

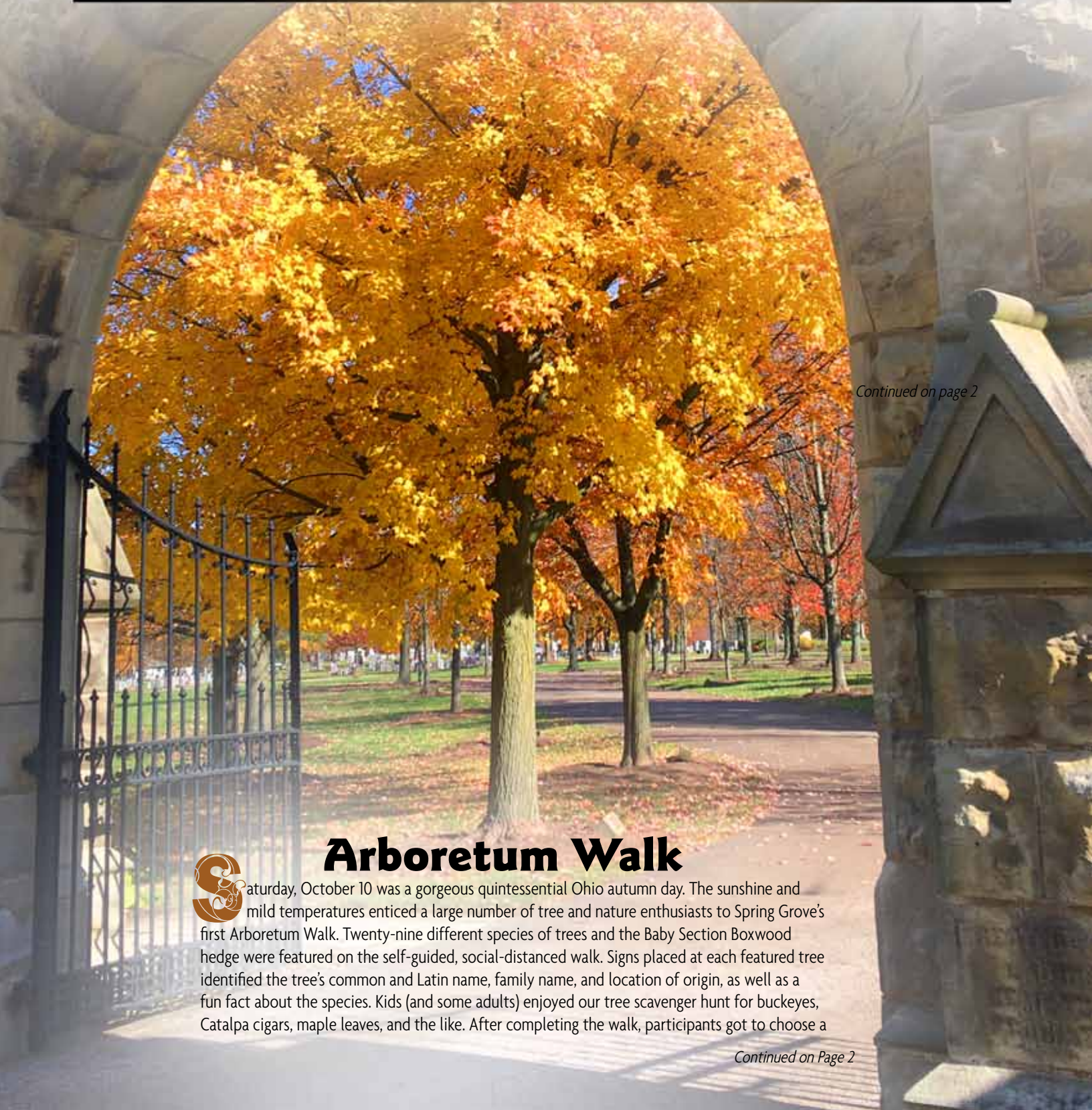


# FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 43

Medina, Ohio

December 2020



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## Arboretum Walk

**S**aturday, October 10 was a gorgeous quintessential Ohio autumn day. The sunshine and mild temperatures enticed a large number of tree and nature enthusiasts to Spring Grove's first Arboretum Walk. Twenty-nine different species of trees and the Baby Section Boxwood hedge were featured on the self-guided, social-distanced walk. Signs placed at each featured tree identified the tree's common and Latin name, family name, and location of origin, as well as a fun fact about the species. Kids (and some adults) enjoyed our tree scavenger hunt for buckeyes, Catalpa cigars, maple leaves, and the like. After completing the walk, participants got to choose a

