



# Rutherford

CEMETERY & COLUMBARIUM ASSOCIATION  
STILLWATER, MN • EST. 1850

## NEWSLETTER

March 2025

### Our Mission

Our mission is to honor the memory of those who have chosen our hallowed grounds as their final resting place. We include people of all faiths and offer ground burials as well as a columbarium. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of this lovely historic site. To this end, we rely on individual and community support as well as donations.



### A Message from our President



It's a great day in Stillwater and at Rutherford Cemetery and Columbarium!!

Well, another year has flown by. We actually had enough rain for a couple of people to say the "grass is too long". It's amazing what some rain will do to make things look better.

We had one and a half clean up days. I say and a half as we got rained out fairly quickly in the fall. We had really good turnout and interestingly enough I met a gentleman who turned up to help that has no ties to Rutherford. He told me that he drives by often and enjoys looking at the cemetery and what we've been doing and stopped in and got one of our annual newsletters saw the date and showed up to help. I think that's a commentary on the hard work that has been done and the pride we take in our cemetery.

At this point, I need to take a moment and recognize our board of directors. I think they take great pride in what they're doing, and they also find some enjoyment in the efforts. Our meetings have been very well attended. Considerable discussion has been held about what to do next. A typical meeting will last about one hour so they aren't a huge burden on your time.

I would remind you the elections are coming up and we have vacancies on the board. We have three members on the board whose term will expire. Those members would be the President (me), Vice President (Rick) and trustee (Jim).

There is also a trustee position which is vacant and we would love to fill that position as well. By the way, I intend to run again if you would have me, and if not, I will revert to being a cleanup guy. I hope that, in the coming year many of you can find time to join us in doing something good for the Rutherford Cemetery and Columbarium Association while making new friends.

By the way, we are NOT holding summer clean ups any more. It's just too hot and many of us should not be out in the heat, much less out in the heat working. If we have an emergency need let me know and we can call a special event.

#### ELECTIONS:

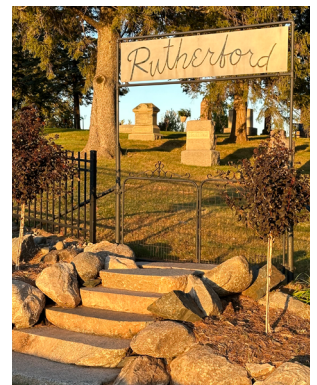
Any ideas about possible candidates to serve on the board please submit them to myself or Secretary Leslie. Nominations will also be taken at the annual meeting.

In closing, let me thank each of you for your support of Rutherford past and present. For those who have found time to volunteer special thanks for all you do. Please remember:

***IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME.***

Ten small but important words.

Respectfully yours,  
*Jeff Olson - President*





Memorial Day 2024

## In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Association members who recently lost loved ones.



<i>Betty Meissner</i>	<i>Mowry Stilp</i>
<i>Gary Hanson</i>	<i>Judy Stone</i>
<i>Khaled Slayhi</i>	<i>Judith Goldstand</i>
<i>Ann Leegard</i>	<i>Joseph Senske</i>
<i>Roger Mooney*</i>	<i>Robert Gibson</i>
<i>Darlene Mooney</i>	<i>Larry Mroszak</i>
<i>Jeanette Call</i>	<i>Amy Mroszak</i>
<i>Barbara Balzum</i>	<i>Joseph Costa*</i>
<i>Charles Bühler</i>	<i>Jeffrey Abbott*</i>
<i>Susan Shellberg</i>	<i>Philip Siegle*</i>

\*Veterans

Full list of veterans is available at [rutherfordcemetery.org](http://rutherfordcemetery.org)

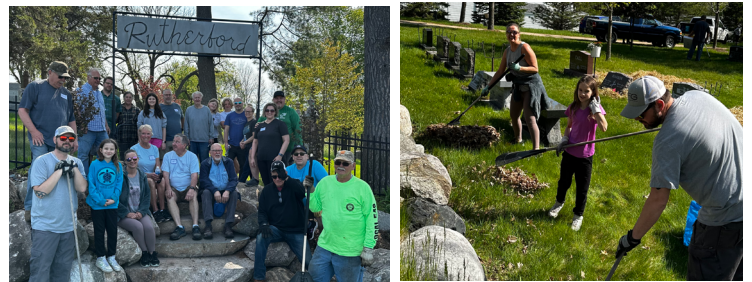
## You are Appreciated!

