February 4  1:00 p.m.
A Celebration of African Americans resting peacefully at Woodland Lathrem Senior Center 2900 Glengarry Dr. Kettering Call 937-296-2480 for information

February 6  6:30 p.m.
A Celebration of African Americans resting peacefully at Woodland Yellow Springs Community Library 415 Xenia Ave. Yellow Springs Call 937-352-4003 for information

February 13  2:00 p.m.
A Celebration of African Americans resting peacefully at Woodland The Wellington at Dayton 2656 W. Alex Bell Rd. Dayton Call 937-853-3400 for information

February 19  2:00 p.m.
A Celebration of African Americans resting peacefully at Woodland Heartland of Kettering 3313 Wilmington Pk. Kettering Call 937-298-8084 for information

March 5  2:00 p.m.
Tabloid History of Dayton The Wellington at Dayton 2656 W. Alex Bell Rd. Dayton Call 937-853-3400 for information

Visit our website or Facebook page for more community programs and events. www.woodlandcemetery.org

Black History Month: James Davis
The First African American Born in the State of Ohio

James Davis (1787 - 1862), was the first African American born in the newly created Northwest Territory on March 6, 1787. He was born at Fort Harmar, now part of Marietta, Ohio.

James left Marietta around 1808 to become a frontier settler in western Ohio. He was one of the leading hunters in Ohio, and had the credit of killing the largest bear of his day. He was an accomplished musician and contributed much to Dayton society through his violin playing and also worked as a barber.

On November 6, 1811, he shaved General William H. Harrison while the general sat upon a log. The next day, the great battle of Tippecanoe was fought, and the Indians of the great Shawnee chief - Tecumseh - killed upward of sixty men of Harrison's army and more than one hundred were wounded.

Around 1815, James began his career on the Underground Railroad by helping a few fugitive slaves from Kentucky find their way across Ohio to Canada. As time progressed, he became more involved as the Underground Railroad in Ohio expanded. Through the Wesleyan Methodist Church, he collected food, clothing and money to help fugitive slaves reach Canada. He was also dedicated to protecting "free" African Americans in Ohio from being kidnapped into slavery.

James was founder and first president of the American Sons of Protection that organized in February 1849. It was the oldest benevolent society in Dayton as well as Ohio for African Americans.

A short article in The Dayton Herald in 1889 described the American Sons of Protection as “a benevolent institution instituted several years ago by colored citizens here.” The group met once a month and an executive board met every two weeks. There were about 75 members at that time and dues were paid monthly, only 25 cents, after a $15 initiation fee. Members who became ill or disabled were paid benefits, up to $3 per week and at the time of death, the family would receive $40 to pay for burial expenses. Another article in 1897 describes the group as celebrating its 48th anniversary and stated that “it is a progressive body that promotes good fellowship and good citizenship, looking carefully after the welfare of its maintainers.”

In 1908, the group voted to provide “provisions and supplies for the unemployed of the city irrespective of color.” And in 1911, the group, with 50 members, celebrated their 62nd anniversary. Sick members were given $5 a week and $105 for funeral expenses were paid.

By 1923, two homes on Eaker Street which provided comfort to the members of the American Sons of Protection were sold to Mr. F. Kumler in which he planned to convert them into duplex residences.

James Davis died on January 17, 1862 at the age of 74. He is located in Section 80 Lot 969 in an unmarked grave. Lots 969, 970, 971, 1026 and 1027 are still listed as lots for the American Sons of Protection.

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Basketball Legends

Those crazy days and nights of basketball games will be upon us soon. Brackets will be chosen... and busted. For now, let’s reminisce about a couple of our favorite Dayton basketball players and coaches.