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# Friends of the Cemetery

775 East Washington Street  
Medina, Ohio 44256

## To reach us:

info@friendsofmedinacemetery.org  
330.725.8861 - Ext. 1055

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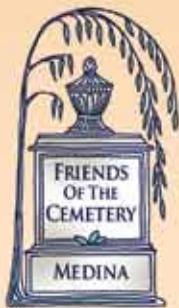
## Editors

Teresa Merkle  
Cynthia Szunyog

## Photos

Hayes Bubnick  
Bob Lavelle  
Teresa Merkle  
Melissa Wallick  
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Designed by  
Ron Bell/Advision Design



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seedling, provided by Bartlett Tree Expert Company, to take home and plant. Thanks to everyone who attended. Thank you to the City of Medina and the Medina City Cemetery Commission for their support of the event. Huge thanks to the folks behind the scenes and those who worked the day of the walk: Beth Girman (map creation), Jerry Gunner, Mike Gunner, Debra Hallock, Andy Johnson, Teresa Merkle, Dottie Nemecek (Marketing with Integrity), Karen Thorn, Hank Waite, Greg Walter, and Paul Wood. Special thank you to Chad Clink of Bartlett Tree Expert Company for assisting the Friends in our arboretum quest and for being on hand, at the event, along with Bartlett Administrative Assistant, Andrea Richley, to answer tree questions and to hand-out Bartlett goodies and tree seedlings. It was a great time and a fun way to kick-off our Spring Grove Arboretum!





## Eagle Scout Project at the Baby Section

In August Hayes Bubnick, of Boy Scout Troop 506, presented plans for his Eagle Scout project to the Friends Board and asked the Board to consider financing the project. Hayes' plan included working with the Oddfellows service group and #1 Landscaping to alleviate a drainage problem at the Baby Section and to add plantings near the work-site. Hayes' twin siblings are buried there at the Baby Section and his project was in part to honor their memory. The Friends were happy to fund \$3,000 toward Hayes' project which was completed in September. We congratulate Hayes on making the rank of Eagle Scout and thank him for the great job done!





## Arboretum Project Update



This past spring, the Friends funded \$12,550 for the Spring Grove Tree Survey and Inventory conducted by Bartlett Tree Expert Company. From the findings of this study, the Friends contracted with Bartlett this fall and the following was completed:

- prescription soil treatment for all trees on the Spring Grove property
- pruning of the 29 trees featured on the tree walk and other trees with elevated needs
- root collar surgery on 33 trees
- root invigoration treatment on 22 select mature canopy trees
- lightning protection systems for 5 trees
- removal of dead and declining trees in partnership with the City Forestry Department

In the very near future the Friends in collaboration with the City will apply to the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. Additionally, in the spring, we will work with Bartlett and the City in the selection of new trees to plant at Spring Grove.

## Spring Grove Tree Lawn Fertilizer Application

This year the Friends decided to have all the perimeter tree lawns at Spring Grove fertilized. Lamphear Lawn Service was hired to perform this service in keeping with our mission of beautification of the cemetery grounds.



*If you are on Facebook, we invite you to “like” our Facebook page!*

## Former Friends Trustee and Emeritus Board Member John Gill

John Gill, passed away on May 5, 2020. The Friends of the Cemetery lost a great advocate and supporter of Medina cemetery history and preservation. John was elected to the Friends of the Cemetery Board in August 2002 and served in that capacity for 15 years until his retirement in 2017 due to a decline in health. He also served as Vice President for many years. In May 2018 John had the distinction of being the first person elected to the Friends of the Cemetery Emeritus Board of Trustees.



John knew the grounds and history of Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Graveyard well. He spent countless hours in historical research at the cemeteries and used his photography skills to take hundreds of photos there. He directed the development of Medina's first cemetery database, which is still in use maintaining cemetery records and, for many years, worked with the City on gravestone straightening projects, cataloging and prioritizing

the leaning stones. John visited the cemeteries almost on a daily basis and it was on one of those visits that he had a perchance encounter with Ed Mears. From this brief encounter, Ed Mears became interested in the Friends organization and its mission and became a member. In 2003, after being diagnosed with terminal cancer, Ed made the decision to leave his entire estate to the Friends of the Cemetery. Ed's gift has enabled the Friends to fund capital projects at the cemeteries through the years - none of which would be possible if John Gill had not approached him that day and shared the Friends' vision and mission with him.

Fittingly, John was laid to rest at Spring Grove in Section 4 in his family plot. A lovely Japanese lilac tree on the Spring Grove chapel grounds will be dedicated, by the Friends, to his memory at a date in the near future.

