Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association INC.

If this newsletter has reached you at a time of loss, please accept our apologies and condolences.

Dear Hillcrest families and friends,

It has been a very active few months at Hillcrest. We hosted 12 volunteer cleanup events, hired a company to clear some of the badly overgrown areas along the borders with adjacent properties, hired a new mowing company, and reached nearly 30% of our 2022 fundraising goal.

Moving forward, we will be hosting our inaugural Hillcrest Homecoming and Community Day on May 14th (details below) and will continue with fundraising, monthly volunteer days and rebuilding the organization.

Kevin L. Hudson
Volunteer and President

May 14th — Hillcrest Homecoming and Community Day

Please join us in a day of remembrance and celebration of the history and people of Hillcrest Cemetery. We invite the families and friends of those interred at Hillcrest, and residents old and new of the East Point area, to visit on May 14th, anytime between 10am and 4pm for a variety of activities, including:

- Self-guided tours of the cemetery highlighting notable memorials, people and events.
- Assistance on-site with locating graves.
- Kids activities including a fun, educational scavenger hunt.
- A shaded seating area for refreshments, reunions, storytelling and more.
- Information and sign-up opportunities for volunteers, donors, committees and more.

This is NOT a volunteer work day—just a fun opportunity to visit with friends and family.

This event coincides with the **East Point Historical Society's May Mixer** event from 2–4pm. They will also be open from 10am–1pm. We hope you will plan to visit both of us this day.

Contact us

Web
www.HillcrestEastPoint.org

Facebook
Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association

Email
HillcrestEastPoint@gmail.com

Phone
404-323-1813 (Personal cell—please leave a voice mail or text)

Location (NOT a mailing address)
2250 Stanton Rd
East Point, GA 30605

Mailing address
Hillcrest Cemetery M.A.
140 Birch Valley Dr
Athens, GA 30605

Summer volunteer schedule

We have wound down the heavy duty weekly cleanups of the winter and spring, but we have lots of small projects that we hope to take on in the coming months, from tending to trees and shrubs to litter pickup and transcribing headstones.

From June through October, we plan to host volunteer days on the second Saturday of each month through October. **We will be there from 9am–1pm for each date.** Feel free to come and go when prefer. We can also work with you on other dates and times—just let us know.

- **June 11**
- **July 9**
- **August 13**
- **September 10**
- **October 8**

Subject to change.

Please check our Facebook page or contact us to confirm nothing has changed before traveling.

A native cedar tree was planted in memory of longtime Hillcrest volunteer Deb Aziz.

The hickory tree that died was taken down by volunteers from Redemption City Church.

Before and after photos of the Phillips and Page lots after volunteers cleaned them up on April 9th. Thank you to the volunteers that made this and so many other projects happen this winter and spring.

Before and after photos of the northern edge after we hired a company to push back the kudzu and other brush 20–30 feet. It left a bit of a mess, but over time it will be much better, and we will be sure that the new mowing company maintains the line by verifying that they cut up to the orange marker stakes each time they mow. This was also done in the back of the Bronze Section across the street. Thank you to the donors that made this and so many other projects happen this winter and spring.

Hillcrest by the numbers

Year the cemetery was founded: **1910** (112 years)

Year our organization was founded: **2001** (21 years)

Acres: **15**

Volunteer events so far in 2022: **12**

Individual volunteers so far in 2022: **35**

Volunteers with no family ties to Hillcrest: **34**

Graves: **7,727** listed at this time, though many are yet to be added

Facebook page followers: **444**

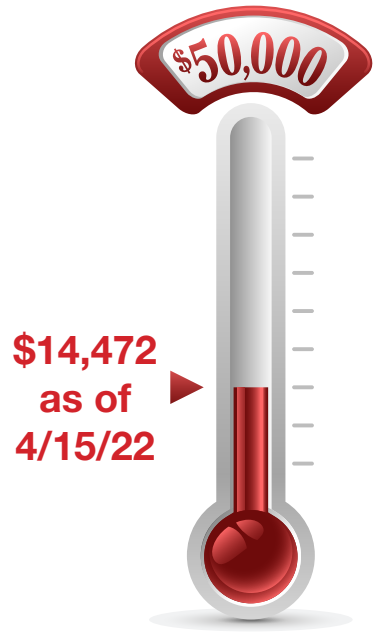
Funds raised since we began: **$250,634.85**

Percent spent on overhead expenses: **3.1%**
(banking and government fees, signs, printing, postage, former PO box)

Average amount spent per year on maintenance: **$10,045**

2022 fundraising goal: **$50,000** (to catch up on deferred maintenance, etc.)

