

# Groveland Cemetery Gazette

May 2015

3300 Woodlawn Avenue, Wayzata, MN 55391-2821 Phone: 952-847-0011  
E-mail: [info@grovelandcemetery.org](mailto:info@grovelandcemetery.org) Website: [www.grovelandcemetery.org](http://www.grovelandcemetery.org)

## 2015 Annual Meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>

The Groveland Cemetery Association annual meeting will be held Saturday, May 16, 2015 at the Minnetonka Community Center starting at 10:00 AM.

Joe Kittock, our grave digger, will be our guest speaker about the technical aspects and challenges of his profession, along with humorous stories. Come with questions you have always wanted to ask!

Owners of gravesites, survivors and next of kin, 18 years of age or older are eligible to attend and vote. The Community Center is located just north of Minnetonka Blvd. at Williston Road. There is plenty of parking. Come in the entrance by the fountain. The Minnetonka Mills Room is located to the right on the first floor.

## Memorial Day is May 25<sup>th</sup> This Year

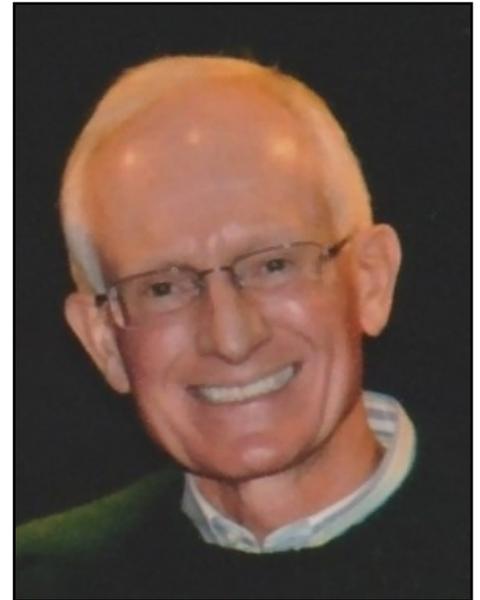
Once again, our Memorial Day service will be observed beginning with the flag ceremony by American Le-

gion Post 259 at 9:00 A.M. Monday, May 25. Our guest speaker will be one of our Groveland owners, Dr. Mark Wheaton. Dr. Wheaton grew up in Cottagewood and still lives there with his wife and two sons. His private practice in Excelsior, Lakeside Sports and Pain Clinic, specializes in chronic pain and prolotherapy. We invite you, your family, friends and neighbors to come and enjoy the fellowship, conversations and refreshments with everyone before and after the service. Parking is available in the Groveland School east lot and enter the cemetery through the gate near our utility building. We are looking forward to seeing you on this very special occasion.

### Arthur L. Johnsen 8/27/1944 - 3/21/2015 Trustee

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Art Johnsen, a member of the Board of the Groveland Cemetery Association. Art was a valued member of the

Board from August 2007 until the time of his death. He served the Board as Vice President for 6 years and assisted on numerous special projects. His vast real estate experience provided



*Art Johnsen, Trustee 2007-2015*

invaluable help in the acquisition of the new addition to the cemetery. Art and his wife Carol frequently volunteered their time and skill to help beautify the cemetery grounds, where Art's parents and grandparents are also buried.

The Board will sincerely miss Art's counsel and friendship.

## President's Report

The year 2014-2015 was a good one for the Groveland Cemetery Association as we moved forward in a number of areas.

We continue to put major emphasis on keeping up the appearance of our cemetery grounds, specifically: we replanted and sodded a number of areas where the grass was thinning out or overgrown with weeds; we cleared a buildup of Buckthorn and other weeds along the northwest fence; we've planted new shrubs along the east fence; we've maintained a schedule of regular weed control; we installed a new fence to remove from view the occasional dirt piles we build up; and we've completed and published on our web site a Tree and Shrub policy. In August we hired a new caretaker, Robert Peterson. He has experience with a local landscaping company and has proven to be a knowledgeable and capable addition to our staff.

We've made great progress in paying off our remaining debt that we acquired when we purchased the property north of the cemetery, now sections 7 and 8 of the cemetery. The purchase was completed in 2008 at a cost of \$300,000 and we had another \$50,000 of costs to demolish and remove the build-

ings and to remove all underground electric, water and sewer lines, and to landscape the addition. We took out a mortgage at that time and have since paid off all except for about \$20,576. Our goal is to have this debt completely paid off by July of 2016.

