



Cornerstones

A Newsletter From Oak Grove Cemetery

Spring ♦ 2005 ♦ Vol. 4 ♦ No. 1



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Message from Val *Executive Director*

Val Reinke

It seems like people are reluctant to go to the cemetery these days. It's like going to visit someone in the hospital, you know you should, but you're not very excited about it, and can't wait to get out of there. I think that's a shame. I believe that a cemetery should be a place that honors — and celebrates — the lives of the people interred there.

It wasn't always this way. At the turn of the century, people would come to the cemetery like they would to a park, to stroll, relax, and even have a picnic. The biggest day of all for this kind of activity was Memorial Day.

I'd like to propose that this year on Memorial Day weekend, we recapture that tradition. The annual Memorial Day parade ends at Oak Grove, a great reason to come and stay for awhile. If the parade isn't on your schedule, stop by some other time during the weekend. Our office will be open Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday noon-4 p.m., and Monday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

We'd be happy to show you around our beautiful, historic 80-acre cemetery.

If you're reading this, chances are good that you have spent some time here, and know a bit about our grounds. I'm always surprised that there are people who have lived in the area all of their lives and have never been inside Oak Grove's walls. When they do visit, they are amazed at the beauty, art and history that surround us.

This Memorial Day, let's show the cemetery off — bring someone who has never been here before. This would be a great day to take our self-guided walking tour of historic sites in the cemetery. Stop in for a brochure.

Val Reinke
Executive Director

Genealogy: How to get started

Have you ever wanted to research your family tree? Where would you start? We asked Jonna Peterson, a member of the La Crosse Area Genealogical Society to give us some tips on how to do it. Watch for more tips in the next Cornerstones.

If a person wants to research their family tree, where's the best place to start?

The best place is to start with yourself. Fill out a family history chart. Next, you want to talk to your relatives, especially the older folk who may remember information that will help provide clues to your search. As an example, what counties, states, etc that your family lived in. This will help when you go to find vital records — and finding the county that may hold your family records.

Learn more at Gene-A-Rama:
..... **April 29 & 30,**
"Genealogy for the Upper Midwest," is a program of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society that will be held at the La Crosse Center. See www.wsgs.org for details.

Interested in the La Crosse Area Genealogical Society?

Membership is \$5 for the newsletters only or \$15 for newsletters and quarterlies. The newsletter some out 3 times a year. The group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sept, Oct, Nov) at 7 p.m. in the La Crosse Public Library basement meeting room, 8th and Main in La Crosse.

- ♦ Wall of Honor Dedication
- ♦ Upcoming Events
- ♦ Spring Flowers



Oak Grove Cemetery

Dedicates Wall of Honor for Veterans

November 11, 2004, was a time to remember the contributions and sacrifices the men and women who have served, and are currently serving, in the Armed Forces.

Oak Grove Cemetery selected Veteran's Day to dedicate the new Wall of Honor for Veterans; a special section to serve as a final resting place for veterans and their families. More than 80 people attended the event. The day was bright and clear — and chilly for November.

Event participants included Jim Gausmann, La Crosse County Veterans Service Officer; Capt. Mark Jolivette, Chaplain Corps, US Navy; Jerry Miller, President, Oak Grove Cemetery Board of Trustees; Val Reinke, Executive Director, Oak Grove Cemetery; and VFW Post 1530 Color Guard and Firing Squad. The local band "The Grumpy Old Men" provided the music.

The raising of the flag was an emotional moment. The lighted flagpole for the Wall of Honor was donated by Louis Robinson, a long-time trustee of Oak Grove Cemetery. Louis was a veteran himself, having served in the 14th Armored Division, Battery B of the 501st Artillery in WWII. Louis passed away in August at the age of 80. His sons, Paul, David and Mark helped raise the flag on the pole that their father donated.



Capt. Mark Jolivette, Chaplain, addresses the crowd.



The Grumpy Old Men provided the music.

About the Wall of Honor

The Wall of Honor includes niches, for veterans and their family member who choose cremation, and crypts for people who prefer a full body entombment. The area is adorned with five large bronze emblems for each of branch of the military, next to a large plaque recognizing the determination and sacrifice of our nation's military personnel, which reads: "Duty, Honor, Country. The willingness to sacrifice is the prelude to freedom. This memorial is dedicated with appreciation to the men and women whose loyalty and service during times of war and peace define the character of this great nation."

If you'd like to learn more about the Wall of Honor, or to schedule a private tour, please give us a call.



VFW Post 1530 Color Guard presents colors (above) and raises the flag (right).





