



THE LONG VIEW

Annual Report 2025

Twenty-five Years in Retrospect

*"Our mission has never changed, nor will it in the centuries to come, for we have the words of the previous presidents to remind us of where we have been and where we are headed." Raymond M. Planell;
Past President, Current Chairman of the Board of
Kensico Cemetery (2014 Annual Report)*

Past Presidents

In Chronological Order

James F. Sutton

John W. Emerson

James W. Husted

William E. Dodge Stokes

Gustavus T. Kirby

Elias M. Johnson

Henry R. Barrett

William V. Lawrence

William H. Lyon

Franklin Montross, Jr.

Henry R. Barrett, III

Chester S. Day

Raymond M. Planell

Message From the President

Introduction

As the clocks ticked toward midnight on December 31, 1999, none of us could have anticipated that the first quarter of the new millennium would bring a terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, a global financial crisis in 2008, and a worldwide pandemic in 2020. Yet, through these extraordinary events and the changes that accompanied them, Kensico Cemetery continued to serve its lot owners, families and community, while planning for generations still to come.

This report looks back on Kensico's first 25 years of the new millennium, on the commitments, accomplishments, processes, and traditions that keep Kensico on solid ground, now and in perpetuity. That is a consequential claim to make. But as the pages that follow demonstrate, Kensico has been able to consistently provide "Service and Care Since 1889" because it has always taken the long view: carefully stewarding the grounds, safeguarding its



financial stability, preserving its traditions and strengthening its connections to the community it serves.

Two former Presidents are joining me in this retelling of the past 25 years: Chester S. Day, who was President from 1998 through 2014, and Raymond M. Planell who served from 2015 through 2020. You will hear from each of us as we look back on the events, activities, transitions, and decisions that marked our respective tenures in office, always guided by the legacy of

the Presidents and Board Members who preceded us and working alongside the Board Members who shared in the leadership of Kensico during those years.

Throughout this report, you'll hear from people who witnessed these events firsthand, see photographs that tell stories of their own, and follow the growth of the funds that will ensure that Kensico remains a fitting memorial to your loved ones, now and forever.

Recreating 25 years from clippings, meeting minutes, newsletters, and other records is as much an art as a science, so I hope you will forgive the occasional lapse in exactitude. We have done our best to capture the events and circumstances as they were experienced and remembered. Above all, I hope each page offers a new insight, perhaps a revelation, or certainly a backstory that deepens your understanding of your Cemetery's past, present and future.

Welcome to The Long View.

2000

Kensico Enters New Millennium.

For the first time in human history, the transition from one millennium to another was intrinsically tied to a computerized world. With planning and foresight, Kensico Cemetery took steps to make sure that all systems continued to function, funeral parties proceeded as scheduled, employees and vendors received their checks, records and documents were secured and preserved, and communications continued without interruption.

"The most important thing we did was to make sure we backed up all computer data to include lot owner and financial information on December 31, 1999, and store it off premises. Prior to that, we did our due diligence and contacted our bank, insurance agents, software companies, and utilities to ensure they had checks and balances in place for a smooth transition from one century to another. Then we kept our fingers crossed and waited for January 1, 2000. The anticipated Y2K computer bug passed with little or no problems." Robert Pregiato; Vice President, Controller, and Assistant Treasurer (Retired).

Y2K

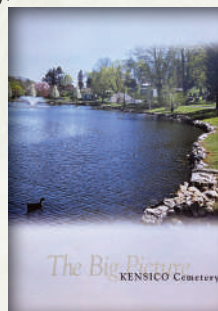
Chester S. Day Begins Third Year as President.



In 1999, Kensico Cemetery had just celebrated its 110th anniversary with tributes to the Board Members and Presidents who had established a standard of excellence in financial stability, property development and maintenance, and service

commitments to employees, lot owners, and visitors. Although the first 25 years of the new millennium presented challenges beyond prediction---a terrorist attack, a financial meltdown, and a global epidemic---Kensico remained steadfast due largely to the guidance and experience of those who came before. Chester S. Day joined that line of Presidents in 1998. In 2013, Chet was elected and served as Chairman of the Board of Kensico until his retirement in 2022. Chet currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Friends of The Kensico Cemetery, Inc.

"From the very start 25 years ago, I was taught every aspect of the Cemetery operation and that the needs of our lot owners, employees, and visitors come first. By learning the entire operation and making the people around you your priority, it's amazing how it all comes together." Chester S. Day (2002 Annual Report)



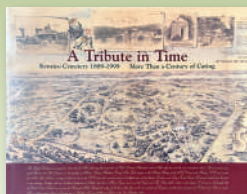
Chester S. Day received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting in 1968 from Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, CT) and was hired by Price Waterhouse and Co. as a staff accountant. He was drafted that year into the United States Army and honorably discharged in 1970 with the rank of Specialist E5. Chet returned to Price Waterhouse & Co. as an accountant, auditing corporate records and working on special projects including those of The Kensico Cemetery. Chet was hired by Kensico as Comptroller in 1974, and over the next 48 years he was promoted to the following positions: Board Director (1976); Vice President and Comptroller (1976); Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (1992); Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Secretary (1996); and President, Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer (1998), retiring in 2014.

During his years as an employee and Director of Kensico Cemetery, Chet was responsible for the creation of a series of 5-year strategic plans guiding the future development of 70 acres of Cemetery property; championing the Cemetery's Rural Cemetery tradition; overseeing the growth of the trust funds; and advocating for the best interests of the cemetery, its employees, lot owners, and visitors.

In addition to his Kensico responsibilities, Chet has held positions as Board Member, President, and Secretary for both the Metropolitan Cemetery Association and the New York State Association of Cemeteries.

Year-End Value of Investment Funds: \$76,323,692

● "Tribute in Time" Annual Report earns Gold Award from Ad Club of Westchester.

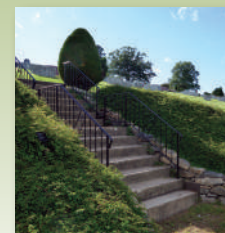


● A second Angel's Rest area opened in Section 69.



● 540 lot owners and guests attended the 111th Annual Meeting of Lot Owners - believed to be the largest attendance recorded.

● Steps and railings installed in several sections of the property and along Commerce Street.



2001

9/11 Memorial Created.

The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on a bright September morning in 2001 was a horrendous event that still resonates in the hearts and minds of all Americans. At the Annual Meeting of Lot Owners held just a few weeks after 9/11, the Kensico Board of Directors, with the unanimous approval of all in attendance, dedicated a memorial to the victims of 9/11 by planting two 15-foot red oak trees by the Tower entrance to the Cemetery as symbols of strength and endurance. A stone memorial with a bronze dedication plaque was subsequently placed at the site. Every year at the anniversary of 9/11, the public is invited to pause at the memorial and wreath at Kensico to remember the victims and honor the first responders---all those whose lives were forever changed on that day.

"Little did we realize that preparing for Y2K gave us the required discipline to respond to the crisis of 9/11. As a Cemetery close to Manhattan, we expected---as did all cemeteries in our area-----a significant increase in burial needs way beyond our normal capacity. The anticipated crush of calls never happened, but for the 9/11 families who did come to Kensico for help, our staff did what was needed most: they were prepared, professional, compassionate, and ready for whatever was required. Our personal sorrows had to wait until later." Chester S. Day



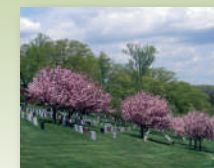
● An area in the Community Mausoleum, re-purposed as a Niche Room, offers bronze and glass-front niches in single and companion sizes.



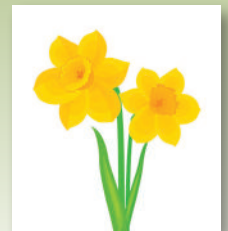
● Kensico's "Tribute in Time" Annual Report profiled in December 2001 issue of "International Cemetery and Funeral Management Magazine".



● First section in Cohasset Plot opens.



● For the fifth consecutive year, Kensico participates in American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days by offering free daffodils for visitors to take to the gravesite of loved ones.



2002

Five-Year Development Plan Announced.

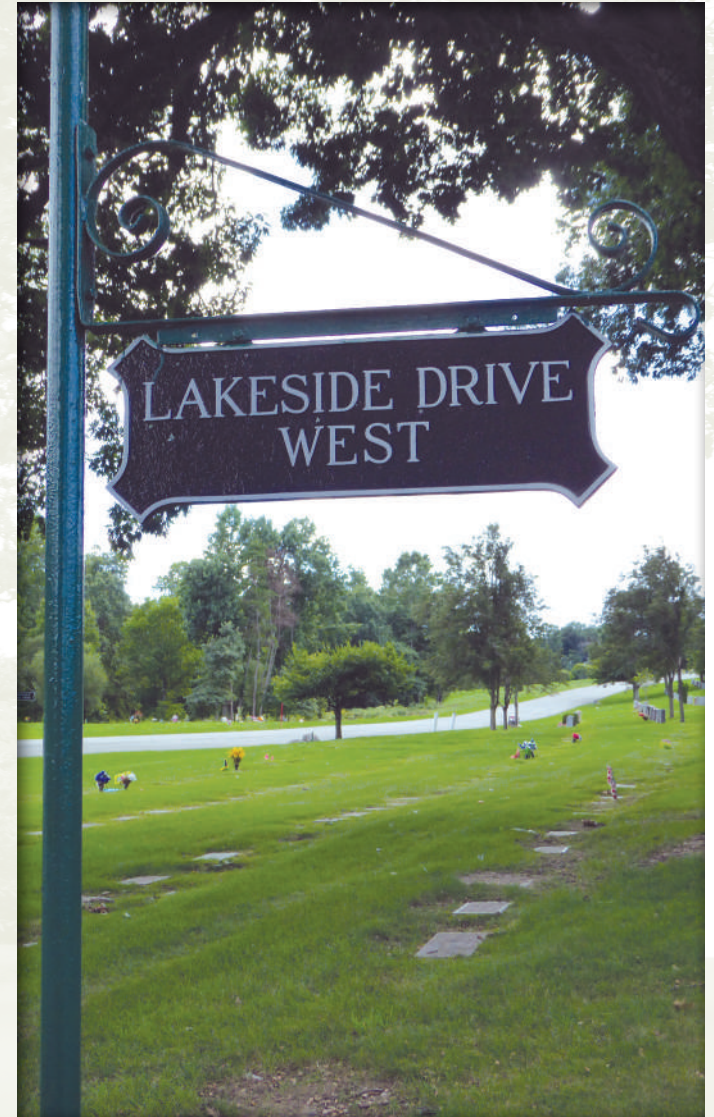
Nature had provided Kensico with rolling hills, natural springs, a variety of elevations, and a complex topography with which to create attractive pastoral settings and distinctive burial options for the public. To go from "Undeveloped" to "Developed But Not Laid Out" to "Developed and Laid Out and Available for Sale" to "Acres Sold" is a multi-phase, multi-year (sometimes decades-long) process: creating road connections; addressing rock outcroppings; preparing the soil; installing water lines, curbing, and parking areas; designing section layouts and landscaping.

In 1997, a five-year Development Plan outlined how three areas of the property would be prepared: The Birches, Cohasset, and Memory Gardens in Sharon Gardens plus the construction of the Niche Room in the Community Mausoleum. The 2002 Development Plan introduced the next phase of property development at Kensico: a connection between Lakeside Drive West to Ossippee Avenue and a 50-acre area on the southeast end of the Cemetery. Other development projects in the plan included the fencing of the western property line, enhancements to the pond, rehabilitation of the Maintenance Building roof and Community Mausoleum. Development was completed over three phases, creating 90 acres of upright monument areas, single/double graves, family lots, flush marker

garden areas, and sections for cremains. The 2007 Development Plan will guide property development through its next phases.

