

**EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

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Dear Lot Owners, Families, and Friends,

We are grateful that Spring has arrived earlier than in the last two years. The early Spring gives our Superintendent and his three summer workers an opportunity to work hard at making sure Evergreen and Memorial Gardens Cemeteries are looking beautiful for the Memorial Day weekend and the Summer months. We are also grateful for the financial support many of you provide through your donations. Thank you!

During the past year we continued our landscaping work at Memorial Gardens by planting the flower beds that were established earlier. We plan to continue with the next phase of landscaping improvements by further enhancing the entrance area.

Trees were trimmed at Evergreen and dead ones removed. Efforts are underway to work with the Natural Resources Department of CLC to develop a vegetation management plan for Evergreen Cemetery. With the age of the cemetery, there is a need to have a plan to replace those trees that have provided shade and beauty for many years. Most of the equipment we use to maintain both cemeteries served us well over the last year. We did have to purchase a new frost burner that is used for winter burials.

The Board of Directors continues to be concerned with the changing culture regarding funerals and burials. The increasing number of cremations has led to fewer burials at cemeteries across the country. At our cemeteries we reached a high number of burials in 1996, and the number has been declining ever since. For the period 2005-2012, our burials were in the 115-125 range. However, for 2013 and 2014 the number of burials dropped below 100.

It is our hope that Brainerd area residents will continue to memorialize their deceased loved ones by using the services we provide for cremated bodies. We have both in-ground and above-ground options for cremated bodies. Our columbarium at Memorial Gardens provides the above-ground option that many families are now seeking.

In recognition of Evergreen Cemetery's history, we participated in the 2014 Brainerd History Week events by conducting an Evergreen Cemetery History Walk highlighting the gravesites of early residents with interesting stories or distinctive monuments. We were very pleased with the large number of walkers that participated despite the drizzly conditions that morning. For Brainerd History Week this year, we will have a new Evergreen History Walk from 10:30-11:30 Tuesday morning June 16. We will visit the gravesites and tell stories of the prominent turn-of-the-century residents of the homes included in the Northside Neighborhood History Walks held that afternoon and evening.

During 2014 a well-known Brainerd resident made a gift to Evergreen Cemetery Association by including the Cemetery in her will. This very much appreciated gift was part of the legacy she chose to leave to the Brainerd area. This donation and those you have given in the past will continue to be used to maintain a park-like setting for reverence and remembering.

As we have noted in previous letters, we are a non-profit organization and receive no support from city, county, or state governments. Our full-time superintendent, three summer employees, and part-time executive director maintain the grounds and keep the records on the over 20,000 people buried in the cemeteries.

We ask for your on-going financial support of one of Brainerd's premier historical institutions. Thank you for your past donations. If you haven't donated prior to this, please consider adding the cemeteries to your charitable contribution recipients.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Evergreen Cemetery Association

P.S. Checks can be made out to Evergreen Cemetery Association, a 501(c)13 non-profit organization, and mailed to the address above. *Donations to the Association are tax deductible.* Our mailing list has an option for email addresses if you wish to provide one.