Many thanks!

Thanks to the many people who have donated their time, goods, and services for 2024.

Monetary Donations:

Elizabeth Welke  
 Steven & Sandra Roth  
 Janet Meisterling  
 Renee Salzbrenner  
 Delbert & Barbara Mitchell  
 Scott R & Kum Cha Kruse  
 Verlin D. Hanson  
 Barbara Dahler  
 Randall & Margaret Guse  
 Jeff & Sue Olson  
 Sylvia Dalzell  
 Bruce Goldstrand  
 Bonnie Howard  
 Janet Marshall  
 June McComas  
 Jim Masterman  
 John Rutherford



## 2025 Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, April 8th, 6pm**  
**86th Annual Meeting.**

Location: Stillwater Evangelical Free Church (next to Rutherford Cemetery). At the annual meeting financials and plans for 2025 will be topics of discussion. If you are not receiving emails please share your email address by sending it to [rutherfordcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:rutherfordcemetery@gmail.com).

**\*Please remember to remove your winter evergreen pots.**

**Saturday, May 3, 9am**  
**Spring Cleanup Day:**

Inclement weather back-up day Saturday, May 10th. There is always something for everyone, so please join your fellow members in giving the grounds a good sprucing up. We will have several tools and supplies available, but buckets, rakes, shovels & gloves will no doubt come in handy. We will be adding mulch to our new plantings.

**Monday, May 26, 7am (Sharp!)**

**Memorial Day Services:**

Military service provided by Stillwater VFW Post #323.

**Saturday, September 13, 9am**

**Fall Cleanup Day**

Inclement weather back-up September 20th.

A final day to complete fall work. Members will be notified via email if any of these events are postponed/cancelled.

**\*Please be sure that your summer planters are removed.**

# 2024 Grounds Report: Volunteers are the Heart and Soul of Our Cemetery

Since 1940, the Rutherford Cemetery Association has been keeping our cemetery grounds beautiful with annual cleanup days. Volunteers have been the backbone of this effort, and they did it again this year! We took care of everything from planting grass seed and watering trees to weeding, mulching, and removing branches and pine cones.

We also planted a new boulder wall with trees and shrubs like viburnum, ninebark, juniper, potentilla, sumac, and weigela. We even put in a water system to make sure they grow strong. After that, we mulched the beds. Some of our trees are as old as the cemetery itself! We keep them healthy

by pruning, mulching, and checking them out. Unfortunately, some trees like ash and evergreen on the north side had to be cut down because of the emerald ash borer and other problems. But we replaced them with 13 native white pines that will look great in the future. White pines can grow up to 100 feet tall. They are being watered by a trickle water line.

Thanks to all our volunteers that work so hard to keep our cemetery looking so nice all year long!

Our lawn service keeps the grass looking nice, which saves us money when we don't have to mow as often. Sometimes, the grass looks a bit long,



but it's actually just being monitored. Longer grass holds more moisture and stays greener. It's hard to plant grass on gravesites when it's dry, but Jim Masterman is working on a watering system that will make it easier. Thanks for being patient with us!

One last thing: please help us keep the cemetery looking its best by taking away your summer and winter pots when they're not in use. Thank you!

