



Commemorating 92 Years of Service

HMG Newsletter



SPRING 2022

Presented by Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery, a Perpetual Care Cemetery
Owned and Operated by Highland Perpetual Maintenance Society, Inc.

Annual Proxy Meeting Set for Tuesday, May 10, 2022

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 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hyperion Field Club, 7390 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston, IA. (Please note the change of time and location for this year's meeting.)

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 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

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Improvements to our Gardens

If you have visited Highland Memory Gardens in the past few months, you may have noted a fence surrounding the Tower of Memories, the central focal point of our Gardens. After standing watch over our Gardens for over 85 years through all types of weather, including two Derechos in the past two years, the Tower is showing its age and is in need of a renovation. Our Board of Directors is diligently working on plans to restore the Tower to its original beauty. We will keep you informed in the days ahead as those plans progress and how you can help in restoring our Tower of Memories to stand watch over these sacred grounds for the next century and beyond.

We are also in the process of putting new water lines throughout the cemetery grounds. Last fall we



discovered a water leak in the gardens. After extensive investigation to find the source, it was determined that many of the old water lines were in disrepair and had the great potential of causing more problems. As a result, HMG has hired a company to install all new water lines throughout the cemetery. This process was begun in the fall of 2021 and will be completed as soon as the ground thaws this spring.

Memorial Day Celebration



Our annual Memorial Day Celebration honoring our veterans will be held on Monday, May 30, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Tower of Memories at Highland Memory Gardens. Bring your lawn chairs if you desire.

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Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery

Welcome a New Board Member to HMG!



Sue Woods was born and raised in the Highland Park neighborhood, just a few blocks from Highland Memory Gardens. After graduation from North High School, she earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in English from Iowa State University, where she also taught English and Women's Studies.

Following graduation, she was employed by The Principal Financial Group, responsible for employee training and strategic planning. In 1998, Sue accepted the position of Executive Director of United Way of Jasper County where she served for ten years. Her work was both personally and spiritually fulfilling. Under her leadership, United Way of Jasper County experienced 28% growth, and Sue was honored at United Way's Regional level with an award for Special Event Planning and Video Production.

During this time, Sue was active as a Licensed/Interim Minister in Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist churches, as well as an instructor

for DMACC. In 2007, the family returned to Ankeny where Sue conducted workshops and training in Nonprofit Management and Board Development through DMACC.

Then, God called. Sue pursued her studies to become an Ordained Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and began full-time ministry in 2008 at College Avenue Christian Church and, later, Waukee Christian Church.

In her spare time, Sue enjoys writing (she is a published author) and quilting. She lives in Ankeny with her husband, Jerry. They have four children and nine grandchildren. Sue's parents are buried at HMG.

Annual Proxy Meeting cont. from page 1

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 15, 2022, so be sure to sign and mail as soon as possible.**

With this notice all lot owners are invited to attend the annual meeting. 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:

- Roger Hill, President (1993-1998; 2018)
- Kirk Hartung, Vice President (2013)
- Mark Adams, Secretary (1986)
- Robert Myers, Treasurer (2021)
- Steve Beaver (2020)
- Nancy Lundstrom (1990)
- Ann Thye (2007)
- Lavona Webb (1998)
- Sue Woods (2021)

Garden Improvements of HMG

If you have been to Highland Memory Gardens in recent months you may have noticed a few changes in some of the gardens. In 2021, due to the onslaught of the Emerald Ash Borer, we have removed ten plus of our Ash trees around the cemetery and have several more that are marked for removal in the near future. Though we hate to lose so many of our trees that have previously been a part of making HMG the serene place it has been known to be, it does now open up new opportunities to plant several new (to HMG) varieties of trees. In the fall of 2021, we selected and planted five trees and are excited to see them grow through the years to come.

Each fall we add more tulips and daffodils to the cemetery. We planted an additional 100 tulips and 100 daffodils that we hope to see showing off their colors in the spring.

TOMORROW...

Webster defines tomorrow as “a future period of time – the day following today”.

What are you putting off until tomorrow? Starting that diet? Calling a friend? Adding to your savings account? Caring for future funeral and burial needs?

As I begin my eighth year as Family Services Representative at Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery, I have met with thousands of families, either planning for their own future burial needs or to care for the burial of a loved one.

I also have records of many family units that have come into my office with the good intentions of caring for their future burial needs. However, they have left saying, “I’ll call you tomorrow;” “We have to discuss

our options;” “As soon as I receive my tax refund;” “I have to transfer some money first;” or whatever their reason may be.

It is so easy to put things off until tomorrow – the diet, the friend, the savings, the end-of-life needs.

You are receiving this newsletter because you own property here at Highland Memory Gardens. But have you completed purchasing the rest of your future burial needs? The opening/closing of the grave for a casket or cremation burial? A vault to protect the casket? Your bronze-on-granite memorial?

Whatever you are putting off until tomorrow – don’t wait. Life is short – death is no respecter of persons – it may come at any time.

Remember: Today is Yesterday’s Tomorrow!



Video Tour of Highland Memory Gardens

Have you viewed the new video tour of Highland Memory Gardens, which is found on the main page of our website? “Memorial Day at Highland Memory Gardens”. This beautiful tour of our gardens was filmed and produced last Memorial Day by lot owner, Darrin Clouse. A special thank you to Darrin for this professional tribute to Memorial Day here at HMG!

Memorial Day Celebration cont. from page 1

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, 2021. Refreshments follow the service.

In case of inclement weather, we will notify you via our email listing, WHO Radio, KCCI TV and WHO TV regarding an alternate location.



Reminder of Events & Services Offered by HMG

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 6, 2022. All items not in permanent vases will be removed and discarded.

FALL CLEANUP

1st Monday in October – Monday, October 3, 2022. All permanent vases will be inverted into the ground for winter and all decorations will be 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. Visit our website www.highlandmemorygardens.com and click on “Download Our Mobile App” from the pull-down menu. This tool will navigate you to within 10-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, and follow these steps to share a permanent tribute to your loved one:

1. “Locate a Loved One”;
2. Insert loved one’s last name (no spaces before or after the name);
3. Search;
4. Scroll to bottom to “Share Your Memories”.

On the Memories Page, you will see a date field. Please change the date to the original date of the event or photo so your memories will be placed in chronological order, resulting in the creation of a timeline of your loved ones’ life.



Contact information

Have you moved? Has your phone number and/or email address changed? Please remember to contact HMG with any changes to your contact information. Thank you!

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, email or on the events page of our website. Flower orders received by April 8, 2022 will be placed before Mother’s Day, May 8, 2022. Beginning May, flowers will be available in the cemetery office on a cash-and-carry basis only.