In December we added Kathy Casmer to our Cemetery Board of Trustees. Kathy brings a wealth of volunteer and business experience with her and we expect that she will add a lot of thoughtful insight into the management of our cemetery. You can read more about both Kathy and Robert in other articles in this newsletter.

Other board members include Bob Nash and Joe Dzurik who continue their positions as Vice President and Treasurer respectively, Jeff Walton who took over the position of Secretary in November, and Lowell Kleppe who is a long standing Trustee. All of our Board members are active, knowledgeable, and professional contributors of their time and talent. Thanks also to Paul Englund and Elizabeth Blaufuss, both of whom resigned from the Groveland Cemetery Board in the last year, for their years of service on the board.

Shelley Duoos, our cemetery Administrator continues to manage the day-to-day activities of the cemetery. Along with being the "face" of our cemetery, she also is our liaison

with the Minnesota Association of Cemeteries (MAC), and attends their annual convention to help keep Groveland Cemetery up-to-date with new trends and changes in the cemetery industry. Feel free to call her for any questions about the care and use of our cemetery.

Thank you for taking an active interest in your cemetery. And a special thank you to all who have made voluntary contributions to the cemetery by use of the form on the back page of the Groveland Gazette. Your contributions allow us to keep up the beauty of, and put more effort into the maintenance of Groveland Cemetery.

Please join us for the Groveland Cemetery Annual Membership meeting on May 16th at 10 am in the Minnetonka City Hall and the Memorial Day Service on May 25th at 9 am at the cemetery.

*Dennis Cerkvenik, President*



## From Administrator Shelley...

Groveland Cemetery started the year in May with the Annual Meeting and a well-attended Memorial Day Ceremony featuring Jan Callison as our speaker. The rain in June was good for our grass and we continued the fertilizing and weed control program

through NatureScape. More brush was removed in Section 8 along the school fence and a designated dirt area was created. We welcomed Robert as our new caretaker. Our main effort was bringing in new soil for Section 7 and completely resodding that area. These activities were made possible by the generous support of your donations.

In September I attended the annual MN Association of Cemeteries conference held in Hinckley. This was a great learning experience with knowledgeable speakers and round table discussions with other administrators.

This summer we plan to cut our grass longer, averaging at least 3.5" long. Studies have shown that once the turf adapts, it fills in, becomes dense and lush, and crowds out the weeds. It is also more tolerant of less water and survives drought stress better. Shady and patchy areas will fill in and more leaf blade will improve the over-all color. We are also planning to spray our crabapple trees this spring to protect against apple scab. Wet, cool springs bring in the fungus that kills the leaves so the trees are bare in July and August. It is NOT a health problem, just an aesthetic problem. This condition is preventable by spraying the trees in the spring.

I want to say a special thank you to our wonderful Board of

Directors who so generously volunteer their time and talents. I will dearly miss Art Johnsen. He would graciously cover for me during my vacations, answering the phone and even showing lots to customers. Without Art and his wife's help last Memorial Day, we would have had a hard time setting out all the flags for the veterans. This year, Art's grave will have a flag for his service in Vietnam. He will always be special to Groveland Cemetery.

Please introduce yourself when you see me on the grounds, and feel free to call me at 952-847-0011 or email:

[info@grovelandcemetery.org](mailto:info@grovelandcemetery.org)

*Shelley Duoos, Administrator*

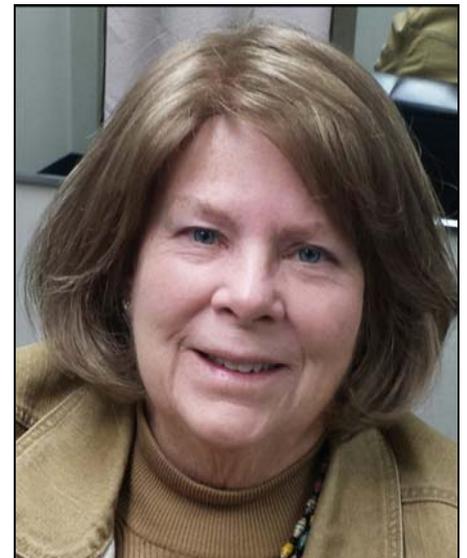


## **Kathy Casmer Joins Cemetery Board**

**A**s a long-time community volunteer, I am glad to be of service as the newest member of the Groveland Cemetery Board of Directors and look forward to supporting this community asset! On a lovely fall day about a year ago, I happened to attend a burial at the cemetery and was so impressed by the unique setting that I purchased a lot—something I never expected to do. Now, telling others about the cemetery is important to me. Not only does it have a pleasant location and

long history, but it is also being carefully safeguarded under the direction of the current board. It is a good place for an investment.

