

EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

1105 Third Avenue N.E. Brainerd, Minnesota 56401
(218) 829-5898 EMAIL evergreencem@brainerd.net
WEB www.evergreencemeterybrainerd.com

Memorial Day 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Evergreen Cemetery Association:

The Evergreen Cemetery Board of Trustees, along with Executive Director Dede Tollefson and our new Superintendent Tom McCartan extend springtime and Memorial Day 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.

The following “wall hanging” on a wall in our office reminds us of the significance and importance of a community cemetery. Your Board of Trustees is encouraged by this definition or summary of a cemetery as we strive to perpetuate the legacy of Evergreen and Memorial Gardens cemeteries as places of Rest, Remembrance and Reflection.

This Is a Cemetery

*Lives are commemorated - deaths are recorded -
families are reunited - memories are made tangible -
and love is undisguised. This is a cemetery.*

*Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence,
historians seek information, and our heritage is thereby enriched.*

*Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are
carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments
and to the life - not death - of a loved one. The cemetery
is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining
source of comfort to the living.*

*A cemetery is a history of people - a perpetual record
of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today.*

*A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving
and remembering - always.*

See backside

Change seems to be the only constant these days. We are pleased with the hiring of a new superintendent, Mr. Tom McCartan. He, by his own description, is a 4th generation “grave digger” and looks for a long-term relationship with us. You will find him to be knowledgeable and ready to serve both association members and visitors.

Challenges remain for your Board of Trustees. We pointed out in a separate letter last Fall that we have addressed major issues: a new tractor loader-backhoe, upgraded Pickup, a second Columbarium, and began office remodeling. We have not been successful with statutory language changes to allow the City of Brainerd to provide support like what the County does with Memorial Gardens cemetery. We continue to work on this important issue.

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 request your ongoing financial support since 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. Dedicated donations for specific improvements will be respected as determined appropriate by the Board.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Trustees or our Executive Director **if you have any questions or desire information related to our cemeteries.** For those who may wish to contribute their time and talents **Volunteers are always welcome.** **If you may be interested in volunteering with the work (office or grounds) of the cemeteries,** please call or e-mail the office. Also, some Board members are getting up in age, have 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, or know of likely candidates, please express your interest, or provide information accordingly.

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. Also, website, email, telephone, mailing address and names of the Trustees are noted in the letterhead.

Sincerely,

Your Board of Trustees
Evergreen Cemetery Association