



THE VIEW

FALL 2017

*Located in the heart of Towson at York Road & Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 322, Riderwood, MD 21139-032 (410) 252-8462
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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



The work of managing a non-profit cemetery like Prospect Hill continues year-round, as evidenced by the array of calls, emails and other queries that came from visitors and families over the past few months. Here's just a sampling:

- We continue to see increased interest in lot sales driven by our website, and we have had 11 burials thus far this year.
- We have received multiple calls about lot transfers since we began publishing information on our website and newsletter. There is a definite legal procedure that must be observed in order to transfer unused burial lots to other family members, or gift them back to the cemetery (the current value is \$2,000 each). Please contact us regarding vacant graves in your family's plot. We are happy to help your family update ownership of lots, so when the time comes to use a lot ownership is clear and a burial may proceed.

- We have done the annual review of the contracts for services such as tree work, grass cutting and monument repairs, and overseeing the work, as needed.

- Many calls come in asking where in the cemetery a family member's plot may be found. Sometimes, out-of-town visitors are calling from the cemetery itself and we work to be able to help them locate a relative's grave. Helping generations of families make this connection is one of the most gratifying parts of our work.

- Visitors come from all over and I often encounter them myself in Prospect Hill. It can be fascinating to hear their family stories and, tales of Towson of yesteryear. Given the minimal records available to us when the current non-profit bought the cemetery in 1984, these conversations help us to fill in the blanks about who is buried at Prospect Hill and various family relationships.

- One individual in particular continues to receive a steady stream of visitors: Glenn Milstead, aka "Divine," the star of several early John Waters films. Fans of "Divine" come from all over and often leave a memento on his grave marker, such as a pink flamingo or small toys. Several recent visitors, members of a Mexican band, were in town to play and came to PHC to pay their respects.

As more and more people become aware that Prospect Hill Cemetery is an “active” burial property that is well managed and still has many lots available, the work required to keep up with public demand has become overwhelming for members of the Board. For this reason, this summer the Board decided to engage the services of Waverly Management LLC to handle many of the “back office” duties. This is a first for Prospect Hill Cemetery. High on the list of priorities is the effort to digitize all of the cemetery’s paper records. This work, though time-consuming, will allow us to operate much more efficiently. It was a much-discussed decision to allocate precious resources to engaging Waverly, but we believe that the money is being well spent. Please see the side story on Waverly and its president, Seth McDonnell.

Thank you, as ever, for your interest and support of historic Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Carolyn Parker Knott
President of the Board

WAVERLY MANAGEMENT LCC

Waverly Management LLC was founded by Seth A. McDonnell in 2007 to provide administrative and office management services to small nonprofit groups, private foundations and other philanthropic entities. The firm serves as a “behind the scenes” partner, allowing the Prospect Hill Board to focus its time and energy most effectively, while also ensuring that the daily management of the cemetery runs smoothly.

“PHC is such a unique and tranquil gem in the heart of Towson,” comments Seth. “Not many people know about this cemetery and its history, even though they drive past on a daily basis. I am thrilled to be assisting PHC and its Board in their efforts to ensure long-term preservation and sustainability of a true treasure.”

HOLMAN JOINS PHC BOARD



President Carolyn Knott is pleased to announce that John S. Holman, ChFC was elected to the Board of Directors of Prospect Hill Cemetery at the Board’s Annual Meeting in May. John is owner of the State Farm Insurance agency in Towson and a widely respected member of the local business community. He is active with the Baltimore County and Towson Chambers of Commerce, Towson 4th of July Parade committee, Towson YMCA and as a Trustee of the Baltimore County Public Library. He has lived in Towson for

most of his life and his business is located in an historic property (originally a church, whose founding minister and wife are buried in Prospect Hill, and then for 50 years the Women’s Club of Towson) on the corner of Bosley and Allegheny Avenues.

