor*  
Mavis Boyd, *Administrative Assistant*  
Phone: (325) 655-9475  
*Gravesites are still available: call the Fairmount office for more information*

## Fairmount Cemetery Celebrates 125 Years

(March 1893 – 2018)

### FAIRMOUNT CEMETERY

*Excerpts from Historical Document Prepared  
by Katharine Tweedy Waring*

"...Fairmount Cemetery received its name in 1898 some years after it was laid out as "the new City Cemetery" in 1893. The ladies appointed as the executive committee chose the name Fairmount, first suggested by one of their members, Mrs. J.W. Hill.

On February 1, 1890, the *San Angelo Standard* said: "A new cemetery is very much needed." Closed in by a residential neighborhood, the old graveyard had no room to expand. San Angelo had undergone a building boom in the 1880's after the disastrous flood of 1882 when it replaced Ben Ficklin as post office and Tom Green County seat. The little city was growing, serving a prospering ranch country. The extension of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1888 was bringing even more people in, offsetting the loss of Fort Concho in 1889.

When the city incorporated for a second time in 1892, Mayor John Phelan appointed Aldermen George Bond (1844-1925) and A.B. Sherwood to look into possible sites for a new cemetery. In December 1892, the city bought 22 45/100 acres of land southwest of town. This was level ground, well away from houses, schools or businesses and not likely

(Cont. p 2)

## Friends of Fairmount Need Your Help

Sunday, November 5, 2017, members of Friends of Fairmount and volunteers will meet in Historic Fairmount Cemetery to place over 1,400 flags on veteran's gravesites from every American war, dating back to those who fought in the Texas War of Independence.

Prior to placing the flags, all will gather in the Veteran's section under the American flag at 2:00 P.M. to honor and remember all our veterans. This will be in place of our usual annual ceremony held on Veteran's Day, November 11, due to many conflicts of other planned events for veterans that Saturday.

We would greatly appreciate your participation to honor those who have served their country so honorably.

We are located at 1120 West Avenue N.

You may contact Martha Visney at 325-374-7422 for more information if needed. ■

## Greetings

It has been one full year since I started as supervisor of this historic cemetery. We have accomplished some of the goals that were set and we are still working on others. We have updated cemetery equipment and purchased a new funeral service tent, replacing the old one after over 10 years of service. We also purchased a new stainless steel lowering device. These 2 purchases alone have boosted the morale of the cemetery crew and has been greatly appreciated by the families we serve. It is our objective to make Fairmount cemetery second to none. In order to rise above the rest, we must strive to serve our families with **Professionalism, Integrity and Quality**. This next year we will continue to accomplish more goals to further enhance the beautification of the cemetery.

- Jeremy S. Walker ■

## ***Stones & Bones: Where History is Buried***

*The goal of Stones and Bones is to introduce 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to the wealth of history, culture and memory captured within the boundaries of Fairmount Cemetery. The 2-day program lets students explore local, state, regional and national history using a historic community resource and artistic responses. Students engage in listening activities on a slideshow in the classroom followed by a field trip to the cemetery where hands-on activities include tombstone rubbings, a Famous Folks scavenger hunt and a photo safari.*

This past May, we presented the 2-day program to approximately 350 Students from Belaire, Santa Rita, Fort Concho, Lamar and Angelo Catholic schools. The Stones & Bones committee enlisted the help of Community Volunteers, Retired Teachers, Friends, Parents, and Grand-Parents to help with the program. Unlike the rain we were blessed with the previous year, the weather held out and the students were able to participate in all the Field Day activities at the Cemetery.

Input from the campus teachers, volunteers and crazy schedules of our own committee's hectic lives during the month of May convinced us that we need to host the Stones & Bones program in another month of the school year. We will be "testing" a new date in October with the help of 3 schools, Fort Concho, Santa Rita and Angelo Catholic. We anticipate that the fall month will provide better weather and less conflicting activities for our students, teachers and volunteers. We'll keep you posted on the results and hope that you will come out and volunteer with us next time!