Funds raised since December 1, 2021: **$14,472** (28.9% of goal)



What else can friends and families of Hillcrest do to help?

There is much available to do to help HCMA besides work-day volunteering and donating, though those are the things we talk about the most. We know most families of Hillcrest have moved away over time and many who personally knew those buried here are older and not able to physically help. Here are some other way you can participate in the restoration and preservation of this site:

- Encourage younger generations to come visit and tend to family graves. We provide general maintenance only, but detailed work on individual lots is up to the families. Many of our lots need more work than we can provide, such as settling dirt and headstones, including hollow areas under slab stones that make them liable to break. It is also important to educate future generations about the importance of supporting our group, as most of our financial support comes from the older generations.
- Help us locate other families. Are you friends with people who may have ties to Hillcrest? Please let them know about us. They can call or email to get on our mailing list or follow us on Facebook. For those with lots of old East Point friends on social media, please consider sharing our May 14th event with them.
- If you are unable to help with physical projects like brush clearing, we are getting ready to start a headstone transcription, where volunteers will walk around with a clipboard of our information from the records and making any additions or corrections based on what is on the markers.
- Remember us when making your final arrangements. Last year we received our largest contribution ever from the estate of one of our longtime supporters. It came at a time when we were running out of money and sustained us.

Big project possibilities

Small donations from many people are our lifeblood for keeping Hillcrest maintained. The occasional large donation can let us do extra things such as re-gravel the driveways, repair asphalt drives, have the dirt piles hauled off, or even hire a part time executive director who could work to raise more funds from foundations and corporate givers. This year we spent $6000 on clearing the kudzu some border areas, as well as other projects beyond the abilities of a few volunteers. We also bought some power equipment which allows us to make much better use of volunteer time, since we can cut the brush quickly and they can haul it to the curb, rather than clearing half as much with everyone using loppers to cut the brush themselves. All of this was thanks to some larger donations that put our bank balance above what was required for this year's mowing.

Side note…I'm currently hauling all of this in a Honda CR-V from Athens for volunteer events. If anyone has a reliable small truck or van they no longer need and could use a big non-profit tax deduction, we may be able to help you with that.

Recent donations were made in memory of:

Mary C. Horton • Alonzo and Toche Echols • The Purdie family • Bill and Cleo Willingham • The Kodatt family Jack Tankersley • Fred and May Pierson and Michael and Lucille Miller • Rosa Lee Martin • James E. Snowden Alonzo and Toche Echols • Henry Hanson (Bill) Nicholson, Martha Jewell Prather Nicholson, Linda Faye Nicholson & Beulah Smith Prather • The Elmo White family • Alexander Purdie • William Theo Duncan & Julia Ellestine Cook Duncan • The Bryson family • Bennie Lee Fagan • Edna Dye • Buck & Cleo Willingham John Henry Smith & Bonnie M. Green • W.J. Renfroe and Virgie Renfroe • Deb Aziz • Mr & Mrs. Felton Messer

How to make a tax-deductible donation:

Checks — Make payable and mail to: Hillcrest Cemetery M.A., 140 Birch Valley Dr, Athens, GA 30605-4246
(Use the memo space or include a note to make your donation in honor/memory of someone.)

Credit • Debit • GooglePay • ApplePay • PayPal — HillcrestEastPoint.org/donate

Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(13) tax-exempt corporation. As such, donations may be tax deductible, depending on your tax circumstances—the same as with a 501(c)(3) organization.

This photo shows brush that was cut and moved to the curb in only one day in late March. We have about four times as much total in various spots in the cemetery and look forward to it being removed before the May 14th Hillcrest Homecoming and Community Day. (See inside for details.)

Find us on **Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association**