

## Spring Calendar of Events

April - November  
Exhibit in Cemetery Center:  
Diuguid Undertakers of Lynchburg

March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
“Ready, Set...Bloom!” Garden Symposium

May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tinbridge Hill 5K Run for the Roses

May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Antique Rose Festival  
*Pre-sale of antique rose cuttings : May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>*

May 24<sup>th</sup>  
Confederate Memorial Day Service

May 25<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Memorial Day  
Bird Walk and Count



Old City Cemetery  
401 Taylor Street  
Lynchburg, VA 24501



# Old City Cemetery

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring

2009

401 Taylor Street, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501 ~ 434-847-1465 ~ [www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org)



## Notes from the Gravegarden



*And Spring arose on the garden fair,  
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;  
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast  
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.*

~Percy Bysshe Shelley, "The Sensitive Plant"

An old Chinese proverb says "spring is sooner recognized by plants than men" and no place is this more evident than at the Old City Cemetery. Though only a few visitors can be seen wandering the grounds during the last cold weeks of winter, around every tombstone there are many signs of nature getting herself ready for spring—such as these pictures of the Star Magnolia bloom taken last year.

Another sure indication of winter's end at the Cemetery is the preparation for the first of our many events for 2009. Inside this issue of *Notes from the Gravegarden* you will see some of the exciting programs we have planned for the first part of the year. Please be sure to check out the articles on pages 6-7 regarding the Yoder Center Community Project and the Tinbridge Hill 5K Run for the Roses. This race is an important fundraiser for a vital part of

### Phases of a Star Magnolia Bloom at Old City Cemetery

Taken March 6, 2008 by Lynn Franz—Lynchburg, VA.



Tinbridge Hill, the neighborhood surrounding the Cemetery. Please come out and support this great event by planning to either run the race or cheer on the participants.

We hope to see you here on the grounds in the next few months and we wish you a happy spring!

### Inside This Issue

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# From the Director

By Bruce Christian, Executive Director

Here we are already a couple of months into this new year. You may not be noticing but there are little green shoots pushing their way up through the mulch, signaling the advent of spring. We have already had our first daffodils bloom and I believe most people are done with the cold weather and ready to move toward warmer days and blooming beauty.

Yet I cannot let 2008 go by without acknowledging once again the Blue Ridge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for their *Wreaths Across America* event held here in the Cemetery. It was so gratifying and inspiring to come in each day and view green wreaths with red bows throughout the Cemetery but particularly a sea of them in the Confederate Section. We are thankful to all who were here either as participants or audience. We are hoping to host that event again this year.



*The Blue Ridge Chapter, DAR laid these wreaths as part of the Wreaths Across America ceremony.*

At the end of the last report I said “Just wait to see what we have planned for 2009!” We have been busy planning many different programs highlighting all aspects of the Old City Cemetery. Be sure to check out our website [www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org), which has a complete calendar of events. Some things to look forward to in the coming months:



*George A. Diuguid (1821-1893) is a central figure in the Mourning Museum's newest exhibit.*

(1) An exhibit entitled *Diuguid Undertakers of Lynchburg, 1817-1946* displayed in the Mourning Museum. Be sure to read the Curator's Corner on page 5 for more information about this fascinating part of Lynchburg's history;

(2) We will be holding our second annual “Ready, Set...Bloom!” A Garden Symposium the last weekend in March with a theme of “Back to Basics”. We are very excited about the line up of speakers, tours, and Friday evening reception;

(3) On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be the start/finish point for the Tinbridge Hill 5K Run for the Roses. The race route runs through much of the Tinbridge Hill District surrounding the Cemetery. The purpose is to highlight the area and

to raise funds for an addition to our neighboring Yoder Center. Also in May we will be holding our annual Rose Festival on Mother's Day weekend. Look for more information about all of these events in this newsletter.

So much of what we do here could not be possible without the generous support of our friends. Our annual appeal letter in November elicited a good response in spite of these challenging economic times. Thank you to all who helped us with a contribution. We are very grateful.

