

# St. John's Cemetery Foundation

Fall Newsletter

Issue No. 4 - Fall 2013

**BP Grant Update**

*The Friends took a gamble that BP might donate money for radio activated tour of the cemetery. They were successful.*  
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**Water in the Cemetery or Lack Thereof**

*Why is the water still turned off at SJC?*  
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**Go Retro to Feature SJC on historic tour**  
*SJC will be a tour stop*  
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**Impact 100 Grant**

*For its second year, the Friends are applying for an Impact 100 grant of approximately \$100,000. No previous Impact grants have been received by SJC.*  
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**President's Message**  
*Wesley Odom*  
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**Recent Burials**

*While things seem quiet at St. John's, the cemetery continues to perform its mission.*  
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**New President of the SJC, Inc.**  
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**All Saints Day and Annual Meeting**

*On November 2, 2013 9:00 - 10:00*  
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**Walking tour on Nov. 13 at 11:00 with Wesley Odom**  
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## BP Grant Update

*The 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill was a tragic accident that affected countless lives on the Gulf Coast and the environment. Many received financial gifts from BP, which had owned the well. FSJCF was one of them.*

When FSJCF officer, Wesley Odom saw an advertisement in the newspaper for not-for-profit corporations to apply for the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill Trust Fund, he thought, "Why not? The Friends just may get lucky." He was right.

**The Friends just may get lucky.**

In late 2012, BP announced that the Friends would receive \$12,000 to install a radio activated tour system for SJC.

So far, the equipment and antennas have been installed in the Gatehouse. All that remains is the audio needs to be loaded and the signs need to be installed that instruct people how to utilize the system and where to stop.

When the system is ready, a person will be able to drive into the Gatehouse, dial onto a certain frequency with their car radio, exit the vehicle, push a button to activate the tour, return to their vehicle, and follow the prompts on the radio.

The tour will trace the development of the cemetery and highlight certain people who are buried there. It ought to be operational by the All Saints Day Service.

## All Saints' Day 2013

Please schedule to attend the All Saints' Day Service at St. John's Cemetery in the Gatehouse on Saturday, November 2, at 9:00 am. This year, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, veterans of that conflict will be honored. The Rev. Nancy Watson of St. Mark Methodist will officiate.

Afterwards, there will be a brief annual meeting so people can renew their memberships, which are \$25/year, provide feedback to the board, and discuss future projects.

Customarily, there is a reception afterwards. All attendees are encourage to bring some snacks or cookies to share.

## Water Problems

*Years ago the Friends paid to irrigate the cemetery. Now it is plagued with problems.*

While the Friends have requested an estimate to get the irrigation system repaired, the cost may be too high.

When trying to use the system in June, the pressure was found to be exceedingly low. It was barely usable near the Gatehouse and not at all available on the west end of the cemetery. Upon further investigation, there appears to be an underground leak--where exactly is unknown. No visible water-logged area has been identified.

If the leak cannot be found, then the water system will be reworked to operate the toilet in the Gatehouse and two exterior spigots nearby--one on the north and south sections.



**Boy Scout, Tristan Wu, is planning an Eagle Scout project that would replace the wooden section markers with granite ones.**

# New Officers Elected for SJC, Inc.

St. John's Cemetery, Inc., which is the entity that owns the cemetery, recently elected new officers. This entity is operated by members of the local Masonic lodge. The former president, Charles Green, had to resign for health reasons. He had served several years as president but will remain on the board.

The new officers are as follows:

- President: Jim Speed
- Vice President: Eddie Zarahn
- Secretary/Treasurer: Eric Stevenson

We welcome the new officers and look forward to maintaining a close relationship with SJC.

# Impact 100

The Friends applied for an Impact 100 grant for \$100,000 to be spent restoring the monuments in the cemetery, among other things. Last year, the organization applied and was unsuccessful. The grants are very competitive. Results ought to be promulgated in October.

# Annual Dues

Annual membership dues for the Foundation are only \$25/year, which supports the publication and mailing of this newsletter, website, and on-going cemetery database. There is much more that could be done with more contributions. Previous contributions have enabled the Gatehouse to be renovated.

