



Newsletter

November 2021

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

After a long, hot summer, the fall season has brought an explosion of spectacular color and natural beauty to the cemetery. If you haven't been to the cemetery recently you should come for a visit. It is fantastic! As the year 2021 winds down, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank the team at River View for the incredible job they do, under extraordinary circumstances, to care for both the cemetery and our client families.

As an essential business, the team at River View has worked continuously and compassionately during the COVID-19 epidemic to keep themselves, client families and the broader community healthy and safe. New policies and procedures were adopted, changing federal, state and local guidelines were adhered to, and innovative solutions were developed to meet the needs of our members. From remote work, Zoom calls, digital documents to virtual services, all have been delivered with the care and compassion you have come to expect from River View.

Superintendent Greg Zimmerman and his grounds crew worked tirelessly and skillfully to clean up fallen trees and branches from January and February's storms. It was during one of those storm's that our resident American Bald Eagle couple lost the tree that they nest in. However, they have since rehomed in a nearby tree and even had offspring this year. Before the grounds crew could completely finish, they had to contend with the summer heat wave and unprecedented drought to keep those same trees

alive. All this work was seamlessly accomplished in addition to their daily responsibilities.

Change continues at a fast pace at River View. The past year has brought several new team members to the cemetery and funeral home. **Marcus Terry** joined as the Managing Director of the funeral home just over a year ago. **Mary Brady** was hired to the new position of Board Administrator in June. Operations and Administration Manager **Katie Huitt** and Business Development Manager **Marie Henry** both started in August. They all bring a wealth of talent and industry experience to River View.



Despite the challenges and changes of 2021, the team was able to bring on the first new burial inventory to RVCA in 30 years with the opening of the Phase I development in our Hood View section. After many years of planning, extensive geotechnical work and permitting, River View is pleased to offer new burial options to the membership this fall. Phase II development is scheduled to bring a dedicated Natural Burial section and columbaria niches as well as cremation memorialization in the fall of 2022. None of this work could have been accomplished without the dedication, talent, hard work and compassion of the River View team. We are fortunate to have such an incredible group of individuals working together.

—Charles Bishop, President
River View Cemetery Association Board of Trustees

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Photo: Fred Joe

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After our Spring newsletter went out, I thought we would have a year of smooth sailing as we headed into Memorial Day weekend and the summer. Our grounds team was able to do considerable clean up from the storm damage on our grounds. What I did not expect was the drought and the heat wave. As I write this, the thing that crosses my mind is, "How will our magnificent trees do this winter?" We lost so many trees this past year, I cannot imagine losing more. We could not have done what we did without the assistance of local arborist, Monkeyman's Tree Service. I remember calling around after the February ice storm, trying to find an arborist to assist us and all were booked! Then upon going to my office one day, I found a flyer at the exterior door from Monkeyman's Tree Service and called them right away. They worked cohesively with our grounds team and over the summer they helped get our hazard trees cleaned up. We plan to have them return later this year to continue taking care of our trees throughout the cemetery.

This past summer we completed construction of our new section, "Hood View". This burial section is the first development in more than 30 years and boasts incredible views of Mt. Hood unlike anywhere else in the city. The section provides for flat marker graves and four-grave monument lots for families to choose from. Now my attention is turned to Phase II of the development and it is anticipated that "The Meadow at River View," will be open at this time next year. This will be a dedicated natural burial only section adjacent to Hood View. We will also be installing cremation niche columbaria, a committal service shelter and cremation memorialization. We have retained Walker Macy and CPRA Studios for the project and both firms are working together to employ simplicity in the design to capture the magnificent vistas from the south slope of our cemetery.

As the winter holidays fast approach, I cannot help but reflect on how grateful I am for our wonderful

employees who work to provide excellent service to our client families and visitors alike. This time of year is busy for us as we have our holiday services and other special touches we offer to all of you. Please refer to our schedule of events for December as River View has rich traditions that we are pleased to offer to our client families.

I want to add that we have worked with Lancaster Mobley, a traffic study firm in Portland. Over the summer they have conducted monitoring of cyclists, walkers, joggers, vehicles, and non-traditional modes of transportation users who recreate in our cemetery. The purpose of this is to address user conflicts; we are a fully operating cemetery and funeral home that together serve over 800 client families a year, which is a lot of activity in our quiet cemetery. Imagine adding the public who come to enjoy our sacred grounds; it can be hectic. We will be forming a committee to review Lancaster Mobley's report and to work towards solutions to help keep everyone at River View safe while most importantly focusing on the families we serve first. Stay tuned for more information coming next year.

Please stay safe this holiday season and enjoy the warmth of family and friends.

Warmly,



Rachel Essig
Executive Director



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AT RIVER VIEW

Service of Remembrance

This event is typically the first Saturday of December in River View Cemetery's Adams Chapel. This year we have again made the decision to pre-record the service and post it on our website, YouTube channel, and Instagram and Facebook pages so that families are able to safely experience the service from their homes in a way that meets their needs.

