Wine tasting at Arlington Memorial Gardens

Arlington Memorial Gardens is hosting a "Fruits of Our Labor" Wine Tasting and Open House on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 1-4 p.m. This free event will be held inside the newly expanded and renovated Lakeside Chapel Mausoleum.

Wyoming Wine will be providing a tasting of both domestic and imported wines and cheeses, and the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music string quartet will be performing throughout the afternoon. Although the event is free of charge and open to the public, attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Freestore Foodbank in time for the holiday season.

According to Arlington Memorial Gardens' President Dan Applegate, "The Lakeside Chapel Renovation is a continuum of Arlington's overall 10 year expansion plan. Phase 1 began back in 2010, when 12 acres of land were cleared and developed, and many notable landscape elements including fountains, waterfalls and ponds were added.

This area will ultimately be used for burial space within the next 10 years."

He adds, "The world renowned and highly acclaimed design and build firm Milne Construction Co. of Portland, Oregon, was selected as the general contractor for this \$1.5 million renovation. Milne is well known and highly regarded for designing and building mausoleums of significant prominence worldwide – in-

cluding Our Lady of Sorrows Mausolea at the University of Notre Dame and also many of the mausoleum projects at the famous Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles and historic registered The Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. The renovation of the existing Lakeside Chapel, also designed and built by Milne in 1987, includes 82 glass front niches, updated electrical and HVAC systems, video equipment, replaced skylights, as well as a new roof, carpet and fresh paint. The expanded East and West wings will have an additional 420 crypts and 176 niches "

Applegate continues, "Additionally, 22 of the new crypts are 'Shadowbox Crypts' making Arlington the first cemetery in the country to offer this unique feature. The Shadowboxes, manufactured by Matthews International of Pittsburgh, allow a highly personalized display of urns, pictures, keepsakes and seasonal décor behind a secure, encased glass front."

He concludes, "Arlington will also soon become one of only a handful of cemeteries in Greater Cincinnati to offer an on-site funeral home. This project is currently under development on an 8 acre site, and we anticipate that it will open in late 2015."

Established in 1934, Arlington Memorial Gardens is a 165-acre memorial park located at 2145 Compton Road in Springfield Township. The park is situated on land that was originally deeded by General George Washington to the Abner Johnson family for services rendered during the American War of Independence. In addition to 29 gardens, the park has several scattering gardens, a lakeside chapel, floral center, a Reception Center, a mausoleum complex and regularly holds unique activities and events open, free of charge, to the entire community.

For more information on the "Fruits of Our Labor" Wine Tasting and Open House, call 513-521-7003 or visit www.amgardens.org.

Julie Phillippi-Whitney

