



# Cornerstones

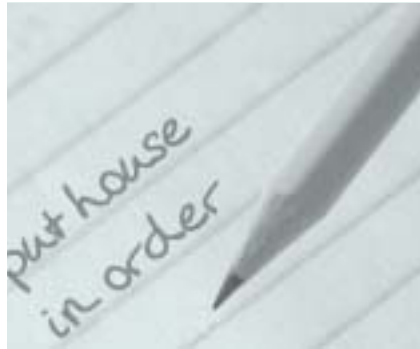
A Newsletter From Oak Grove Cemetery

Summer ♦ 2003 ♦ Vol I ♦ No. 5



## What to do before you die

Many of us have a list of what we want to accomplish or experience before we die. Some people dream of travel - of seeing the Taj Mahal or the Vatican before they die. Others have more personal wishes - they want to live to see a child graduate from college or a grandchild get married.



The sections of the Oak Grove Planning Guide are:

### A letter to your loved ones

#### Essential information

- ◆ Location of important documents
- ◆ Key contacts
- ◆ Bank accounts and investments
- ◆ List of primary beneficiaries
- ◆ List of assets and liabilities

- ◆ **Burial Services**
- ◆ **Chapel**
- ◆ **Grave Sites**
- ◆ **Monuments and Markers**
- ◆ **Cremation Services**
- ◆ **Urns**
- ◆ **Mausoleum**
- ◆ **Pre-arrangement Counseling**

Besides the personal things we *want* to do, we absolutely *should* do several things before we die. One of these is commonly known as "putting your house in order," that is, finalizing and gathering together all of your important documents and making decisions about end-of-life and death issues.

What have you done to put your house in order? Oak Grove is ready to assist you in this process. We have recently published a planning guide to help you make decisions and gather your important documents. The Oak Grove Planning Guide is part document, part storage folder. The document asks you to identify where important papers are, and to include copies in the folder. It asks everything from what your interment preferences are (see related story on page 3) and what you want your obituary to say.

### Planning documents

- ◆ Will
- ◆ Health care directive/living will

### Benefits

- ◆ Veteran's burial information
- ◆ Social Security benefits

### Interment options

- ◆ Cremation
- ◆ Full body

### How you want to be remembered

- ◆ Your obituary
- ◆ Your funeral or memorial service

### Other matters

- ◆ What families should know
- ◆ Organ donation

### About Oak Grove Cemetery

- ◆ Programs and services
- ◆ Map of Oak Grove Cemetery

In developing the piece, we consulted experts and resources in end-of-life issues, and think we've come up with a comprehensive guide that will help you - and your family.

We'd like to send you this planning guide to you, free of charge. Just fill out the coupon on page 3. And since this is the first time we're offering the planning guide, we'd like to hear what you think, if it was helpful to you, and what suggestions you have for future editions.

in this issue:

- ◆ **Famous Sites**
- ◆ **Interment Options**
- ◆ **Oak Grove Cemetery New Briefs**



## Message from Val

Executive Director

Val Reinke

In this issue of *Cornerstones*, we look at pre-planning, that is, planning for your own death. Although it doesn't sound like an uplifting topic, pre-planning is a gift you give to your loved ones. By making the necessary arrangements, gathering your documents and stating your wishes and preferences, you can help ease the burden your loved ones experience when you die. We're also offering a pre-planning guide free of charge to our readers. This booklet, described in the article above, will help you

organize your documents and your thoughts about how you want things done at the end of your life. To receive your own copy of the planning guide, please fill out the coupon on page 3.