"When I was first hired, it was to do all the surveying work. That consisted of mapping the property, drawing up the layouts, measuring, locating and calculating the project, laying out the site by placing points in the ground, and finally creating the final map that shows the site with dimensions. The biggest challenge that I faced as a surveyor was being a one-man team in a profession that usually requires 2 or 3 people, so I had to figure out how I could do it myself. Over time I mastered ways. Thanks to all those who helped me over the 30 plus years of laying out Kensico and Sharon Gardens. I'm proud of having left my mark on such an honorable institution with quite the history." Michael J. Farmer, Vice President, Sales and Development (Retired)

"It's important to note that all property development at Kensico is contingent on cash-on-hand. We have no loans. We have no debt. We pay as we go." Chester S. Day



● Computers at 17 workstations upgraded to Windows NT to improve speed, navigation, and sharing of information.

● A baseball bus tour on August 7 stops at Gehrig, Barrow, and Ruppert gravesites.

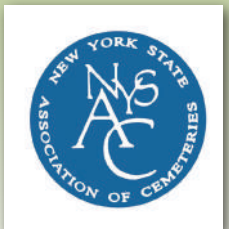


● Annual group photo of all Kensico employees taken on September 24.

● "The Big Picture" Annual Report earns Silver Award from Ad Club of Westchester.

● Two-shelf display cabinet set up in Waiting Area to highlight famous people and Kensico themes.

● Chester S. Day elected President of New York State Association of Cemeteries.



2003

Trees (Always) Take Center Stage at Kensico.

The appreciation of the variety of trees throughout the Kensico grounds came into focus in 2003 from multiple directions.

A free Tree Walk brochure, for example, created with the help of the County Forester, mapped out the location of 36 trees that were significant because of size, type, and rarity, and became a popular handout at the office. A Kensico Classroom Kit outlined tools and exercises for parents and teachers to use in tree identification.

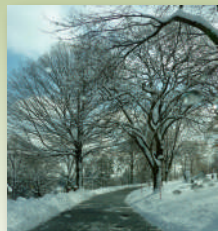
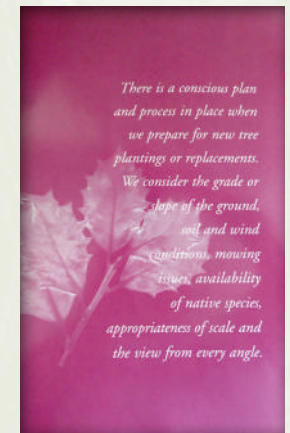
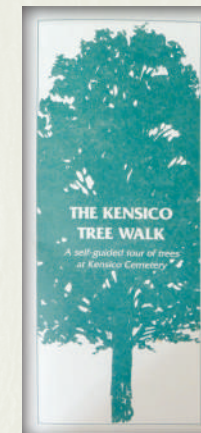
A Turf and Landscape Seminar hosted by Kensico for Cornell Extension staff expanded Kensico's connections with horticultural organizations.

And the monitoring of the trees that have graced the grounds for at least a century inspired the establishment of the Tree Beautification Program described in "The Trees of Kensico Cemetery" Annual Report:

"At Kensico we are committed to the long view. We watch for declining and damaged trees, then replace them to keep an ongoing and successful succession of trees. Recognizing the contribution and significance of trees to the Cemetery setting, the Board of Directors sets aside dollars each year for replacement and renewal to sustain the rural landscape in perpetuity."

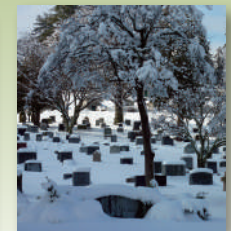
Significant property development offered new opportunities at Kensico to explore the use of native plants and ornamentals to create unique profiles for

each Cemetery section. That, and the combination of a tree species inventory project, the exploration of plant varieties, and public interest in Kensico's collection, ultimately led to the Cemetery applying for Arboretum status.



● The North American Blizzard on President's Day in February dropped 20-30 inches of snow; a nor'easter in early December downed tree limbs and power lines as a foot of snow accumulated. The Kensico maintenance crew cleared all roads, pathways, and fallen trees so that all funerals could proceed as scheduled. "This winter was very tough for everybody. As snow and rain turned into ice, the men had to use jack hammers, compressors,

and rock breakers to get through the frozen ground and prepare the lots. For every funeral, we sanded and cleared, and when the snow melted to mud, we had to use plywood mud tracks to avoid damaging the ground when we brought big equipment in. But we did it; the men worked hard, and every funeral was done on time. This was the toughest winter in a long time." Louie Palmerini, Superintendent (2003 newsletter)



2004

Pond Dedicated to Franklin Montross, Jr.

By resolution of the lot owners at the 115th Annual Meeting in October, the pond at Kensico was dedicated in memory of Franklin Montross, Jr., Kensico's President from 1941 to 1991. He came at a time when the Cemetery was struggling financially because of the Great Depression and other issues of the times. A good businessman, Montross was an attorney and president of a northern Westchester bank, introducing branch and Saturday banking. While at Kensico he transformed 96 acres of the property into religiously-based places of interment: Garden of the Apostles, 20 acres dedicated to nondenominational Christians, and Sharon Gardens, 76 acres dedicated to families of the Jewish Faith. He then subdivided the Cemetery into six major sections, each operating as if they were individual cemeteries, increasing the efficiency of the burial process and long term maintenance while making the employees feel more of a part of the operation. He understood the importance of current and long-term maintenance and the need to have state-of-the-art equipment. But most important, he understood that the Cemetery had to be self-sustaining for its existence. His number one goal was to build the Cemetery trust funds so that the income the funds provide will maintain the Cemetery forever. He looked at lot sales as capital, the proceeds of which would be used for future development and additional contributions to the maintenance funds.

Because of Montross, Kensico Cemetery can make perpetuity a reality.

"Quite as vital as the physical aspects of Kensico history has been the development of special far-reaching Funds, to assure the perpetuation of the institution. The wisdom of such planning was recognized by the founders as early as 1892 when the Bequest and Endowment Fund was first set up. The Declaratory Maintenance Fund was begun in 1934 to help provide for all Kensico upkeep after all lots have been sold and sales revenue from this source has ceased. This eventuality is not anticipated before the year 2062, but your management is planning for perpetuity...today" Franklin Montross, Jr. (1953 Annual Report)



- The New York Heroes Society, an Ayn Rand advocacy and culture organization, takes tour and holds meeting at Kensico.



- Foreign language professor visits Kensico to conduct research for Rachmaninoff biography.

- Annual Report "Behind the Scenes, Part One" earns Silver Award from Ad Club of Westchester.



- New email address introduced: kensico@kensico.org.
- Security car replaced with a hybrid.

- "New York Today" - a new coffee-table volume featuring 86 organizations included a two-page profile of Kensico.

2005

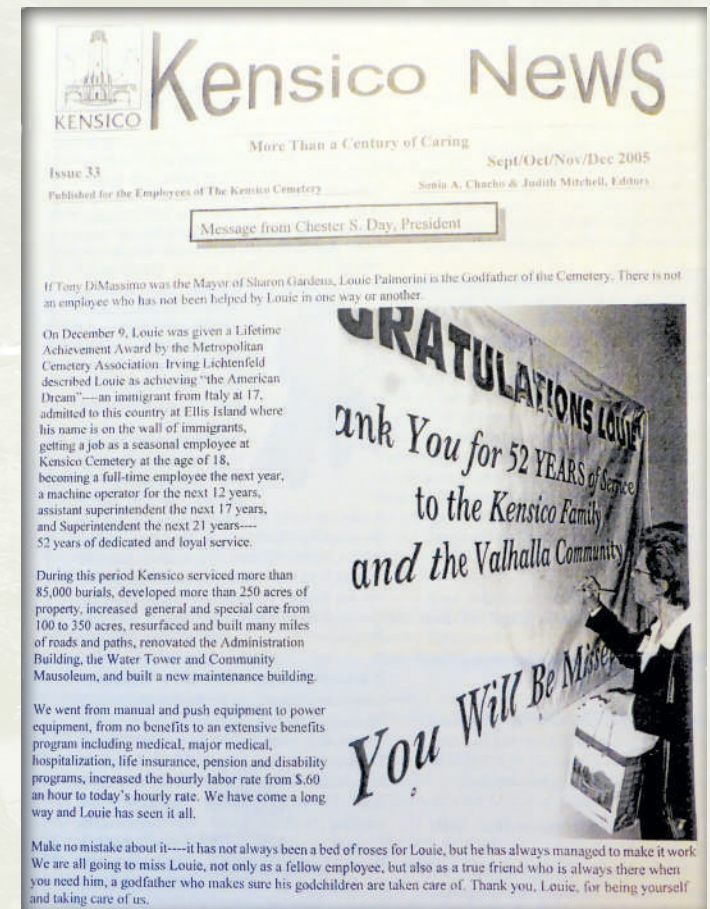
Louie Palmerini Retires as Superintendent.

In December, the Maintenance Building was transformed into a banquet hall with decorated tables, a live band, a selection of hot and cold food, and decorated cakes----all to celebrate with Louie. Attendees from other cemeteries joined in, a large white banner congratulating Louie was inscribed with personal messages, and anecdotes were shared by his friends and co-workers. Louie was presented with a guest book signed by attendees, a photograph/souvenir plaque, audio/visual equipment, and a souvenir videotape of the reception.

Two days later, Louie was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the members of the Metropolitan Cemetery Association for "his overcoming obstacles that would have discouraged others, and for 52 years of dedicated service to both his cemetery and to the public."

Larry Massaro was appointed Louie's successor as Superintendent. Larry had been an independent contractor for Kensico for more than 30 years, working with Kensico on maintenance, grounds restoration, and development projects.

"I learned by watching the older men work. I had the interest, and I wanted to learn. One big project I had was rip-rapping stones to create the border along Minnetonka Brook in Sharon Gardens. In the winter, I'd stand on the back of a flat-bed truck and throw the sand on the roads. I'd do mausoleum pointing, pour the cement for monument foundations, cut trees with axes, clear the fields with a sickle bar and, of course, dig graves. It was all manual labor back then. And the equipment we did have was not totally reliable: fix it today, fix it tomorrow. Things are certainly different now". Louie Palmerini, Retired from Kensico after 52 years, including 21 as Superintendent.



● Kensico hosted Secretary of State Randy A. Daniels (Chairman of State Cemetery Board) who donated American flags to local veterans groups, women auxiliary, police, fire, ambulance corps, WCA, Salvation Army, and Boy Scouts of America to place at the graves of soldiers in six NYS cemeteries as part of Memorial Day ceremonies.



● The Native Plant Center took tour in June of the native plants that surround Franklin Montross, Jr. Memorial Pond.



● Yankee baseball fans on bus tour from PA got stuck at Lakeview turn and was re-directed by Mt. Pleasant officer who had worked as a stone-cutter, knew Kensico well, and then escorted tour to all the baseball greats at Kensico.

Year-End Value of Investment Funds: \$88,122,063

2006

Medal of Honor Recipients Identified at Kensico.

The Medal of Honor Historical Society notified Kensico that two individuals who had earned the highest honor awarded to American military personnel for gallantry in action were buried at the Cemetery: Louis Palma DiCesnola and Michael Murphy---both for heroic actions during the Civil War. DiCesnola, as a Colonel in the 4th New York Cavalry, "rallied his men, accompanied them, without arms, in a second charge, and continued in the action at the head of his regiment until he was desperately wounded and taken prisoner."

Murphy, as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 170th New York Infantry, "commanded the regiment, and kept it on the field exposed to the fire of the enemy for 3 hours without being able to fire one shot in return because of the ammunition being exhausted" (from Medal of Honor citations).

