

# A note from DIRECTOR FITCH

A few months ago, I attended a customer service workshop and the keynote reminded us that the days are long, the months are slow but the years are fast.

Welcome, August!

As we embark on the sizzling heat in the hottest month of summer, we are elated about the opportunities to partner with other organizations in the community. If you are at the Illinois State Fairgrounds on August 14 for Senior day, or on the 15 for Veterans day, stop by our table at the Illinois building and enter in our raffle for a chance to win a couple of cool prizes. Rhonda (pic on right) was the winner of our last raffle at the Senior Celebration. Congratulations, Rhonda!

Thank you Sangamon County Historical Society. (SCHS) for awarding us the \$1,000 grant which will help in the development of a brochure and updated map to identify, and honor distinguished decedents of color resting in Oak Ridge Cemetery!

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- Happenings around ORC
- Upcoming Events
- Historical information



Photo credit: L. Fitch

Furthermore, the brochure will assist descendants, historians, and other interested parties in locating gravesites of African Americans interred at Oak Ridge Cemetery. There are ministers, business owners, politicians, educators, and civil rights leaders who shaped Springfield before and after the 1908 race riot.

Shout out to Donna Davlantis, operations coordinator, of the office of planning and economic development for writing the grant. We would not have received it without you. Thank you!

Lashonda Fitch, executive director



# Around Oak Ridge

## BLOCK SECTION MARKERS

The letters or numbers that you see along the roads are section markers. The picture to the right is a section marker in Block 40 for sections 1 and 2. The picture below is in Block 40 for sections A and B



Photo credits: L. Fitch



Use caution when walking and visiting the cemetery.

We saw this snake in the middle of the road looking for his next meal. Jeff our grounds coordinator who took the photo and who caught snakes as a hobby stated "He was not very friendly!"



Photo credit: J. Moffett

# Add us to your calendar

## THE HISTORY OF OAK RIDGE

THURSDAY, AUG 18 FROM 5:30-6:30 P.M.

VIA ZOOM

Join director Lashonda Fitch, to learn more about the history of Oak Ridge and how it has become the cemetery it is today.

Learn more info call our office at 217.789.2340 or register at <https://www.facebook.com/events/712946189812740>



Photo Credit: ORC office photos

## A GOOD BYE- YOUR WAY

THURSDAY, AUG 25 FROM 5:30-7:00 P.M.

The staff at Oak Ridge Cemetery is inviting the community to learn more about how to best prepare for your final resting place. You will walk away with cost-saving tips that will help you give the gift of preparedness to your loved ones. Help your family celebrate you, your way. This event is free and open to the public.

The dinner and discussion will be held at the Cemetery Administrative located at 1441 Monument Ave. Springfield, IL 62702.

Space is limited. RSVP at [oakridge.cemetery@springfield.il.us](mailto:oakridge.cemetery@springfield.il.us) or call 217.789.2340 by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24.



Photo credit: Lakewood Cemetery

# Sharing History



Photo credit: Julia Frevert

## FLAG LOWERING CEREMONY

The 114th Regiment flag-lowering ceremony at the Lincoln's Tomb. This occurs EVERY Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m., until August 30. One lucky attendee will also be presented with the flag as a keepsake.

## A WALK THROUGH OAK RIDGE

It was a beautiful evening for those who came out to hear City Historian, Curtis Mann discuss the history of the cemetery. Curtis shared interesting stories on the the families buried in Oak Ridge. We learned more about Governor Tanner, Cowgill, Mayor Mc Creery, and the well skilled local monument maker and dealer Fortado-Lomelino. He's taking the month of August off but will be back in September. Check the Lincoln Library Facebook page for his next tour.



Photo credit: L. Fitch

## WALK, BIKE, OR HIKE

Enjoy the Illinois Department of Natural Resources State Historic Sites "Walk, Hike and Bike History" series, full of inspiring outdoor experiences that will connect you to our must-see museums & monuments throughout Springfield!

