

Commemorating 89 Years of Service HMG Newsletter



SPRING 2019 • VOLUME 5, ISSUE 20 Presented by Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery, a Perpetual Care Cemetery
Owned and Operated by Highland Perpetual Maintenance Society, Inc.



Memorial Day Celebration

Our annual Memorial Day Celebration honoring our veterans will be held on Monday, May 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Tower of Memories at Highland Memory Gardens. Bring your lawn chairs if you desire.

This short service is jointly sponsored by the Highland Park American Legion Post 374 and Highland Memory Gardens. The ceremony includes the reading of the names of veterans buried in Highland Memory Gardens since Memorial Day, 2018. Refreshments follow the service.

In case of inclement weather, we will notify WHO Radio, KCCI TV and WHO TV regarding an alternate location.

Louise Helfinstine Retires March 29, 2019 After 36 Years of Service at Highland Memory Gardens.



Louise Helfinstine began her career with HMG in October 1982 as the office secretary. She was given the title of Productions Coordinator in the late 90's, a position she has held ever since.

Louise grew up in Minnesota and came to Ankeny in the early 1970's to attend Faith Baptist Bible College for "one year". However, plans change and she went on to get her degree at FBBC and has made Iowa her home for over 40 years.

With the exception of payroll, Louise has been involved in every staff position in the office during her tenure at HMG, including a brief time in the sales office. When a computer system was purchased in the late 1980's Louise and other staff members were given the responsibility of inputting all of the records into the computer – a daunting task which took several years to complete. In the early days, Louise was responsible for all of the office duties, however as the business grew, additional employees were added to assist in the workload. Louise continued to oversee the office, making sure everything was completed correctly and in a timely manner.

Louise's primary responsibilities over the years have been to order the bronze memorials, prepare for the annual proxy, and in recent years facilitating the cemetery reports to the State of Iowa and preparing the annual audit.

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Annual Proxy Meeting Set for Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Highland Perpetual Maintenance Society, Inc., ("Society"), owner and operator of Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery ("HMG"), announces the annual meeting of the Society to occur on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the cemetery office at 1 NE 60th Avenue.

The Society is a lot-owner-owned business governed by a nine-member volunteer board of directors who are lot owners and who serve for three-year terms. As a lot owner and member of the Society, your vote by proxy is important to the operation of the cemetery. The proxy card included with this

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Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery

New Faces Around HMG!



Tosha Edmundson, Administrative Office Coordinator

Tosha Edmundson joined Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery in July of 2018, and will begin her duties as Administrative Office Coordinator on April 1, 2019. Tosha brings years of professional office experience from a variety of industries to HMG. Tosha started her college career studying graphic design at DMACC in Ankeny and later earned two Bachelor's degrees, one in marketing and the other in management, from Iowa State University.

Tosha was born and raised in northwest Iowa and moved to the Des Moines area after high school. She began her family in Ames, while attending Iowa State University and moved to Ankeny before her youngest child started school after accepting her first job following college. Tosha and her husband have remained in Ankeny while raising their three children.

When away from the office, Tosha enjoys spending her time with her family and supporting her kids in all their activities and loves cheering on the Ankeny Christian Academy Eagles. Tosha and her mother work together on a hobby business involving refinishing, repurposing and creating home décor. Tosha and her husband are members of Saylorville Church, where they love serving the Lord together.

Roger Hill, Board Member

Highland Memory Gardens is pleased to announce the addition of our "newest returning" Board Member, Roger Hill. Roger served on the Board of Directors at HMG from 1993-1998, until he moved to Silvis, IL to work with the agronomy department at TPC Deere Run PGA golf course. After relocating to Ankeny in 2017, he resumed his service as a Board Member of HMG in May 2018.

Born and raised in Saylor Township, just down the road from HMG, Roger graduated from Saydel High School and went on to study journalism at Drake University. After serving in the US Army, stationed in South Korea, Roger returned to the area where he was employed by Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for eight years. Roger served as an EMTII on the Ankeny Volunteer Fire Department before accepting a position at John Deere Des Moines Works. After 21 years in the factory, he was transferred to the Deere and Company World Headquarters and traveled extensively throughout the United States and to such countries as Canada, Germany, Spain, China and Brazil.