Thank you for reading our newsletter, and as always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Val Reinke  
Executive Director

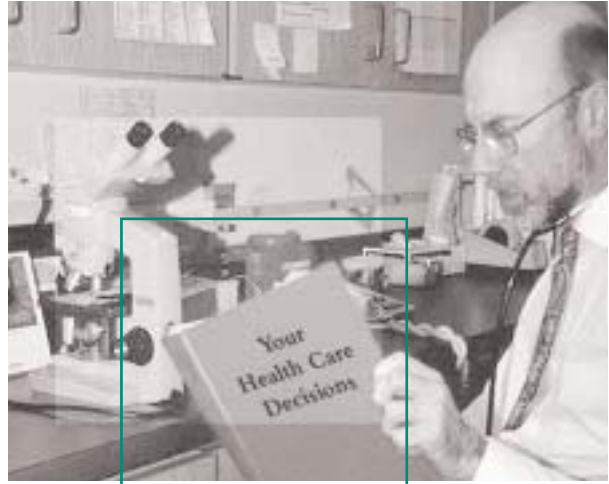
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## Of The Issue:

### advance directives

Advance directives are written instructions that state how you want health care decisions to be made for you if you become incapacitated. Individuals who are of sound mind and are 18 or older may complete these forms. Wisconsin laws created two forms of advance directives for health care - the living will and the health care power of attorney.

- ♦ A **living will** (Declaration to Physicians) allows you to select the kind of life-sustaining care you would want if injury or illness leaves you in a terminal condition (dying) or a persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery.
- ♦ With a **health care power of attorney**, you appoint someone to be your “agent” to make all health care



decisions - not just those involving life support - for you if you lose the ability to make decisions for yourself.

Information provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Forms are available on the web at [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/forms/AdvDirectives](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/forms/AdvDirectives).

## Famous sites:

### In The Cemetery: Trane/Hood Memorial

A small crypt in Oak Grove Cemetery marks the final resting place for the Trane and Hood families. Norwegian immigrant James A. Trane (1857-1936) settled in La Crosse in 1864 when he was seven years old. As a young man he found work as a plumber and established his own plumbing, steam heating and gas fitting business on Pearl Street. James was an innovative inventor in the plumbing business.

His son, Reuben Trane (1886-1954), was also mechanically gifted and the two incorporated as partners in the Trane Company in 1913. The company received an important defense contract during World War II. After the war, the company became a major



Reuben Trane in his office on 2nd and Cameron Streets in 1940.

international supplier of heating and cooling systems. Helen Hood (1891-1978) married Reuben in 1912 and Helen's brother Frank Hood and his son Wayne Hood all were actively involved in the family business.

For nearly a century, the Trane Company has been an important part of the La Crosse manufacturing economy. The gray granite Trane/Hood memorial is modestly ornamented with a plain horizontal cornice and carved detailing around the door.

### Self-Guided Walking Tour

#### Brochures Now Available

You can easily visit the Trane/Hood Memorial, along with several other historic sites in Oak Grove 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.





## What are my interment options? Oak Grove Cemetery

Have you thought about what you want to happen to your body after you die? Today there are so many choices available to consumers. Making your interment decisions known while you're still living will help your family at the time of your passing. The staff at Oak Grove Cemetery can explain these options in greater detail. The two basic options are cremation and full body interment.

### Cremation

Cremation is an increasingly popular choice, for reasons ranging from religious beliefs or ethnic customs to cost. Many people select the process simply because of personal preference.

Some people are surprised to learn how many choices they have, including:

- ♦ **Direct family cremation:** The family arranges to bring the deceased directly to the crematorium, such as Oak Grove Cemetery. This does not involve a funeral director. A memorial service can still be held. This is a very cost-effective option, costing approximately \$350.
- ♦ **Cremation following a traditional visitation and funeral:** This choice involves a funeral director and a visitation or viewing with a funeral ceremony and church or memorial services. In Wisconsin, funeral homes are permitted to rent caskets for viewing and services. The cost for this type of service typically starts at \$1,500 - 2,000.

There are also a variety of options for the final disposition of cremated remains.



- ♦ Urns or other containers may be placed in a niche at a cemetery. Oak Grove has niches available in the Garden Mausoleum, Chapel and Historic Mausoleum.
- ♦ Families may elect to bury the urn in a family plot or cemetery or keep it in another place of personal significance, such as the home.
- ♦ The family may wish to scatter the ashes in a place that was significant to the deceased. Please check with your local and state laws first. Oak Grove Cemetery also provides an area for scattering.

