

**EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

1105 THIRD AVE. N.E.

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

DIAL 218-829-5898

E-MAIL [evergreencem@brainerd.net](mailto:evergreencem@brainerd.net) - WEB <http://www.brainerd.net/~evergreencem/>

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Dear Lot Owners, Families, and Friends,

We are happy to share with you once again updates on activities at Evergreen and Memorial Gardens Cemeteries, our thanks for your support during the past year, and our request for your continued support this year.

For the second year in a row, spring was slow in coming and the rains have kept our grounds crew from working on a number of days. We are sure, however, that they and our office staff will do whatever is needed to be ready for an early Memorial Day and the pleasant summer months. It is a beautiful time of the year and we want Evergreen and Memorial Gardens to reflect that beauty.

In 2013 we purchased a zero turn mower and two new trimmers. The new mower permits us to mow more efficiently around the many trees and monuments. The work of the grounds crew included cleaning/painting posts, fences and gates; raising markers; and trimming and removing dead trees and limbs at both cemeteries. At Memorial Gardens the first phase of landscaping around the columbarium was finished and two deteriorated arborvitaes near the entryway were replaced with two beautiful maple trees. Flower beds were established at the entry area and will be planted this year. Some improvements were also made to the office building at Evergreen.

Thanks to the donation of a local contractor, blacktop work was done around the office and the third avenue gate. Local craftsmen donated their time to do masonry work on the statue of Jesus and the base on the Lord's Prayer tablet at Memorial Gardens. Two other volunteers power washed the statue and tablet. The VFW Auxiliary organized with Scouts to clean and paint the speaker platform at Evergreen. We very much appreciate these in-kind donations.

As a part of Brainerd History Week, a Walking Tour will be held at Evergreen Cemetery. The Tour, led by members of the Board of Directors, will feature interesting stories about some of Brainerd's pioneers buried at Evergreen. Currently the tour is tentatively scheduled for June 16, beginning at 10:00 AM. Schedule to be advertised in the Brainerd Dispatch.

The increasing trend towards a greater number of cremations had an impact on the number of burials and marker settings at our cemeteries last year. The number of burials, and as a result our income, was down in 2013 from what has been a fairly consistent number over the years. We provide several options for those who choose cremation. In-ground burial of cremated bodies can be in smaller, less expensive cremation lots. Cremated bodies can also be buried along with a casket in a traditional grave. Our newly built columbarium at Memorial Gardens provides above ground niches where urns are placed.

For those choosing cremation, please remember that cemeteries are the only place we can permanently and legally memorialize those who have left us. No other place can assure permanent and perpetual care of the deceased. And no other place can guarantee an historical record of one's life. That's what our mission at Evergreen Cemetery Association is all about.

Your financial support in the past has helped us to continuously make improvements to our cemeteries so that they can provide a park-like setting for reverence and remembering. We are a non-profit organization and receive no funding from city, county or state government entities. We maintain the grounds and keep records on the over 20,000 people buried in the cemeteries with a full-time superintendent, three summer temporary workers, and a part-time Executive Director. All of these people are employees of the Association, not the city or county.

We ask for your on-going financial support of one of the Brainerd Lakes area's premier historical institutions. Thank you for your past donations. If you have not donated prior to this, please consider a gift to the Cemetery Association.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Evergreen Cemetery Association

P.S. Checks can be made out to Evergreen Cemetery Association, a 501(c)13 non-profit organization, and mailed to the address above. *Donations to the Association are tax deductible.* Our mailing list has an option for email addresses if you wish to provide one.