



# Groveland Cemetery Gazette

May 2020

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

E-mail: info@grovelandcemetery.org Website: www.grovelandcemetery.org

## 2020 Annual Meeting Cancelled

The Groveland Cemetery Association annual meeting is cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



## Memorial Day Event Cancelled

The Groveland Cemetery Memorial Day event is cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Legion will still be doing a flag raising at 9AM and we still need volunteers to place the graveside flags and bronze markers. Please contact Shelley if you can assist. We encourage people to make private visits to the cemetery in lieu of an organized event. Our plan is to resume our regular Memorial Day event in 2021.

## COVID-19

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have changed our 2020 procedures as follows:

1) We have cancelled our annual membership meeting and the Memorial Day event.  
2) Cemetery visits and use will be limited. As of the date of this memo's writing, published limits are:

- Individual visits and cemetery workers are allowed anytime, and
- Graveside services are allowed, but limited to a total of no more than 10 persons spaced to allow for social distancing.

These rules are continually changing, so check with local media or the cemetery administrator before visiting the cemetery or scheduling a funeral.

## From the President

In addition to current events, 2020 demonstrates some new trends that cemeteries are studying.

Cremations: A trend that cemeteries are now adjusting to is the rise in the number of

cremation burials (inurnments) compared to the number of full-casket burials (interments). The 2018 National cremation rate was 53.35%. Minnesota's rate was 62.9% in 2017 and 66.3% in 2018. At Groveland cemetery, our rate, the percentage of cremation burials to total burials, was 53.8% in 2016-2017, 73.1% in 2017-2018, 73.5% in 2018-2019, and 76.1% to date in 2019-2020. To accommodate this increasing percentage, we have adjusted our pricing to encourage more purchases of cremation graves rather than full size graves, and will look at methods to adjust our allocation of space accordingly.

Green Burials: A second trend that is now gaining some momentum is the interest in "Green Burials". A Green Burial is when a loved one is laid to rest in the following manner:

- 1) The body of the deceased is not embalmed;
- 2) The body of the deceased is not placed in any type of burial vault;
- 3) The body of the deceased is only draped in a biodegradable shroud and/or placed in a biodegradable burial con-

tainer that is free of any toxic dyes, glues, and metals;  
4) The body of the deceased is placed in a hand-dug grave located on a natural burial site with a forever commitment to its care and preservation.

This definition is from a group called the Green Burial Council. Groveland is exploring the idea of allowing Green Burials, likely “Hybrid Green Burials” which are defined as above but which are not dug by hand.

The changes we make as a result of these trends and conditions are being done to fulfill our mission which can be found on our cemetery web page, part of which states that we will: “Perpetuate its life, as an active cemetery by offering innovative, affordable forms of traditional and alternative memorialization that will serve the public while conserving land and protecting the character of its landscape.

Thank you for taking an active interest in your cemetery.

## Groveland Cemetery Landscape Enhancements – Phase II

The Groveland Cemetery Board is pleased to announce the completion of Phase I of the landscape plan. Axel Landscape did an excellent job implementing the plan. In ad-



dition to creating the plan, Axel Landscape negotiated a new easement the City for the placement of the new boulder sign and plantings at the three cemetery entrances.



Phase I included the new paver walkway from the school parking lot to the main walkway by the shed and the new sign on the shed with the Groveland Cemetery information. We replaced the Groveland Cemetery entrance wooden sign with the boulder at the main entrance.

We are now ready to move on to Phase II of the landscape plan along the west fence line. Phase II of landscape plans will now include the Minnetonka Blvd Corner thanks to a gener-

ous donation from a Groveland Cemetery owner. The new plan includes further negotiations with the City of Minnetonka and Hennepin County since the city and county installed the new wall when Woodland Avenue was resurfaced.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the landscape project as we move forward on our website.

