

**EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**  
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May 19, 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Evergreen Cemetery Association:

**The Evergreen Cemetery Board of Trustees**, along with Executive Director Dede Tollefson and Superintendent Brandan Mutz, extends springtime greetings. We also wish to express our heartfelt THANKS for the critical financial support many of you provide Evergreen Cemetery Association through your generous donations. In turn, we as your Board of Trustees strive to perpetuate the legacy of Evergreen and Memorial Gardens cemeteries.

**Change seems to be all around us even with the COVID crisis declared over.** We are still in transition as our new Superintendent becomes confident with the overall cemetery operations; we are fortunate to have former Superintendent Rusty Billman available to assist when needed. We do appreciate the good work of our Executive Director, our new Superintendent, and our seasonal workers as we continue to provide quality cemetery services to our community. Last year we reported to you that there are major needs and issues facing the Association; we are happy to report that as the result of very generous donations we will be adding a second Columbarium later this year and we have been able to budget for a replacement Pickup Truck and improvements to the office. These are very important changes for the Association. A noticeable change at Evergreen is the location of “milk cartons” for watering. Bins have been provided at each gate in lieu of tied to some water faucets. This should eliminate complaints that the cartons made things look a bit tacky; we hope users will return the cartons to the bins after use. A serious need remains and that is replacement of our old loader-backhoe.

**The financial future we are facing remains uncertain.** Although there appears to be an uptick in burials, operating income is level. We necessarily had to increase fees for services early this year. The County provided \$20,000 for 2023 as they did in 2021 and again in 2022 for maintenance of Memorial Garden. We continue discussions with the City of Brainerd regarding similar assistance for Evergreen. We also continue discussions with the County related to the Association re-acquiring grave sites no longer needed by the County for indigent burials in Evergreen which would provide several burial sites for sale.

Without question, **challenges remain for the Board of Trustees** in our efforts to perpetuate the legacy of our cemeteries as places of Rest, Remembrance and Reflection. The Board of Trustees regularly with due-diligence reviews overall operations with an emphasis on efficiency as well as ensuring appropriate service to association members and the general public. Our goal remains to maintain our cemeteries in the best possible conditions at all times with the resources available, and to appropriately care for the more than 20,000 burials within our cemeteries.

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We say **THANK YOU** for your donations which are critical in maintaining our cemeteries; in fact, **your past donations** have been essential to maintaining our overall cemetery operations. We continue to ask for your ongoing financial support as donations now make up a critical part of our operating income. Be reminded that we are a 501(c)13 (tax deductible) non-profit public cemetery managed by a volunteer 9-member Board of Trustees. If you haven't made a prior donation, please consider adding Evergreen Cemetery Association to your charitable contribution recipients or even consider leaving a legacy gift by including the cemeteries in your will or estate planning as some folks have recently done. Checks can be made out to Evergreen Cemetery Association and mailed to the address above. Dedicated donations for specific improvements will be respected as determined appropriate by the Board.

**Should you have any questions or desire information related to our cemeteries,** please don't hesitate to contact any of the Trustees or our Executive Director. Volunteers are always welcome for those who may wish to contribute their time and talents; **if you may be interested in volunteering** to assist with the work (office or grounds) of the cemeteries, please call or e-mail the office or complete the below form and return it to the office. Also, some Board members are getting up in age having served a long time for our cemeteries and are anticipating stepping down from this volunteer service. We are making a list of possible future Trustees. Should you be interested in serving, please return the below form or contact our Executive Director for information and to express your interest.

**Information:** Our website contains valuable information about the Evergreen Cemetery Association including the important Directory of the Dead along with how to contact us for any reason. Website and Email information as well as telephone and mailing address is noted within the letterhead along with the names of the Trustees.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees  
Evergreen Cemetery Association

NO CHANGE TO MAIL LIST

CHANGE TO MAIL LIST

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Office Use Only) \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering for:  Grounds Maintenance  General Office Work

Areas of interest \_\_\_\_\_

I could volunteer:  weekly  monthly  occasionally when called

I may have interest in serving on the Board of Trustees for EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

I am currently available  My availability is in the future - \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_