DiCesnola would later become the first Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Murphy would later become the first Police Commissioner of New York City.

A public tribute took place in 2007 as part of the annual Veterans Remembrance Service.

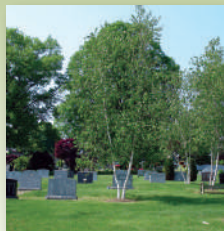
Eastern Bluebird Nestboxes Installed.

The Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society, as part of a regional program to protect and promote the endangered Eastern Bluebird, placed the first five nestboxes at open areas throughout the Cemetery----resulting in 9 fledglings that year. The fledgling tally would change with the years with the highest number of 49 in 2013 and zero in 2022 and 2024.

"What is most interesting – especially as I look at these numbers in black and white – is that the more boxes I added, the fewer bluebirds we got. All these available boxes allowed the tree swallows to move in and take over---I had made a tree swallow farm. I learned the lesson that less is more, so I removed all the boxes in the new area and a few in the older area. Now, with the fewer box count, the bluebirds returned in 2025. We had 3 nesting pairs and 8 fledglings. The total number of bluebirds that Kensico has sent out into the world is 374!" Sandy Morrissey, Project Leader, BRSS Eastern Bluebird Project



● New area opened above The Birches – Section 202/215 featuring flush and upright monuments.



● Twelve groupings of seven types of oak trees planted in Mohegan Gardens.



● White Plains Parks and Recreation Department conducted tour of famous gravesites at Kensico.

● Landscape "Superintendent and Maintenance Personnel Magazine" ran 4-page cover story on Kensico's maintenance operations.

● Kensico Grounds Team members brought a chipper and truck to help Mt. Pleasant Cemetery remove trees damaged by a tornado that cut through Hawthorne.

● WCC anthropology professor brought her class to Kensico to practice data-collection techniques.

● Henry R. Barrett, III retired as Kensico's Chairman of the Board.

2007

Veterans Memorial Dedicated.

On Friday, May 25, in a special ceremony, the Veterans Memorial Monument was dedicated at Kensico thanks to the collaborative efforts of local veterans groups - White Plains Post 191, Jewish War Veterans of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion Post 112 in Hawthorne, and American Legion Post 1038 in Valhalla.

The monument is a four-foot natural stone selected from the Kensico property affixed with a bronze plaque set in place next to the flagpole in the sitting area adjacent to the Administration Building. The plaque, which was paid for with special donations from the Jewish War Veterans Post and their Auxiliary members, shows nine uniformed service men and women beneath the inscription "Duty Honor Country" - dedicating the monument to all veterans of US conflicts. To provide a backdrop for this new feature, Kensico re-landscaped the area with specimen trees, flowering shrubs and groundcovers, and ornamental grasses.

Over 100 people including Kensico Cemetery Board Members and staff, an Honor Guard, representatives from local and state government, and other veterans groups attended the ceremony at Kensico - the final resting place for thousands of men and women who served in the US military including two Civil War Medal of Honor recipients: Luigi DiCesola and Michael Murphy.

The Veterans Remembrance Service has adopted themes and invited special guest speakers over the years to offer historical perspectives, POW/ MIA recognition, participation by other Westchester cemeteries, and has always included the reading of the names of military from Westchester who had lost their lives in Iraq or Afghanistan.

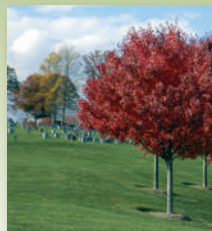
"To some extent, the missions of White Plains Post 191 of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A and Kensico/Sharon Gardens Cemetery overlap. This can be stated using the title of a Jewish prayer commonly recited at the cemetery, 'We Remember Them'. For many years, members of our Post met prior to the Memorial Day Observation and placed flags at the grave of our deceased brethren-in-arms as a symbol of remembrance. Almost ten years ago, we helped create the Memorial at the cemetery honoring all of our country's veterans. Thanks to the initiative and work of cemetery president Chet Day and JWW member and Journal News Editor Milt Hoffman, the tradition of the Veterans Remembrance Service was begun. It is a meaningful relationship, based upon a shared reverence, that we are grateful to have." Larry Barnett, White Plains Post 191; Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (2017 Kensico Annual Report)

At the Annual Meeting in 2014, and as part of the 125th celebration, Kensico President Chester S. Day presented Navy veteran Milt Hoffman with a gift in recognition of his volunteer work on behalf of all veterans.



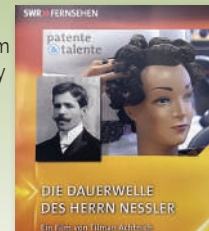
● The eight miles of the Kensico water systems were updated, repaired and replaced; sprinkler system installed along sides of Administration Building.

● Final portion of Cohasset Plot placed on the market.



● Chester S. Day is honored for his long-time support of Westco Productions, a not-for-profit organization producing live theatre for family audiences.

● At the request of the lot owner, a German film crew shot documentary footage at gravesite of Karl Nessler - inventor of the first permanent wave machine for use in beauty parlors.



● The 2007 Development Plan described the introduction of topographical mapping software to create detailed descriptions of Cemetery lots, sections, water lines, trees, monuments, and roads--- an essential digital tool for the management of future growth.

2008

Kensico and the Global Financial Crisis.

The world was rocked in 2008-2009 by a financial crisis that had ramifications throughout the country and left no one untouched by what became known as the Great Recession. Bank assets were at risk, the housing construction industry collapsed, home purchases fell, employment dropped significantly, and household debt increased at rates not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930's.

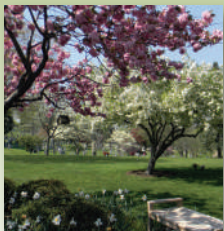
For Kensico, a long-standing monetary principle of pay-as-you-go, and with no debt to be serviced, the impact was minimized. Kensico's Board has historically and consistently followed a conservative goal-based investment policy focusing on high-quality investment management in order to preserve and grow the trust funds for the long-term benefit of the Cemetery.

All payables, paychecks, and pensions remained intact, current, and undisturbed by the financial crisis.

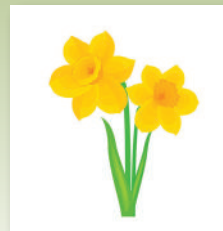
"Kensico Cemetery has gone through difficult times before and we have worked our way through them. It is a two-way street – we work for Kensico, Kensico works for us, and together we will get through this." Chester S. Day (2008 Newsletter)



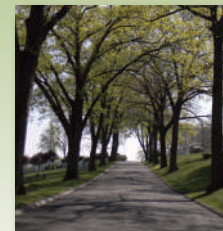
● Lakeside Drive West opened as burial option; additional lots added in Kensico Gardens, Cohasset Plot, Section 68/82 and 83/97; The Birches.



● Kensico participated in American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days for tenth consecutive years, making the flowers available to visiting families.



● Roads paved along Tecumseh Avenue. Sidewalks and paths in Sharon Gardens, Salvation Army, and Garden of the Apostles repaired and repaved.



● New backhoe and job truck for transporting graveside tents purchased.

2009

Development Continues: Onondaga Opens.

Property development, as outlined in the Five-Year Development Plan, continued with the opening in September of Onondaga Plot/Section 97/110. Covering 10 acres and overlooking Franklin Montross, Jr. Memorial Pond, Onondaga - an Iroquois term meaning "people of the hills" - continued the Kensico tradition of naming avenues and large sections of the Cemetery after Native American tribes known to have been inhabitants of New York.

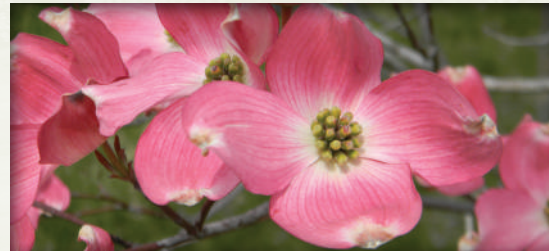
"When I visit Kensico, I always think about and feel a connection with the Native Americans who lived in this special space and who had a great reverence for the land and its natural beauty. I see that same reverence for the land in how Kensico's care for the landscape, trees, wildlife, and lake honors the lives of the people who are buried there. It's a tribute to indigenous people - and all people who come to Kensico - that the spirit of the land is celebrated there." Susan Greer, Lot Owner and frequent visitor.



Maintenance Equipment Gets Ongoing Upgrades.

The rollout of new areas for sale is a measured process with multiple factors at play, including maintenance requirements based on the unique characteristics and topography of each new section. Unlike property with a forever-flat grid system, every rollout over the last twenty-five years called for consideration about the tools and techniques that would be necessary for proper upkeep.

"In the mid-70's when the seasonals came back, they were issued a push mower and a pair of hand shears that looked like you would trim a sheep with. They cut around the monuments and trimmed by hand and then cleaned monuments and footstones by hand with scrub brushes. That changed to where we washed all the mausoleums, monuments, and footstones with pressure washers and no chemicals at all - just water. Most of the large mowers were very complicated chain-driven reel mowers requiring a lot of maintenance - and they never actually cut the weeds."



Over time we went to large 11-foot John Deere rotary type mowers which were great because they cut everything, they were much more reliable, and the hydraulic-driven belt made maintenance much easier. We ran two of those every day. Every day we ran those. We had a lot of equipment back then, and I did the maintenance myself. I would get help when I needed from Jesuino Ricardo (Assistant Superintendent) and the guys. I want to stress that the equipment and the techniques changed rapidly for the good; we were able to do a lot more work with a lot less manpower and more cost effective. There's more specialized work that the guys do now; it's not just the preparation for interments. We added our safety training program and as Training Officer, I would set up meetings with videos, lectures, questions and answers and made sure everyone had their hard hats, safety glasses, and work gloves. Like I've always said... the Cemetery was good to me and really good to everybody. It just keeps evolving for the better." Timothy Wilson, Deputy Superintendent (Retired)



● Photocell lighting added at Veterans Memorial to provide overnight lighting at the monument.

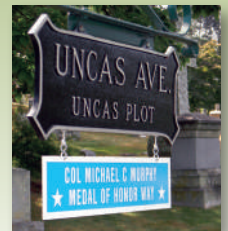


● Zero-turned mowers purchased to allow faster grass-cutting.



● 1500 feet of fencing placed along back part of property line, enhanced with plantings.

● Veterans Remembrance Service included historical commentary by Mt. Pleasant Town Historian George Waterbury and recognition of the two Civil War Medal of Honor recipients Louis DiCesnola and Michael Murphy buried at Kensico



2010

Development Plan Evolves; Best Sales Year in Kensico History.

When lot sales reached their highest amount in the history of Kensico, it was largely the result of several factors converging: economic recovery from the 2008 financial crisis, continuous rollout of property extensions, and acting upon customer preferences.

With significant sections of the Cemetery property under development or nearing completion, as referenced in the Development Plans of 2002 and 2007, the focus during the next fifteen years evolved. The largest new section to open would be Minnewaska in 2013 while extensions of existing areas continued, and a second, innovative community mausoleum was proposed, ultimately providing the greatest selection of burial options in the history of Kensico – a goal from the very start in 1889.

"Increasingly in recent years, we have been experiencing a demand for a special section at Kensico to be devoted to Jewish families. We commenced plans for this section in 1951, to be developed in the triangular area now comprising 76 acres to the west of the Cemetery Office. Substantial demand for this area can be expected from synagogues and families in the county desiring family plots in a restricted section of this non-sectarian cemetery for all peoples." Franklin Montross, Jr. (1952 Annual Report).