### Full Body

If you choose not to be cremated, there are still several choices for your interment. You can be:

- ♦ Buried in the ground in a traditional grave
- ♦ Entombed in an above-ground mausoleum

Oak Grove Cemetery offers both choices for individuals.

### Our Mission:

*Oak Grove Cemetery exists to provide a beautiful and serene final resting place. We will provide comprehensive services for clients in an environment of trust, compassion and respect. The cemetery recognizes its importance as a historical resource, and is committed to enhancing public knowledge of that history.*



### Please Send Me:

- Oak Grove Cemetery's Planning Guide
- Information about direct cremation
- General information about Oak Grove Cemetery
- Oak Grove's self-guided walking tour brochure
- A 2003 price list for Oak Grove Cemetery

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**







## Oak Grove Cemetery News Briefs

### Superintendent earns cremationist certification



**Adam Casper**

Oak Grove Cemetery Association is proud to announce that Adam Casper, Superintendent of Operations, has completed the Crematory Operator Certification Program through the Cremation Association of North America. As a part of the certification process, Casper studied the history of cremation, cremation statistics, professional terminology, principles of combustion and incinerator design, combustion terminology, cremation and the environment, handling and packaging of remains, crematory

recordkeeping, operation, maintenance and troubleshooting of crematory equipment and controlling operator exposure to communicable disease. Casper has been with the cemetery for more than 10 years. Oak Grove Cemetery provides cremation services for funeral home directors and directly to families. The crematorium service was initiated in 1979.

### Opening soon: The Meadow at Oak Grove Cemetery

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our first new area of the cemetery in many years. The new area is called "The Meadow at Oak Grove Cemetery" and includes space for 600 in-ground burials. Although there is plenty of room for burials throughout the existing cemetery, we needed this new space so that large families could be buried together. The Meadow will also be big enough allow for monuments, which is a very nice feature for a family plot. Stay tuned for details about the kickoff for The Meadow.

### Silent City Tour Dates Announced

Mark your calendars - the La Crosse County Historical Society (LCHS) will host their annual Silent City Tour at Oak Grove Cemetery on Saturday, September 13. This is a fun event where actors portray famous people buried in the cemetery. It's your chance to learn more about La Crosse history. This year's tour will feature some of the community's early medical professionals. The LCHS is looking for people to be actors for this year's tour. If you're interested in acting the part of an early La Crosse citizen, call LCHS at (608) 782-1980.

This summer, we are inviting everyone to tour this beautiful facility during one of our open houses. They are scheduled for:

Monday, July 14	10 a.m. - noon
Tuesday, July 15	noon - 2 p.m.
Wednesday, July 16	4 - 6 p.m.
Monday, July 28	4 - 6 p.m.
Tuesday, July 29	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, July 30	noon - 2 p.m.
Monday, September 8	noon - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, September 9	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, September 10	noon - 2 p.m.
Thursday, September 11	2 - 4 p.m.
Saturday, September 13	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information or to schedule a personal tour, call (608) 782-6956.

### Visit our garden mausoleum this summer

Are you making your final plans? Have you ever considered space at a mausoleum? Oak Grove Cemetery's Garden Mausoleum is a unique and serene environment. Beautiful landscaping, including a waterfall and fountains enhances this new space, constructed with quality brick and granite. We offer single and double niches for cremated remains and single, double and triple crypts for full-sized caskets.

### Trustee update

Congratulations to David G. Growt of Onalaska and James M. Brindley of La Crosse for their re-election to the Oak Grove Cemetery board of trustees. The two were voted in at the annual lot holders meeting April 23, 2003, and each will serve a 3-year term.

### Staff update

There have been some staffing changes at Oak Grove Cemetery. Former Superintendent Sharon Martin is no longer with Oak Grove Cemetery Association as of May 15, 2002. In addition, former Sales Counselor, Deb Seitz, is no longer with Oak Grove as of May 7, 2003.

### Need a speaker?

Does your organization need a speaker? Let Oak Grove help! We can give talks on the history of the cemetery, pre-arrangement issues/estate planning, and cremation. Give us a call at (608) 782-6956.