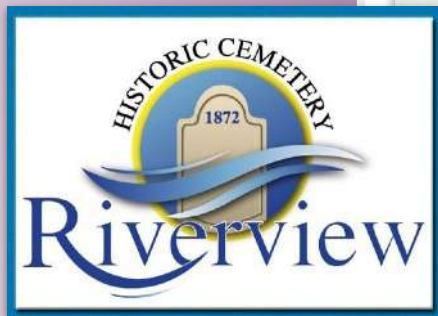


# April 2025 Spring



3300 North Market Street • Wilmington, Delaware 19802  
302 762 4705

## Outdoor Volunteer Dates

8 am to noon  
(weather permitting)

May 10  
June 14  
July 12

We appreciate every  
donation and  
volunteer hour!

## Thank you Donors! January—March 2025

- |                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| • City of Wilmington                  | \$2000 |
| • Harry W. Havemeyer                  | \$250  |
| • Donald Prosceno                     | \$100  |
| • Harvey C. Smith<br>& Alice A. Smith | \$100  |
| • Marion L. Browning                  | \$100  |
| • Linda Gould                         | \$50   |
| • Cynthia Sperberg                    | \$50   |

## So Much Accomplished in 2024!

### *So Much More To Do in 2025*

Welcome to spring! As we reflect on 2024, we're proud to share the meaningful progress the Historic Riverview Cemetery (HRC) Board members and dedicated volunteers have made in preserving and enhancing our cemetery grounds. In this issue, you'll find a list of all the major improvements we completed in 2024 thanks to your generous donations, grants, and income from burials. Like so many cemeteries and families, however, our finances are strained, and we will need to find creative ways to increase our 2025 income to maintain the grounds and make improvements.

To that end, we are already planning ways to expand public awareness of HRC's unique history and offerings. We have added two new Board members and expect to do more community outreach.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported us this past year. Your time, energy, and generosity ensure the cemetery remains a place of peace, remembrance, and care for generations to come.

*Warm regards,*

*Kate, Vincent, Mary, Shirley, Regina, Cynthia, and Linda*

## Meeting

### Annual

#### **Notice to all Friends of Historic Riverview Cemetery (FHRC) members and contributors:**

The annual meeting of FHRC will be held Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 9:30am at the Riverview Cemetery Visitors Center. Election of officers and other organization business will be determined at the meeting.

# Covid Changed Everything

Historic Riverview Cemetery has long been a place of remembrance and history, but it needs volunteers to thrive. Before COVID, a dedicated team of volunteers worked to maintain the cemetery's beauty, but that effort never recovered from the pandemic. Now, we are calling on you to help us restore and enhance this treasured space.

We have a growing list of projects, from road repairs to creating and installing signage and developing indoor and outdoor spaces for public use. Thanks to a recent grant, we are developing a five-year plan to beautify the cemetery, ensuring it remains a peaceful, welcoming place for families and visitors. Additionally, this year will include events and activities for Riverview members and the public, further connecting our communities to this historic site.

No matter your skills or interests, there is a place for you in this effort. Whether you enjoy landscaping, event planning, historical research, or hands-on repairs, your help is invaluable. Join us in making Riverview Historic Cemetery a beautiful and meaningful place for generations to come. Sign up today and be a part of preserving history.



## Volunteer Highlights

**Tedd Cocker** has identified and marked 1,336 Veterans interred at Riverview, a project he had started 16 years ago.\* Under

Tedd's supervision Bank of America volunteers honor our Veterans every Memorial Day by placing an American flag at each burial site. Drive through the cemetery to witness the striking amount of red, white, and blue waving across the grounds.

**Bank of America volunteers** have been placing flags for Memorial Day, making wreaths in December, preserving Veteran headstones, and performing tasks like weeding, planting, painting, and funding our projects **for 15 years.**

**Thank you BofA!**

**Lee Anderson and Shirley Duffy** presented Riverview's Volunteer History to 80 gracious BofA employees.

\*See Riverviewcem.com for Veteran information.



Burials: January through March — 6

## 2024-By-the-Numbers

21 burials

8 funeral homes accommodated

139 requests for burial-related information were answered

121 individual volunteers

1,436 volunteer hours

325 hours recorded by one volunteer

## Landscape News!

Thanks to a **Delaware Distressed Cemetery Fund Grant**, Board member Shirley Duffy oversaw the removal or maintenance of 35 hazardous trees. Work was completed January 2025.