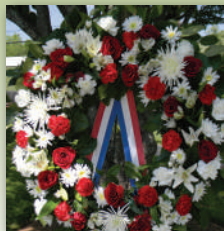
"Kensico took a more aggressive approach to sales after WWII and 25 of us swarmed the neighborhoods, knocking on doors, inviting people to talk to us about a brand-new concept at Kensico – pre-need sales- offering affordable, attractive 1-4-grave lots with flush markers in landscaped lawns. I don't think any of us realized back then how this memorial park concept would take off to everybody's benefit. Now we had new options for families and the combination of classic upright monument sections interspersed with panoramic garden areas (Garden of the Apostles, Garden of the Maples, Tower Gardens) ultimately gave Kensico grounds the grand look it has today." Robert Lent, Vice President and Sales Manager, 1994.

"One way in which Kensico has responded to the challenge of operating a cemetery which is for the mutual benefit of all lot owners, while also establishing appropriate rules and regulations, is to offer diverse options for potential lot owners, with the objective that each lot owner will find a lot which meets his or her needs and wishes." Raymond M. Planell (2018 Annual Report)

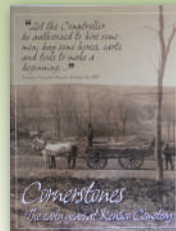


Year-End Value of Investment Funds: \$113,693.775

● Veterans Remembrance Service featured Westchester County Veterans Affairs Coordinator Vito Pinto as guest speaker.



● The 2009 Kensico Annual Report "Cornerstones" earns the Gold Award in corporate design from the Ad Club of Westchester.



● Walk-behind Scag mowers are replaced with five Wright riding mowers.

● Extensions are opened in The Birches, Tower Gardens, Eastern Gardens, and Memory Gardens.



● Bus tour of Kensico conducted by Mt. Pleasant Recreation Department.

2011

Kensico Debuts Cell Phone Tour.

Kensico launched its new 60-stop cell phone tour at the Annual Meeting of Lot Owners in October.

The tour incorporates historic, architectural, and horticultural locations of interest throughout Kensico's 460 acres and provides biographical and background information for all locations.

Based on the popular Kensico Cemetery Historic and Famous Tour now out of print, the new cell phone tour expanded the number of locations to 60 stops that can be enjoyed by driving through or walking the grounds and expanded the scope of the tour to include commentary on landscape and architectural features.

A fold-out four-color souvenir map accompanying the tour was designed by award-winning artist Al Lorenz. One side of the map identifies each stop by number and a drawing; the reverse side offers descriptions and illustrations of mausoleums of architectural interest and areas of the property that display unique horticultural design. All stops are marked with green and white metal signs.

Anyone can "visit" the 60 stops in any order from home or onsite by dialing **(914) 513-3899**. Maps and hard copies of the transcript are available at the Administration Office, and the text and map are posted on the Kensico website under "Tours and Maps".

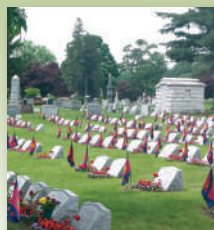
The Kensico cell phone voice is actress and voice-over talent Marian Massaro who has a background in comedy and dance, appeared on "Law and Order," does narration, commercials, and "live announce" for award shows like the Emmys.

The tour map illustrator, Al Lorenz, received his Bachelor of Architecture from Pratt Institute and earned a Master of Science in Architecture from Columbia University. After working in the field, he formed his own illustration studio where he created a wide spectrum of illustrations for advertising, magazines, book covers and children's books.

"I knew Kensico had many prominent people there, but learning about them was so interesting. I received the 14-page script several days in advance, so I could work on getting pronunciations down correctly for the studio session. I practiced tongue twisters and vocal exercises, avoided football games where I might be yelling, and practiced speaking in the upper part of my voice where it's not grating on the vocal chords. Reading copy out loud allows you to find places where you might "trip" over words — where they don't flow well. If that should happen, I might ask if I can replace a word with a similar word that rolls off the tongue better. As the audio for the tour had to go through a special system for it to play correctly, I contacted a studio in NYC for direction. They knew exactly what was needed. We were in the studio for the better part of a day, and the recording went extremely smoothly. I'm so pleased at how it came out. It was an honor to narrate The Kensico Cemetery Cell Phone Tour, especially since Kensico Cemetery was such an important part of my father and brother's lives." Marian Massaro, daughter of Dominic Massaro, VP/ Superintendent (1971-1984) and sister of Larry Massaro, VP/Superintendent (2005-2020)



● The 60 stops include notables from entertainment, government, and industry, the Actors Fund where stage, screen, and television performers are buried, the 9/11 Monument, the Veterans Memorial, the Community Mausoleum, the Tower Entrance, Salvation Army Lot, and the Administration Building which once served as a railroad station.



● Guide By Cell, the host company, provides feedback on the use and popularity of the tour: how many people accessed the cell phone tour, which tour stops were most popular by volume, and how long the caller stayed at that stop. To date, the top 5 "visited" spots on the Cell Phone Tour are: Beverly Sills, Lou Gehrig, Danny Kaye, Billie Burke/Florenz Ziegfeld, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.



2012

When "Welcome" Became The Theme of The Year.

In a series of events throughout the year, Kensico's commitment to customer service and hospitality were on full display:

Kensico welcomed Captain Robert Yarrish, a US Naval Reserve physician who served in Afghanistan, as guest speaker at the annual Veterans Remembrance Service.

Kensico welcomed Town of Mt. Pleasant Supervisor Joan Maybury who presented Kensico with replicas of the train clocks recently erected in Hawthorne and Thornwood in recognition of the Cemetery's sponsorship of those two town projects.

Kensico welcomed Larry Barnett and Commander Aaron Silver of the Jewish War Veterans Post 191 who presented Kensico with a plaque in recognition of the Cemetery's contribution to veterans' memorialization.

Kensico welcomed a new Officer, Theresa Doran, as Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer.

Kensico welcomed dedicated volunteers from Pets Alive of Westchester in Elmsford bringing rescued dogs to Kensico for a welcome break from noise at the shelter while waiting for adoption.

And Kensico welcomed employees to the Annual Dinner Dance where 10 and 25 years of service were recognized and applauded.

"However you find peace, inspiration, joy, or comfort through your contact with Kensico Cemetery - remember that our Welcome Mat is always out for you." Chester S. Day. (2011 Annual Report)

"One of the most outstanding features of the Kensico Reception Office was our dedication to personal customer service. During my years as Manager of that office, I was privileged to work with a wonderful team of dedicated employees who truly cared about the needs of and concerns of our customers. With kindness and compassion, we all worked together to resolve any issues they may have and helped them through one of the most difficult times of their lives. We worked closely with the funeral directors to schedule services, process the necessary paperwork, and greet the funeral parties upon arrival. We coordinated with the monument dealers with placements of foundations and florists regarding deliveries. We were so fortunate to work with our fine team of Superintendents and grounds crew who kept the property in impeccable condition and assisted families with questions about their lots. Their assistance was deeply appreciated. I worked for Kensico for nearly 40 years: it was a fulfilling and rewarding job. I am happy that I was able to assist so many families." Beverly Vaillancourt; Vice President and Secretary, Office Manager (Retired)



● Hurricane Sandy leaves trail of damaged trees; Grounds Team Members handled the cleanup without any disruption in services.



● 500 bamboo trees were planted in the southwest area of Minnewaska Lot.

● The Kensico Annual Report "Welcome" wins the Gold Award in the corporate design/annual report category from the Ad Club of Westchester.



● Lena M. Donnelly retired after 75 years - Kensico's longest-serving employee. She started work at Kensico's first office in NYC/GCT and retired as Vice President, Bequests, Endowments, and Annual Care.

2013

Minnewaska Plot Opens.

At 14 acres, the Minnewaska Plot in the southwestern corner of the Cemetery is one of the largest developed areas on the Kensico property, offering a mix of lot types (single graves, two, four, six, and eight-grave lots, an area for cremains within the Peonies Garden, future family lots, and a variety of plantings with an Oriental theme. Although its availability was announced in 2013, preparations took years - as it often does for large areas - to survey, define sections, design the layout, obtain approvals and permits, excavate, lay roadway and pave, plant, review staffing/maintenance requirements, and create pricing materials.

"In the early eighties I had the good fortune to work with renowned British landscape designer, Russell Page, at the World Headquarters of the PepsiCo Corporation in Purchase, New York. There I learned that when creating planting plans for a large property, it helps to select an overall theme for the planting. In Minnewaska, I decided to use only plants native to China in contrast with the previously planted Onondaga section which featured only native plants from the East Coast of the US. I also selected plants that would collectively provide interest over all four seasons: trees that have unusual and beautiful bark patterns to provide interest in winter, spring and summer flowering trees that have excellent fall foliage, trees that provide summer shade, as well as evergreen plants. One of the unique plantings is the Itoh Peony beds that provide substantial colorful blooms. Another is the 600' bed of clumping bamboo. The layout of the plantings was created to complement the Sales Department's lot design." Richard Schnall, horticulturist; Kensico Cemetery Board Member, Friends Board Member.



At the annual Veterans Remembrance Service, Kensico was given Medal of Honor flag.



Ceremony was held commemorating 150th anniversary of Luigi DiCesnola's heroic actions that earned him the Medal of Honor.

The 125th Anniversary celebration kicked off at Annual Meeting in October with banners, decorated cupcakes, desktop calendars, tote bags, and candy bars with Kensico wrappers.



"The event I always enjoyed the most was the Annual Meeting of Lot Owners: it's educational, it gives Lot Owners and their guests an opportunity to meet the Directors, Officers, and Employees (and vice versa), enjoy refreshments, and go on guided tours. It also provides the Kensico team a chance to display what a beautiful place and environment the Cemetery is for the perpetual remembrance of all those buried on our sacred grounds." Chester S. Day

George H.C. Lawrence retired as Chairman of the Board.

2014

Kensico Celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

Incorporated in the rural cemetery tradition on January 19, 1889, Kensico began its 125th anniversary celebration with banners and decorated cupcakes at the 2013 Annual Meeting of Lot Owners. That was followed by a year's-long tribute to the history and growth of Kensico through a variety of events and commemorations: a themed concert held at the Tarrytown Music Hall, a desktop calendar and custom tote bags as souvenirs, the roll-out of free trolley tours, special signage facing the MetroNorth commuter trains, a symbolic commemorative in which a light was placed in one window of the Administration Building each week until 52 lights were visible at the end of the year, and special coverage in local and industry press including a cover story in the spring issue of the *Westchester Historian*.

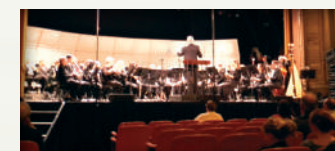
The Annual Report that year - "125 Reasons to Celebrate" - enumerated facts about the Cemetery that celebrated its history, landscape, and architectural features.