## Photos from Friends



These pictures of some of our Cemetery animal friends were taken by LuAnn Hunt, City of Lynchburg Communications and Marketing Coordinator.

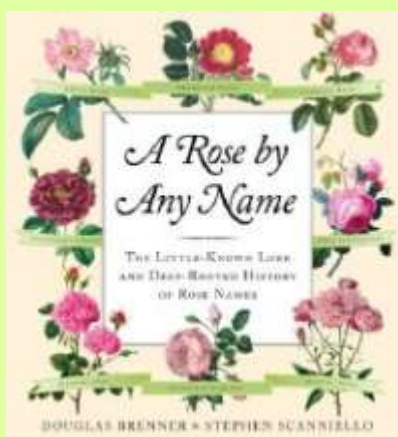
Thank you to LuAnn for these great photos!

From L to R, top to bottom: Tellie, the Tabby; Arthur, the "official" greeter of the Cemetery; a Blue Jay in winter; dragonfly on a lotus blossom at Pond; a frog and it's newly-laid eggs;

## Announcements & News

### New book in our Gift Shop highlights Old City Cemetery

A Rose by Any Name: The Little-Known Lore and Deep-Rooted History of Rose Names  
by Douglas Brenner and Stephen Scanniello



Hardcover \$19.95

From the publisher: Encompassing art, literature, science, technology, history, and everything in between, the stories behind rose varieties include enough curiosities, romance, tragedy, wit, mystery, scandal, and earthy delights to satisfy even those who would never dream of actually tending a plant. In addition to names, readers will learn that the perfume of 'Rosa Gallica' wafted through Pliny's Roman villa and lulled Marie Antoinette on the night before her wedding; that roses in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were mainly raised for medicinal purposes; and that the world of rose-naming rights is one of complicated and fiercely guarded copyrights and patents. With full-color art throughout, this eclectic little volume is a must-have for die-hard rosarians, and for the less rose-obsessed, it's simply a marvelous miscellany starring what is arguably the world's most popular flower.

Co-authored by last year's Cemetery Gardening Symposium speaker Stephen Scanniello, Old City Cemetery is highlighted on page 193.

Due to the Tinbridge Hill 5K Run for the Roses, the Old City Cemetery will be closed to through traffic on Sunday, May 3rd from 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Visitors who wish to come onto the grounds may park at the Harris Tire parking lot located on the corner of Filmore and Fifth Streets. More information including course description, parking map see page 6-7 or visit: [www.riversiderunners.com](http://www.riversiderunners.com).

## Volunteer Spotlight

*Two dedicated and talented women bring their love of history to Old City Cemetery*

Congratulations, Irene!

In early March research volunteer Irene Cranston finished the monumental task of indexing Diuguid's largest burial record book. The 2½-inch-thick, 670-page ledger contains 5,000 individual entries from the years 1886–1892. She pored over every page, deciphering Diuguid's challenging manuscript and transcribing each burial record into a database that will soon be available to the general public on our website.

This March also marks the end of the fourth year of Irene's volunteer service at the Cemetery. Since 2005 she has spent countless hours—both here and at Jones Memorial Library—indexing old Diuguid records, transcribing local death registers from the mid-1800's, and copying obituaries for people buried here in the 19th century. Her primary interest is in the study of epidemics, causes of death, and trends in mortality.

Irene has a great sense of humor, and despite the tedious and painstaking nature of her work, she can always appreciate the eccentricities and peculiarities of history.

Irene was born in Germany and came to this country as a young adult. In 2001 she moved to Lynchburg, where her daughter Bernadette Platt lives, after spending 35 years in Fort Worth, Texas. Irene also volunteers for Poplar Forest and the Lynchburg Museum System.



Volunteer Researcher Irene Cranston



Mourning Lady Judi Harvey

Everyone in Lynchburg seems to know Judi Harvey. Of course, they usually call her by another name—the “Mourning Lady”—but that suits her just fine because that means people are taking something away from the tours she gives.

