

# SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS, INC. 2018 NEWSLETTER



*Garden of the Last Supper*

## Keeping our cemetery beautiful

At Sunset Memorial Gardens, we rely on our faithful and hard-working volunteers to keep the grounds and facilities looking their best. They spend many, many hours doing cleanup, tending flower beds and generally maintaining the gardens. They do this to honor their own loved ones who are buried at SMG and they do it for your loved ones as well.

Every spring and every fall, we have a cemetery-wide cleanup day where we remove grave decorations from the winter or summer months. We also do a cleanup ten days after Memorial Day. It's hard work and we couldn't do it without the help of our dedicated volunteers.

After each cleanup session, we inevitably get a few phone calls asking why we removed decorations from a loved one's grave. We try very hard to save items that we think someone may want back, but we have no way of knowing if the individual intends to return to retrieve the decoration so we must use our best judgment. We remove anything made of glass or metal (wire stands, etc.) because of the danger they present to the cleanup crew, our lawn mowing staff and other visitors.

Notifications are posted on the Sunset Memorial website ([www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com](http://www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com)) giving the dates for cleanup. We ask that if you have an item or items you want saved to please call the SMG office and give your name, phone number and the location of the grave (or the name of the interred) so we can save the item(s) for you. The cemetery office number is: **701-293-4819**.

We appreciate your understanding. We are sincerely trying to maintain a peaceful and attractive resting place for all of our loved ones.

## Sunset Memorial Gardens Financial Summary for Fiscal Year ended May 31, 2018

The financial condition of Sunset Memorial Gardens (SMG) continues to be strong. The Perpetual Care Trust Fund ended the year with a value of **\$1,091,000**. During the course of the year, the Fund increased by more than \$50,600. Of that, \$16,000 came from member and individual contributions and another \$6,000 was through the mandatory deposit of 20% of lot sales. Another \$28,000 came from the market value increase to the Fund investments.

We were able to increase our cash reserves by almost \$14,000 at year end compared to the previous year. This was accomplished even with \$17,000 in capitalized improvements to the grounds this year.

Income from investments was about 6.2% more than the prior year. Contributions to the Perpetual Care Trust Fund from investments was about \$5,600 (27.4%) less than last year but this was offset by the contributions mentioned earlier in this report.

The final net income of \$45,766 was just \$2,432 below the previous year and slightly below the projected amount. The primary reason for the small decline was a drop in the number of lot sales and interments over the course of the year. Operating expenses were very close to the previous year so the decline in sales revenue resulted in a small decline in net income.

If you have specific questions about the finances at SMG, we invite you to attend the annual meeting in June 2019 where detailed financial reports are distributed to lot owners.

Arnold Carriere, Treasurer

*Sunset Memorial Gardens wishes to honor the memory of Leslie C. Jensen, one of our faithful Board Members who passed away unexpectedly on July 29, 2018.*

### LOT PRICES

#### EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2018

(Subject to change without notice)

#### **All Flat Marker Gardens:**

One Lot                      \$ 700

#### **Resurrection Garden:**

One Lot                      \$1,120

#### **Columbarium Niche:**

Top or Bottom Row        \$ 750

Center Rows                \$ 800



### Board Members

Arnold Carriere              Margy Nelson

Steve Eicholtz              Robert Nelson

Phyllis Hohle              Steve Revland

Bruce Thomas

### Sunset Memorial Gardens Columbarium

## 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Volunteer Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Suggested categories you might be interested in:

- Gardening/Yard Work (Adopt a Garden)
- Painting/Carpentry
- Seasonal interests (Helping erect flags for Memorial Day, etc.)
- Serving on the Board of Directors
- Other skills or interests you have? \_\_\_\_\_

## “Tech” Corner

We have added a new feature to our SMG website that makes it possible to find a specific grave within the grounds at Sunset Memorial Gardens. If you have a GPS function on your phone, tablet or computer, and are on the cemetery grounds, this feature will lead you to within 15 feet of the gravesite you are looking for. If you are at your home computer, you can pull up a map of the cemetery with the exact location of the grave you seek.

To use this new feature, go to the SMG website at [www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com](http://www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com) and click on the “Find a Grave” button on the top menu bar. This will bring up a “Cemetery Search” box where you can enter the last name of the interred. Next you’ll see a list of individuals buried at SMG with that last name. Simply click on the name that you want and it will pull up information regarding death date, burial date and the name of the Garden (including Block, Lot and Space) where that person is buried. You can print this map by clicking the printer icon on the top right of this screen.

We encourage you to visit our website ([www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com](http://www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com)) for information on upcoming events such as spring and fall clean-up dates and other announcements. There are also links to “Contact Us” and “Volunteer” where you can fill out a form online that is automatically sent to the SMG office. **Please check it out!**

**1715 52nd Ave South  
Fargo, ND 58104**



**Sunset Memorial Gardens, Inc.**

1715 52nd Ave South  
Fargo, ND 58104

Phone: (701) 293-4819  
Fax: (701) 476-6593  
Email: [info@sunsetmemorialfargo.com](mailto:info@sunsetmemorialfargo.com)

Find us on the Web:  
[www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com](http://www.sunsetmemorialfargo.com)



**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**LOT OWNERS ANNUAL MEETING**

**June 18, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
613 – 16<sup>th</sup> Street So., Fargo, ND**

**Mark your calendar. Lot owner presence is needed.**  
PROXY – Contact office for form, if interested.

**Spring Clean Up – Early April 2019**

**Fall Clean Up – Early October 2019**

**Memorial Day Clean-Up – June 7, 2019 (10 days after holiday)**  
(Weather permitting. Call office for dates of all clean-up 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 27, 2019 – 11:15 a.m. or shortly thereafter.  
(In case of rain, services will be held at the Fargo Civic basketball court.)