We recognize that this time of year is difficult with a flood of memories and feeling of loss that comes when a loved one is not with you for the holidays. Each year we are honored to offer the community an event that is dedicated to the memory of those who have passed. Rev. Chuck Bonneau will be hosting us through the service and providing comforting seasonal thoughts. We invite you to send your loved one's name to be announced at the service as we light a candle in their memory. You may submit your loved one's name (with pronunciation, if necessary) to katie@riverviewcemetery.org, *no later than November 27th*.

Angel of Hope Candle Lighting Service

This special service will be held to commemorate the lives of all children, loved and lost. The service and indoor candle lighting will be once again available for viewing online on our website, YouTube channel, Instagram, and Facebook page starting the week of December 10th.

Website: riverviewcemetery.org/about-us/events

Instagram: @riverviewcemetery

Facebook: facebook.com/riverviewcemeteryfuneralhome

We invite you to send your child's name to be announced at the service as we light a candle in their memory. You may submit names (with pronunciation, if necessary) to katie@riverviewcemetery.org, *no later than November 27th*.

*For more information, please contact
Katie Huitt at River View Cemetery 503.246.4251*

Wreaths Across America

December 18th, 11:00 a.m.

National Wreaths Across America Day is December 18th. Join us for a wreath-laying ceremony at 11 am at the Soldier's Circle. Please use the address 300 S. Taylors Ferry Rd. in your navigation system and allow extra time for parking. You may help the Multnomah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honor local heroes by sponsoring a wreath to be placed on veterans' graves this December at River View Cemetery. For every two wreaths purchased through the unique link below, three will be placed. Deadline to order is November 29. Thank you for supporting these veterans! wreathscrossamerica.org/OR0063

Memorial Trees

December 1st - December 31st

We are happy to provide to you this lovely tradition. We invite you to bring an ornament or a photo of your loved one for our "Tree of Remembrance" in the lobby. If you don't have an ornament, we will have wooden ones for you to write them a special message. We are happy to support you in your way to remember your loved one and are happy to offer our families trees to decorate. They will be up for all to enjoy and to participate.

Free Holiday Greens

November 29th until gone

It is a tradition at River View to provide our community FREE holiday greens. Trimmings from our holly trees and evergreens in the cemetery will be available on a first-come first-served basis at the south end of the main parking lot. We are not prepared to supply businesses or extended family members. Thank you.

Portland Rescue Mission Food & Clothing Drive

November 15th through December 23rd

These are dire times for those in need in our community. Because of this, we are hosting a clothing and food drive for the Portland Rescue Mission. Please bring non-perishable food item(s) and/or new or gently used and freshly laundered clothing for all ages and sizes to our lobby in the Mausoleum.

OUR BURIED HISTORY

Remembering James Tilton Pickett (1857-1899)

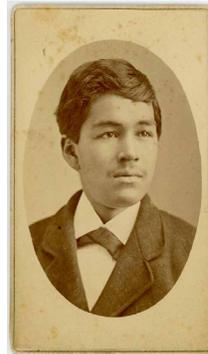
James "Jimmie" Tilton Pickett was a great artist and poet. His father was a major general in the Army and his mother was Native American (Haida). She died soon after his birth. James was named for his father's friend, Major James Tilton. He attended the Union Academy in Olympia and an art school in California, leading to a position as an artist for the Seattle Post Intelligencer and later for The Oregonian. Mr. Pickett never married. He died at the age of 32 from a combination of typhoid and tuberculosis. His last oil painting sold for \$600 which paid off his board (rent) bill and funeral expenses.

There are many details to Jimmie's life that cannot be captured in brief, including the context of his father's role in American history. Following is an excerpt of an extensive article written by Dolly Connelly, "Jimmie Pickett, the forgotten child," from Tacoma News Tribune and Sunday Ledger, December 4, 1977:

"There is in the State Capitol Museum at Olympia a poignant collection of all the worldly goods left by a lonely northwest artist, James Tilton Pickett, who died in 1889 in a scruffy Portland boarding house of despair and tuberculosis at 31 years of age.

A sentimentalist cannot look at the residue of Jimmie Pickett's brief tragic life, the little calico pinafore he wore when his Indian grandmother delivered him to the Collins farm; the elaborate Chinese camphor tea chest, legacy of his Haida Indian mother; the yellowed silk gloves worn by his father, General George Edward Pickett, and his bride at their wedding; a leather bound Bible given by Pickett to his little brown boy as private acknowledgement that he had fathered the child; letters and copy books and paintings and tintypes, without speculating that in all his brief life time Jimmie Pickett never received much attention."

Pictured are: his oil on canvas paintings, portraits as a young man and child, and Greek figure in charcoal. See @RiverViewCemetery on Instagram for more. Thank you to the Washington State Historical Society and Western Washington University archives.



River View Cemetery Funeral Home on Facebook
@RiverViewCemetery on Instagram



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