Judi has been giving tours at the Old City Cemetery since Garden Day in April 2000, when she came to the grounds and asked if they needed any volunteers. Director Jane White immediately put her in a black dress and Judi has been known as the “Mourning Lady”—interpreting the history of mourning during the Civil War through the Victorian era with tour groups and visitors—ever since. When not dressed in appropriate mourning attire as a costumed docent, she may also be found volunteering in the Cemetery Center greeting visitors and helping in the office or leading a tour of the Cemetery's 26 acres.

Judi says, “As a volunteer I have seen the Cemetery expand from two museums to five and volunteers increase from 10 to over 150. Volunteering at Old City Cemetery has opened many volunteer doors that include Poplar Forest, Point of Honor, the Calloway-Stephoe Graveyard, as well as invites to be a guest speaker. To be a volunteer simply means that you will meet many friends and spend many hours doing what you love to do.”



## *Wreaths Across America Ceremony*

*By Darrell Laurant, News & Advance*

On a frigid but brilliantly sunny Saturday morning at the Old City Cemetery, Lynchburg's first venture into the *Wreaths Across America* project went off almost flawlessly. Even the

traditional bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace" was amazing, at least for Cyndi Fein. "I was told that bagpipes wouldn't work if it was under 40 degrees," said Fein, of the sponsoring Blue Ridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, "but they did."

They worked so well, in fact, that Lynchburg Police Chief Parks Snead — one of the honored guests — had tears in his eyes. "I'm not ashamed to admit it, either," Snead said. Vietnam veteran and veterans' activist Steve Bozeman also lost it for a moment as he spoke to the group assembled in front of the cemetery's chapel. "I still get kind of emotional," he said. "Good for you!" someone shouted from the crowd.



The *Wreaths* project began in 1992 when the Maine-based Worcester Wreath Company donated a tractor-trailer load of greenery to be laid on the graves at Arlington National Cemetery. It eventually spread to some of the other military cemeteries, and ultimately nationwide, with Worcester continuing to donate wreaths. "At noon today, wreaths were supposed to be laid at 350 cemeteries simultaneously," Fein said. In Lynchburg, it was a cooperative effort between the DAR, several local veterans' groups, and the staff of the Old City Cemetery. Meanwhile, a team of volunteers met a truck bearing wreaths on Wednesday and unloaded them in a steady rain ("At least it was warm," volunteer Jeanine Golden said), then helped cemetery employees identify the graves to be honored and mark them with American flags.



"There are 2,000 graves of veterans in this cemetery," said Fein, "and we just had 600 wreaths. So we tried to do a representation of all wars, starting with the American Revolution." The bulk of that 2,000 rest in the cemetery's Civil War section, many of whose occupants died at one of Lynchburg's military hospitals.

On Saturday, volunteers from Holy Cross Regional School, Sweet Briar College and Girl Scout Troop #544 scampered over the hilly terrain matching wreaths to graves. Dignitaries on hand included Lynchburg Del. Shannon Valentine, Lynchburg City Council member Scott Garrett, recently named police chief Snead and David Harker, a former POW during the Vietnam War. The Rev. Jonathan Falwell delivered the invocation.

# Horticultural Highlights

By Laurie Jamerson  
Historic Grounds Supervisor

## American Daffodil Society Honors Old City Cemetery

The Cemetery has been placed on the distinct list of only 17 locations in the United States to be acknowledged by the American Daffodil Society (ADS) for meeting criteria established by ADS and approved by the ADS Board of Directors. The award winning collection of antique daffodils in the Early Memorial Shrub Garden planted in honor of Beatrice and Karl Hehl exemplifies the high standard ADS looks for. Clusters of green shoots with buds are popping up everywhere, some not waiting for spring and are already showing color. Hundreds of blooming flowers have multiplied from the original bulb plantings and the 12 selected antique varieties live on! Be sure to visit the cemetery often this spring as each day there is truly something new in bloom!

