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EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
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May 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Evergreen Cemetery Association:

The Cemetery Board of Trustees along with new Executive Director Dede Tollefson and Superintendent Rusty Billman extend springtime greetings. We wish to express a heartfelt THANK YOU for the critical financial support many of you provide Evergreen Cemetery Association through your generous donations as we strive to perpetuate the legacy of Evergreen and Memorial Gardens cemeteries.

This past year has brought continued change to our association. I am pleased to report that we have a new Executive Director, Dede Tollefson who replaces Karen Lentz. We thank Karen for the past 10 years of dedicated service (it has been a labor of love for sure) and are grateful for the many improvements in record keeping that she has accomplished – all for the betterment of our association. Other changes include the continuing impact of cremation, and now the coronavirus, on our revenue and resources. Fewer burials equates to a significant negative effect on our income.

Due to the bleak financial future we are facing, the Board of Trustees has put together information that clearly shows the decline in burials (along with grave lot sales) and related financial projections. With this information the Board has begun discussions with the City of Brainerd and the County of Crow Wing regarding financial assistance. This information is also available to you upon request. We look forward to reaching agreement with both units of government that not only results in financial support but a better understanding of the importance of what a well maintained cemetery means to the community - and one managed by a dedicated Board of volunteers.

Without question, this is perhaps the biggest challenge 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.

Even with the challenges faced, and with your support, additional much needed road repairs were accomplished last year. We are hopeful that other needed roadwork will be able to be done this year. We find it necessary to replace the roofing on the Office building this year and will be proceeding shortly with that work. We continue to work on the development of a Tree/Vegetation Management Plan along with the assistance of a local arborist; we look forward to being able to begin planting new trees in the near future to replace the many trees lost during the past several years, mainly from storm damage.

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 of the cemeteries please complete the form at the end of this letter and return to the office.

With current trends previously noted we have no choice at the present time but to continue to ask for your ongoing financial support. Be reminded that we are a 501(c)13 (tax deductible) non-profit organization and we are not affiliated with any governmental agency. As a result, at the present time we receive no financial support from the City of Brainerd, Crow Wing County, or other governmental unit. THANK YOU for your past donations. 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.

Should you have any questions or desire information related to our cemeteries, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Trustees or Dede and Rusty. Our website www.evergreencemeterybrainerd.com contains valuable information about the Evergreen Cemetery Association including the important Directory of the Dead along with how to contact us for any reason.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees
Evergreen Cemetery Association

ps: Checks can be made out to Evergreen Cemetery Association and mailed to the address above. Watch for information about tours of Evergreen Cemetery in conjunction with Brainerd History Week.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> NO CHANGE TO MAIL LIST | <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE TO MAIL LIST |
| Name(s) _____ Address _____ | |
| City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ | |
| Email (Office Use Only) _____ | |
| I am interested in volunteering for: <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> General Office Work | |
| Areas of interest _____ | |
| I could volunteer: <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly <input type="checkbox"/> occasionally when called | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I may have interest in serving on the Board of Trustees for EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am currently available <input type="checkbox"/> My availability is in the future - _____ | |
| Comments _____ | |