"Our 125th anniversary was very special for me as it gave me time to reflect on the development and growth of the Cemetery over the past 125 years. In particular my time as an officer and employee of the Cemetery over the last 40 years."
Chester S. Day

"Since 2014, I have had the privilege of leading Kensico Cemetery's spring historical tours. Those who have joined us include people with friends and family interred here and area residents who are curious about the Cemetery. Visitors have

told me that they always wanted to learn more about the Cemetery and its history but felt they needed a reason to visit. These historical and landscape tours have helped greatly to bring Kensico's story to the public." Patrick Raftery, Librarian and Associate Director, Westchester County Historical Society

"Programming a special concert in honor of the 125th anniversary of Kensico Cemetery was a fulfilling and creative challenge. Collaborating with Kensico staff, I assembled a program that saluted many elements and notables buried on the memorial grounds. This included 'Vocalise', a haunting melody by Rachmaninoff; 'Pastime', by Jack Stamp in honor of Lou Gehrig; a military anthem, and 'City Trees' by Michael Markowski, in honor of the beautiful sycamore, oak and maple trees which adorn the grounds. The collaboration yielded a one-of-a-kind concert. I hope that we have an opportunity to work with Kensico again." Curt Ebersole, Conductor and Music Director, Westchester Symphonic Winds



● Contents of the time capsule which was buried on the Cemetery's anniversary in January, 2015 were assembled during 2014 and included the following: Annual Reports; the 2014 newsletters; map of Kensico and Sharon Gardens; aerial photos of the Cemetery; greetings from the President and Chairman of the Board; a representative of the Board of Directors; a

representative of Kensico employees; minutes of the Annual Meeting 2014; profiles of Cemetery Board members; "Westchester Historian" cover story on the history of Kensico in Spring 2014 issue; cell phone tour map and transcript; newspapers for Friday, January 16, 2015; Kensico calendar celebrating 125 years; Founders Room Dedication Ribbon with founder's

names written on it; a Kensico pen; a horseshoe found on the Cemetery grounds decades before; a Pizza Party/Time Capsule Burial Announcement Flyer. *"The contents of the time capsule will share the Kensico story of how a rural cemetery in Valhalla, NY kept true to the vision, principles, and intentions of the founding fathers so clearly defined in 1889."* Chester S. Day



● The time capsule was registered with the International Time Capsule Society based at Oglethorpe University in England.

2014

Continued

Windsor Hotel Fire Monument Dedicated.

On Thursday, October 9, Kensico staff and Board Members, members of Hawthorne Fire Company #1; the Manhattan Borough Historian, officials from local government; a Color Guard from Hawthorne Post 112; and monument artist Al Lorenz gathered at the Windsor Hotel Fire Monument for a dedication ceremony and unveiling. As roses were placed at the foot of the Monument, firetruck bells signaled for a moment of silence followed by bagpipes and an Honor Guard.

The Windsor Hotel on Fifth Avenue and East 47th Street caught fire on St. Patrick's Day in 1899. Firemen, some of them still in their dress uniforms from the parade, made heroic attempts to save

occupants, but crowds, the rapid fire, and inadequate water pressure hampered rescues. It is estimated that 90 people died.

"The remains were unidentified and the victims were spared a burial at Potters Field as the Kensico Cemetery Board of Directors designated a special area for their burial that year. The original monument was never completed so the Board of Directors authorized illustrator Al Lorenz to draw an illustration of the original statue to be imposed on a black granite memorial so that those unknown bodies will be remembered and not forgotten". Chester S. Day

The inscription on the black granite stone reads:

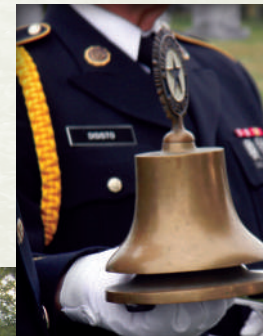
Weeping for the living and the dead.

Burial lot of the thirty one

unidentified dead

Windsor Hotel Fire

New York City March 17, 1899



● Onondaga Plot, The Birches, and Memory Gardens, Section AA, and Remembrance Gardens in Sharon Gardens were extended.

● Kensico Annual Report "125 Reasons" earned Silver Award in corporate design and Kensico website redesign earned Silver Award from the Ad Club of Westchester.

● Ceremony in recognition of Pearl Harbor conducted at Mineola Lake on December 7.



● Major League Baseball shot background footage at the gravesite of Lou Gehrig for a documentary about the Yankees legend.



● Jesuino Ricardo retired at the end of the year as Assistant Superintendent after over 40+ years of service.

● Chester S. Day retired as President of Kensico Cemetery.

2015

Raymond M. Planell Elected President of Kensico Cemetery.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Notre Dame Law School with a Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University, Ray has served as a Kensico Cemetery Board Member since 1996. He has been affiliated with the law firm of Bleakley Platt & Schmidt since 1975, primarily practicing in the fields of trusts, estates, estate planning, taxation and not-for-profit corporations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children, a member of the New York State and Westchester County Bar Associations, and a Past President and former member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Cemeteries. Ray served as the Cemetery's Senior Vice President and Counsel from 2007 through 2014 and as President, Chief Executive Officer and Counsel from 2015 through 2020.

"I considered this a very special time to be the 13th president of Kensico Cemetery as we embarked on the next 125 years. I had served on Kensico's Board since 1996, but 2015 was the first year I was President. In that role I appreciated, more than before, the importance of the guidance and dedication of the Board Members who were available to me and others at Kensico on virtually a 24-hour basis. Then, and now, they are constantly focused on our forever proposition in considering the development of the Cemetery and the structure of investment policies." Raymond M. Planell

New Stone Signs Welcome Visitors to Kensico.

Dark wooden signs at the main entrances to Kensico Cemetery have been replaced with carved stone signs visible night and day for families, funeral parties, and visitors to the grounds. The stone at the Tower entrance was originally an unused monument that Kensico purchased from the lot owner. The back of the stone sign reads: "Incorporated 1889".



● New circle with benches designed for cremains in Section 178.



● Time Capsule buried at Administration Building; ceremony officially concludes 125th Anniversary celebration.



● New Employee Recognition Event honors 10, 20, and 25 years of service.

Year-End Value of Investment Funds: \$159,230,285

● "Looking back on my 14+ years at Kensico, I feel truly grateful to be part of an organization whose Board of Directors genuinely cares about its employees and the lasting beauty of the Cemetery grounds. Seeing colleagues at every level take such pride in their work and celebrate 25 years of service or more makes this an especially meaningful place to work. I sincerely hope that one day I will have the honor of celebrating that milestone, too." Theresa Doran; Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer.

2016

First Kensico 5K Run/Walk Held.

As part of an expanding community outreach program, Kensico partnered with the Alzheimer's Association of Hudson Valley to organize a 5K Run/Walk through the Cemetery grounds to raise money for Alzheimer's research. Kensico called upon vendors to be sponsors, developed the route, designed the awards, handled registrations, and made all the hospitality arrangements. Alzheimer's Association volunteers helped with set-up, publicity, and raffle prizes in what was ultimately a 7-year collaboration between two organizations in the memory-keeping business.

"Kensico has a long history of being a good neighbor, supporting local community groups, such as the Little League, the Lions Club, the local police, fire and ambulance departments, and coordinating events at Kensico with local veterans' organizations. In 2015, we began discussions about other events at Kensico that would enhance Kensico's community outreach and support local charities. This led to the decision to sponsor a 5K Race/Walk. In 2016 and for several years thereafter, the charitable beneficiary was the Alzheimer's Association of Hudson Valley. The event has been held in October each year (except in the pandemic year of



2020, although generous contributors provided funds despite the event having been cancelled). The YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester and the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester have been recent beneficiaries. The event has grown over the years and reminds us that Kensico can serve the living as a place of remembrance and as a place to support good organizations which are important to the community." Raymond M. Planell

"The Kensico 5K has always been one of my favorite community events. I look forward to it every year. Even though I was a walker rather than a runner, it was always such a fun and welcoming day. My favorite parts were the raffles, the great food and, most of all, seeing so many people come together to support such meaningful causes. I hope Kensico continues to host events like this for many years to come." Sue Lara, Owner, Sir Speedy of Pleasantville; long-time sponsor and participant at 5K Run/Walk.



"The 5K is one of my favorite events –especially seeing how much it has grown over the years. Last year we had the largest crowd we've ever had, and every chair was filled! Being a part of all these events and hearing people talk about how beautiful the Kensico grounds look and seeing everyone enjoy the Cemetery makes it all worthwhile." Jack Cunha, Deputy Superintendent

Parking Lot Expanded.

The number of funeral parties using the Cemetery's main parking lot to line up processions was steadily increasing, necessitating an expansion of the space to accommodate more traffic. After funeral directors were notified of the planned month-long project, the pavement, blacktop, and curbing was completely removed and redone, lighting was upgraded, and a separate lot reserved for employees was created.



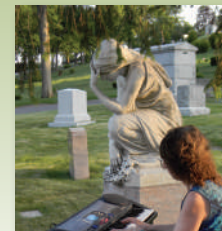
● Flagstone walkway to Tower Gardens redone.



● "American Cemetery" magazine published a cover story about Kensico Cemetery.



● Third annual trolley tour season; The Entertainers Tour included live music at gravesites of Tommy Dorsey, Peter DeRose, and May Singhi Breen.



● Harlem Dowling-West Side Center for Children and Family Services and the Hebrew Home at Riverdale honored the 57 children buried in an unmarked grave with a new monument.



2017

Garden Mausoleum Receives First Approvals.

In June of 2017, Kensico Cemetery received approval from the Town of Mt. Pleasant Planning Board for an Open-Air Garden Mausoleum and Columbarium to be built on Dacotah Plot---the first above-ground burial structure since the Community Mausoleum was constructed in 1924. While waiting for the remaining final approvals from other town officials, Kensico staff and consultants worked on architectural designs, material sourcing, roadway preparations, and construction scheduling.



Second Kensico 5K Held At Maintenance Building.

The prospect of heavy rain inspired the 5K Planning Team to change the route and move the start/finish location of the second annual Kensico Cemetery 5K Run/Walk to the Maintenance Building where the indoor space provided a comfortable (and dry) setting for the catered breakfast, raffle display, awarding of prizes, and greetings from Kensico and Alzheimer's Association executives and volunteers. The event raised \$25K for the Alzheimer's Association. All subsequent 5K Run/Walks were held at the Maintenance Building.

"As a Friends Board Member, I always accept the invitation to lead the 5K runners and walkers (and dogs!) to the starting line and get the event underway. The enthusiasm of our participants is palpable as they gather to support a worthy cause. One fall morning in a beautiful Cemetery/Arboretum with exercise, a delicious breakfast, and enticing raffle prizes---you can't have a better combination for time well spent!" Catherine U. Biddle; Member of Kensico Cemetery Board and Friends Board



● Deputy Superintendent Mauro Scipioni retired after 56 years.



● Customer Service Representative Jodie Pastore retired after 29 years.

● The 100,000-gallon Tower tank repainted inside and out.



● Minnewaska Plot, Slant Memorial Area opened.

● Onondaga Plot extended.

● Markers installed throughout Kensico and Sharon Gardens to make it easier for lot owners and visitors to locate sections.

● Fourth Annual Trolley Tours highlighted the landscape as well as people buried at Kensico from the entertainment field or who were at the center of controversies and mysteries.

2018

Technology Gets Upgrades.

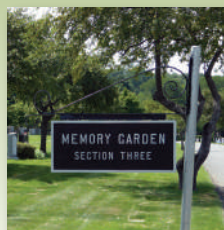
Websites, automated phone systems, teleconferencing equipment, industry-specific computer software, credit card transactions, even postage machines and copiers---anything electronic requires ongoing maintenance and the inevitable upgrade or replacement. In 2018, for example, the Sales Department converted from paper inventories to portable tablets with real-time listings, creating efficiencies out on the grounds with prospective purchasers. A program to digitize over 160,000 lot cards began, and the Kensico website was upgraded with fresh photos, added features, and the cell phone tour. The demands on the system eventually required a second internal server to be installed to accommodate increased usage while providing the protection of firewalls and security protocols.

"When I joined Kensico in 2003, the Chairman of the Board told me he believed I would become the "Librarian" of Kensico. He meant it as a compliment that I would care for its history and its families, not only its systems. I have tried to earn that title ever since. The advances we have made over the years, from securing century-old records to making a loved one's resting place easy to find, were never really about technology. They were about guardianship and treating every name in our care as part of a history worth protecting. That is what a librarian does." James Neal, Information Technology Manager

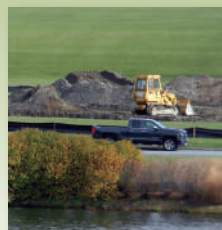


Maintenance equipment is also continuously upgraded for added functionality, crew safety, and fuel efficiency as major property development increases hauling, mowing, trimming, wood chipping, and land preparation needs.