Roger and his wife, Delores have been married for 46 years and have two daughters, (both of whom were taught their driving skills at HMG!), two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Welcome back, Roger!

Louise Helfinstine Retires continued from page 1

Her favorite part of the job has been taking pictures of the placed memorials and directing the placement of the veteran stands for 34 years.

Louise's attention to detail is evident as she can recall the many people she has "met" through the years while processing contracts and burial records. When given the name of a lot owner, she often has the ability to recall the Garden in which they purchased spaces, even those who purchased in the early days of her employment!

Louise has worked with three General Managers over the course of the years at HMG, Charles Bump (1982-1985), Larry Karlovsky (1987-1998) and Robert Canady (1999-present), and has witnessed many changes in the cemetery business.

As a cancer survivor of two years, Louise is looking forward to a more relaxed, stress-free life in her retirement; however she vows never to stop working at home or in other ways since work is something she truly enjoys.

We want to thank Louise for her years of faithful service to HMG and wish her the best in her retirement!



Gene Kragenbrink, Board Member Emeritus

Long-time board member, Gene Kragenbrink was named Board Member Emeritus in May 2018.

Gene served on HMG's Board of Directors from April 1996 until May 2018, and served in the capacity of Treasurer of the Board from 1998-2018. Gene's ability to analyze figures and trends was a tremendous asset to our board and cemetery.

Gene stepped down from his position last May due to health issues.

We wish to thank Gene for his many years of faithful service to Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery!

Pre-Need Seminars

As a Lot Owner here at Highland Memory Gardens, you have already taken the first step in securing your future funeral and burial needs. CONGRATULATIONS!

For many people, this can be a fearful step into unknown territory. Many questions come to mind: Where do I begin? Should I call a funeral home or a cemetery? Do I want to be buried in a casket? Do I want to be cremated? If I am cremated, can I be buried? Do I have to be buried in the ground? Is a funeral home and/or cemetery really necessary?

We have developed a pre-need presentation entitled, "Pre-planning: Where Do I Begin?" This is a general presentation giving guidelines for beginning the pre-plan process. This program is applicable to all funeral homes and cemeteries; however, of course, we will use HMG as a reference when speaking of private cemetery needs. While we would hope everyone would choose Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery, this presentation is for general information, not solicitation. Our purpose is to encourage people to pre-plan for their future needs – no matter which funeral home or cemetery they choose.

If this information would benefit your church group, club, senior group, etc., please contact Jan Shawver, Family Services Representative for more details and to schedule a time for us to meet with your group.

Remember, pre-planning allows YOU to determine how you will be remembered and it is a gift to your family...relieving them of the burden of making difficult decisions in the midst of grief.



*Louise Helfinstine
and Jerry Sheeks,
Long-time Employees*

Thank you to Louise Helfinstine and Jerry Sheeks, who, between them, have given over 90 years of faithful service to Highland Memory Gardens! In our mobile society, such dedication to one organization is almost unheard of. Jerry continues to work on a part-time basis as a seasonal employee.

Annual Proxy Meeting continued from page 1

official notification is sent to all lot owners with a current address on file. The purpose of the enclosed proxy card is to assign your voting authority (1/4 of one vote per space owned) to the board officers to vote on your behalf in the election of directors and other business that may come before the annual meeting.

The proxy postcard is postage-paid and **requires one signature of each person** named on the card. **Please mail or return the card promptly to the cemetery. We will accept proxy cards with a postmark no later than April 20, 2019, so be sure to sign and mail as soon as possible.**

With this notice all lot owners are invited to attend. If you plan to attend, please call or note it on your card so we may have adequate seating.

Directors currently serving, with their beginning year of service:

- Ivan Wikner, President (1994)
- Kim Dreher, Vice-President (2000)
- Mark Adams, Secretary (1986)
- Kirk Hartung (2013)
- Nancy Lundstrom (1990)
- Ann Thye (2007)
- Lavona Webb (1998)
- Gordon Harrison (2016)
- Roger Hill (1993-1998; 2018)

Concrete vs. Granite foundations

For many years our lot owners had a choice when it came to the foundation under their bronze memorials: concrete or granite.