*Butter and Eggs* daffodils in Shrub Garden



Adult Chilli Thrip



Chilli Thrip damage  
on rose foliage



## BEWARE! New Disease Carriers

Although currently over a thousand miles away, the Texas Chilli Thrip is on the prowl. Its discovery and path of fatal devastation in roses is of enormous concern to both commercial growers and homeowners in the Deep South. The insect has had the help of tropical storm winds like the remnants of Hurricane Ike to transfer it further northeast faster than normal. The Chilli Thrip does permanent damage causing death in roses and there currently is no found treatment. This may seem like an unusual item to bring up being here in central VA, but gardeners and travelers may unknowingly bring it into our area! Visiting Aunt Sarah and admiring her rose garden and not knowing that shared plant, bouquet or cutting she insists you carry home could be infected. This is so **important**: I ask all of you to 'hold back' and not snitch another cutting or yard plant when traveling out of our region. Buy from reputable sources that are inspected. The path of the gypsy moth into our area was traced to cars and vacationers along the Blue Ridge from infested areas. We don't want a Chilli Thrip sighting at the Cemetery to make the headlines let alone our splendid collection of roses to be invaded and wiped out!

# 14th Annual Antique Rose Festival

***“We want you to meet our roses!”***

Old City Cemetery’s famous antique roses are arguably the number one reason people come to see the grounds and why our busiest month for visitation is May—the peak of rose bloom. Almost 200 varieties of old garden roses, representing ancestors of modern roses, are planted along both sides of the historic old brick wall at the Old City Cemetery and are scattered throughout the 26-acre site.



We want you to meet our roses and the best day to do that is during Rose Festival Week. Come enjoy the famous antique rose collection as it begins its annual peak of bloom and celebrate these horticultural delights by attending the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Rose Festival on Saturday, May 9th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free rose walk tours begin at 10:00 a.m. and planting demonstrations will be held throughout the day. Bring your mystery rose for possible identification (include stem and foliage with bloom). Also, a bake sale featuring items from the National Winner of the 2005 Tabasco Community Cookbook Award, *Food to Die For: A Book of Funeral Food, Tips and Tales*, will be held throughout the Festival. Don’t miss this opportunity to purchase: rooted cuttings of many of our antique rose varieties and larger potted antique roses; a variety of rose books and publications; *Billy-Doux* goat manure (a perfect natural rose fertilizer); and much more! If you can’t make our Rose Festival, the rose cuttings will be available for purchase 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. every day, starting May 3rd and continuing until festival day.



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Many volunteers are needed to help make our Rose Festival Day such a success. If you would like to help, please contact the Cemetery Center at 434-847-1465 or email [dawn@gravegarden.org](mailto:dawn@gravegarden.org). No knowledge of roses is required!



# Upcoming Events

## Old City Cemetery

### Second Annual Garden Symposium

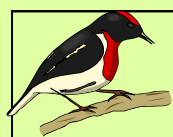
#### **"Ready, Set...Bloom!" - Back to Basics**

Friday, March 27th & Saturday, March 28th

The Second Annual Garden Symposium at Old City Cemetery will be held March 27th & 28th. This year's event will focus on going "back to basics" while still maintaining the integrity and beauty of your garden. Pre-symposium events will be held Friday, March 27th and include: a guided tour of Garland Hill Historic District with house and garden; a free walking tour of the Old City Cemetery; and a catered Welcome Reception.

Saturday's Symposium will be held from 9am - 4pm and speakers will teach attendees about making more of what you have, how to use native perennials in the landscape, and to learn from the gardeners of the past and how to apply the practices they used--all with a focus on employing natural products and methods. Presenters will include Peggy Cornett and Dennis Whetzel from the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants at Monticello; Denise Greene from Sassafras Farm--a native perennial nursery in Hayes, VA; and Wesley Greene, garden historian at Colonial Williamsburg.

