



# WOODLAWN CEMETERY

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER AND APPEAL

### THANK YOU!

With the 2024 maintenance season upon us at Woodlawn Cemetery, the Board of Directors wishes to extend its profound thanks to everyone who has generously donated in the past.

Every single donation is important to keeping the cemetery solvent, regardless of the amount, because you, our very important donors, are the primary source of funding to keep the cemetery operating. We cannot begin to express how grateful we are to all of you.

*-Beth Scott, President*

### WOODLAWN'S FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING NYS LAW

This year, the Woodlawn Board felt it was time to make our donors aware of some important facts that perhaps have not been emphasized enough in the past. First, we mail out approximately 250 donation appeal letters each Spring and Fall. We typically receive donations from about 30% of our potential donors. Ever rising costs of salaries, NYS mandated programs, equipment, fuel, etc. make our ability to meet financial obligations unsustainable at this level of donor assistance.

Secondly, our total barebones expense budget for 2024 is estimated at \$52,000, with only \$20,000 of that amount projected in donations. Our other sources of income (permanent maintenance fund interest, lot sales, and interment fees) only generate another \$16,000.

Therefore, we will need to generate an extra \$16,000 in order to adequately cover our expenses. With that being said, \$52,000 would only cover the absolute necessities for operating this year, leaving us without any "extra" money in case some costly, unforeseen issue arises that needs to be addressed.

Lastly, if at any point we were unable to meet our financial obligations, the Woodlawn Board would be required to relinquish the cemetery per New York State Cemetery law, at which point the Town of Hamilton would be required to assume responsibility for Woodlawn. However, they would only be required to mow the cemetery 3 times per season and would not be obligated to sell any remaining lots. The Woodlawn Board is committed to avoiding this situation.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please give some thought toward the possibility of increasing your donation gift this year, by however much you can, to help us increase our income and cover expenses, as well as having a little extra for expenses we can't foresee. We would also appreciate it if you could share this information with other family members who may not be on our mailing list, in the event they would also like to donate. Increased generosity from all our potential donors will make this a reality, preserving our cemetery as the beautiful forever home where your loved ones reside.

***-Karen Uhlig, Vice President and Jay Whipple, Treasurer***

## **ENTRANCEWAY UPGRADE**

Many thanks to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Tuscarora Lodge #669, for their soon-to-be-started upgrade of our entranceway. As well as making repairs to the stone wall, they will be planting flowering trees in back of the wall, which will greatly enhance visitors' first impressions as they enter the cemetery. The Board so appreciates the involvement of this community organization!

***-Gladys Jaquay, Business Secretary***

## **HAMILTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Due to a generous donation from one of our Board members, Woodlawn Cemetery has become a member of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce. By joining the Hamilton Chamber, our hope is to raise community awareness of some of the fascinating history of Woodlawn Cemetery, as well as its needs for upkeep, in order to help us preserve this scenic hidden gem.

***-Melody Henriksen, Chamber Liaison***



**501(c)13 non-profit cemetery**  
P.O. Box 216 Hamilton, NY 13346  
[www.woodlawncemeteryny.com](http://www.woodlawncemeteryny.com)  
[woodlawny@gmail.com](mailto:woodlawny@gmail.com)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Beth Scott, President  
Karen Uhlig, Vice-President  
Gladys Jaquay, Business Secretary  
Jay Whipple, Treasurer  
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