Walk, Hike, and Bike History Experiences:  
Friends of Lincoln Hike  
Military History Hike  
History Bike Tours 5-mile & 8-mile  
Black History Walk  
1908 Race Riot Walking Tour  
Learn more at:  
<https://visitspringfieldillinois.com/EventDetails/?id=23841>



Photo credit: Visit Springfield

# Preserving History

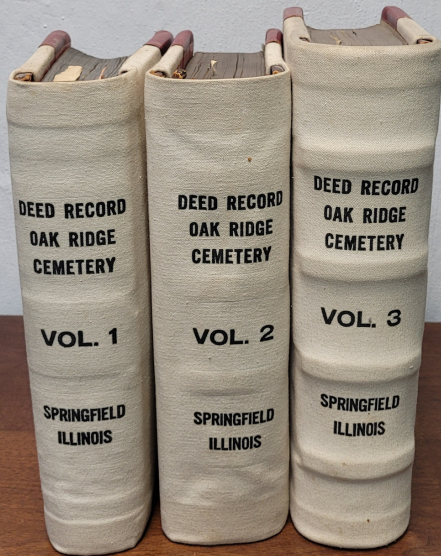


Photo credit: L. Fitch

## ORIGINAL DEEDS

Our office received nine volumes of the original cemetery deeds from the City Clerk's Office. We are happy to have the books safely home and stored in our vault.

The Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation was created in 2012 in an effort to preserve the history of this special place. Members of the foundation are made up of lifelong locals, history buffs, naturists, and community organizers, and are unified by a common vision to protect a piece of both Illinois history, as well as national history.

DID YOU KNOW...You can help preserve Oak Ridge Cemetery's history? Learn more about the Foundation at [oakridgecemeteryfoundation.com](http://oakridgecemeteryfoundation.com)



The final resting place of President Abraham Lincoln

# The admin office



**TANYA BRAWNER**  
Office Coordinator

Tanya is the office coordinator and a valuable team player here at Oak Ridge.

She is the expert in all things administration and the glue that holds our operations together!

Tanya manages payroll, and accounting and assists funeral homes and families with scheduling interments. She can answer any questions that you may have.

Give her a call at 217.789.2340 or email her at [tanya.brawner@springfield.il.us](mailto:tanya.brawner@springfield.il.us)

## DID YOU KNOW...

We have staff available after office hours and on a Saturday?

Call 217.789.2340 during our normal office hours of M-F from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

or email

[michael.loscher@springfield.il.us](mailto:michael.loscher@springfield.il.us) to schedule your after hours appointment today.



Photo credit: Google images

# Take note...



Photo credit: Lakewood Cemetery

## RIGHTS OF INTERMENT

Oak Ridge Cemetery currently allows up to three burial rights per grave.

You can choose two traditional casketed burials, and one inurnment, or three inurnments per grave space.

Questions? Call our office at 217.789.2340 or email us at [oakridge.cemetery@springfield.il.us](mailto:oakridge.cemetery@springfield.il.us)

## RULES & REGS

For the safety of our visitors, lot owners, staff, and preventing damage to the equipment, Oak Ridge Cemetery does not allow coping, curbing, fencing or borders of any kind, rock, bark, or like materials around plots, graves, monuments or markers. (see pic to right) If these items are found at the gravesite, or columbarium it will be removed.

Call 217.789.2340 for more details or visit our website [oakridgecemetery.org/rulesandregulations](http://oakridgecemetery.org/rulesandregulations)



Photo credit: L Fitch

# Word around town

"AN  
ABSOLUTELY  
FABULOUS CEMETERY!"

M. KING

"BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED  
CEMETERY." " WORTH IT JUST FOR A  
VIEW OF LINCOLNS TOMB, BUT  
THEY HAVE MARKED NUMEROUS  
OTHER HISTORIC AND NOTABLE  
GRAVESITES SO THERE IS  
DEFINITELY MORE THERE TO  
EXPLORE."

JACOB C.

MICHAEL,

"THANK YOU, AGAIN FOR ALL OF  
YOUR HELP!"

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING  
YOU ON OUR NEXT TRIP TO  
SPRINGFIELD."

SINCERELY,  
CHRIS & RON



# Block Map

## Oak Ridge Cemetery

1441 Monument Ave. Springfield, IL 62702

217-789-2340

[www.oakridgecemetary.org](http://www.oakridgecemetary.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_ Lot \_\_\_\_\_