● Extensions completed in Minnewaska, Onondaga, Memory Gardens, Remembrance Garden, Section AA.



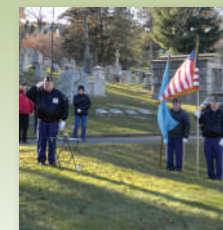
● Preparations begin for the new Open-Air Garden Mausoleum.



● The spring water well that supplies the tank in the Tower was deepened to 700'.



● Pearl Harbor Ceremony conducted at Mineola Lake on December 7.



2019

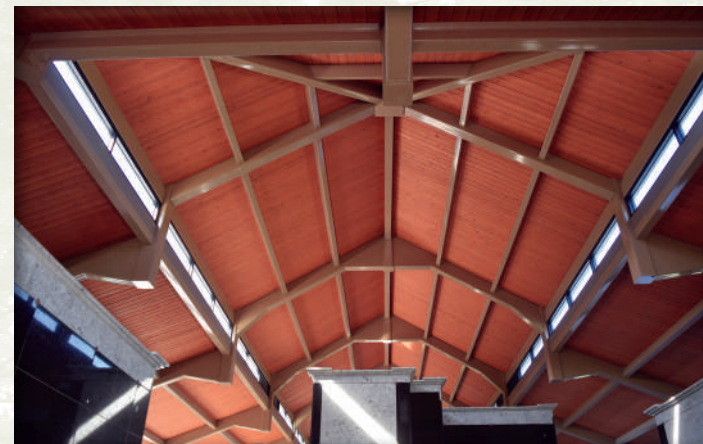
New Open-Air Garden Mausoleum Begins to Take Shape.

As construction continued throughout the year and during the winter, the overall design of the new Open-Air Garden Mausoleum began to give hints as to what was to come in that part of Dacotah Plot. The architectural plans called for a building 122 feet in length and 68 feet in width with stone arch entrances at all sides, seating throughout and outside, places to leave cut flowers, and two levels of glass to provide natural light to the interior space. The completed structure would accommodate 2028 niches and 732 crypts on multiple levels.

Kensico Cemetery's Community Mausoleum was designed by Sidney Lovell, the same architect who designed the Tower. In fact, the Tower design was partially responsible for the look of the Open-Air Garden Mausoleum with its complementary stone and granite colors.

Work on the Open-Air Garden Mausoleum encountered delays over the next three years as COVID impacted delivery of stone and granite from Europe. In the meantime, landscaping design, marketing plans, and the preparation of a crypt/ niche numbering system continued to take shape.

"The goal of the design was to create a serene atmosphere overlooking the beautiful pond and fountains. We wanted to maximize the natural light for the interior of the mausoleum while providing protection for all visitors. The granite roof gable system is most certainly unique and sets it apart from any other mausoleum we've ever built." Thomas Mullen; President, Mullen Construction Co. Inc. (from Mausoleum Dedication Program)

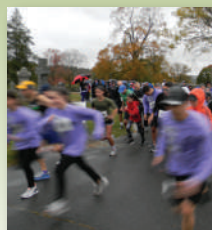


● New plantings placed in front and back of Community Mausoleum.



● Despite the rain, the 5K drew 163 participants and raised \$38K.

● This year's trolley tours offered a new Give-My-Regards-to-Broadway tour.



● New wooden signs at the entrances alert visitors to the daily hours.



● Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia chartered a bus to take a Kensico tour in September.

● Extensions throughout the grounds included new area in Kensico Gardens.



2020

Friends Formed to Preserve Kensico History and Culture.

Although the pandemic was the major focus in 2020, Kensico's Board returned to a topic that had been discussed in prior years: the creation of a tax-exempt affiliate organization which would be able to accept donations in support of cultural, educational and preservation projects and programs at Kensico. 2020 was an important year for this consideration, since Kensico's major development projects were nearing completion, leading to consideration of how best to provide for the care and enhancement of Kensico as the Cemetery matures. This new entity was formed in September 2020 as "Friends of the Kensico Cemetery, Inc." and later recognized as a 501 (c)(3) organization by the IRS. In 2024, the purposes of Friends were amended to also permit the support of other tax-exempt organizations operating in Westchester County and over the last several years, community events at Kensico have been administered by Friends. Then, in 2025, Friends was selected by New York State to receive a major grant to fund invasive species removal on Kensico's property. We look forward to continuing the work of Friends and are grateful for the support of our lot owners, neighbors and governmental organizations."

Raymond M. Planell

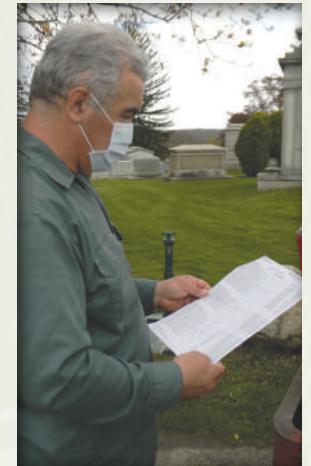
Friends of
KENSICO
CEMETERY

Kensico Adapts to COVID.

As the nation adjusted to daily updates on the COVID pandemic, Kensico, too, adapted to health requirements and advisories. For the safety of employees, funeral parties, and visitors, all in-person events were cancelled. The Annual Lot Owners Meeting was conducted from the Board Room over Zoom for the first time; wellness checks were arranged for all office and grounds employees; funeral attendance was limited; all transactions were held within an outdoor heated structure built in front of the Administration Building; and masking, social distancing, and enhanced workplace sanitizing protocols were put in place. The interment board in the Front Office became the main indicator of COVID's impact as the burial orders accumulated for each day of the week.

"I started at Kensico in 1992 as summer help and became foreman of Section 3 in 1997. Never in all the years since have I seen anything like when COVID hit. We had 15-20 interments – almost triple our normal number. Every day. Every day. Every day. It was so sad to see the grief of the families at the gravesite." Carlos Lopes, Assistant Superintendent

"I am filled with admiration for my colleagues who bore great burdens in order to maintain Cemetery operations under very difficult circumstances. Kensico experienced unprecedented numbers of interments and unprecedented immediate-need sales volume over the course of many weeks. Despite these hurdles, Kensico employees lived up to their designation as "essential workers" by providing efficient and dignified service for lot owners and families who were required to conduct burial services that were limited in size and duration as a result of the pandemic." Raymond M. Planell (2020 Annual Report)



Year-End Value of Investment Funds: \$268,391,217

● An email appeal to 5K sponsors raised \$40K for the Alzheimer's Association, despite cancellation as an in-person event.



● Larry Massaro retired as VP and Superintendent.



● Michael H. Cook, Jr. joined Kensico as VP and Superintendent.

● The road behind the Community Mausoleum was widened and paved.



● Raymond M. Planell retired at end of the year as President.



2021

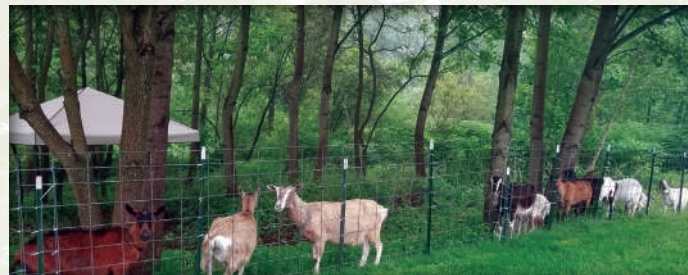
Matthew G. Parisi Starts Tenure as Kensico's 14th President.

With a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a law degree with a certificate in environmental law, Matthew G. Parisi was elected President, Chief Executive Officer, and Counsel of Kensico Cemetery effective January 1. Prior to assuming this role, he spent more than 20 years with the law firm Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP, specializing in environmental law and civil litigation, and is currently a member of McGowan Harrington Parisi PLLC, where he practices as a trial and litigation attorney.

Matt is the author of articles on electromagnetic field exposure, cemetery operations, and burial issues, Matt is a former member of the Board of Trustees of Mount Hope Cemetery Association and the Somers Library Foundation, and is a member of the Board of Governors of the YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester, and an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of Friends of The Kensico Cemetery, Inc., He is also on the Board of the New York State Association of Cemeteries and serves the Chair of its influential Government and Legal Affairs Committee.

Woodlands Restoration Project Begins.

After the Cohasset and Onondaga Plots were developed in 2002, it became apparent that the adjacent Woodlands area also required significant attention. A restoration plan was implemented to remove damaged, diseased, and dying trees, followed by the eradication of invasive plant species, including poison ivy, multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, and mugwort. For two seasons, a herd of goats assisted with the effort. While they helped control the spread of invasive plants, they did not completely eliminate them. In 2021, Kensico partnered with Davey Resource Group to develop a long-term restoration program focused on restoring the area with native trees, shrubs, and perennials that would provide year-round beauty, as well as food and shelter for birds, bees, butterflies, other pollinators, insects, and amphibians. The program also includes the development of a pathway and boardwalk system, along with interpretive signage designed to enhance visitors' understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment.



"Kensico Cemetery is extremely fortunate to have a 5.5-acre Woodland and Wetland that it has committed to improving, planting, and preserving. The brook that flows through this area feeds into the Bronx River, a vital regional waterway, making this project important not only to the cemetery but to the surrounding environment. Through the introduction of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, the project will enhance local biodiversity and ecological health. Once completed, it will serve as a powerful example of environmental conservation, demonstrating the importance of stewardship and the enhancement of natural resources for future generations." Richard Schnall

Returning to in-person events: Veterans Remembrance Service, 5K, Annual Meeting.



Walking tours introduced with Ossipee Loop - a mash-up of music, mystery, and mausoleum stories.



Phase One of Decotah Plot opened. Final phase of Onondaga Plot opened, and Minnewaska Slant Stone area opened.

Assistant Superintendent Timothy Wilson retired after 45 years of service.

Drones used for first time to capture aerial photos and videos of the property for Kensico Cemetery website and publications.