*Sue Jerutis, Trustee*

## From Administrator Shelley...

I want to say a special **Thank You** to our wonderful Board of Directors who so generously volunteer their time and talents.

The cemetery had 28 burials this year, 8 traditional and 20 cremations, which is 21 less than last year. We had lot sales of 28 (20 regular and 8 cremation graves), compared to 33 total for last year.

Last summer we were thrilled to be able to install a paver sidewalk from the school gate near our building and connect it with our sidewalk. This enables visitors for Memorial Day services to safely park at the school and get to the ceremony. The three road entrances were also upgraded with the new boulder sign and landscaping.

Ground bees are sometimes a problem and I was stung as I was weeding around a head-

stone in August. Please be aware of these vicious bees starting in July and August through the fall. Look for small holes in the ground and watch for bees before gardening. Also, while walking in a cemetery as old as ours, please be aware that the ground can sink at any time. **Report these locations to me as soon as possible** so we can fill the holes and eradicate the bees.

During spring and fall clean-up, please bring your own brown paper yard waste bags. You may then leave these bags in the trailer in the fenced enclosure by the school playground. We will then empty the trailer at the city recycling center when full. **Please do not fill our garbage bins with yard waste**, as we only have one bin per week, and it is only for garbage.

Please remember only fresh flowers in pots, planted in the ground or bouquets not in plastic wrap are accepted. Pumpkins look good for about a week and then the squirrels eat them, they get frozen into the ground and we are left in the spring with a mess. Please pick them up within a short time in the fall and dispose of them at home. Anything plastic or ceramic is not permitted and will be removed. This is for the safety of the grounds crew and visitors to the grounds.

Every year, Mtka. United

Methodist Church holds a sunrise Easter Service in the cemetery. The date varies by the church calendar and it begins promptly at sunrise. If you are an early riser, plan to attend and support our neighbor to the south on Hwy. 101 while enjoying a magical moment in the 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*

## Treasurer's Report



The Groveland Cemetery fiscal year began May 1, 2019 and ends April 30, 2020. This report is being prepared before the numbers are finalized in order to meet the Gazette mailing schedule, so they are approximate. Final numbers will be available in May. We did not have a good year and estimate a net income loss of \$768.

In recent years, the Board decided to reduce fixed assets when we sell graves to more accurately reflect fixed assets. While this does not affect cash in the checking account, it reduces net income. The net income would have been a

positive \$11,207 if we did not make this change in reporting.

Our investments have changed in value; last year they were \$141,749.32 and this year the COVID-19 Virus has drastically affected the market and therefore our investments. We expect they will be about \$127,000 due to market drop, but also expect it will recover. We have not withdrawn or added to our investments this year. The investments complied with the investment policy and were made following recommendations of the outside advisor. We retain these funds as a reserve in the event of future shortfalls in operating funds.

The Board reviews our financial situation monthly and compares it to a budget. The past year we did not meet the budgeted net income. Income was lower than budgeted due to less sales and interments, although donations were higher. While income is unpredictable, expenses are managed by the Board and our administrator, Shelley Duoos. Expenses were less than budgeted amounts.

Donations are very vital and much appreciated. These funds enable us to make improvements (like landscaping). Since we have no perpetual care fund, expenses must be closely managed while making the cemetery attractive.

Detailed financial reports

are normally handed out at the annual meeting and this year will be available on request. We operate on a cash basis.

*Joe Dzurik, Treasurer*

## Lowell & Barbara Kleppe



From 1976 to 1981, Lowell and Barbara Kleppe each served separate terms on the Groveland Cemetery Board, beginning a relationship with Groveland Cemetery which has spanned over 45 years.

Lowell and Barbara's connection to Groveland began in 1974, when Barbara's mother passed away. Their two oldest children attended Groveland Elementary and once they visited Groveland Cemetery, they knew they found the right place. Barbara's father passed away in 1985, and is buried next to his wife.

