

# RIVER VIEW CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Celebrating 130 Years 1882 ~ 2012



## Newsletter

*Guardians of Your Community's Heritage & History Since 1882*

### President's Message

River View Cemetery has just completed its 130th year, and we found a tremendous way to celebrate the occasion! We have completed a spectacular, newly-remodeled Adams Chapel that we are anxious for all to see! I am most proud of our staff and Board of Trustees, who spent countless hours overseeing the planning. The final product is well worth the time invested.

In addition to the renovation of the Adams Chapel, we have made lovely improvements by installing new carpeting, draperies and lighting on the top floor of the mausoleum. All of the improvements have been made while staying true to the original design of architect, Pietro Belluschi.

While we continue to offer traditional services, we are working toward offering more natural burial opportunities. This service is rapidly

gaining in popularity nationally and River View intends to continue to be the leader locally. Natural burials are increasingly more popular at River View. (See article on page 2)

River View Cemetery Funeral Home continues its strong growth with outstanding staff. Now is an excellent opportunity to pre-plan your funeral arrangements by phoning the funeral home at 503.246.6488.

In conclusion, I encourage the membership of River View Cemetery to consider contributing to our "Foundation Fund" established to assist in the ongoing beautification of our cemetery. For more information, please contact the Executive Director at 503.246.4251.

Thank you for your support of the River View Cemetery Association and River View Cemetery Funeral Home.

*Steve Chown, President*

### River View Goes "Green" With New Mausoleum Lighting

As part of our commitment to the environment, and in the interest of saving energy, River View recently installed all new, energy-saving light fixtures and bulbs in the 4th floor of the indoor mausoleum. Additionally, sensors were installed in many of the mausoleum corridors and in rest rooms, so that the lights only come on when someone enters that part of the building. So don't be startled when the lights come on automatically, and don't try to shut them off, because a few minutes after you leave, the lights will go back off automatically, saving additional energy. We hope to install these same type of devices on the other floors of the mausoleum next year, to further our energy savings.

### Cemetery Manager, Lee Rogers, to Retire After Nearly 48 Years of Service



A lot has changed since 1965! Man went to the moon; slide rules gave way to calculators; personal computers were invented, along with copy machines, fax machines, cellular phones, and the list goes on and on. But one thing hasn't changed since 1965: Lee Rogers has always worked at River View Cemetery. Anyone who has been a frequent visitor to River View has seen Lee - either out on the grounds; working in the office; or taking his nightly walk through the cemetery. He has been a fixture and an "Icon" here - well deserving of the title "Mr. River View". But now, after 47 and a half years, Lee is choosing to slow down and officially retire.

Lee began his career at River View Cemetery on May 11, 1965. He worked for 17 years on the grounds crew and then, 30 years ago, on June 1, 1982, he transferred to the office and began assisting customers and operating the crematory. He eventually became the Asst. Cemetery Manager, and then, in 1995, was named Cemetery Manager, a position he has held until this time. Lee has been as dedicated and loyal of

an employee as anyone could ever ask for or even imagine. There is nothing he wouldn't do, or hasn't done for River View Cemetery. We hate to see him go, but he has certainly earned the right to do so. But the good news is, he isn't going very far. Lee has agreed to continue working on a part-time basis, following his official retirement at the end of December, so you will continue to see Lee at River View - just not quite as much. When you do see Lee, stop and thank him for his dedicated service.

## Natural Burial Increases in Popularity

Three years ago, River View Cemetery became the first endowment care cemetery in the Portland area to allow natural burial (often called "Green Burial") anywhere in the cemetery. Some cemeteries have a small, separate area for natural burials, and some claim to offer natural burial by not using the bottom of their required concrete burial vaults, but here at River View, you can be buried directly in the earth, without chemical embalming, in a biodegradable casket or shroud, without any type of concrete burial vault or grave liner. Although natural burial was common prior to the mid-1930's, by adopting it, River View has become a national leader in expanding options for environmentally-friendly funeral and burial practices. Last year was only the second full year that natural burial was allowed, yet 25

client families made this choice for their loved one, with an even larger number of people making pre-arrangements to ensure that they can have natural burial for themselves. If you would like more information about natural burial, please call our office.

Work continues on River View Cemetery's plan to create and open a new, dedicated natural burial area - one that will have a very different look from the conventionally landscaped parts of the cemetery. Absent will be traditional markers and manicured lawns; replaced by a park-like, woodland meadow, with trails, benches and ceremonial



spaces to enhance the experience of visitors. We still need to complete geo-technical work and environmental assessments to confirm the suitability of the site. Unfortunately, this process has taken much longer than we had anticipated, but we remain committed to developing a separate, non-traditional area where clients can have natural burial in a section of the cemetery that utilizes sustainable management methods. If you would like to receive our bi-monthly newsletter to stay abreast of progress for this project, please call Jessica Repp at 503.246.4251.

## Suffrage Movement 1912 - 2012

2012 marks the 100-year anniversary of the victorious women's suffrage movement in the State of Oregon.

