

LANCASTER CEMETERY DISTRICT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN OLD-FASHIONED, ALL AMERICAN 4th OF JULY

Norm Hickling, Chairman of the Lancaster Cemetery Board of Trustees, announced that an old-fashioned 4th of July at the Lancaster Cemetery is being planned by the Friends of the Lancaster Cemetery, Inc. Recalling the days of speeches, parades, patriotic songfests, and everyday picnics, the Friends are planning an early morning pancake breakfast to start at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 4th.

An educational adventure will be conducted in the form of an historical treasure hunt having youngsters find certain details on headstones of the pioneers and families at rest in the cemetery.

And what is a 4th of July celebration without a parade? Children under 10 are invited to decorate their wheeled or non-wheeled toys in red-white-and blue to carry out the theme for a parade up to and around the old flagpole. Parents can also decorate buggies and strollers to parade their younger ones. The children's parade will begin at 10:00, followed by patriotic readings and speeches by local students and long-time residents, along with an old-fashioned sing-along with audience participation encouraged.

Friends of the Lancaster Cemetery (FOLC) president, Bob Alvis, will be flipping the pancakes at the breakfast along with help from several other

volunteers. Breakfast goers will have their choice of fruit toppings, or chocolate chips and whipped cream, in addition to the traditional maple syrup and butter. The breakfast of pancakes, juice and coffee is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 10 years of age.

A beautiful granite memorial plaque sponsored by Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 1625 will be unveiled and dedicated in honor of 2nd Lt. Russell H. Godde. Godde was killed during the Ploesti Oil Field Raid over Romania during World War II. Several members of the pioneer Godde family will be attending the dedication.

Lancaster Cemetery manager Dayle DeBry said that, “Local cemeteries used to be the scene of social and community gatherings in the “olden days,” and we are trying to bring that back with every event we hold here. We believe that as residents come to understand the cemetery as the “heart” of the community, they will come to appreciate our city’s history in an entirely new way.” She continued, “Many people are actively engaged in the preservation of the cemetery’s past and guardians of its future. FOLC is a non-profit group whose aim is to preserve the history of the park. The positive impact from their efforts can be seen in the first phase of the Veterans Court of Honor which will be the backdrop for the 4th of July festivities.”