In 2000, the board of directors determined that concrete foundations would no longer be offered due to the fact that concrete tends to crack and break – especially when there is a “weak spot” caused by the hole allotted for the permanent bronze vase. Broken concrete can result in damage to the bronze memorial.

While we no longer sell the concrete foundations, some remain in our gardens that are cracked or in disrepair. Unfortunately, concrete is not covered under our perpetual care policy; therefore the replacement of the broken foundation ultimately falls to the family of the deceased.

If you have a family member buried at HMG whose memorial is on a concrete foundation, you may wish to consider a “Granite Reload” through a special program for those with concrete foundations. We offer multiple colors of granite at a reduced price.

The greatest advantage to having a granite foundation is that the granite as well as the bronze will be covered under perpetual care.

If you are interested in our granite reload program, please contact Jan Shawver, Family Services Representative.

Reminders

Yearly Cleanup Schedule

Spring Cleanup – 1st Monday in March, weather permitting – or 1st day when ground is thawed so wreath stands can be removed (signs will be posted and notice sent via email).

Memorial Day Cleanup – One week following Memorial Day – Monday, June 3, 2019. All items not in permanent vases will be removed and discarded.

Fall Cleanup – 1st Monday in October – Monday, October 7, 2019. All permanent vases inverted into the ground for winter. All decorations removed and discarded. Remember, vase use is prohibited during the winter months to prevent damage.

HMG has GPS

HMG has GPS navigation directly linked to every grave in the cemetery. Download the app to your mobile phone from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. This tool will navigate you to within ten feet of a grave.

Remember Your Loved One

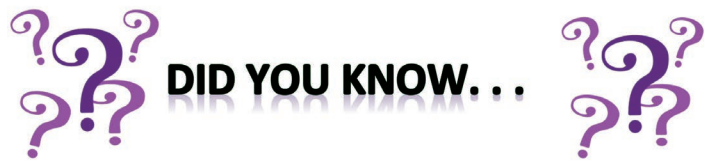
Every life should be remembered. Everyone buried at HMG has their own page on our website, where you may share memories, events, pictures, etc. Go to www.highlandmemorygardens.com to share a permanent tribute to your loved one.

Flowers

A variety of silk floral bouquets for grave placement during the late spring and summer decorating season are now available. A color flyer of our selections and prices is available by mail or email. Flowers ordered by April 13, 2019 will be placed before Mother's Day, May 12, 2019. Flowers will be available in the cemetery office on a cash-and-carry basis beginning May 1st.

Contact information

Have you moved? Phone number and/or email address changed? Please remember to contact HMG with any changes to your contact information. Thank you!
Phone: 515-289-2230 or
Email: info@highlandmemorygardens.com



- a person must make nearly 100 decisions or contacts within the first few days after a loved one dies. Would you like to alleviate some of those decisions for your family?
- there is a difference between making **FUNERAL** arrangements and **BURIAL** arrangements
- you may pre-plan for traditional, casketed burials or cremation burials
- cremation burials may take place either in-ground or in one of our Columbarium niches
- your burial needs may be pre-funded at today's prices and are **GUARANTEED** never to increase
- if you choose to wait until the time of need, prices may have gone up and the pre-planning discounts would not apply to your purchases
- by pre-planning your wishes will be carried out.

Pre-planning 1) keeps your family from making difficult decisions in the midst of grief; 2) locks in current prices which are guaranteed never to increase; and 3) makes your wishes known. Isn't this something you want to do for your family? Call Jan Shawver, our Family Services Representative for an appointment and allow us to assist you in making these important decisions.

Garden Improvements

Best Friends

Best Friends Garden took on a new look as a result of tilling and redesigning the garden in 2017. In 2018 we added annual flowers to fill in some empty spots for the spring and summer months. During the fall we added several more Tulip and Daffodil bulbs around the stepping stones and feature. With this freshly tilled garden, the Celosia and Marigolds we planted in the spring grew to an incredible size. We are excited to watch this garden continue to grow and fill in once again.

Tower

Crab apple trees along the perimeter of Tower Garden were thinned and pruned back to improve garden accessibility and appearance.

Other Gardens

In the fall of 2018 we planted an additional 200 (total) Tulips and Daffodils throughout several of the gardens. We also surveyed the gardens and transplanted from areas which were becoming overgrown in order to give the gardens a fresh and clean look.