

ATHENS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

A newsletter for
Friends of the Cemetery

Vol. 1, No. 1

October, 2002

FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

It is with pleasure that the Athens Cemetery Association announces the initiation of the **Friends of the Cemetery** program. Through this program, we hope to keep you informed of the various expansion and beautification projects which are ongoing at the cemetery and also to raise funds for special beautification projects which will be upcoming in the future. We sincerely hope that you will support this program by becoming a Friend of the Cemetery.

The Athens Cemetery is not supported by the city budget but is a self supporting, non-profit organization under the management of the Athens Cemetery Association. It operates entirely on memorials, donations and lot sales.

FLAG POLE AND MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATED

At a recent dedication ceremony at the entrance to the cemetery, Steve Grant, President of the Athens Cemetery Association, accepted on behalf of the Association the illuminated flag pole, American flag and memorial plaque which had been erected there as a gift from the Daniel McMahon Chapter, NSDAR. The memorial plaque reads:

**"THE DANIEL MCMAHON
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL
SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
DEDICATES THIS AMERICAN FLAG
AND FLAG POLE TO ALL WHO ARE
BURIED HERE AND TO THOSE WHO
WILL BE BURIED HERE IN THE
FUTURE. MAY IT FLY DAY AND
NIGHT TO HONOR ALL WITHIN
THESE GATES."**

Among the speakers was Athens Mayor Jerry King, who remarked to the gathered audience how meaningful the addition of the flagpole and flag would be to

the City of Athens and how the flag would be enjoyed by everyone who passed that way as well as a way to honor all who were buried there.

As a compliment to this new flag pole, the Cemetery Association erected a beautiful, red brick entrance sign on South Prairieville St.

CEMETERY EXPANSION

Work is progressing on the 2.5 acre expansion to the cemetery. Land in the 1.5 acre phase 1 of the expansion has already been cleared, leveled and given proper drainage. A sprinkler system to water the grass in this new section has been installed and the asphalt road circling it will be completed in the near future. Although approx. 1,000 grave sites remain in the existing cemetery, this new section will add an additional 900 grave sites, providing for the burial needs of Athens for many, many years to come.

SEPTEMBER 11TH LIBERTY GARDEN

On Sept. 11, 2002, a "liberty garden" was dedicated in front of the Athens Cemetery. A joint effort between the Athens Cemetery Association and Keep Athens Beautiful, the garden consists of an arbor constructed around the existing picnic table in front of the cemetery and is dedicated to the memories of those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. "It is supposed to be a quiet place where you can remember, honor and reflect upon those who perished on that day," said Sherri Callahan, executive director of Keep Athens Beautiful. Landscaping of the garden will be accomplished as soon as the next planting season arrives.

NEW ENTRANCE GATE

The main entrance to the cemetery is now enhanced by two impressive red brick pillars and an automatic wrought iron gate. The imposing entrance and gate will be dedicated at a ceremony in the near future, to the memory of Peg Cain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Cain of Athens.

The new gate will automatically open and close at the beginning and ending of visiting hours, in accordance with the following schedule:

Visiting Hours:

April 1st - September 30th 7 AM - 8 PM

October 1st - March 30th 8 AM - 6 PM

For someone still visiting the cemetery after the gate closes, the gate will automatically open when approached at slow speed from the inside.

HISTORICAL MARKER

The Cemetery Association recently applied for an Official Texas Historical Marker for the cemetery to chronicle the cemetery's long and interesting history. The

application has now been approved by the Texas Historical Commission in Austin and work had begun on finalizing the wording of the inscription. As soon as the inscription has been approved by the state and county historical commissions, the marker will be cast at the foundry in San Antonio and shipped to the Henderson County Historical Commission in Athens to erect and to arrange for a dedication ceremony.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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For more information concerning the cemetery, including the purchase of lots, contact:

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