

EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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Memorial Day 2025

Dear Members and Friends of Evergreen Cemetery Association:

Once again, **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.

You may recall the “wall hanging” in our office that reminds us of the significance and importance of a community cemetery. Your Board of Trustees is encouraged by this definition of a cemetery as we strive to perpetuate the legacy of Evergreen and Memorial Gardens cemeteries as places of Rest, Remembrance and Reflection. We are also reminded that cemeteries exist because every life is worth loving and remembering – always.

Change is the only constant it seems. We are pleased with the hiring of our new superintendent, Mr. Tom McCartan. The Board and he look for a long-term relationship; we have found him to be knowledgeable and ready to serve both association members and visitors. Challenges remain for your Board of Trustees, however much progress has been made with improvements of necessary maintenance equipment, remodeling the office, and providing a second columbarium. We note this progress has been successful due to your generous donations. 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.

The past winter was very hard on our aging water/irrigation system at Evergreen with nearly two dozen or more locations where pipes or faucets froze; repairs have been made but more leakage can occur at weak locations. This is a major concern or issue and replacement will be necessary in the future.

We call your attention to the matter of updating our “**Grave Decoration Policy**”. Please find a copy enclosed, additional copies are also available at the office. Many comments have been received by the Board that inconsistencies with our goal of maintaining an appropriate and desired condition of our cemeteries exist. It is our goal to accomplish compliance of the policy in a respectful manner to eliminate the decorations that are not in compliance with the existing and updated policy. Questions or concerns may be directed to our Executive Director or Superintendent.

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 don’t 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 and needed**. **If you are 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. **Thanks** again for your continued support of the historic Evergreen Cemetery and Memorial Gardens Cemeteries.

Sincerely,

Your Board of Trustees
Evergreen Cemetery Association

EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
2025 Donation Form
Make a donation or volunteer - cut out and send in this form.

\$10 ____ \$20 ____ \$30 ____ \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Comments _____
