



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



SHERIFF NEIL TEAMS UP WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

Sheriff Jim Neil was approached by Cincinnati Council members Wendell Young and Mr. Carl B. Westmoreland for help in reclaiming and cleaning up Beech Grove Cemetery, Fleming Road, Wyoming, Ohio, for Memorial Day.

Beech Grove Cemetery sits on the western boundary of the City of Wyoming and has been used by African Americans in Hartwell, Lockland, Wyoming and other communities in north central Hamilton County since 1877.

Mr. Westmoreland has worked with church groups, Hamilton County Recorder Wayne Coates, Washington High School in Washington Court House as well as countless other community agencies to help create an attractive historical memorial park that would celebrate the lives of men, women and children that contributed to the rich heritage of Hamilton County.

Mr. Westmoreland stated, "The founders of the cemetery, for the most part, were born during slavery, and came to the Mill Creek Valley with little or no understanding of the need for the ongoing upkeep of the Beech Grove Cemetery".

Over the years the cemetery has fallen into disrepair, the grass has overgrown the grave markers and in general the cemetery is in need of a face lift.

After hearing Mr. Westmoreland's request for help, Sheriff Neil approached the Over-the-Rhine detail crew, made up of non-violent offenders who are approved to clean and maintain the Over-the-Rhine and Downtown areas Monday-Friday, and asked if they would volunteer to help give Beech Grove Cemetery the much-needed face lift for the Memorial Day weekend. They happily consented. This work has been underway for the past two weekends and will run through Memorial Day.

"Long range plans for the care and maintenance of Beech Grove Cemetery is in flux but we are happy we could play a part in making the cemetery presentable to the family members and the community", says Sheriff Neil.

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