



# Woodlawn News

**WELCOME** to the inaugural issue of the Woodlawn Cemetery newsletter.

The Woodlawn Board plans to email a periodic newsletter to keep you informed of what is happening at Woodlawn. We wish to thank our contributors, friends, neighbors, and Woodlawn family for achieving much progress during these past months of the terrible pandemic. Spring and summer are upon us and Woodlawn looks great!

This is a very busy place—mowing, weedwacking, locating graves, burials, selling lots and monuments. It never stops! It’s the Circle of Life at Woodlawn.

Our new mowing crew quit after a week of rain, but we have hired a new one who seems to be doing a good job. Unfortunately, we will not get the help of the prisoners at Pruntytown again this year due to COVID. The new black fence is up at the entrance of Pierpont Circle. Thank you to all who donated to make the fence a reality.



We all know about the historic people who are buried at Woodlawn, but here are a few others great Marion Countians buried here:

- Dr. Carter Cort, wonderful OB-GYN.
- Dr. Jerry Kendricks, great vet who took care of our pets.
- Dr. Mike Hall, who helped keep us healthy.
- James and Mrs. DeBreaque, parents of my dear friend Barbara.
- Fred and Florence Glover, parents of David Glover with whom I attended Butcher School.
- Thomas and Annie Fleming, who built the Fleming Mansion on First Street.
- The Jacobs Family who owned the mansions on Third Street. I lived in a Carriage House behind their beautiful mansions.

Woodlawn is the final resting place for many great people, including your loved ones and family. There are lots of sweet memories as I drive through Woodlawn! We hope you will come to visit soon.

You may have noticed that this inaugural issue of Woodlawn News is nameless. We have decided to leave the title of our newsletter up to you, our readers. Please submit your suggestions via email to [nbicky5@yahoo.com](mailto:nbicky5@yahoo.com) with the subject line “Newsletter” no later than August 1, 2021. The Board will choose from the names submitted and the next edition of the newsletter will bear the new name. The winner will receive a personalized tour of the Superintendent’s house and/or a copy of “Good Morning!,” an anthology of C. E. “Ned” Smith’s columns.

Stay tuned as we continue the Woodlawn endeavor!

Nancy Bickerstaff, President

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*Woodlawn Board of Directors*

*Raymond Alvarez·Bill Bickerstaff·Emily Bickerstaff·Nancy Bickerstaff·Nancy Lawler·Brad Merrifield  
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# Woodlawn Projects

## NEWBURG MINE DISASTER MONUMENT

A monument was ordered after a community fund drive to commemorate the lives of six family members killed in the Newburg Mine Disaster in 1866. Richard Birtley and his extended family moved to Fairmont in 1881 from England. In the fall of 1885, Richard his 15 year old son and four stepsons all got jobs at Orrell Coal Company. The mine blew up on January 1886, killing 39 men, including the Birtley family. This was the first major coal mine accident in WV. The coal company bought six lots. The funeral was held in



the "Rink" on Madison Street, according to a history published by Allison Sweeney Fleming in 1850. He wrote that a very large crowd attended. For the next 135 years, the gravesite was unmarked. Only recently, David Smith was able to find it in old archive records that were returned to Woodlawn last fall. Smith marked the grave and the commemorative monument will be installed soon.

Thank you to Raymond Alvarez, Woodlawn History Chair, for spearheading this project.

## WOODLAWN APP



A new app is available to assist in locating historic grave sites at Woodlawn! Fairmont State Information Systems students created a Woodlawn locator app that is available for Android phones and tablets from Google Play Apps. So if you have this equipment, download the app. You can find a gravestone and learn about more than 70

individuals/families and their role in the history of this state. The Fairmont State team worked with Dr. Raymond Alvarez to create the database, identify the locations, and create the app. Project Managers were Alexander Pane, Alicia Johnson, and Software Developers were Luke Dougherty and Emilio Buffy. The next project team will be working to make this compatible for I-Phones.

Again, thanks to Raymond for facilitating this great project!

## ENHANCING TOURISM AT WOODLAWN AND MARION COUNTY

Multiple efforts are underway to boost tourism at Woodlawn and Marion County in general. "Good Morning!," an anthology of C. E. "Ned" Smith's columns for the Fairmont Times will be published and available in July.

Dr. Raymond Alvarez produced this anthology. The Marion County Convention and Visitors Bureau donated \$800; Raymond raised \$600 from friends and family; and Nancy B. raised money as well. Any leftover money will be used to produce informational materials.



The Folklife Center at Fairmont State University is seeking a grant to provide students to provide historical information, guides, signage, and other material for Woodlawn history. More will follow on this if it is funded.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE



The Superintendent's House remodel is complete! It's ready and available to reserve for events and meetings. Thank you to all who donated for this renovation project. Nancy Bickerstaff did a wonderful job spearheading the project. Nancy Securro and many other helped as well. Schedule a tour or event today!