For more information, contact the Cemetery Center at 434-847-1465 or visit [gravegarden.org](http://gravegarden.org)



## Spend Your Memorial Day Weekend With Us!



Come see the roses before they're gone and stay for these free, family-friendly Memorial Day festivities!

Confederate Memorial Day Service  
Sunday, May 24th at 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Garland-Rodes SCV. Period dress encouraged. Meet in Confederate Section.

Annual Memorial Day Bird Walk and Count  
Monday, May 25th at 8:30 a.m.

Sponsored by Lynchburg Bird Club. Bring binoculars. Meet at Gatehouse.



*Pictured, top to bottom: Symposium Speakers Peggy Cornett from Monticello and Wesley Greene from Colonial Williamsburg; 2008 Confederate Memorial Day Service; Mockingbird on Forsythia Bush near the Cemetery's Old Potter's Field Section*

## Curator's Corner

By Ted Delaney, Archivist and Curator

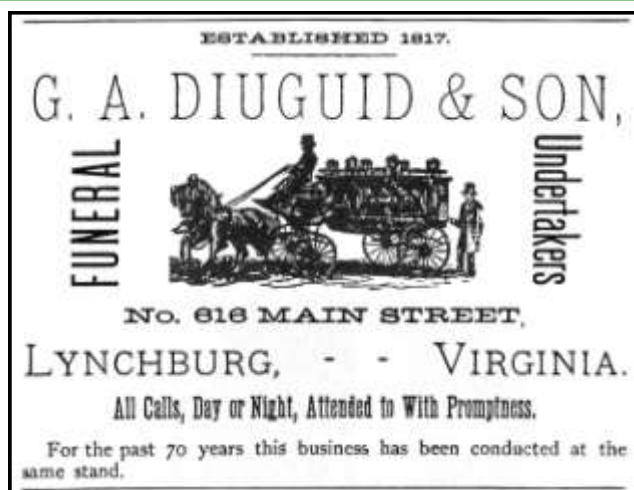
### Diuguid Undertakers of Lynchburg 1817–1946

This spring the Old City Cemetery is opening a new exhibit in the Cemetery Center about Lynchburg's venerable Diuguid Funeral Home. The exhibit will feature burial records, maps, photographs, advertisements, and artifacts—including an 1850 cast-iron casket—that illustrate Diuguid's rich history.

The Diuguid business was established in 1817, and although no longer family owned, it still operates two funeral homes in Lynchburg. The company's longevity has earned it several superlatives: oldest "institution" in Lynchburg, second oldest funeral home in Virginia, and one of the oldest mortuaries in the nation.

