Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association INC.

If this newsletter has reached you at a time of loss, please accept our apologies and condolences.

Dear Hillcrest families and friends,

In some ways this has been a great year:

- We had about 14 volunteers events last winter and spring and cleared a lot of areas that needed more than mowing equipment could handle.
- We hired a company to clear some of the worst areas around the perimeter of the property where kudzu had crept in over the years.
- We began a $50,000 fund-raising drive and have raised over $20,000 so far, which has started to restore the association's financial situation.
- We have helped over 60 families with information, ranging from funeral planning and confirming owners' lot locations and availability to genealogical and general information calls, messages and emails.
- We worked with the city to haul off all the cut brush and even the dead hickory tree that volunteers cut down.
- We hosted a successful Hillcrest Family and Community day, with tours, information scavenger hunts and lots of great conversations with families.
- We began the process of changing our non-profit status from 501(c)(13) to 501(c)(3), though this has turned out to be a much more complex process than we expected.

But it has also been a rough year:

- After taking six bids for the mowing contract, we accepted the lowest bidder, which also happened to be the one with multiple personal references from people I know. It turned out that the job was more than he was able to successfully take on. By the time I reached out to other bidders, they had full schedules for the summer and could not take on a project this large so late in the season.
- With the Hillcrest Family and Community day coming up on May 14th, one of the other bidders agreed to a one-time cut at a much higher rate, given how tall the grass had grown. We have not had a complete cut since then. It's looking pretty bad. I'm working now to find a company to cut it as soon as possible, and again at the end of the mowing season, if not more. This will likely cost us a bit, but it's necessary.
- We planned for monthly summer volunteer days, but after having to cancel the first two due to weather and a family issue, the rest have been put on hold for now since the grass is so high and it has been so hot.

Something needs to change.

I have reluctantly decided to step down as chairman of HCMA by the end of 2023 or when a full board can be established to elect new officers, whichever comes first. I have been chairman since we were founded in 2001. Over the years, our vice-chairman and our secretary/treasurer moved out of the area, but stayed active, though they have since retired from the board officially. Other board members have passed away. Meetings stopped taking place and it gradually evolved to being just me handling everything official.

In 2010 I moved to Athens, but planned to move back to the East Point area eventually. Then last month we closed on a house in Athens so it seems I'm here "permanently" now. In addition, I have

Contact us

Web
www.HillcrestEastPoint.org

Facebook
Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association

Email
HillcrestEastPoint@gmail.com

Phone
404-323-1813 (Personal cell—please leave a voice mail or text)

Location (NOT a mailing address)
2250 Stanton Rd
East Point, GA 30605

Mailing address
Hillcrest Cemetery M.A.
140 Birch Valley Dr
Athens, GA 30605

older family members that I need to take care of, and after nearly three years, my work in the convention and trade show business has returned, so all this free time I had revitalizing the association in the last year is ending.

Hillcrest needs a board of directors if it is to continue. Family members of the cemetery and community members in the area need to be involved. I know no one wants to attend monthly meetings and not everyone is set up to use Zoom or some other video service to attend virtual meetings, but I'm sure the new board can find a creative way to operate given the scattered nature of the families and others who will hopefully be willing to step up.

I do plan to remain involved with Hillcrest to the extent I have the board's blessing, by continuing to:

- Be the main point of contact for records and cemetery inquiries, maintaining the records, and eventually digitizing all the information for permanent preservation and archiving.
- Pass on my institutional knowledge in written form, including a more thorough history of the cemetery and organizing the past records of our association.
- Continue volunteering on-site while passing the torch to a new volunteer coordinator.

Kevin L. Hudson
Volunteer and Chairman

How to express interest in joining the board of directors

Our bylaws do not define who can be on the board. People with or without lots or family in Hillcrest are welcome to join. The original board was about 70% family members and 30% interested community members, such as myself.

If you are interested in being on the board—no commitment needed at this time—please let me know by mail, email or text. (Our contact information is on the front of this newsletter.) I will add you to a special contact list to keep interested parties updated on the process. We will need to have a meeting (of some sort) for all interested parties to elect the board members. After that, the board can elect officers, and begin processes such as:

- Updating the bylaws to reflect a realistic meeting schedule and method of "meeting,"
- Soliciting bids and selecting a mowing contractor (we really should have a board established in time to do this by mid-winter),
- Appointing volunteers (from within the board or outside of it) to coordinate projects such as on-site volunteer events, records management and special projects such as the 501(c)(3) conversion, if not complete by then,
- and selling the cemetery lots that have been gifted to the association.

How to make a tax-deductible donation:

Checks — Make payable and mail to: Hillcrest Cemetery M.A., 140 Birch Valley Dr, Athens, GA 30605-4246

Credit • Debit • GooglePay • ApplePay • PayPal — HillcrestEastPoint.org/donate

Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(13) tax-exempt corporation. As such, donations may be tax deductible, depending on your tax circumstances—the same as with a 501(c)(3) organization.