*History "comes alive" as we study famous men and women who once lived or are buried in San Angelo, Texas.*

*Visit us at [www.stonesandbones4kids.org](http://www.stonesandbones4kids.org). ■*

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*(Cont. from p. 1, "Fairmount Cemetery Celebrates 125 Years")*

*to contaminate drinking water. (Smallpox, "consumption" and typhoid were still frequent causes of death).*

*...March 1, 1893, the first person was buried in the new ground. There are stones with earlier dates elsewhere in the cemetery, but they have been transferred from other burying grounds....*

*On November 19, 1909, the San Angelo Standard said: "...the Fairmount Cemetery Association is having erected a beautiful iron fence with handsome large gateposts of iron. This is a matter of civic pride to all sincere San Angeloites. The fair ladies of the association are thus making beautiful the final resting place of those who have departed for that bourne from which no one ever returneth to tell of its condition. It is a splendid, grand, noble and illustrious work. The good association has the thanks and praise of all. God bless the benevolent workers in this and their future efforts!..."*

**We continue the efforts of the first association today and look forward to celebrating 125 years of Fairmount Cemetery this March 2018. Watch for us in the news and on social media for more information about the cross-section of San Angelo history of the over 33,000 buried in Fairmount. ■**

## ***You Are Invited to Attend the Friends of Fairmount Annual Meeting***

November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts

Guest Speaker, Eva Horton

## ***Finding the Grave of a Relative or Friend Buried in Fairmount Cemetery***

Over the last few years, Fairmount Cemetery has seen an increasing number of people visiting the grounds to find the grave of a relative or friend, take a tour or just explore the grounds. The desire to locate certain graves has been a growing interest of those visitors. This spring, the Fairmount Board appointed a committee made up of Fairmount and Friends of Fairmount Board members to research wayfinding options for Fairmount Cemetery.

Based on their discoveries about wayfinding in other cemeteries, the committee made several recommendations to the Friends Board at their last board meeting. They suggested using Points of Interest to orient visitors to the cemetery grounds. The gazebo, the St. Francis statue, the veterans' area and the Greek area were some of the points suggested. The committee proposed that a protected, enclosed map similar to those seen in state and national parks be installed in the gazebo marking the Points of Interest. They also suggested that the block, lot and space numbers assigned to each grave as exact locators of the graves be noted on every space depicted on the map. This three-number-method of marking graves for location is used by almost all cemeteries today.

The committee found that a free app called Find-a-Grave is available for anyone to download on their phone. You can ask for Fairmount Cemetery and enter the name of the person you wish to find. The block, lot and space numbers for that person will come up on the screen. Many times there will be information about that person, a picture of the headstone or even a picture of the person. The Find-a-Grave app is owned by Ancestry.com. Currently about 75% of those buried in Fairmount are listed in Find-a-Grave. It is not unreasonable to think that in the near future, the site might be able to "drop a pin" on the grave and give you exact directions to the location similar to the way Google Map works for street addresses.

In the meantime, the committee looked for more immediate ways to make locating a grave easier. After visiting with the City of San Angelo, it was discovered that the block, lot and space numbers already existed on an internal computer system used by City employees connected with Fairmount Cemetery. For technical reasons, those web sites cannot be used by the public, but the City offered to configure that public information in such a way that Friends of Fairmount could send it to Find-a-Grave and complete the app's inventory at Fairmount. Friends or the City can update the information annually or semi-annually to keep the grave finding app current.

The final recommendations to the Friends Board included adding block markers to the 57 acres within Fairmount to



make using the map even easier. They also included adding instructions on the map for downloading the Find-a-Grave app and for using block, lot and space numbers to find a grave.

The Friends Board additionally wanted to mark the Points of Interest with small monuments for easier identification and to find volunteers to complete the information Find-a-Grave lacked on those buried in Fairmount.

