



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

**Main Campus**

1555 South Raisinville Road  
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**Whitman Center**

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**Press Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **STATE HOSPITAL CEMETERY RECLAMATION TO BE TOPIC OF PRESENTATION AT WHITMAN CENTER**

TEMPERANCE, Mich. – The Whitman Center will host a presentation by the Toledo State Hospital Cemetery Reclamation Committee about the more than 1,900 unmarked graves in the psychiatric hospital's cemeteries and the committee's efforts to identify them.

The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will be held on February 8 from 7 to 8 p.m. in Room 9 of the Whitman Center, which is located at 7777 Lewis Ave in Temperance.

For hundreds of years, people with psychiatric, neurological, and medical conditions were often removed from society, sometimes for a lifetime. In Toledo, many were sent to the state hospital to live out their days. From 1888 to 1973, those who died and were not claimed were buried in one of two cemeteries.

A total of 1,994 people who died at the hospital were buried in graves identified by small concrete blocks marked only with the number of their burial. The city grew up around the cemeteries, and the people buried there were forgotten.

These nameless graves have been showing up all over the country: 25,000 in Georgia, 5,000 canisters of remains found on storage shelves in Oregon, and 600 remains stored in cardboard boxes in Hawaii.

(more)

In conjunction with the presentation, a memorial exhibit to these forgotten psychiatric patients – “The Garden at St. Elizabeth’s” – will be on display from Feb. 6-9.

In addition, a Museum of Disability History exhibit, “Madness in America,” will be on display at the Whitman Center throughout February. The-six panel display features the development and expansion of mental institutions, changes in medical care and treatment, and contributions by individuals who were recipients of mental health services.

The exhibits will be on display in the lobby for free viewing during regular business hours, which are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday.

No registration is required for the presentation.

For more information on the exhibits or presentation, contact Sandy Kosmyna, director of the Whitman Center, at (734) 847-0559.

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