Abigail Scott Duniway, who is interred at River View Cemetery, was an integral part of the suffrage movement in Oregon. Scott Duniway founded the Oregon Equal Suffrage Association in 1873 and worked tirelessly to see that women would be able to cast their vote in Oregon. After many failed ballot measures over the years, Oregon became the seventh state in the Union to pass a women's suffrage amendment in August of 1912. Governor Oswald West asked Duniway to write the proclamation for his signature and Duniway had the honor of being the first woman to register to vote in Oregon. Abigail Scott Duniway died on October 11, 1915, just four years before the passage of the 19th Amendment of the Constitution, which reads: *"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."*

If you would like to visit the gravesite of Abigail Scott Duniway, please visit our office for a detailed map.



Abigail Scott Duniway 1834 - 1915

### River View Cemetery Board of Trustees

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## Restoration Plan Approved for River View Cemetery

River View Cemetery is continuing its strong commitment to the environment by reaching an agreement to partner with the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) for the restoration of 14.3 acres of forest land currently covered with invasive weeds such as English ivy, holly, laurel, blackberry vines, an invasive species of Clematis and other non-native species. The land being restored is within the developed portion of the cemetery, but is in a deep ravine, unsuitable for burial purposes. It also parallels the area where River View hopes to develop its dedicated natural burial

area. The restoration agreement between River View Cemetery and WMSWCD will cover a two to three year period at a cost of \$16,400, which will be split evenly between the two organizations. In addition to removing the invasive species, the plan includes planting native grasses, shrubs and trees on the site.



Conservation District Forest Conservationist Michael Ahr recently was quoted as saying, "We're very pleased to be able to assist River View on this important

Portland natural area. By controlling invasive weeds on the land, we will promote the growth of native fish, plant species, and wildlife throughout the watershed." The Conservation District will manage the project and consult on future maintenance with River View Cemetery as needed. This project follows, and is similar to, an agreement that River View reached with the City of Portland four years ago to remove the invasive species from the ravine on cemetery property that parallels Taylors Ferry Road.

## Group Presentations

River View personnel are available to your civic, service, religious, or social group - FREE. We have various presentations from informing the public about River View Cemetery and its history to answering your questions on the topic of pre-planning your funeral and cemetery arrangements. Call 503.246.4251 for more information.

Although assisting families at the time of a death is a very important service, an even more important service we offer is advance planning. Planning ahead before a death occurs can be one of the most responsible and caring things you can do to prevent emotional and financial stress for your family.

If decisions are made ahead of time, you can prevent your family from having to make difficult and expensive decisions that need to be made on possibly the worst day of their life. Advance-planning staff here at River View are available to assist you with your cemetery and funeral pre-arrangements. If you would like a complimentary Pre-Planning Records Guide Book to assist you with compiling the information needed at the time of death, please give us a call at 503.246.4251 to receive your copy.

## Adams Chapel Receives Much-needed Renovation

For nearly 70 years, the Charles Francis Adams' Memorial Chapel has been a beautiful focal point of River View Cemetery's indoor mausoleum and office building. Designed by famed architect, Pietro Belluschi, the chapel was named in honor of Mr. Adams, for his nearly two decades of dedicated service as a Trustee and because he and his family donated funds for the purchase of the chapel organ, the altar, and the stained-glass window, designed by Charles J. Connick, a leading designer of ecclesiastical stained-glass artwork, from Boston, Mass.

But decades of wear and tear made it necessary for a face-lift, which was recently completed. The chapel pews were refinished and reupholstered; new carpet was installed in the chapel, foyer, office, hospitality room and mausoleum hallway; coat closets were installed in the foyer; a state-of-the art sound system was installed; and new furniture was purchased for the foyer and hospitality room. The next time you are at River View, look around and see the results of this recent upgrade to our facilities.



# Upcoming Events



## *Holiday Memorial Service*

Our holiday memorial service is dedicated to families who have encountered the loss of a loved one. We invite all families to join us at this special service for a time of reflection and a special time to honor and cherish those they love. We realize that the holidays can be a difficult time; our goal is to give each visitor a special time and place where they can find comfort and support. The service this year will be led by Pastor Tom Nolen and once again we will be joined by the Cleveland High School choral group, the "Clevelandettes" for holiday carols. Please join us on Saturday, December 8th at 1:00 p.m. in Adams Chapel here at River View Cemetery.

## *National Children's Memorial Day Candlelighting*

Each year, River View Cemetery joins sites all around the globe that participate in the National Children's Memorial Day event. Everyone, in every time zone around the world is invited to light a candle in honor of children who have died. To commemorate this special day, we will have our service in Adams Chapel at River View Cemetery on Sunday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. If you have a picture of your child of any age that has passed and would like to share it with us for a slideshow presentation, please contact Jessica Repp at 503.246.4251. If you have previously provided a picture, it will be in the presentation this year and in years going forward.

***If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Jessica Repp at 503.246.4251. If you wish to sign up for our e-mail list and receive the newsletter and event information electronically, please email [jessica@riverviewcemetery.org](mailto:jessica@riverviewcemetery.org).***