**Ralph W. Underhill** led the Wright State Raiders men’s basketball team for 18 seasons, 1978 - 1996. He graduated from Lloyd High School in Erlanger, Kentucky, where he lettered four times each in basketball, football, track, and baseball. He then played collegiate basketball and ran track for Tennessee Tech. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education from Tennessee Tech in 1964 and earned a Master of Arts degree in guidance and education in 1965 from Western Kentucky University, where he worked as a graduate assistant basketball coach. His first collegiate coaching job was as an assistant coach under Ron Shumate at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

In 18 years as head coach of the Wright State men's basketball team, Underhill recorded 356 wins, a NCAA Division II national title, seven appearances in the Division II regionals, a conference tournament title and one appearance in the NCAA Division I Tournament. He led the Raiders to winning records in each of his first 16 seasons. Underhill was selected as the Great Lakes Region Coach of the Year for the third time in his career in 1986. He won Division II Coach of the Year honored in 1983 after leading WSU to the national championship.

Underhill and the Raiders then realized the dream of all basketball coaches when his 1993 team won the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament title and advanced to the NCAA Tournament, facing Bobby Knight and the Indiana Hoosiers at the Hoosier Dome. Inducted into the Mary and Al Schwarz Wright State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003, Underhill was named to the Cincinnati Area Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997.

Ralph Underhill was born on August 12, 1941 in Erlanger, Kentucky and died on September 8, 2011 in Cincinnati at the age of 70. His remains are located in Columbarium 2 in the Victorian Room in the Woodland Mausoleum.

Tom Crosswhite was George Jackson’s roommate and tells a funny story of George shooting free throws.

Back in the day, there was no instant replay. When George was fouled by someone, Coach Don Donoher would call time out. When the team went back on the court, Tom would slip in at the free throw line and shoot George’s free throws.

While Donoher never confirmed the actual story, Don said, “I guess it kinda got around and finally one night one of the refs came by the bench and said, “Hey, no more of that!” Isn’t this supposed to be a Catholic school?” of which Donoher replied, “Not on game night!”

**George Jackson** was a transfer student to UD as a junior from Kilgore Community College in Texas. With Jackson on the team they finished 19 and 8. He was 6’7” and averaged 14.5 rebounds and 12.1 points his first season.

The next year, the Flyers went 18 and 9. It was George who won the game versus Cincinnati. After losing 14 straight games to UC, he saw an open spot on the floor, made a nod to Al Bertke to go right and with just 15 seconds on the clock, George tipped the ball, Bertke got it, launched the ball and won the game 70 to 69. George was voted MVP of the season. George was drafted in the 14th round in 1971 by the Milwaukee Bucs.

George A. Jackson, Jr. died on December 28, 2016 at the age of 67 of cancer. He is located in Section 309 Lot 565.
Our friends at the Dayton Art Institute are in the midst of celebrating a remarkable milestone—100 years of providing the Miami Valley with remarkable collections and shows of contemporary and historic art. Founded in 1919 in a home on Monument Avenue, the current museum was funded by Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell with a $2 million gift and the stipulation that the community would then endow and pay for its operations. Today, the Dayton Art Institute is architecturally and historically significant and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell was the wife of affluent businessman, Harrie G. Carnell. Her first marriage was to Frank Patterson, brother of John H. Patterson. Julia’s community endeavors included the establishment of The Dayton Foundation. She was the first woman in Dayton to sit on a bank board of directors and she gifted monies to create a building in her late husband’s name at Miami Valley Hospital.

As a child, Julia had traveled extensively in Europe and found that she liked Italy best. She enjoyed the galleries, convents, chapels, churches and palaces. Back in Dayton, she was a moving spirit and chief contributor to the art museum on St. Clair Street. When the land that the Hawes family owned at Forest and Riverview avenues became available, Julia envisioned that location as “just the place for an art museum.” She got what she wanted and the Dayton Art Institute was completed in 1930, modeled after two sixteenth century Italian Renaissance villas.

When the Art Institute School opened, it gave young men and women of the community an opportunity to take art classes by a variety of instructors in many different mediums. Woodland is proud to be the final resting place of many of the Founders of the Dayton Art Institute and the Instructors at the Art School.

Below are just a few of The Founders (top row) and Instructors (bottom row):
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Our Foundation continues to focus on the restoration, preservation, horticultural and educational projects needed to keep Woodland a cultural resource for Dayton and Ohio. Thank you for your continued support!

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Foundation members will receive our quarterly newsletter, Woodland Wire, and invitation to member events.

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www.woodlandcemetery.org/make-a-donation
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John and Glema Blade

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