2022

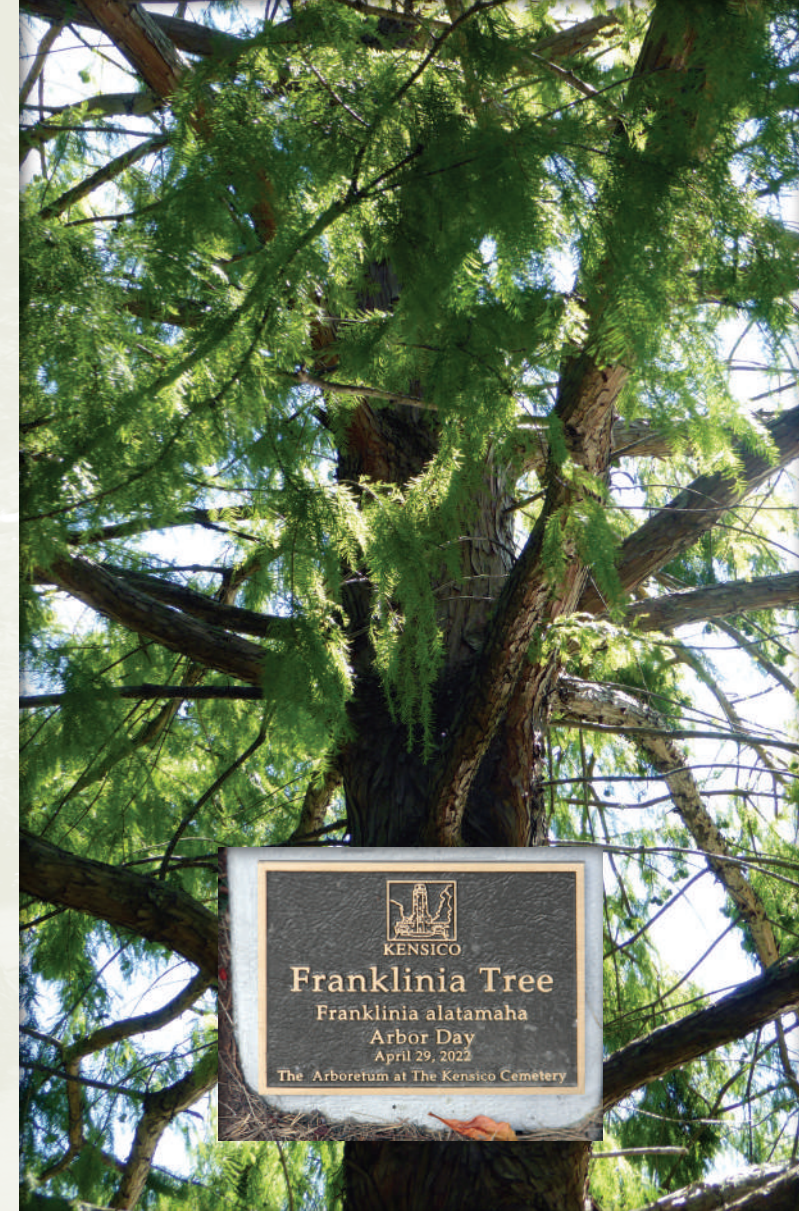
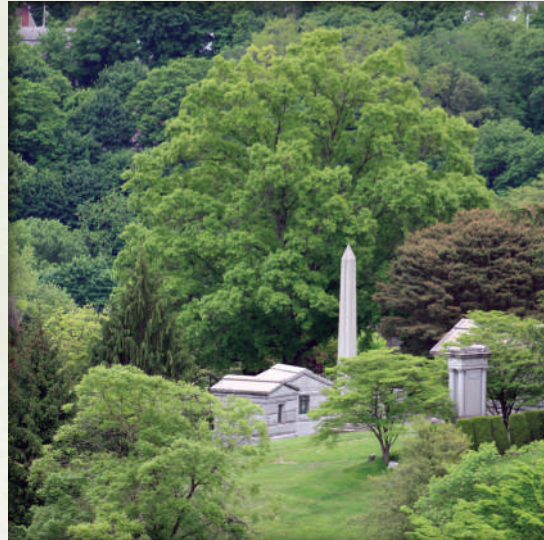
Kensico Cemetery Awarded Level I Arboretum Status.

In March 2022, Kensico Cemetery became an officially recognized, tree-focused public garden, one of only two cemeteries in Westchester County to receive that distinction. ArbNet, the only global initiative that accredits arboreta according to professional standards, awarded Kensico Level I Arboretum Accreditation and included it in the Morton Register of Arboreta, the comprehensive international database of accredited arboreta.

To celebrate this designation, Kensico inaugurated an Annual Planting Ceremony to be held each Arbor Day. For the first ceremony on April 29, a Franklinia (Franklinia alatamaha), a rare deciduous flowering tree in the tea family, was selected for planting.

Kensico also developed public tree walks and tree-care workshops, and created an online interactive map highlighting the locations of the Cemetery's 44 listed species of trees and woody plants. To help visitors learn about the collection, Kensico installed interpretive labels on representative specimens throughout the arboretum, identifying each species and describing its characteristics, significance, and uses.

"Kensico is in many ways a botanical celebration, offering to lot owners and visitors alike a vivid display of beauty. Having Arboretum status is important to the future of the Cemetery as it demonstrates our vital commitment to the lot owner to continue that focus on the beauty of the land."
Matthew G. Parisi



● Monarch Butterfly Waystation established at Franklin Montross, Jr. Memorial Pond to provide food, shelter and breeding habitat for butterflies, as well as bees, and other beneficial wildlife.



● Administration Building reopened to the public as the country emerged from the COVID pandemic.

● New generator installed at Kensico Tower to ensure uninterrupted power during outages.

● Upgrades around Mineola Lake included removal of Bradford Pear trees, Birch trees, and fencing; planting of Tupelo, Dogwoods, and White Spire Birch; replacement of old cement bench with wooden bench, and renovations to Swan House.



2022

Continued

Garden Mausoleum Dedicated.

On Tuesday, May 24, Kensico dedicated the Garden Mausoleum at Montross Pond, commemorating the Cemetery's first publicly available above-ground burial structure to be constructed in nearly a century. Former and current Kensico presidents, board members, employees and retirees, representatives of cemeteries throughout New York State, and other special guests attended the ceremony.

The program featured remarks from individuals involved in the mausoleum's planning, construction, and landscaping, as well as reflections on its significance in the history and evolution of Kensico Cemetery.

To reflect Kensico's unique character, portions of the ceremony celebrated the contributions of several notable individuals interred on the grounds, including Sergei Rachmaninoff and Peter DeRose through music, Joseph Baum through refreshments, and Hart P. Danks through the selection of hymns. Following the dedication, attendees were invited to participate in guided tours of the mausoleum and place lights in paper flower cones as a commemorative tribute.

"The process from the discussion/analysis phase through completion covered approximately six years, but we consider this project - this building - to be a continuation of the plans described by our predecessors over decades and designed to fit with other Cemetery structures, particularly the Kensico Tower." Raymond M. Planell



Event photographer: Susan Greer

- The Kensico Cemetery logo refreshed, and the website enhanced with drone footage, new color scheme, and more functionality.



- Community Mausoleum restroom modernization project completed.



- New cemetery management software introduced.

- New cemetery management platform deployed to enhance operations and recordkeeping.

- First 30 jars of honey harvested from the Cemetery's two beehives.



- Chester S. Day concluded his tenure as Chairman of the Kensico Board of Directors.

2023

Kensico Arboretum Elevated to Level II Status.

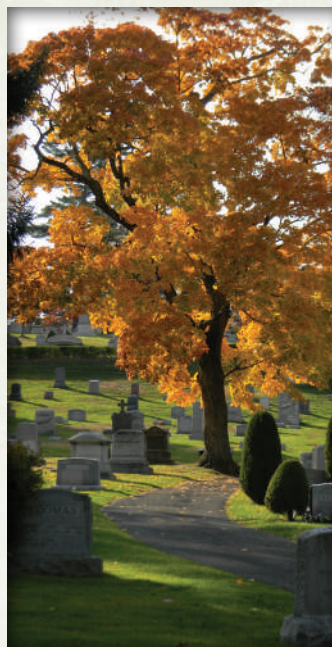
Just weeks after earning Level I Arboretum status in 2022, Kensico began pursuing Level II status. Kensico's Grounds Department identified and inventoried 57 additional species of trees and woody plants from around the world, developed new policies, addressed accreditation staffing requirements, and expanded educational and public programming. These efforts strengthened Kensico's arboretum credentials and enhanced its role as a destination for learning, conservation, and community engagement.

In recognition of its expanding arboretum collection and continued investment in horticultural excellence, education, and specialized care, ArbNet awarded Kensico Cemetery Level II Arboretum Accreditation. The achievement established Kensico as the only Level II arboretum in Westchester County and one of only six cemeteries in New York State to earn this prestigious designation.

The achievement of Level II status sparked a series of enhancements to Kensico's arboretum program. A specialized three-member Arborist Crew was formed to oversee the care and preservation of the collection, an updated online map featuring 101

labeled trees improved visitor engagement, a free public tree-care workshop expanded community education, and a new Arboretum logo was introduced to promote the program and its growing visibility.

"It is rewarding that Kensico values one of the largest living assets on the property and continues to invest in tree care with planting new trees each year. Our Arboretum status demonstrates our commitment not only to the environment but to our local community as well." Michael H. Cook, Jr. ISA, Vice President and Superintendent



• The Annual Arbor Day Planting Ceremony featured a Beaked Stewartia tree – a rare ornamental deciduous tree native to China and known for its red beaked seed capsules, white camellia-like blossoms, and striking fall foliage.



• Lot owners attending the Annual Meeting voted on their preferred Kensico Arboretum logo design.



• An Eagle Scout Service Project completed by Itamar Grimaldi involved cleaning all the gravestones at the Spanish-American War lot, installing small American flags at each memorial with the help of Valhalla American Legion Post 1038, and replacing the signature flagpole and flag.



Customer Service Office Renovated.

Constructed in 1890 as a train station on the Harlem Line, the Administration Building welcomed funeral parties traveling between Kensico Cemetery and Grand Central Terminal. Originally serving as a ticket office, small flower shop and waiting area, the building was thoughtfully adapted over the years to meet the Cemetery's changing needs.

In 2023, the Administration Building's front office underwent a major transformation. With the full support of the Kensico Board of Directors, a three-month renovation restored the ceiling to its original height, introduced modern lighting, upgraded workstations, and reimagined the entrance and reception space with a dramatic new design. The result was a modern, welcoming workspace that honors the building's historic character while enhancing its functionality as the central hub of Kensico's operations.

By blending historic preservation with modern improvements, the renovation ensured that one of Kensico Cemetery's most iconic buildings continues to serve visitors, families, and staff with distinction for generations to come.

"As we worked long hours preparing for the Annual Meeting, the renovation of the Administration Building's customer service area took place each evening from

4:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. While the construction occasionally created disruptions, the crew consistently cleaned and secured the space before the start of each workday, allowing office staff to continue operating safely and efficiently seven days a week. Although desks, computers, and phones were relocated as the project progressed, the Customer Service team adapted to every challenge and remained focused on delivering the high level of service and care that Kensico is known for." Andrea Gallagher, Executive Administrative Assistant



Replaced the pump and piping system that transports spring water from a deep groundwater well to the iconic Kensico Tower, safeguarding the continuous water supply that supports daily operations across the Cemetery grounds.

Installed a salt storage "dome" behind the Maintenance Building to protect road salt from the elements, improving winter operations and ensuring a reliable supply of snow and ice management materials.



Kensico's Annual 5K raised funds for the Hudson Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, supporting its mission of care, advocacy and research.

Free Tree Pruning and Root Collar Demonstration offered. Maintenance employees from other cemeteries joined local gardening enthusiasts for the two-hour program.

Free Tree-Pruning and Root Collar Tips Demonstration



Saturday, April 22
(Rain date, April 23)
9:30AM-11AM
Kensico Cemetery Arboretum
273 Lakeview Avenue
Valhalla, NY
Coffee and donuts will be served.

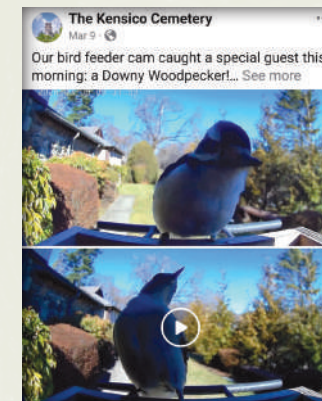
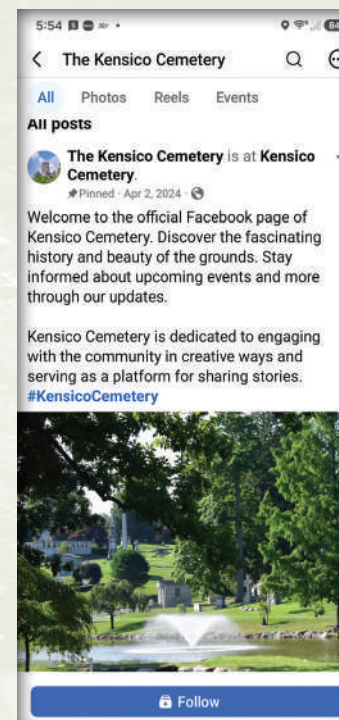
2024

Kensico Launches Social Media Program.