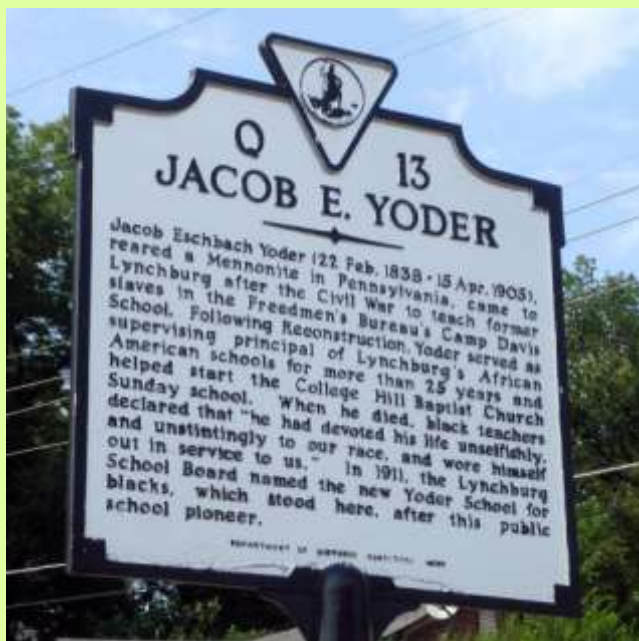
#### Timeline of Diuguid's History

- 1817 Sampson Diuguid opened a furniture-making shop at 616 Main Street in Lynchburg. Coffins were only a small part of his business.
- 1856 Sampson Diuguid died, leaving the family "cabinet shop" to his sons George A. and David P. Diuguid.
- 1864 The Confederate government attempted to draft George Diuguid into the Army. Citizens protested, and he was exempted as the sole undertaker in Lynchburg.
- 1893 George A. Diuguid died, leaving the funeral business to his son William D. Diuguid.
- 1922 Diuguid Funeral Home was officially incorporated as "W. D. Diuguid, Inc."
- 1927 William D. Diuguid died after 59 years in the family business. His daughter Mary Sampson Diuguid became president of the company.
- 1931 Diuguid moved from 616 Main Street to 1016 Rivermont Avenue.
- 1946 Mary Sampson Diuguid sold the family business to John C. and W. Ford McKee.
- 1998 Diuguid moved from Rivermont Avenue to a new building on Wiggington Road.



From top to bottom: 1887 ad for G.A. Diuguid & Son Funeral Undertakers located at 616 Main Street; portrait of Sampson Diuguid and his son

## The Yoder Community Center Project and



The Old City Cemetery is nestled in the middle of the Tinbridge Hill neighborhood in inner-city Lynchburg. Several blocks away at 2nd and Jackson Streets is the Yoder Community Center. "Yoder" is part of a former African American elementary school converted 30 years ago into a neighborhood center for children and adults. Owned by the City of Lynchburg, Parks & Recreation Department (P & RD), it is the smallest but busiest center in town and serves as a focal point and center of stability and comfort for residents. The neighborhood itself is defined by the City as "distressed" and 68% of single parent families there are below poverty level.

The facility has two P & RD employees: Aubrey "Chub" Barbour (a member of the Cemetery's Board of Directors), who has lived in Tinbridge Hill and worked at Yoder for over 40 years, and Joyce King, a seven-year veteran who began as a volunteer. Together they are responsible for tutoring, games, crafts, recreation, family relationships, gardening, record keeping, field trips, neighborhood activities, and providing snacks and meals.