“I have always been aware of Prospect Hill, since my first business location was in the Dulaney Valley Shopping Center adjacent to the cemetery,” John says. “I used to walk through the property, although the first hundred feet were a pretty steep climb! I think cemeteries are important as repositories of local history. I’ve had a long interest in local history and was really pleased to be asked to join the board and help protect and maintain this important space.” He adds, “When I walk through Prospect Hill I see the graves of important former Towson residents whose names now grace some of our streets. It’s a treasure to have this open green space in Towson, especially as the area has become more developed.”

NEWS & KUDOS



A big shout-out to Terri Cook, Director of Client Service Associates at Berman McAleer, who is an indispensable volunteer in getting Prospect Hill mailings out efficiently. Terri is organized and a pleasure to work with, and we appreciate her support!

John H. Tyrie & Sons, a long-established monument company in Cockeysville, was recently sold to Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens. The company will retain its name but the office is now located at the DVMG cemetery. Mr. Jack Tyrie, 88, has officially retired after serving many families at Prospect Hill over the past decades. We wish him a healthy and well-deserved retirement.

Are you aware that there is a “You Grew Up in Towson” Public Facebook Group? It’s easy to join, which then allows you to post photos or a comment. A member of the PHC Board has joined and has asked if anyone has any images or memories of visiting Prospect Hill. Even though it is a major (6 acres) green space in the heart of Towson, there seem to be amazingly few photos taken over the years. If you have any, please share with us!

We’d like to share these comments from family members:

”We are back in Sarasota, Florida today but I wanted to write and once again say a great big thank you so much for your help in locating my paternal grandparents’ marker at Prospect Hill in Towson. It meant a tremendous amount to me to be able to find it again and to take some photos to send out to my siblings. You really went ‘above and beyond’ for us and I can’t tell you how much it was appreciated!”

Another family member wrote us:

“Your reply to my question was sweet and personal, and I appreciate the time you took to reply. I spent many a spring and summer evening walking there as a child. I was especially interested in the Hillen graves, as they are just around the turn from my family plot. Babyland was very sweet, but a little bit frightening, since some of the babies would have been my age had they survived. Interesting too that the area was terraced, so it was like walking in a rock garden. I suppose traipsing around in old cemeteries is another interest many children don’t have. I’m pleased to hear about the children placing flags on the graves on Memorial Day. I have done that myself in the National Cemetery in Gettysburg, and helped to lay Christmas wreaths both there, and in the National Cemetery at Arlington. It helps the children ‘feel’ their country’s history, rather than just read about it.”

Once again this May, Boy Scouts from Troop 828 turned out in force to plant American flags on the graves of all veterans buried at Prospect Hill.



Veterans (both men and women) at PHC served in wars that range from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 up to Grenada. We salute these young Scouts and their leaders who accomplished this patriotic act on the Saturday before Memorial Day. The Towson Post of the American Legion again organized this action at many cemeteries and donated the flags.



WE LOVE OUR DONORS!

Sincere thanks to the many faithful donors who responded to our Annual Appeal. As most families know, Prospect Hill Cemetery is overseen by an all-volunteer Board and is nonprofit. **We couldn't do it without you!** We work strenuously to be good stewards of our financial resources and rely on donations to the Annual Giving to help us fund operations each year. **Watch for our annual fund request coming in November.** Please send your contribution check, made payable to Prospect Hill Cemetery, to P. O. Box 322, Riderwood, MD 21239-0322. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



Prospect Hill Cemetery of Towson, Inc.
A designated Baltimore County Landmark

Located at York Road & Washington Avenue / (410) 252-8462 / info@prospecthilltowson.org / prospecthilltowson.org



The following Directors were elected at the May 2017 Annual Meeting:

Board of Directors

Bruce S. Campbell, III
Edwin S. Crawford
G. William Goodwin Jr.
Ginger Mudd Galvez
John S. Holman, ChFC
Carolyn Parker Knott
Patrick J. Monaghan, IV
Vincent P. Nesline, CPA
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Vice President	Bruce S. Campbell, III
Secretary	Ginger Mudd Galvez
Treasurer	Vincent P. Nesline

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Carolyn Parker Knott
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