Please write your check today to "Friends of St. John's Cemetery Foundation" and send it to 610 N. Spring St. Pensacola, FL 32501.

# 2013 Burials

*More information on each person can be found at the cemetery's website: [www.stjohnsdb.com](http://www.stjohnsdb.com).*

- Averitt, Larry M., Sr.
- Bennett, Marian
- Bokas, John V.
- Bowman, Rudy
- Dillard, Daphne
- Felts, William Eugene
- McGill, Arthur T., Jr.
- Meenen, Jean H. Edwards
- Merritt, Charles W., Jr.
- Sloan, Arthur Bert
- Smith, Sarah Gunn
- Welles, Margaret Elizabeth "Betty"
- Wells, Helen E.

# SJC to be featured on Tours

*SJC is "tucked away" between Cervantes and Garden Sts. Some Pensacolians don't even know where it is. Tours to the cemetery could enhance visibility.*

In the Fall two tours will include stops at SJC.

One will be led by Friends President, Wesley Odom. He will take a group from the Leisure Learning Society on a walking tour on November 13 at 11:00. He plans to discuss the history of the cemetery and highlight some of those interred within. He will also show people the renovated Gatehouse and answer questions.

Tickets to the Leisure Learning Society SJC Walking Tour can be obtained through the website: [www.uwf.edu/leisurelearning](http://www.uwf.edu/leisurelearning) or by calling 474-3491.

The second tour will be operated by Go Retro, which is a new historic tour company in town. The company operates two vehicles--a replica 1930 transit bus and a 2001 shuttle bus. Each vehicle is equipped with audio-visual technology that brings much clarity and meaning to its tours.

During October, it will offer a haunted tour, called "Ghosts & Graveyards". According to owner, Wesley Odom, "Currently, St. Michael's Cemetery gets all the attention when people talk about ghost stories in town. Being associated with the Friends, I want to highlight St. John's, which is the second oldest cemetery in town. There are some great stories there. I think others will like to learn about the cemetery and learn that it still has lots for sale. I'm proud of SJC and what people have done to preserve the legacy of those interred within."

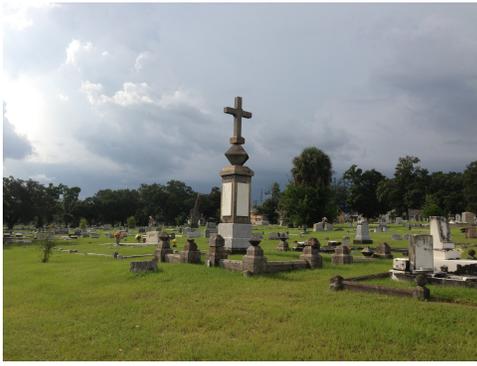
Tours with Go Retro can be reserved through its website, [www.goretro.us](http://www.goretro.us) or by calling 466-5220.

# Friends Officers and Directors

*Officers and Directors are elected for three year terms. Below is a list of the current officers, directors, and the expiration of their tenure.*

Odom, Wesley (Pres/Treas)	2015
Watson, Dwight (VP)	2015
Haynes, Jimmy, II (Sec)	2015
Riggs, Bobby (Dir)	2016
Turner, Hill (Dir)	2016
Wallace, Edwin (Dir)	2016
De la Rua - Hayes, Dolores	2014
Walby, Emily (Dir)	2014
Speed, Jim (Dir)	2014

A copy of the By-laws is available on the SJC website: [www.stjohnsdb.com](http://www.stjohnsdb.com). Click on "Foundation", then "By-laws".



Left: The tombstone of Gertrude Blanch Monk, who died January 29, 1910. Her husband Henry reserved the entire lot in her memory and is buried elsewhere. It is the tallest monument in the cemetery.



Right: The north side of the Gatehouse flowerbed while the Boy Scouts were finishing the Eagle project. Tall oleanders had obscured the wall and Gatehouse. This was before the exterior was painted.

## President's Message

President Wesley Odom addresses the membership.

