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Protecting local cemeteries

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By: News 8 Austin Staff

A local group is worried about continuing theft and vandalism at one of Austin's oldest cemeteries.

Save Austin's Cemeteries takes pictures of grave sites around the city to document them for police if the graves are vandalized.

The group's director said he has pictures of antique iron around many graves at Oakwood but the iron has disappeared within the last two days.

The iron generally dates to the late 1800s and goes for big bucks on the Black Market.

The group is looking for more volunteers to help police track down the suspected thieves.

They want people with family members at Oakwood to come forward.

"Chances are there's a family member who has a picture, if I have that picture we can give it to the police and they can disseminate it out to the Antique and Pawn Shops and we can recover that item," Dale Flatt of Save Austin's Cemeteries said.

Oakwood is the final resting place of some prominent names in Austin history. Members of the Zilker, Bergstrom, and Driskill families are buried there.

To learn more about preservation, including ways to get involved, contact Save Austin's Cemeteries at (512) 917-1666 or write P.O. Box 41814, Austin, TX, 78704.

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