

# LA GRANGE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

The La Grange Cemetery continues its legacy as a peaceful final resting place amongst a beautiful arboretum in the town of La Grange, Tennessee. The Board of Directors remains committed to maintaining and furthering the vision of the original founders. All officers remain the same this year, but we have a couple changes to the Directors at Large who include Wally Witmer III, Lee McGlamery, Bonnie Davenport, Roger Hill and Collette van Tol.

As always, winter storms take their toll on the grounds. Volunteers from the town help with this endeavor but we wanted to recognize Andrew Bettis for his efforts. He has tirelessly provided and operated large machinery that help tremendously with the large trees and limbs that continuously fall. We are so grateful for his support.

We would also like to thank Alfred Burton, of Michigan City, who has been a loyal friend to the Cemetery Arboretum by donating cedar plank for our arboretum tree signs. Alfred has family buried in our cemetery and has always been generous and gracious towards our efforts.

We would be remiss if we failed to mention another friend of the Cemetery and Arboretum, Steve Smith. Steve was instrumental in establishing our memorial Camellia Garden. When winter took its toll on some of those beauties, Steve replaced all that did not survive. The garden was established to honor Paul and Bonnie Davenport who were instrumental and tireless in their efforts in maintaining the cemetery. This year, amongst the beautiful camellias, we will be creating a memorial to honor Eileen Cowan who continued with the vision created by the Founders of the LaGrange Cemetery Association and Arboretum. We had hoped to establish this memorial last year, but design and weather have delayed our good intentions. We think it will be worth the wait, as it provides a sitting and meditative space for visitors to enjoy our peaceful and beautiful surroundings. In addition, Steve provided two Dunstan Chestnuts, in remembrance of his parents. These Chestnuts are so important to our arboretum and will surely enhance the beauty of our Cemetery. We are so fortunate to have him as a friend and supporter.



The arboretum remains an important project for the Cemetery. The Cemetery was re-certified in 2022 as a level two arboretum and is good until 2025. There is a continuous effort to make certain that the trees are thriving and if not, then replacing them. Placards for each tree need to be maintained as well. The Board of Directors, in setting out their goals for this next year, recognized the need for an updated map and brochure of the arboretum so this will be a priority for the next year. There is an opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one by purchasing a tree that is needed within the arboretum. The cost for this is \$100.00, which allows us to purchase and install the needed tree as well as a placard that includes the full name of the tree and



*Jill Engelken and Jared, our Arborist inspecting the Post Oak.*

the name of the person that is being honored or memorialized.

This year we are extremely excited to tell our supporters about a new endeavor - the planting of heirloom daffodils. The daffodil project is a way of enhancing the beauty of the park as well as a way to commemorate loved ones by adding these beauties that greet spring in the most joyous of ways. Thanks to generous donors, we have already received ten unique varieties native to this area from the online vendor "Old House Gardens." Our vision is to have our cemetery, with its varied historical collection of daffodils, to be a delight to all who visit this destination. If this is a project that resonates with you, please consider sending a donation of \$25.00 to help pay for this endeavor.



**Thank you, in advance, for your kindness and generosity.**

*Photos by Betty Northcross and Marla Mounce.*

The cemetery still has plots available for purchase. If you are interested in purchasing a plot or obtaining more information, please contact Bill Renovich. Inquiries may be mailed to the Cemetery Association's address or Bill may be reached directly at (901) 412-5748.

Going forward, if you would like to receive this newsletter digitally, please text your name and email address to 954-552-2168.

**The La Grange Cemetery Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 33**  
**La Grange, Tennessee 38046**