My experience with boards and non-profit organizations spans many years and includes a master's degree in public administration, ten years as an elected Minnetonka school board member, work experience as the executive director of an education-related non-profit, and volunteering as board president for a new health-related foundation.



*Kathy Casmer, Trustee*

While I currently reside in Eden Prairie, the Minnetonka area has been my home throughout most of my life.

I am pleased to add my ideas and non-profit leadership skills to this experienced group and also to provide some gender balance!

*Kathy Casmer, Trustee*



## Plants, Wreaths & Headstones

Groveland is one of the few cemeteries in Minnesota that allows flowers in pots or in the ground. Please take note of these few reminders:



- Make sure your pot fits the plant stand. If the pot is too small, it blows over in the wind. If you put a pot out in the spring, make an effort to stop by once a week to water it, or remove it. **Do not set pots on the marker or ground.** They must be in a stand – we have extra stands in the fenced enclosure for your use. Decorations other than flowers are strongly discouraged. Remember, artificial flowers of any kind are not permitted and will be removed. Plants in the ground may need less watering, but they do require care; trimming down in the fall or cutting off in the spring to allow for new

growth, and weeding. All edging must be flat with the ground.

- Families are also responsible for caring for headstones: trimming overgrown grass and leveling. Tips for cleaning headstones can be found on our website.
- Wreath stands need to be firmly pushed into the ground before it freezes and wreaths need to be tied on the stand in 3 places to withstand the strong west winds.



- Be a friend of the cemetery and water other plants near your site that need attention, if possible. Volunteers are also welcome to beautify several cement planters in the cemetery by planting flowers and caring for them.

*Shelley Duoos, Administrator*

## New Owners

New owners since the last newsletter include the following individuals:

- Mark & Gina Wheaton
- Bruce & Mary Jane Wheaton
- Barb D. Overline
- Debra De Jonge
- Nancy Benedict
- Joan Danielson
- Ethel L. Peterson
- John S. Lawson
- Doris M. Steinhoff
- Michelle Crozier Haynes
- Warren M. Olson
- Jennifer Stroh
- Melissa Larson
- Melinda Bonfig
- Kari & Drake Lorence



## Board Elections

Three trustees' two year terms will expire with the annual meeting.

Running for re-election are: Robert Nash, Joe Dzurik, and Kathy Casmer. The passing of Art Johnsen leaves an additional vacancy on the Board.

We currently have six members on the board, and by-laws provide that the board can consist of five to eight members.

Please let us know if you are interested in serving in one of the available positions on our Board.



## Treasurer's Report



The Groveland Cemetery fiscal year began May 1, 2014 and ended April 30, 2015. We had a great year and ended the year with a net ordinary income of \$21,456.92.

When we purchased the 7/8 acre on the north side of the old cemetery, we added about 600 grave sites, but took out a loan to pay for the property. Over the last year, our loan balance decreased from \$45,363.55 to \$20,576.36. We make regular monthly payments but paid an additional \$12,410.54 on the principle; this amount was obtained from the sale of General Motors stock \$5,410.54 and \$7,000 from operating funds. Our goal is to pay off the loan as soon as funds permit.

Our investments (excluding General Motors stock) have increased from \$45,680.66 to \$48,549.05. We retain these funds as a reserve in the event of shortfalls in operating funds. The Board reviews our financial situation monthly and compares it to a budget. This past year we exceeded the income budget and the expense budget. While income is unpredictable, expenses are well managed by our administrator, Shelley Duoos.

Detailed financial reports will be handed out at the annual meeting in May and are available on request. We are operating on a cash basis accounting option.