Superintendent's Corner Spring Decorations



Adam Casper

Spring is right around the corner — a very busy time for all of us at Oak Grove. I'd like to take this opportunity to review our policies regarding spring decorations. I know that some of these rules may sound strict, but please know that by following them you help us to maintain our beautiful 80-acre facility.

- ◆ Please remove any winter decorations before April 1. Once April begins, we start gearing up for the season and will need to remove and dispose of any leftover winter decorations.
- ◆ Please be aware that we will remove any weathered or unsightly artificial flowers or decorations at any time of the year.
- ◆ We do not allow perennial plants on graves.
- ◆ For safety's sake, we do not allow artificial decorations on the ground. Artificial flowers are allowed in a vase on a stand, or tied onto a monument.

- ◆ Potted plants are permitted on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Memorial Day. They may remain on the graves until the next mowing cycle. We are not able to store any potted plants that we remove when we mow.
- ◆ Oak Grove offers flower services to keep your loved one's gravesite beautiful. There are a number of options, from a one-time small arrangement to perpetual care. Call us or check out our web site at www.oakgrovecemetery.com for details.
- ◆ We also offer niche and crypt front bouquets. Please call us for details.
- ◆ You may plant annual flowers in the ground at a graveside as long as the planted area does not exceed more than one foot in front of the marker or monument, and is no wider than the monument or marker.

Our web site has the full listing of all of Oak Grove's rules and regulations. We update these annually. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Be a tourist in your own backyard: *Take a self-guided historic tour*

Spring is a great time to take a historic walk around Oak Grove Cemetery. You can easily visit the historic sites in the cemetery, thanks to our self-guided walking tour brochure. This guide leads you to gravesites of famous people, as well as interesting structures and works of art. You'll also learn about the lives of the people buried in the cemetery, including G. Heileman, the Hixon Family and Cadwallader C. Washburn.

The guide is free of charge and is a great way to learn more about area history — and get a little exercise at the same time. Call us, or stop in, for a free copy of the brochure.



Please Send Me:

- General information about Oak Grove Cemetery A 2005 price list for Oak Grove Cemetery
- Oak Grove Planning Guide Wall of Honor Information Rules & Regulations

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

- Please have someone at Oak Grove Cemetery call me regarding pre-arrangement counseling or other questions related to the cemetery.

Telephone number: _____

Send to: Oak Grove Cemetery, 1407 La Crosse Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601



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Oak Grove Cemetery News Briefs

Sixty new sites available soon

Oak Grove has good news for people who would like to have an upright monument on their gravesite. We have just added an additional 60 sites in area 51A which will have room for upright monuments and family plots. This is a very nice part of the cemetery with mature trees. Call us for details.

Spring Flower Options at Oak Grove

Let Oak Grove beautify your loved one's gravesite this spring with flowers. This year's vase will include dracaena, geraniums, petunias and vinca vines, planted in premium soil that includes a slow release fertilizer and water crystals. Our staff will take care of everything. The flowers receive adequate watering and we carefully remove spent flowers to encourage additional blossoms. Call us today to discuss pricing and program options.

To have your loved one's grave decorated throughout the year, year-after-year, you may want to consider our special care flowers. This is a one-time purchase and each year the flowers are planted automatically the special care flower funds are placed in a trust account and only the interest is used to cover the planting expenses each year. Call us for details.

Annual Lot Owners Meeting April 27, 9 a.m.

Minnesota Room, Radisson Hotel, La Crosse. All lot owners of record should have already received a letter with details about this important meeting.

Silent City September 17

Mark your calendar — the 2005 "Discover the Silent City" tour that we do in cooperation with the La Crosse County Historical Society is set for Saturday, September 17.

Have you seen our new ads?

Oak Grove's
new advertising
campaign features
our sales counselor,
Glenda Lee.



Mark your calendar:

- ◆ **April 29:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Wellness Expo at the Omni Center. The event features speakers, lunch, entertainment, health checks and door prizes. No charge. We hope to see you there.
- ◆ **May 30:** Memorial Day: Parade in the morning, which ends at Oak Grove. Service to follow in the cemetery. Office hours for the weekend are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., and Monday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- ◆ **July 29, 30 and 31:** Hixon Family Reunion at the newly renovated Hixon House. A cemetery visit to the family plot is still in planning stages.
- ◆ **December 11:** A Light to Remember

*Oak Grove Cemetery's Newsletter, CornerStones
and other valuable information is available online at
www.oakgrovecemetery.com*

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