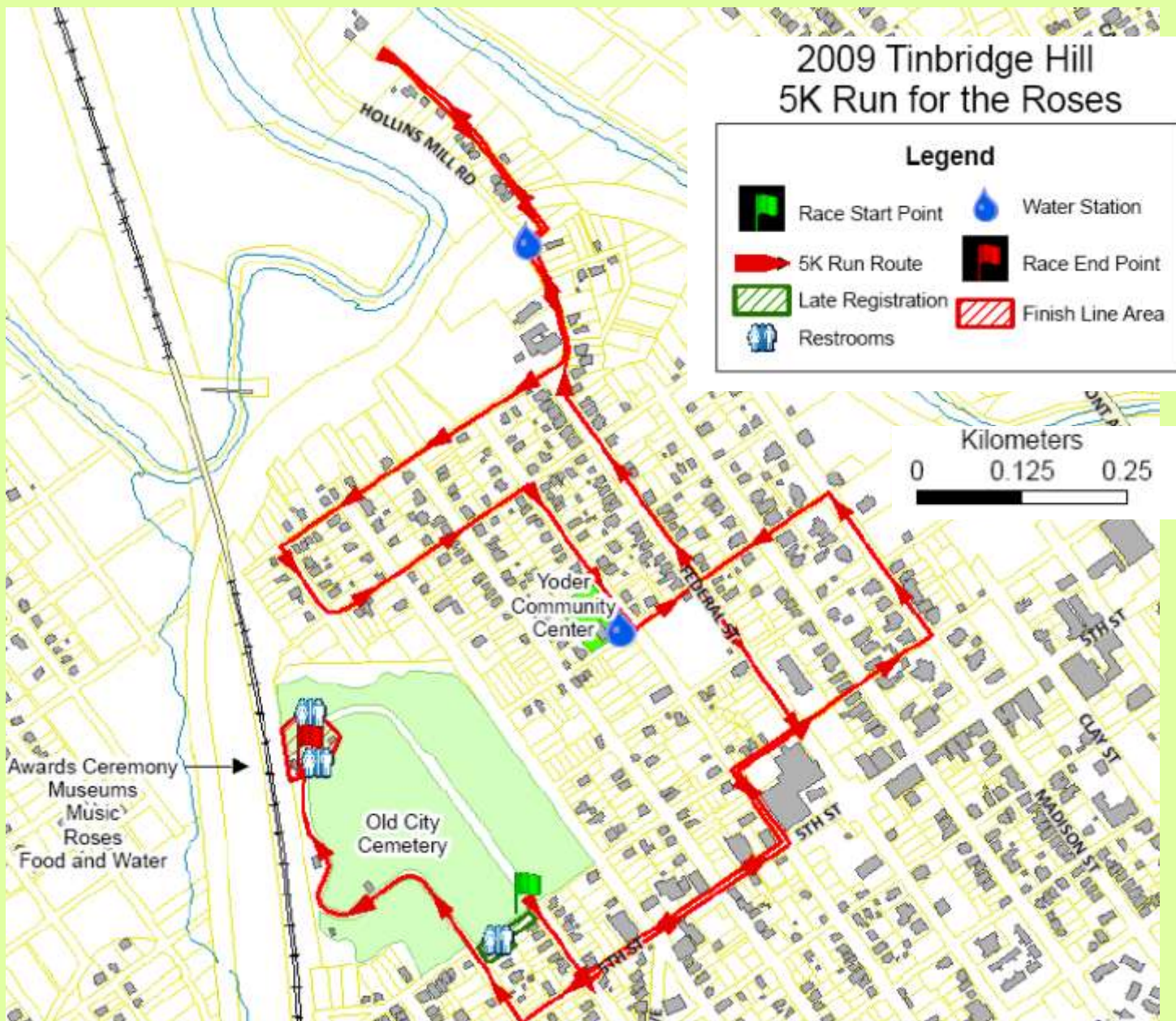
The three room structure is admittedly far below standard with a closet-sized kitchen frequently serving 100 people, no study room, no craft room, and a small multi-purpose office for the two person staff. Additional space is desperately needed. The City of Lynchburg depends heavily on partnerships within the community to realize necessary capital improvements. Many Lynchburg "Friends of Tinbridge" are helping to raise the funds needed for a simple four-room addition plus kitchen renovation for the Yoder Center; one of these fundraising efforts is the Tinbridge Hill 5K Run for the Roses (see next page).



*Pictured from top to bottom: Historical Marker for Jacob Yoder, public school pioneer and namesake of the Yoder Community Center; Yoder Center employee Aubrey "Chub" Barbour with one of the many neighborhood children the Center serves; Yoder Center Summer Camp attendees learning teamwork skills by using tumbling blocks*

# Tinbridge Hill 5K Run for the Roses

By Jane Baber White,  
Director Emerita



Run for the Roses, the third race in the Lynchburg Road Runners 2009 Race Series, will be Sunday afternoon, May 3, beginning at the entrance to the Old City Cemetery at 4th and Taylor Streets. A ¼ mile Youth Fun Run at 3:00 p.m. is followed by a 5K for multiple age groups at 3:30 p.m. The challenging course covers the more level areas of the Tinbridge Hill neighborhood as well as a short stretch of cobblestone and brick in the Garland Hill Historic District, before finishing inside the Cemetery where museums, music and antique roses await visitors. Entry fee is \$15 for the 5K before May 3 and \$20 on race day; and \$10 for Youth Fun Run participants. T-shirts are guaranteed to entries received on or before April 24th. Sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church, Lynchburg Police Department, Lynchburg Parks and Recreation Department, the Old City Cemetery, and the Tinbridge Hill Neighborhood Council, proceeds will benefit the construction of the much-needed addition to the Yoder Center. Register online at [www.riversiderunners.com](http://www.riversiderunners.com) or call (434)846-4779.