Lowell rejoined the Board in 2005 and has served for the last 15 years as a Director. At the end of this term in 2020, he will be stepping down from a regular role on the Board. With his many years of service and knowledge, the Board has invited Lowell to stay active as an informal, "Director Emeritus" so that we can continue to have the benefit of his knowledge and experience. He greatly looks forward to setting flags out for Memorial Day and tending to other caretaking tasks, and sharing history about the landscape. He has been involved with many things, including the arched entrance sign project, as well as other improvements to the cemetery.

Lowell is looking forward to his new role as Director Emeritus as it will free up his time for volunteering in the neighborhood, time with his family (including his granddaughter who is learning how to drive), and socializing with friends.

## 2020 Annual Presidents Report to the Membership.

Normally presented at the Annual Membership Meeting in May, due to the Corona Virus pandemic, this Report is included in the Groveland Gazette this year. Significant Cemetery activi-

ties this year included the following:

Completion of the first phase of a multi-year grounds improvement project, which included:

- 1) a paver sidewalk from the west gate entrance to the maintenance shed sidewalk.
- 2) planting of perennials and shrubs at all three entrances along Woodlawn Avenue, along with the removal of the Woodlawn Avenue sign and a replacement of it by a large boulder inscribed with the Groveland Cemetery name.
- 3) We also completed Injection of four Ash Trees for ash borer and four Elm Trees for Dutch Elm disease.

Two other major phases of this project are scheduled to be completed this spring and early summer:

- 1) We will line the west fence from the maintenance shed to the north driveway end with shrubbery and small trees,
- 2) Redo the boulevard corner at 101 and Woodlawn Ave.

Groveland Cemetery now has a Facebook page. Check it out:

<https://www.facebook.com/Groveland1871>

Thanks to Mark Peterson, our newest board member for setting up and maintaining this website.

In June of each year we have a cemetery board reorganization. This year Bob Nash requested to step down from the V.P. position but remains on the board as a Director, Jeff Walton, formerly our Secre-

tary, took over the V.P. role, and Sue Jerutis assumed the Secretary position.

Due to the cancellation of the Annual Meeting, regular elections can't be held so the current Directors will be reappointed. Regular elections will resume at the 2021 meeting.

Lowell Kleppe is resigning at the end of his term in May for health reasons. In recognition of his long and dedicated service to Groveland Cemetery, Lowell will be named "Director Emeritus" and will be welcome to attend any future board meetings as a non-voting, but contributing member of the Board.

*If you are interested in applying for a vacancy on the Board, please contact our Administrator, Shelley Duoos.*

Robert Peterson, our Caretaker, is now in his fourth year of service to the Cemetery. Shelley Duoos, our cemetery Admin, 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 MN Association of Cemeteries (MAC), and attends their annual convention to help keep Groveland 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.

*Dennis Cerkvenik*

## Groveland F.A.Q.'s

frequently

asked questions

We frequently get questions about different things involving the cemetery.

### Where can I find current information about Groveland?

We maintain a website which includes many items that people ask about, including our rules, burials and more. Visit:

[www.grovelandcemetery.org](http://www.grovelandcemetery.org).

If you can't find what you are looking for on the website, use the "Contact Us" link.

**New:** We can now be found on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/Groveland1871](https://www.facebook.com/Groveland1871)

### Why aren't plots available to the north of the fence?

The City of Minnetonka and Groveland have a timetable for new parts of the cemetery north end to become available over the next 20 years. There is still limited availability throughout the newer and older sections for cremation and traditional burials. As mentioned in the President's message, our burial practices are evolving and The Board will need to work with the City to adjust our offerings to permit additional availability on a modified timetable.

### Who is responsible to maintain the grave markers and monuments?

Groveland Cemetery does not maintain, clean or replace

monuments that have deteriorated over time. It is the responsibility of the family.

