



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

Fairburyrotary.com



2008 - 2009 Officers

President Josh Clemons
 Pres. Elect Charlie McDonald
 Vice President
 Sec/Treas/Editor Leroy McPherson

DATE/TIME/ PLACE: March 24, 2009, 12:00 noon at Marchelloni's

ATTENDANCE: 17

LOTTO: J. Strong & T. Casson

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

- 3/31 - Dan McMinn - Pittsburgh Tube
- 4/07 - FFA - H.S.
- 4/14 - ICE - (Tentative)
- 4/21 - Katrin Sanders & Deb Moran - Platelets
- 4/28 - Technology H.S.



AREA CLUB MEETINGS

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Bloomington | 12:00 Noon | Thursday | Elks Club |
| Gibson City | 6:45 a.m. | Wednesday | The Country Kettle |
| Gilman | 6:05 p.m. | Tuesday | Gilman Lounge |
| Lincoln | 11:50 a.m. | Wednesday | Elks Country Club |
| Normal | 12:00 Noon | Wednesday | Bone Student Center |

Quips & Quotes

In the end, we will conserve only what we love.
 We love only what we understand. We will
 understand only what we are taught.

Rotary Student of the Month

Student: Zachary Lawrence
Parents: Judy Lawrence & Lance Lawrence
Department: Business

Zach was nominated by all business teachers for many reasons. Above all, Zach is hardworking and always completes work beyond expectations. In addition, he is an asset to the classroom and environment as he is outgoing, friendly, helpful, and has a great sense of humor.

Graceland Cemetery

Rod Stevens



Graceland was formed July 8, 1919. It consisted of 6 acres. Later, Nancy Morris gave their 10 acres for a total of 16. It contains graves from the 1800 - 1830s. It will be 90 years old. The problem is revenue is declining due to lot sales and less income from the \$160,000 they can not touch. Mowing has cost \$19,100 per year for the

original 16 acres plus 4 acres of the new cemetery south on 7th street. The mowing personnel also trim, level off graves, trim trees, and take care of brush cleanup of cemetery and gravel for

the roads. All but the south east corner of Old Graceland is sold out. Rod has been on the board since 1993. In 1980 the board purchased 10 acres. In 1999, they developed 4 of them. They received \$41,000 from Marion Stafford and used this money to build roads and the building at this site. Rod handed out the financials on the cemetery. As he noted, they will be broke in 2 1/2 years. They have \$165,000 in the care fund they cannot touch for anything. This account will remain even if they go broke. As you look around there are not many private/public cemeteries. Most of your cemeteries are owned and run by the township. In talking to the state, there are hundreds of abandoned cemeteries. We do not want this to happen to us.



Bits & Pieces

When you open your heart, and pour out your spirit, and you feel something that makes a difference in your life: that is the meaning of soul.

Solomon Burke

1. Why does Graceland Cemetery want the township to take over the cemeteries?

The Cemetery Association seeks to convey the cemeteries to Indian Grove Township because its income is sufficient to maintain the cemeteries for only about three more years. The Association's principal sources of income are sales of lots, grave openings, interest on its Perpetual Care Fund, and donations. The sale of lots has decreased steadily over the years and 2008 sales were only 37% of sales five years ago while grave openings increased only about 2% in the same time frame. Of the money received from lot sales, 25% must be put in the Perpetual Care Fund and by state law the Cemetery Association can use only the interest from that fund. In earlier years when interest rates were higher, that interest with the Association's other income, was sufficient to meet the cemeteries annual needs and with donations was able to establish a reserve in the cemetery's general fund. However, as income has decreased, the reserve in the general fund has been used to help pay expenses and that reserve is expected to last only about three more years at current expenditures.

If the township takes the cemeteries, there would be some reduction in expenses as there would no longer be a paid secretary-treasurer, office rent, and telephone expense. There may be other expenses which could also be eliminated or reduced by using township facilities.

2. Why doesn't the cemetery raise its rates?

Graceland's price for lots and grave openings is already greater than that of neighboring cemeteries (most of which are township cemeteries). Also we do not want to raise prices so high that burial of local residents in a local cemetery would become cost prohibitive.

3. What effect will township ownership have on my taxes?

It is estimated that the tax impact on a \$100,000.00 house (market value) will be approximately \$8.00 per year. The township, like all government bodies, is subject to tax caps and will need to follow the procedures established by the tax caps law in order to increase the levy. If the levy increase in any year is greater than 5% of the taxes received for the previous year, then a public hearing, with notice, must be held.

4. Why ask the township instead of the city or county?

Indian Grove Township currently maintains two cemeteries and has a board to govern cemeteries. Neither the city nor the county maintain any cemeteries. Also maintenance of public cemeteries is generally a function of township government under Illinois statutes.

5. Who is on the Graceland Cemetery Board and how are they chosen?

Members of Graceland Cemetery Association, a private not-for-profit organization, are John Householder, Goldie Carlson, Peggy Metz, Rod Stevens, Ruth Teubel, Paul Mason, Charles and Joanne Steidinger, and Ron Schlipf. New members are chosen by those currently on the board. Graceland Cemetery Association is a private not-for-profit organization.

6. What will be turned over to the township?

Graceland Cemetery has two cemeteries. The original cemetery in town on Route 24 and Seventh Street and South Graceland Cemetery located half mile south of town on Seventh Street. Graceland Cemetery does not include the Mausoleum which is owned and maintained by a separate organization nor the Apostolic Church Cemetery which is 1.019 acres of the western portion along Route 24 nor the Christian Apostolic Cemetery located east of the southeast part of Graceland Cemetery. It also owns 6 acres of farm ground immediately north of South Graceland Cemetery. This ground is cash rented.

In addition all funds of Graceland Cemetery Association—cash, savings, certificates of deposit—will be turned over to the township.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, the 7th of April 2009, the following referendum will be submitted to the voters of Indian Grove Township, Livingston County, Illinois:

Should Indian Grove Township accept conveyance of Graceland Cemetery Association properties, whereby Indian Grove Township would obtain ownership of said properties and be responsible to pay the costs of maintaining and operating Graceland Cemetery Association properties?

YES

NO

The polls of said Consolidated Election will be open continuously from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM on April 7, 2009.

DATED AT PONTIAC, ILLINOIS ON MARCH 18, 2009

Kristy A. Masching
Livingston County Clerk