



City of Lawrence

The Flame | March 2023

"We Have
Tomorrow –
Bright Before
Us, Like A
Flame."

Langston Hughes

Oak Hill Headstone Conservation Project is Underway

With the Oak Hill Headstone Conservation Project, volunteers and specialists are working hard to restore the physical state of headstones in Oak Hill Cemetery, but the work is also much more than that. The conservation is about honoring and respecting those who have died.

The goal of the project is to conserve 53 headstones in need of repair at Oak Hill Cemetery. Headstones were selected for conservation based on their condition. The goal of the conservation work is to uphold the integrity of the stone.

The project is being led by Pacific Coast Conservation and the Douglas County Historical Society (DCHS) Oak Hill Cemetery Program Committee, with funding from the City of Lawrence and other sources. The committee became a standing committee under the umbrella of the Watkins Museum of History last year.

Pacific Coast Conservation, which is based in Denver, Co., began the work in fall 2022 along with a group of dedicated volunteers. Together, they cleaned more than 250 historic headstones, researched correct placement of headstones, and performed other tasks as needed. More than 150 volunteer hours have been contributed so far during this first phase of work.

While much was accomplished in Phase 1, there is still more to do! Volunteers will resume cleaning headstones in spring 2023 when Pacific Coast Conservation returns to Lawrence and completes the work they started in the fall.

Additional volunteers are welcome to join for spring 2023. The DCHS Oak Hill Cemetery Program Committee is hosting a program for volunteers to learn how to clean headstones. Once the date is set, it will be announced on the committee's website at: watkinsmuseum.org/oak-hill-headstone-conservation-project.

Interested volunteers can also email the Watkins Museum of History: info@watkinsmuseum.org.

More information about Oak Hill Cemetery, including lesson plans for teachers, can be found online at: lawrenceks.org/lprd/parks/oakhillcemetery.



Pictured left: The headstone of Henry Fritzel before it was cleaned by volunteers as part of the headstone conservation project.



Pictured right: The headstone of Henry Fritzel after it was cleaned. The headstone is at Oak Hill Cemetery, 1605 Oak Hill Avenue. The City purchased land for the cemetery in 1865 and it became an important place to commemorate the devastation of Quantrill's Raid, which took place in 1863.

Mark your calendars for upcoming City of Lawrence events

Spring Arts and Crafts Show

Saturday, April 15
Community Building

The Spring Arts and Crafts Show will be returning to the Community Building in Downtown Lawrence this year. Vendors from around the region will be selling a variety of products from quilts to jewelry to sweet treats!

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Summer Kick-Off Safety Fair

Saturday, June 3
Location TBD

Get summer started safely with our community safety fair. First responders and other local organizations will lead activities and demonstrations for the whole family!

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SummerFest and Fireworks

Monday, July 3
Douglas County Fairgrounds

Summerfest will be packed with fun and festive ways to celebrate America's Birthday! There will be an all day craft show as well as fitness demonstrations and speakers throughout the afternoon. In the evening, we'll have live music and the community fireworks display.

Back to School Safety Fair

Saturday, August 5
South Park

Make your family ready for a safe school year! Along with information about Safe Routes To School and other programs, first responders will lead family-friendly activities.

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50th Annual Halloween Paint In

October 21
Downtown Lawrence

We'll be decorating the windows of businesses in beautiful downtown Lawrence, and keep an eye out for additional competitions and displays celebrating the milestone anniversary.

Holiday Extravaganza

Saturday, December 2
Sports Pavilion Lawrence

Our largest craft show of the year, the Holiday Extravaganza hosts more than 200 vendors from around the region! This show is an excellent opportunity to stock up on holiday gifts.

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Reindeer Games

Saturday, December 16
Community Building

Reindeer Games is a great way for young children to burn energy and get in the holiday spirit! Hop along glaciers, play ring toss with a reindeer, fish for candy canes and much more!



Ready to celebrate Earth Day Month!

Every year on April 22, our global community comes together to advance sustainability and climate action in commemoration of Earth Day. In recent years, our community has begun expanding the Earth Day celebration to include events and activities throughout the month of April.

As part of our Strategic Plan, our organization's commitment to Environmental Sustainability outlines a deep respect for our place in relationship with the planet and environment. We consider this commitment in our work every day, and Earth Day reminds us to raise awareness of the need to protect Earth's resources for future generations.

This year's Earth Day theme is "Invest In Our Planet," which highlights the

importance of dedicating our time, resources and energy to solving climate change and other environmental issues.

Throughout April, the City will join our community in commemorating Earth Month with educational activities, volunteer events and more. United together, we'll drive a year of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to a sustainable and equitable future for our planet. Visit our Earth Day webpage, lawrenceks.org/earth-day, for a list of Earth Month tips, activities and events!

Here are some tips for celebrating our Earth this April and beyond!

Avoid plastic disposables. Bring your reusable bags when shopping and take your reusable water bottle everywhere you go to reduce plastic consumption.

Ride the bus — Lawrence Transit is free in 2023! Leaving your car at home can mean reduced gasoline consumption and carbon emissions.

Conserve energy. You can install a programmable thermostat, use energy-efficient appliances, insulate and weatherize your home, and replace or clean your air filters.

Visit a Lawrence park. Walking through a park is a fun way to learn about nature and interact with the environment.

Plant a tree. Planting a tree is an easy way to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and counter deforestation.

Conserve water. Turning off your irrigation system when it rains and watering as infrequently as possible without causing undue stress to your lawn prevents water from being wasted.

Visit our website for more tips!

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We create a community where all enjoy life and feel at home.