Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association INC.

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

April 2025 Newsletter

Dear Hillcrest families and friends,

I'm so sorry it's again been a long time since I reached out to you with a newsletter. We have posted some on the Facebook page, but we have fewer followers there than in this mail/email list.

Volunteer cleanups!

Our longtime volunteer Marcia stepped up to organize a spring cleanup on Saturday, April 5th, and Council Member Carrie Ziegler worked with the city to provide a roll-off dumpster which we pretty much filled to the top with fallen limbs and brush.

Marcia is **planning another volunteer day on Saturday, May 3rd**. This will likely be our last organized cleanup until fall. Please **visit our website to confirm** details before coming out. I will update the info on our home page as details are confirmed and to announce any cancellations or changes.

She has set up a second Facebook group, **Hillcrest Cemetery Volunteers**, so she can more actively monitor responses and provide feedback.

Another tree fell

I received a call Friday about a huge tree that fell into the cemetery from an adjacent property. That property owner is working with our tree service company, Tree Fellas Atlanta, to have it removed at their expense, so this shouldn't be an issue for us.

Mowing has begun

Our excellent mowing contractor from last year, Bryant Zeger, has renewed the contract for the 2025 season, and the first cut was done in March. The next cut should be done by Easter, then before Mothers Day and Fathers Day, then monthly through the fall. Their job is to mow and trim all mowable areas. We used them for a couple special projects last year, but don't anticipate doing any this season, barring emergencies, and funding to do so.

At this time, we have almost enough to cover mowing this season. **Nine cuts at $2,500 each is $22,500.** I'm certain the remaining amount will come in from regular and monthly donors by the fall. The problem is, at that point, barring major gifts or an increase in small donations, there won't be much left in the bank. We will have a few months to raise the same about just to mow again next season.

Many ways to donate

The second page of this newsletter shows how to donate. Several families send a check once a year. Others are set up to automatically donate monthly or quarterly ($10, $25 and $100) through their banks or the DonorBox and PayPal links on our website. All methods we list there are vetted, safe and secure, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Over the years, we have also received bequests from several family members' wills. One of our only other source of funds besides the above is reselling unused lots and spaces donated to us—many times from families who have moved from the area and selected closer cemeteries. A local funeral home has gradually bought most of the small lots we have been given, but we hope more will be donated. 5 spaces sold at $500 each equals enough to pay for one mowing of the entire cemetery.

Tax letters

Now that I am working full time outside the home, I've fallen way behind on thank-you notes which serve as tax receipts. If you need one for 2024 giving, please email or call and I will get one to you right away, regardless of when I catch up on all of them.

Contact us

Web
www.HillcrestEastPoint.org

Facebook
- **Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association**
- **NEW! Hillcrest Cemetery Volunteers**

Email
HillcrestEastPoint@gmail.com

Phone
404-323-1813 (Personal cell—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

New board?

It is important that we rebuild this organization with a new board for many reasons, especially now that I do not have time to do as much. There have been a few mentions by others to make this happen, but none have gained momentum. I think it is important that I support and help any new leadership, but I really think it is necessary that someone else take the lead in forming the working group. I will offer any participation desired, and can be a member, but the rebuilding needs to be led by a new group of participants. If interested in being part of the new leadership, please send a note, even if you have done so before. I will try to link everyone up somehow.

Thank you!

Kevin L. Hudson
President and Volunteer

A note from one of our longtime supporters:

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to Kevin and past members of Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association for all of countless hours volunteered for the ongoing care and maintenance of the cemetery. My parents, James and Phyllis Pitts, were board members until health kept them from active participation. They passed away 8 years ago. There are many members of my mother's family buried at Hillcrest including my grandparents and great grandparents among an uncle and many great aunts and uncles. I chose to support the ongoing maintenance with monthly donations as a way to honor and respect my family. It is truly a miracle of the great work that has been done at Hillcrest while relying solely upon donations. The area around the cemetery has gone through cycles of development and the nearby property is now brand new senior housing. Hillcrest Cemetery is the first impression one gets exiting Langford Parkway and now shares that impression with the new housing. I would encourage anyone with a family connection to the cemetery to consider one-time or monthly donations. I set up through my credit union to send a monthly donation. Other methods are available as well. Please give it some consideration as the Spring and summer growing season will be here before we know it.

God bless,
Jan Pitts. (Daugherty/Rhodes/Ellis families)

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 • Scheduled Donations — 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).