

EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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Dear Lot Owners, Families, and Friends,

A white, heavy blanket of snow covered Evergreen and Memorial Gardens Cemeteries well into the last weeks of April. What a change from last year when the ice was out of the lakes by the last week of March. In Minnesota not only do our seasons change but as we have seen, the length of the seasons can vary by a month or more.

Some things, however, don't change. One of those is the mission of the Evergreen Cemetery Association to serve as the premier site for those seeking to preserve the memories of those who have passed on. We continue to work hard to maintain and improve our cemeteries to keep them a place of beauty and comfort. Even though spring came late this year, our grounds and office staff are doing all they can to be ready for Memorial Day and the summer.

A major step forward occurred last November when we installed a columbarium at Memorial Gardens Cemetery. With the number of cremations increasing, the columbarium provides above-ground burial for cremated bodies. The unit contains 48 niches that can hold one or two urns. Made of granite and steel, resting on a six-foot deep base of concrete, the unit will last an eternity. The niche front panels are engraved for a traditional, permanent record of names and dates.

Landscaping in the columbarium area will be done this summer. Additional landscaping at Memorial Gardens will be done in phases with the first phase worked on in conjunction with the columbarium landscaping.

Last summer a Boy Scout asked our Executive Director whether he could do a project at Evergreen Cemetery as a part of his Eagle Scout designation. In working with members of the Board, he decided to organize a group of volunteers to clean a number of in-ground markers. The result was he recruited 40 volunteers that cleaned over four hundred markers. We are very grateful for his efforts.

Due in part to the generous donations from all of you, we were able to extend the year for our seasonal workers into November. Among other activities, they straightened and leveled approximately eighty monuments and markers in Evergreen Cemetery. They also did a partial inventory of trees needing major trimming and stumps to be removed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Your donations have made it possible to add the columbarium and landscaping at Memorial Gardens and do extra maintenance at Evergreen. We very much appreciate this support and ask you to continue your donations, or if you haven't donated in the past, consider supporting one of the Brainerd area's historical institutions. The Cemetery Association is a non-profit organization and receives no local, state, or federal funds.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Evergreen Cemetery Association

P.S. Checks can be made out to Evergreen Cemetery Association and mailed to the address above. *All donations are tax deductible.* Your check will be your receipt unless otherwise requested. We have also included with this letter a new brochure we have created to provide information on our cemeteries. If you would like copies to give to a friend or relative, please call the cemetery office.