

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS, INC.

2021 NEWSLETTER

Annual Lot Owner's Meeting

We NEED you there!

Every year on the third Tuesday in June, Sunset Memorial Gardens (SMG) holds a meeting for all lot owners. We use this time to inform you of improvements made to the cemetery, to present a summary of the finances for the past fiscal year and to report on other items of interest to those who own lots or have loved ones interred at SMG. In addition, we encourage questions, requests, and suggestions from the owners present. We value the input from those who have entrusted the care and maintenance of their final resting place to Sunset Memorial Gardens personnel.

If there is an issue needing a vote of the lot owners, this meeting is the time we present the matter for discussion and a vote. We need a quorum present to ensure the vote is legal and binding. Therefore, your presence is especially important to us. We realize that some owners live far away and are unable to come to Fargo, but we encourage those living closer to attend.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to exercise your vote, we offer a **'Proxy'** which gives you the right to name someone to vote on your behalf...someone who will be present at the meeting. If you wish to submit a proxy form, please go to our website (www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com). There is a link to the Proxy Statement Form just above the Special Announcements box on the home page. Just print the Proxy form and complete the requested information, then send it to the Sunset Memorial Gardens office at 1715 52nd Ave. South, Fargo, ND 58104.

If you prefer, you can use the "Contact Us" feature on the website to request a proxy be sent to you. Or you may call the SMG office (701-293-4819) to request a proxy form.

The specific time and location of the annual meeting is always advertised in our newsletter and on our website, but you can mark your calendar for **June 21, 2022**, for the next one. Hope to see you there!

Special Note: *the 2022 Annual Member meeting will be held at a new location. We will meet at **Bremer Bank at 1444 45th St So in Fargo** (behind Kohl's) in their community room. Refreshments will be served and there is an elevator available for those who need it. We hope you will join us!*



SMG Financial Summary for Fiscal Year ended May 31, 2021

Financial results for the cemetery are dependent on volume and level of activity and for this fiscal year, both were very favorable. The sale of 64 lots and niches was higher than we expected and the highest since 2015. The average for the prior three years is 34 so this is a very positive trend. Likewise, the 119 interments were higher than expected.

Operating income for the year was \$24,000 better than expected and \$5,000 more than the prior year. The operating expenses were \$11,000 higher than the prior year including spending nearly \$30,000 to complete the drainage improvement project.

Other income was \$7,000 more than expected and \$6,000 more than previous year. This was the result of contributions designated for the Perpetual Care Fund (PCF) being higher than the prior year. The net income of \$44,000 was \$30,000 better than expected and \$17,000 above prior year.

The PCF finished the year with a value of \$1,384,000, an increase of \$227,000 for the year. A large part of that was an increase of \$184,000 in market value of the investments. The remainder is from investment income, donations, and the 20% of lot sales as required by law.

We have an Agency account at Bremer Bank which is the discretionary fund that is available for maintaining the cemetery, making improvements, and purchase of equipment. This account increased by \$72,000 this year to a total value of \$549,000. The Agency account and PCF have been doing very well over recent years with about equal investments in equity and fixed income funds.

Available cash – the cash in the checking account plus the value of the Agency account – was \$455,000 at year end (\$1,000 less than expected but \$4,000 more than a year earlier). This increase took place even with the expenditure of nearly \$30,000 for the drainage project.

From a financial perspective, it was a very good year for Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Arnold Carriere, Treasurer

Opportunities to help at Sunset Memorial Gardens.....

Do you have free time during the summer months? Maybe you're retired or have summers off in your current job? Do you like to work outdoors? Sunset has some good opportunities for you!

Volunteers: We desperately need new **volunteers**. We have had a wonderful group who are always willing to help but we are getting older and could use some fresh blood (and energy). Do you like gardening/yard work? Painting? Carpentry? Computer work/data entry? Bookkeeping? Serving on a board of directors? Let us know your interests and we'll find a job for you.

Paid Grounds Manager Position: SMG is also looking for a parttime grounds manager to manage, assign, and assist with projects throughout the cemetery grounds.... primarily during the summer months (May – October). You can set your hours and coordinate with our office manager on tasks that need to be done. The work is varied, and the rewards are many. We offer a good hourly wage and the flexibility to fit your schedule.

If you'd like to learn more about this paid position, or if you'd like to sign on as a volunteer, please contact the SMG office by phone: 701-293-4819 or email: info@sunsetmemorialfargo.com.

Volunteer Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Regarding Your Donations

Sunset Memorial Gardens has a Perpetual Care Fund set up for the purpose of maintaining the grounds, buildings, and the operation of Sunset. We are authorized to use only the Investment Income received from this Fund. 100% of your donation is invested in the Perpetual Care Fund. We need to build up the principal of this fund to insure income for maintenance now and in future years. Thank you to all who have donated in the past.

Please make checks payable to **SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS, INC.**

Name: _____ Amount \$ _____ File #: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you interested in receiving Newsletters via email? Yes _____ No _____

Your contribution is deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
Please return this portion with your donation. Thank you for your generosity.



LOT PRICES

Effective September 1, 2015
(Subject to change without notice)

All Flat Marker Gardens:	One Lot - \$700
Resurrection Garden:	One Lot - \$1,120
Columbarium Niche:	Top or Bottom Rows - \$750 Center Rows - \$800

SMG BOARD MEMBERS

Yvonne Baker	Margy Nelson
Arnold Carriere	Art Phillips
Steve Eicholtz	Phyllis Hohle
Steve Revland	Bruce Thomas
Janice Miller	

SMG WEBSITE

We encourage you to visit our website (www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com) for announcements, updates, and other important information about Sunset Memorial Gardens. The website has photos and maps of the various gardens in the cemetery. Use the "Find a Grave" feature to locate a specific burial location.

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Fargo, ND 58104**



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Fax: (701) 476-6593
Email: info@sunsetmemorialfargo.com

Find us on the Web:
www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

ANNUAL LOT OWNERS MEETING
June 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
**** Bremer Bank Community Room ****
1444 45th St S., Fargo, ND

Mark your calendar. Lot owner presence is needed.

Spring Clean Up – Early April 2022

Fall Clean Up – Early October 2022

Memorial Day Clean-Up – June 10, 2022 (10 days after holiday)

(Weather permitting - Call office to verify dates.)

PRIOR TO SPRING, FALL and MEMORIAL DAY CLEAN-UP,
ITEMS YOU WISH TO SAVE MUST BE REMOVED.
ITEMS CAN BE PLACED AGAIN AFTER CLEAN-UP.

Any questions regarding Rules & Regulations, please contact
Sunset Memorial Gardens' office or website.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

May 30, 2022 – 11:15 a.m. or shortly thereafter.
(In Veteran's Garden at north end of cemetery)