The Friends of Fairmount Board voted to pursue making grave finding easier by adopting and expanding the recommendations presented to them. They will form a committee of members from the Fairmount Board and the Friends Board to make their wayfinding goals a reality in the near future. •

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## *How to Find a Gravesite at Fairmount Cemetery*

- **Call the cemetery office before visiting in person.**
- **The phone number is (325) 655-9475.** Office hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday, except for designated City of San Angelo holidays.
- The cemetery office is located across the street from the main entrance of Fairmount Cemetery at 1120 W. Avenue N.
- **Confirm that the person's gravesite is located on cemetery grounds.**
- **At Fairmount, a system of Block, Lot, Row and Plot is used to locate a gravesite.** Give the name you are looking to locate and the office can provide you the location details.
- **Ask for a map to the person's gravesite.** Cemeteries keep detailed records of who is buried in which plots.
- **Fairmount Cemetery is open to visitors 365 days a year.** The main entrance is open daily from 7:30 AM to sunset. The rear exit gate is only open during funerals.
- **<https://www.findagrave.com>**

**Find A Grave** is a free resource for finding the final resting places of famous folks, friends and family members. With millions of names, it's an invaluable tool for finding ancestors. Search by Name, Date or Location to find a burial site within **Fairmount Cemetery** – most grave records, burial interments and pictures of headstones located at Fairmount Cemetery are available on this site. ■

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## *Honor a Loved One with a Legacy Lane Paver*

A lasting sentiment may be cast in stone with a paver and placed on Legacy Lane at Fairmount Cemetery. For a limited time, Friends of Fairmount is offering personalized pavers for honoring or memorializing a loved one or preserving a special memory in stone. Limited quantities of pavers are available in two sizes:

6" x 9" (\$200.00 each)

Holds 3 lines of text, each line a max. of 12 characters

12" x 12" (\$500.00 each)

Holds 4 lines of text, each line a max. of 18 characters

A space is counted as a character.

Forms for purchasing can be found on our website. ■

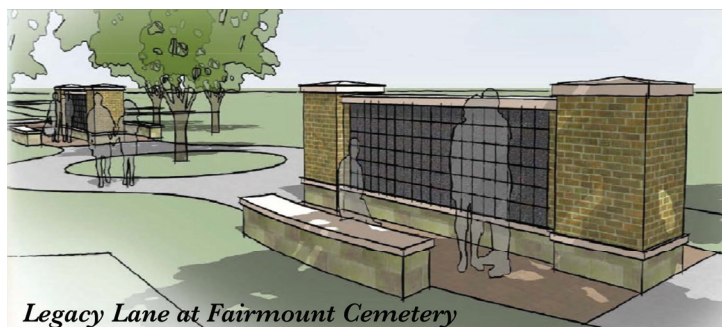


## *Annual Christmas Wreath Campaign*

As the holidays refresh our memories of those passed on, Friends of Fairmount again offers the placement of Christmas Wreaths to honor loved ones and support Fairmount Cemetery. Friends of Fairmount will place individual, fresh 24" wreaths at gravesites with a \$50.00 donation (per fresh wreath). Additionally, for a donation of \$250.00 or more, Friends of Fairmount offers the opportunity to sponsor the large decorative wreaths which adorn the gazebo, the Main Entrance, and other locations throughout Fairmount Cemetery.

Weather permitting, the wreaths will be placed at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please check our website for time details and any last minute changes due to the weather.

Please consider helping Friends of Fairmount decorate Fairmount Cemetery for the holiday season. Order forms are attached to the newsletter and will also be available online and at the Fairmount office. Your contributions honor loved ones and financially support our organization. ■



*Legacy Lane at Fairmount Cemetery*



## ***Friends of Fairmount***

*www.friendsoffairmount.org*

### ***Friends of Fairmount is on Facebook!***

Like our page to keep up with all the amazing events and activities that we participate in year-round.

### ***Top 10 Reasons***

*to support Fairmount Cemetery as a member of Friends of Fairmount:*

- 10** Protect Fairmount's beautiful park-like setting
- 9** Sustain the improved drought-tolerant landscaping
- 8** Maintain Fairmount as a focal point for our community
- 7** Conserve Fairmount as a designated Texas Historic Cemetery
- 6** Discover history represented and lived by those buried at Fairmount
- 5** Honor our veterans through the Veteran's Day Ceremony
- 4** Add your voice to show the importance of Fairmount Cemetery to San Angeloans
- 3** Support future improvements such as the Columbarium
- 2** Teach hands-on history lessons through *Stones and Bones, Where History is Buried*
- 1** Preserve history for future generations

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