## Dennis Leach Resigns from Board

Trustee and Charter Member, Dennis Leach, resigned from the Friends Board of Trustees on September 1, 2020. Dennis, along with his late wife, Bonnie, attended the very first organizational meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery back in 1997 and immediately became active and integral members of the organization, both serving on the Board of Trustees throughout the years. Dennis served as President of Friends in the early years. Since Bonnie's passing in March 2018, Dennis has continued on the Board, but recently sold his Medina

home and moved out of Medina county. We will miss Dennis very much and wish him well in his new home and community. Because of his years of service and contributions to the Friends of the Cemetery, the Trustees asked Dennis to serve as a member of the Friends of the Cemetery Emeritus Board which was established to honor former key members of the Friends Board who have served with distinction and excellence. Dennis has graciously agreed to serve in this advisory capacity.

## Trustee and Officer Elections

The Friends Board votes each September on a slate of Trustees due for re-election. This year Vickie Fleming, Teresa Merkle and Cynthia Szunyog were re-elected for 3-year terms. The Board also elected

Officers for 2-year terms - Teresa Merkle, President, Jerry Gunner, Vice-President, and Vickie Fleming, Secretary-Treasurer.



*On the day after Veterans Day, 16 volunteers gathered at Spring Grove to remove flags from veterans' graves before the winter season. The flags will be taken to the American Legion for respectful and proper disposal. We appreciate our volunteers from Founders Way North, Medina County Historical Society and Friends of the Cemetery.*





The Oddfellows service group prepared the grounds of the Baby Section for winter on November 7. We are so grateful for their years of service caring for this very special place at Spring Grove!



## Carnegie Hero in Spring Grove

by Paul Wood

The Carnegie Hero awards are awarded annually to individuals honored for their acts of bravery and heroism. Created in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie, they are awarded in the United States and Canada to civilians who knowingly and voluntarily risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the life or lives of others. The following is an excerpt from the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission Awardee page:

**“Blake Summer Arnold, 41, a clergyman, attempted to save Cecelia E. Smith, 9, from drowning in Lake Anna in Barberton, Ohio on January 13, 1928. Cecelia broke through rotten ice and fell into water 10 feet deep at a point 35 feet from the bank. Arnold who was heavily clothed and could not swim, walked on the ice to within 3 feet of the hole and pushed a short plank into the water to Cecelia. The ice then broke under Arnold, but he threw himself onto unbroken ice and crawled and walked to the bank. He returned to the hole with a rope and tossed one end of it several times to Cecelia, but she did not take hold of it. Finally, a hook on the rope caught around Cecelia’s wrist, and Arnold pulled her toward him. The ice then broke under**

**him again. He was momentarily submerged and then held on to the ice. Cecelia sank and was drowned. Another rope was tossed to Arnold and he was helped out of the water.”**

Blake Summer Arnold went on to lead a very long life. He had been born in Chippewa Lake on August 5, 1886 and lived in Lafayette Township according to the 1900 census. As a clergyman, he and his wife, Varie Chamberlin, lived in many places throughout Ohio. He lived to be 99 years old and passed away January 4, 1986. He is buried with his wife and other family members in Spring Grove Cemetery.

***Editor’s Note:** The recent discovery of Blake Summer Arnold’s grave by Paul Wood in Spring Grove Cemetery illustrates the importance of us as a community to educate ourselves and others as to the careful and responsible stewardship of our cemeteries and the preservation of the history that lies therein. It is certainly an honor that a Carnegie Hero is interred in our city cemetery and we thank Paul for his continuing research on our Civil War veterans’ graves which is how he came across Mr. Arnold’s grave.*



# *Friends of the Cemetery*

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# FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

775 East Washington Street  
Medina, Ohio 44256

## *Become a Friend of the Cemetery*

If you have not yet joined the Friends of the Cemetery, we'd love to have you become a part! For your convenience, we have provided a self-addressed envelope in this newsletter. Our membership schedule is included on the envelope flap. If you have been a member in the past, but do not see your name listed on page 7, please take time today to renew your membership using the envelope.

*"Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the law of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals."*

*William Gladstone*

**Don't forget to check us out on the web at:**

**[www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org](http://www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org)**



Memberships are available as follows:

Senior _____	\$10.00	Supporting _____	\$100.00
Individual _____	\$15.00	Heritage _____	\$250.00
Family _____	\$25.00	Lifetime _____	\$500.00
Contributing _____	\$50.00	Corporate _____	\$1,000.00

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Membership enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

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