Progress continues to be made at SJC. Largely thanks to volunteers and generous donors (including BP), tremendous things have been accomplished over the the last year.

- All graves have been inventoried--including those with no markers--and inputted into the database.
- An ownership inventory has been completed and a survey of empty spaces. This will aid in the management of space.
- The discovery of new spaces has resulted in the creation of new Sections. This means the cemetery will be able to have enough space for burials into at least the year 3000.
- The website has been enhanced to contain a photograph of the person interred, his/her tombstone, obituary, and genealogical data. The names also are searchable from general inquiries in Google, Yahoo, and Bing.
- Over two dozen trees have been planted and are regularly nurtured.
- A few tombstone repairs have been made. (Thank you Jack Henderson)
- The front of the Gatehouse has been landscaped with drought resistant flowers and plants. (Thank you Boy Scout Trevor Odom and Troop 495.)
- The outside and inside of the Gatehouse has been renovated and

painted. (Thank you Americorp Volunteers.)

- Automatic lights have been installed outside the Gatehouse.
- Protective lexan glass has been installed over the windows of the Gatehouse. As a result, all the bars inside have been removed. The place is more inviting now.
- A radio broadcast system will be operational soon, which will relate information to the public.

Much of these accomplishments are the result of many tireless volunteers. For months and a few even over year, have been working weekly toward these endeavors. Let me brag about some of the superstars:

Ray Atchison (data entry)

Frances Coe (data entry)

Malcolm Davis (inventoried hundreds of graves)

Shirley Forchilli (inventoried graves and data entry)

Kay Friedrich (inventoried graves and data entry)

Becky Hice (inventoried graves and data entry)

Leigh Prahl (inventoried graves and data entry)

Dwight Turner (planted trees and directed painting)

Emily Walby (clipped obits and data entry)

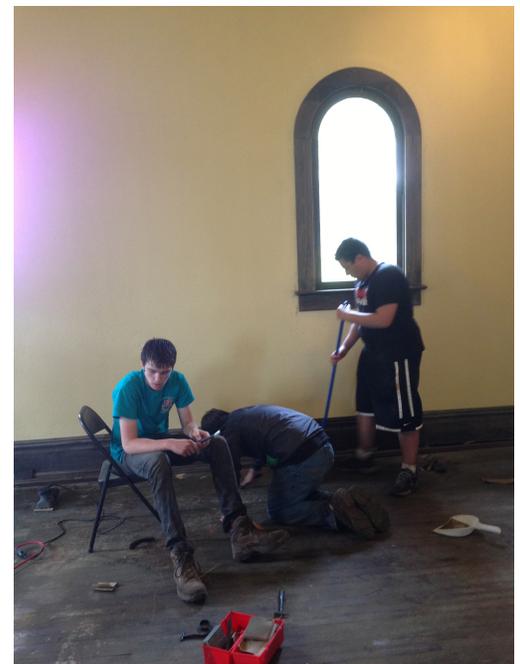
Personally, I have no relatives buried in SJC. I serve because I believe in the vision that Ted Nickinson and Dr. Jack Fleming framed many years ago: SJC is a place worthy of preserving the legacies of those who made Pensacola what it is today. They formed the foundation of our community today.

I encourage you to become excited about preserving this historic cemetery. Together, this is possible.

If you have any questions or concerns or want to update a relative's obituary, please contact me at either work, 850-497-6167 or email, [wodom@armadaadvisors.com](mailto:wodom@armadaadvisors.com).

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Odom



Boy Scouts Nick Cooke and Michael Gutierrez-Diaz work in the Gatehouse.

**Friends of St. John's Cemetery  
Foundation**

P.O. Box 30245  
Pensacola, FL 32503-0245 or  
**610 N. Spring St.**  
Pensacola, FL 32501

Stamp

*Celebrate with the Saints!*

SATURDAY

November 2, 2013

9:00 - 10:00 am

**Service and Annual Meeting at  
St. John's Cemetery**

*Bring your favorite snack or desert to share.*

The Rev. Nancy Watson, officiating