Two energetic young men from **Wilmington Friends School** performed a terrific amount of cleanup on a Volunteer Saturday. A third completed over 50 volunteer hours clearing vines and debris from the western fence. Davey Tree was paid to maintain the look. We welcome other students to join us.

Board Member Shirley Duffy initiated the Invasive Tree Project with funding by **Delaware Urban and Community Forestry** and the expertise of Brandywine Tree, which removed 13

Ailanthus trees. Seventeen remain. **Many generous donors** helped us approach our funding goals for replacement trees. Thank you. The saga continues.

A generous **anonymous donor** worked with the Board to hire professionals to remove stumps and add an Azalea, a Crepe Myrtle, and a handsome Willow Oak. Thank you.

Students from **Delaware Valley Classical School** enthusiastically installed 5 new tree species. Joe and Shirley Duffy completed another 7.

**Joe Duffy** applied 20 gallons of water weekly to each of 30 young trees from June through November to assure their survival. You are our hero, Joe!

**Wilmington Friends School** students made a big dent in removing the English ivy that invades our trees.

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## Progress!!

- ◆ The Board added an attractive **new sign** above the sidewalk at the Visitor's Center to help visitors find us.
- ◆ To enhance security, we installed a **monitoring system**.
- ◆ Thanks to a 50/50 grant and donor funds, we explored the onsite stormwater system and cleared several drains to **improve drainage**.
- ◆ We are expanding and **updating our contact list** to include more neighbors and family members of loved ones who are buried here. We appreciate any help from our current members and donors.
- ◆ Upon Dr. Lee Anderson's retirement, she donated a wealth of **binders, photos, and records**, which we are slowly cataloging.
- ◆ Riverview Board submitted a Grant application to fund the 2025-26 development of a **five-year plan** with assistance from UD Landscape Architecture faculty and interns. Stay tuned.

## KAFFEKLATSCH! *Fundraiser*



**Sunday, May 18**

**3 pm to 5 pm**

**Tickets are just \$15**

Join us for coffee and cake at the Delaware Saengerbund for a Riverview Cemetery fundraiser. See a short video and presentation about the cemetery and chat with Board members.

Call the Riverview office at **302-762-4705** to purchase tickets.

The Delaware Saengerbund is at 49 Salem Church Rd., Newark, DE

## Off Balance



*In the silence of the cemetery, there is peace; a place where memories sleep and time holds its breath."*

Edgar Allen Poe

## Veterans Interred at Riverview



- To date, the graves of 1,336 veterans have been located
- Some veterans served in more than one war/conflict
- Veterans identified as "Defense" either did not serve in a war/conflict or we have not identified in which one they served



War/Conflict	Number of Veterans
Indian Wars (1609-1924)	1
Mexican-American War (1846-1848)	2
Civil War (1861-1865)	317
Spanish-American War (1898-1898)	101
Philippine-American War (1899-1902)	1
World War I (1914-1918)	286
World War II (1939-1945)	393
Korean War (1950-1953)	61
Vietnam War (1960-1975)	33
Defense	169



## Why We Mark Memorial Day

Marking the graves of veterans is not merely tradition—it is a sacred act of remembrance. A flag fluttering in the breeze, a flower gently laid—these small gestures echo with gratitude across generations. Cemeteries become hallowed ground, where history breathes and honor endures. To forget them is to forget ourselves. In remembering, we uphold a promise: that their courage will never fade, and their names will never be lost to time.

## We're Growing



Cynthia Sperberg

Resides in the nearby Harlan Neighborhood and is passionate about cemeteries as green spaces in urban landscapes.

We're excited to welcome two new members to our board, each bringing fresh energy and a passion for community engagement and public relations. Their mission is to connect more deeply with the public through meaningful, inclusive experiences. Beginning this spring, they will host various special events—from peaceful walks to large events designed to highlight the cemetery's rich history. These events will foster connection, raise awareness, and celebrate the stories resting in our care. Be sure to check the website monthly for a list of upcoming activities and events.



Linda Gould

Has a background in public and media relations, loves the arts, and is an event planner.