

NEWS RELEASE

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Improvements Underway at Historic Cemetery *First Phase of Upgrades at Riverside Cemetery Complete*

SEGUIN, Texas – The first of several improvements at one of Seguin’s most historic and sacred sites is complete. A beautiful new stone sign is now installed at Riverside Cemetery.

“When City Manager Doug Faseler called me to tell me about the plans, I was just tickled,” Friends of Riverside Cemetery Chairman Charles Willmann said. “We are all so glad and happy to see these upgrades happening.”

The new stone sign, similar to the one at Walnut Springs Park, is illuminated by a new light mounted to a nearby pole. New black tubular steel fencing will soon replace the existing chain-link fencing along the perimeter of the cemetery. The final portion of the upgrades is overlaying the cemetery roads with fresh asphalt. The remaining work is anticipated to take place in the spring.

“I am so pleased. The main thing is the roads because they are in such need of repair,” Willmann continued. “The sign and fencing are icing on the cake.”

The improvements are funded by \$50,000 from the Riverside Cemetery Fund and were approved in the city’s 2014-2015 budget.

City Secretary Thalia Patlán Stautzenberger, Friends of Riverside Cemetery and the Seguin Parks and Recreation Department meticulously created a census listing for the cemetery in 2002. The document provides the office of the city secretary a tool to assist requests for

information about exact burial locations. An anticipated project for the near future is to make the information available online.

“My recommendation for the web design is to make it interactive,” City Secretary Thalia Patlán Stautzenberger said. “I’d like to archive entries by category to include professions, history and possibly biographies and photographs of the people at Riverside Cemetery.”

Riverside Cemetery History from City Secretary Thalia Patlán Stautzenberger

Among Riverside Cemetery’s noteworthy and outstanding inhabitants are numerous Texas heroes, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the first shareholders of the City of Seguin, pioneer settlers, civil servants, educators, business leaders, clergy, musicians, military personnel and Texas Rangers to name a few.

There are approximately 2,500 cemetery records (ranging from the early 1800’s) but some are unknown and unverified. Tombstones have been lost to time, floods and neglect. The cemetery has a wealth of beauty in the headstones and there is a fascination in the stories of those laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery.

This cemetery is a tangible link to the past and sheds light on those who came before us. Riverside Cemetery is a marker of human history and it reveals the love, toil, tears, joys and triumphs of the past. The contributions of those laid to rest, through their cultural, religious and historical backgrounds tell the story of the evolution of the City of Seguin and Guadalupe County.

Riverside Cemetery is a treasure to the City of Seguin and Guadalupe County. The work that the City of Seguin has completed with the Riverside Cemetery monument sign is the beginning of many projects yet to be completed and future projects to bring the cemetery to its fulfillment of its glory days.

I am delighted to see that my letter to the Mayor and Council on October 5, 2013 was given merit in addressing the needs of Riverside Cemetery. I am grateful to our City Manager, Mr. Faseler for his recommendations, insight from the Friends of Riverside Cemetery, the

Mayor and Council for supporting the projects, the Parks & Recreation staff for their diligence in working with this office on all the Riverside cemetery requests over the years, the attentiveness of Main Street and Parks and Rec staff in working with the Women's Federated Club on the annual re-enactments and bringing light to a major historical site, and again to Jack Jones, Parks and Recreation Director for oversight in seeing the Riverside Cemetery Monument bloom into a reality.

Riverside Cemetery is a cornerstone in that we as a community are able to regain a sense of our own place in time in history by giving merit to our ancestors and protecting our past.



This new sign at Riverside Cemetery is just one of several improvements underway at the important historical site. New black tubular steel fencing will soon replace the chain link fencing and the roads are scheduled to be repaved.

About the City of Seguin

Seguin, Texas is located along Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational and employment opportunities. Seguin's robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts, an engine manufacture and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2014, Seguin was proud to be selected by Siro Group USA as the future home of the company's North American manufacturing facility.

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