*Joe Dzurik, Treasurer*

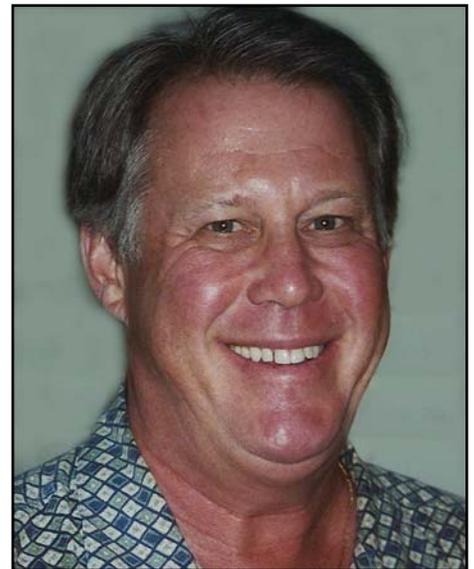
## Cemetery Facts and Figures

- ◆ There are 2,277 people buried in Groveland Cemetery, 51% are male, 49% are female
- ◆ 469 of the burials are cremation burials.
- ◆ We have 672 graves available for sale in the cemetery.
- ◆ In the past year we buried 39 people: 26 of these were cremation burials.
- ◆ We sold 21 new graves; (20) traditional graves and (1) cremation grave.
- ◆ We have 870 current owners in our cemetery address list.
- ◆ Of those who receive a copy of the Gazette, we sent out 514 Gazettes by US Mail and another 123 by Email. (Please keep us updated with your current address).

## Introducing Our New Caretaker, Robert Peterson

Last summer Tery Rolek moved away from the area, so we advertised for a replacement. We had many wonderful candidates and selected Robert Peterson who

began his caretaking duties in August. Robert grew up just north of Chicago in Glenview, IL and graduated from Univ. of CA-Santa Barbara. He worked in the mortgage industry for 30 years before retiring 3 years ago. He and his wife Lindsey have two adult daughters, Stephanie of Minnetonka and Hillary of Houston, TX. Stephanie and her husband are the parents of their two grandchildren, 3 year old twins, Beckett and Freya. They were born in different years - one was born on New Year's Eve and one on New Year's Day! Rob loves to fish and hunt birds. Rob also works seasonally at Dun-dee Nursery in Plymouth.



*Robert Peterson, Caretaker*

Rob loves Groveland Cemetery for its location only a few blocks from his home, the friendly people he has met to date, and the beautiful, relaxing and peaceful surround-

ings. His knowledge of turf, plants and trees and his past experience of working in a cemetery during high school will benefit Groveland. Please welcome Robert to our staff!

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## Groveland Gazette Available by Email

This Gazette is also being emailed to Cemetery members who have requested this service. If you would like to receive your Groveland Gazette via email rather than by postal mail, we would be happy to accommodate you. You would save the cemetery the cost of postage and handling and the electronic version is in color. Please email us at:

[info@grovelandcemetery.org](mailto:info@grovelandcemetery.org)

Include the message "Please send my Gazette by email".

We'll respond with a test copy of this Gazette, and then send future issues only by email until you request us to stop or you close your email account. Receiving your Gazette by email will not remove your name from the mailing list or from our database.



## Board of Directors

### *President:*

Dennis F. Cerkvnik,  
952-473-4376

### *Vice President:*

Robert F. Nash,  
952-476-0434

### *Secretary:*

Jeff H. Walton,  
952-943-2064

### *Treasurer:*

Joseph W. Dzurik,  
952-417-6251

### *Trustee:*

Kathy Casmer,  
952-474-4712

### *Trustee:*

Lowell M. Kleppe,  
763-473-9744

## Groveland Staff

### *Administrator:*

Shelley Duoos  
952-847-0011

### *Caretaker:*

Robert Peterson,  
952-393-3554

## Modern Headstones...



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## CONTRIBUTION FORM

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:** (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Groveland Cemetery Association is a volunteer organization. In order to help with the maintenance of the Cemetery grounds, we would like to make the following voluntary contribution to be used to improve the conditions in the cemetery:**

**AMOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form and your check payable to the Groveland Cemetery Association to:**



**Groveland Cemetery Association**  
**3300 Woodlawn Avenue**  
**Wayzata, MN 55391-2821**  
*Attn: Joe Dzurik, Treasurer*

**Any amount will be greatly appreciated.**

**Thank you!**

**Your Cemetery Board**

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**Groveland Cemetery Association**  
**3300 Woodlawn Avenue**  
**Wayzata, MN 55391-2821**

Address Service Requested

**Groveland Cemetery Association**

3300 Woodlawn Avenue  
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391-2821  
Phone: 952-847-0011