In the event that something becomes a safety hazard, Groveland will do whatever is necessary to mitigate the issue and work with the family if additional action is needed. We do our best to keep the cemetery well maintained and we need the help and understanding of families to maintain the plots and markers.

### Can I trade grave locations within Groveland if another location is more desirable?

The original purchase grants the individual or family the right to burial in the specific location selected. Owners that wish to change their future location may work with the Groveland Administrator to find a different location. The original purchase price will be applied as a credit towards the new location if something more desirable is available. If the current cost of a plot has changed, the difference in pricing between the original purchase and the current price will be due.

## Consider Groveland Cemetery in your Will or Trust

We greatly appreciate all donations and use the funds to beautify our cemetery. Since we have no perpetual care fund, we rely on

donations to add to the income received from other sources.

Please consider adding Groveland Cemetery in your will or trust fund as a way to ensure the cemetery will remain attractive in years to come. We are a non-profit Cemetery Association so your donation is tax-deductible.

## New Owners

Welcome to new owners since the last newsletter:

- Tim Hartzell
- Curtis & Jan Wussow
- Mary McGinty
- Joanne Fearer
- Barbara Rains
- Carl & Kathleen Challgren
- Jeffrey & Stacy Klone
- Steven & Leah Barnacle
- Edward & Cheryl Crowley
- Martha Lewin
- Sally Story
- Marc Ashton
- Michael & Amy Warber
- Sophie Uyoma
- John & Laurel Forshee
- James & Barbara Yasger
- James & Jane Kaufman
- Bobbi Roggenbuck
- Dennis & Sherilyn Ekrem
- George W. Pollnow

## Passings

(In order since 5/1/19)

	AGE
Judith Rae Bednar	75
Judy Ann McKenzie	66
Scott David McKenzie	68
Sheldon Lee Miller	81
'Frank' Michael McGinty	77
Clarence George Dunn Jr.	96
Dorothy Faith Dunn	95
Justin Daniel Challgren	46
Mary Anastatia Lemieux	84
Charles Robert Fearer	69
Raymond Junior Peters	85
Adedamola E. Agboola	28

Floyd Adolph Swenson	88
Patricia Ann Swenson	89
Mary Ann Thornby Fraasch	80
Kenneth James Fraasch	85
Arta Sofie Andrada Walter	84
Shirley Joyce Hilsen	94
Dean Fredrick Thimsen	93
May Elvera Harvey	83
Virginia Joyce Huttner	82
William Leslie Huttner	78
Deloris Edwina Olson	87
Nancy Lee Liberg	88
Marion Kay Nelson	83
Ted James Colbjornsen	79
Barbara Ann St. Martin	82
Laura Beth Ekrem	31

Average: 79.5

## Groveland Gazette Available by Email

The Gazette can be emailed to Cemetery members. If you would like to receive your Groveland Gazette via email rather than by postal mail, let us know. 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 will respond with a test copy of this Gazette, and then send future issues only by e-mail 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.

*Overheard: Felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The GPS blurted out "You have reached your final destination."*

## Board of Directors

### **President:**

Dennis F. Cerkvnik,  
952-473-4376

### **Vice President:**

Jeff H. Walton,  
952-943-2064

### **Treasurer:**

Joseph W. Dzurik,  
763-688-5680

### **Secretary:**

Sue Jerutis,  
612-961-7536

### **Trustee:**

Robert F. Nash,  
952-476-0434

### **Trustee:**

Lowell M. Kleppe,  
763-473-9744

### **Trustee:**

Mark Peterson,  
612-990-0428

## Groveland Staff

### **Administrator:**

Shelley Duoos  
952-847-0011

### **Caretaker:**

Robert Peterson,  
952-393-35



## **VOLUNTARY DONATION / CONTRIBUTION FORM**

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

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

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

**Groveland Cemetery Association is a volunteer and non-profit organization. In order to help with the maintenance of the Cemetery grounds, we would like to make a voluntary contribution to be used to improve and maintain 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**





**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