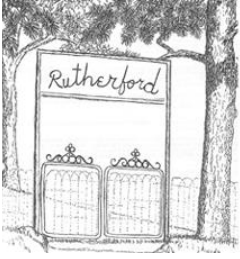
## The First 26 Years at Rutherford Cemetery

Cemeteries always evoke certain emotional responses, usually memories of burying our loved ones. Walking through the older parts of the cemetery and reading the headstones can create a small sense of connection with the times and people long gone. This person was born during the Civil War and lived and died without ever seeing a light bulb or car. That person was born just at the right time to participate in WWII. Others were born into a 'World Lit Only by Fire' (i.e. candles and lanterns) and lived long enough to see men on the moon. All of us have seen changes during our lifetimes, but not of this magnitude. And of course, there are a lot of children's burials. In one place you can see a large family monument with the name 'McMahon' and no individual names. If you look, there is a small flat stone nearby that reads 'Baby MacMahon' and next to it is another

Last	First	DOB	DOD	Age
Ramsden	William John (Baby)	1850	5/1/1850	0
Rutherford	James E. M. infant		1851	0
Ramsden	Ada (Baby)		3/24/1851	0
Ramsden (nee Jose)	Charity	6/2/1823	4/2/1851	28
Ramsden	Baby		1854	0
Rutherford	Baby	3/27/1856	3/27/1856	0
Ramsden	Twin Boys		1859	0
Newman	Frank W.	9/25/1853	3/25/1859	6
Masterman	Martha J.	1860	3/17/1865	5
Newman	James O.	5/14/1855	6/2/1866	11
McMahon	Bertie	1869	1870	1
Rutherford-assumed	Willie	1863	1870	7
Rutherford-assumed	Bertie	1869	1870	1
Newman	Adeline T.	11/6/1830	11/6/1871	41
Taft	Charles B.	1841	8/31/1872	31
Keene	Leslie Errol E.	6/10/1872	6/21/1873	1
Hall	Baby Girl	1873	1874	1
Brosious	Ella Elizabeth	8/26/1868	3/24/1874	6
Powell	William	1849	1875	26
Newman	Celestia	1844	7/5/1875	31
Holden	Ira (Baby)	11/13/1875	5/28/1876	1

'Baby MacMahon'. And next to that is one 'Willie 2 years old'. And next to that is a fourth 'Laura 12 years old'. We do not know these people, but it adds a little perspective to our own memories of burying loved ones. If we examine the Rutherford records it reveals a shocking image of the times. In the first 26 years there were 21 burials, only 5 of which are adults, the oldest being 41. Charity Ramsden died at age 28 just 10 days after Ada (baby), presumably due to complications of the birth. They might have named it 'Rutherford Children's Cemetery.'





Rutherford Cemetery & Columbarium  
 P.O. Box 895  
 Stillwater, MN 55082

**Reminder:  
 Members, please remove  
 winter pots by April 1st.**



We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of former board member Judy Stone, which was unintentionally overlooked in our 2024 newsletter. Judy passed away on August 18, 2023. As we mourn her loss, we reflect on the many contributions she made to our community. Judy served on the Rutherford board, regularly participated in the spring and fall clean-ups, and enjoyed providing donuts and coffee for the Memorial

Day services. Her warmth, kindness, and generosity will be greatly missed. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family and friends, as Judy was a cherished member of our community. We will always honor her memory and the lasting impact she had on all of us.

**Rutherford Board Members**

<b>President</b>	Jeff Olson	2022-2025
<b>Vice President</b>	Rick Haussner	2022-2025
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lori Swanson	2024-2027
<b>Secretary</b>	Leslie Dorendorf	2024-2026

**Trustees**

Jim Masterman	2022 - 2025
Jane Luger	2023 - 2026
Sue Olson	2023 - 2026
Tom Lange	2024 - 2027
John Rutherford	2024 - 2027
Robin Priggi	2024 - 2027
Fred Anderson	2024 - 2026

**Sales/Burials** Don Grund

Check out our website for  
 newly updated information!  
[rutherfordcemetery.org](http://rutherfordcemetery.org)