Expanding its commitment to connect with lot owners, visitors, and the broader community, Kensico launched its official social media presence on Facebook and Instagram on April 2. This new communications initiative provides an engaging platform to share Cemetery news, historical insights, upcoming events, and stories that celebrate Kensico's heritage and mission. By embracing social media, Kensico has strengthened its ability to inform, inspire, and foster meaningful connections with audiences both locally and beyond.

Kensico's social media channels quickly became a vibrant extension of the Cemetery's mission, offering followers a rich variety of educational, historical, and seasonal content. Regular features spotlight the 101 species of trees within Kensico's Level II Arboretum collection, showcase the Cemetery's remarkable mausoleums and monuments, and promote upcoming workshops, tours, and special events. The platforms also honor Kensico's heritage through tributes to Medal of Honor recipients, previews of the annual 5K Run/Walk, and recognition of Grammy, Nobel, Oscar, and Emmy Award winners laid to rest on the grounds. Followers enjoy beautiful seasonal photography and videos capturing snowfall, autumn foliage, and other scenic moments, as well as engaging glimpses of wildlife throughout the Cemetery.

Among the most popular features are bird cam updates and the Connections series, which reveals fascinating links between notable individuals interred at Kensico. The channels also capture memorable, uniquely Kensico moments, including a visitor serenading baseball legend Lou Gehrig at his gravesite with a banjo rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Together, these stories, experiences, and visual highlights have strengthened community awareness, appreciation, and connection to Kensico Cemetery.

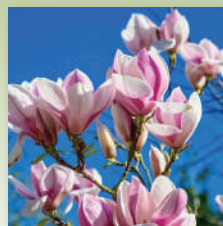


"Here at Kensico, there is no shortage of interesting things to share with the local community, lot owners, and people from all over who appreciate the importance of cemeteries and what they represent. The goal is to inspire, educate, and commemorate what makes this place special, in a way that is respectful and meaningful. We encourage everyone to follow along." Natalie Craig, Communications Coordinator

Two new developed areas opened.



Annual Arbor Day Planting: Pink Saucer Magnolia – a flowering tree known for its large goblet-shaped flowers that bloom in early spring.

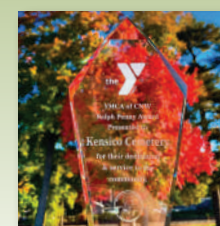


Friends of Kensico 5K Run/Walk raises money for YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester.

Tree tours featuring the arboretum collection introduced at Annual Spring Tour lineup.

Deputy Superintendent Joaquim Pedrosa retired after 45 years.

YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester recognizes Kensico Cemetery with its prestigious Ralph Penny Award in recognition of its outstanding dedication and service to the community.



2025

Renovations Continue in Main Buildings.

The second and third phases of the Administration Building renovation project were completed in 2025, further enhancing Kensico's facilities and the lot owner experience. The Kensico Board Room and Sales Department offices were renovated with updated lighting, décor, furnishings, and window treatments. In addition, the Family Waiting Area and restrooms were refreshed, creating a more welcoming environment for employees, lot owners, and visitors. At the Maintenance Building, new skylights were installed, and an existing apartment was repurposed into a flexible meeting, display, and event space.

Together, these upgrades improve the comfort, appearance, and functionality of Kensico's main buildings while ensuring they remain well-equipped to serve the organization's evolving needs for years to come.

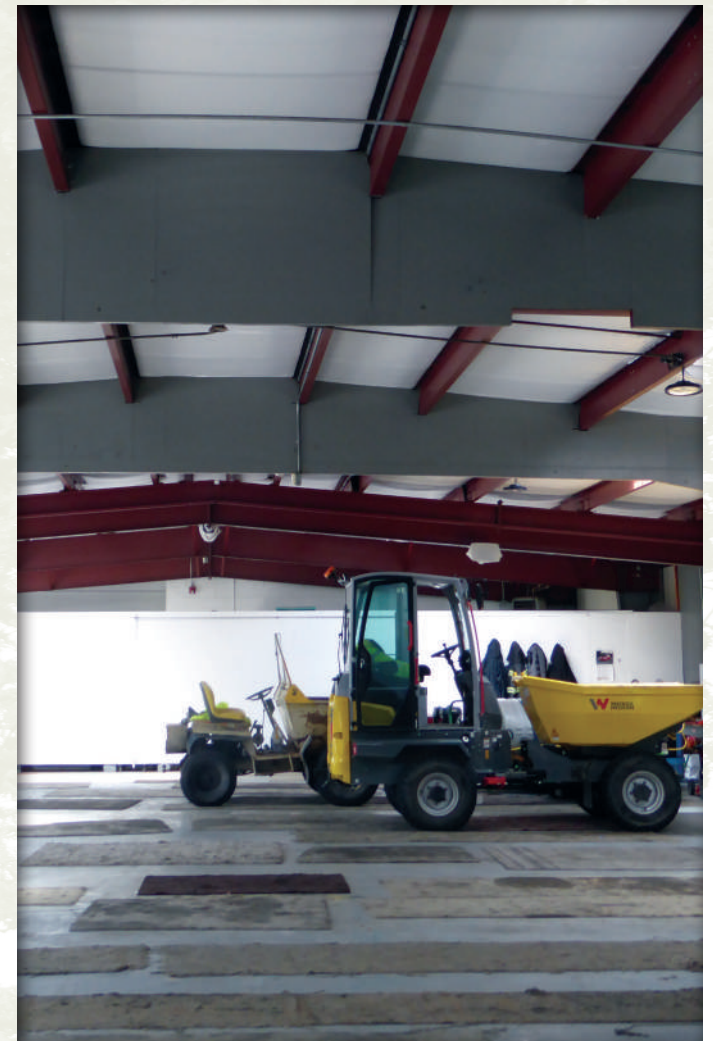


Kensico Acquires 10 Adjoining Acres (Davis Brook Parcel).

A ten-acre lot that once operated as a chicken farm was acquired by Kensico Cemetery. Located adjacent to the Cemetery along Lakeview Avenue, the Davis Brook Parcel is named for the stream that runs through the property as part of the Bronx River headwaters in Valhalla.

"Purchasing this immediately adjacent, industrially-zoned parcel prevents commercial development that could be incompatible with the beauty, character, and long-term mission of the Cemetery and reflects the long-standing philosophy of Kensico's Boards: making thoughtful decisions today that preserve opportunities for tomorrow."

Matthew G. Parisi



Year-End Value of Investment Funds: \$459,463,748

Free tree care workshop held for the public.



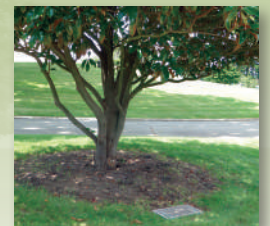
Annual Arbor Day planting at Arbor Day Grove: a Dove tree – native to China and famous for its white fluttering dove-like leaves.



New Lake View Walking Tour debuted with a mash-up of music, mystery, and mausoleum stories.

5K Run/Walk benefited Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester.

Plaque dedicated by the Friends of Kensico Cemetery at the Southern Magnolia in Section 59 honoring former President and Board Chair Henry R. Barrett III, following his passing. Planted at his request in 2005, the tree commemorates the Barrett family's more than 100 years of combined leadership at Kensico.



Message From the President

Conclusion

Thank you for revisiting the last twenty-five years with us. I also extend my sincere thanks to my two co-workers on this project, Chet Day and Ray Planell, and all who contributed by generously sharing their firsthand perspectives and helping to chronicle this remarkable chapter in Kensico Cemetery's history.

While we have much to celebrate and be grateful for, our focus remains firmly on the future.

Taking the Long View means continuing to listen to the public's desire for meaningful choices in burial and memorialization through thoughtful property development.

It means planning for perpetuity through sound investment management, ensuring that the Cemetery remains strong and self-sustaining for generations to come. If you've been following the investment fund values throughout the pages of this publication, you will have noticed their remarkable increase. Today, those funds exceed half a billion dollars, reflecting the wisdom and long-term vision of Cemetery leaders since Kensico's founding in 1889, including



those who guided Kensico through the last quarter century.

As a Level II Arboretum, it means protecting our heritage trees, expanding and nurturing our growing collection of trees and woody plants, encouraging community participation in educational programming, and learning best practices from our horticultural partners.

It means supporting the initiatives of fellow not-for-profit organizations, embracing new opportunities for engagement, and expanding conversations with lot owners and visitors both in person and online.

It also means continuing to provide a welcoming environment for lot owners and visitors by delivering excellent customer service; maintaining a beautiful and peaceful landscape for visiting

and remembrance; and ensuring that knowledgeable and responsive staff are available seven days a week.

It has been said that a society grows great when its leaders plant trees under whose shade they will never sit. At Kensico, that philosophy is more than a metaphor. The Board, Officers, and Employees continue to honor the legacy of their predecessors and are committed to making the thoughtful decisions necessary to preserve and strengthen the Cemetery for future generations.

Rest assured that Kensico Cemetery, your Cemetery, will always be here. The Long View is secure.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew G. Parisi'.

Matthew G. Parisi,
President

Officers

*President, Chief Executive Officer,
and Counsel*

Matthew G. Parisi

Vice President and Superintendent

Michael H. Cook, Jr.

*Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,
and Treasurer*

Theresa M. Doran

*Vice President, Sales & Development
Manager, and Assistant Treasurer*

Michael J. Farmer

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Catherine U. Biddle

Eric Cheng

Matthew G. Parisi

Elizabeth Payne

Howard Weintraub

As of January 1, 2025

Superintendents

Superintendent

Michael H. Cook, Jr.

Deputy Superintendents

Jack Cunha

Joe Sabio

Assistant Superintendents

Carlos Lopes

Luis Rodriguez

Thank You

There are so many people to thank for their help in putting together this retrospective: those who shared their thoughts as quotes, those who guided us to hidden resources, those who offered insights on how best to handle 25 years of material. On a personal note, I want to thank all the Employees, Officers, and Board Members who, for the past 32 years, have helped me tell Kensico's story (and let me take their picture!). I'm proud of the work we did together. Judith C. Mitchell

• **Larry Barnett • Catherine U. Biddle • Kathy Caucci • Michael H. Cook, Jr. • Natalie Craig • Jack Cunha • Chester S. Day •**
• **Theresa Doran • Curt Ebersole • Michael Farmer • Andrea Gallagher • Susan Greer • Sue Lara • Carlos Lopes •**
• **Larry Massaro • Marian Massaro • Sandy Morrissey • James Neal • Matthew G. Parisi • Raymond M. Planell •**
• **Robert Pregiato • Patrick Raftery • Mike Ryan • Beverly Vaillancourt • Timothy Wilson •**

"The design of the Cemetery, the variety of trees, ongoing maintenance programs of the lawns, roads, paths, trees, shrubs, monuments, mausoleums, buildings and the most important---the growth of the trust funds---plus the 365 days-a-year service to our lot owner makes us special. This is what was promised, this is what we do." Chester S. Day, Former Kensico President and Chairman of the Board; Current Chairman of the Board of Friends. (2014 Annual Report)

Board of Directors 2000 - 2025 Current and Retired

Mary Ann Alonso

Kevin Bannon

Henry R. Barrett, III

Catherine U. Biddle

Eric Cheng

Chester S. Day

George H.C. Lawrence

Raymond Lou

David L. Malane

George Morozuk

Matthew G. Parisi

Elizabeth Payne

Raymond M. Planell

Richard Schnall

Allan B. Stevens

C. Powers Taylor

Howard Weintraub



Creative Director/Editor/Writer/Photographer: Judith C. Mitchell; President, Black Forest Communications, Inc.

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Twenty-five Years and Forever