The Delaware Cemetery Board revised the guidelines this year for the Distressed Cemetery Fund by increasing the maximum award amount, lowering the match requirement, and reducing the waiting period between applications. The Board hopes to encourage those with distressed cemeteries to apply for funds. The cemetery must be registered before an application is accepted.

For complaints relative to cemeteries, contact the following organizations based on the type of complaint.

- Theft or vandalism: Call the local police department where the cemetery is located.
- City or county code violations: Call the city or county where the cemetery is located.
- New Castle Code Enforcement, 302-395-5555
- Kent Inspections and Enforcement, 302-744-2451
- Sussex Code Enforcement, 302-855-7819
- Consumer Protection Unit, Department of Justice, 1-800-220-5424 or file online at attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/fraud/cpu/

All Delaware cemeteries are required to register with the Division of Public Health (DPH) every five years or upon change in ownership, in accordance with Delaware Code, 29 Del. C., c. 7906A. The registration fee is $10.00 and checks are payable to the State of Delaware. The form and payment should be sent to Candace Casto at the address listed to the left. Registration and financial assistance forms and the guidelines can be found at http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hp/DECB.html.

Fiscal Year 2017 Distressed Cemetery Fund Awards

Fence erected in Union Wesley United Methodist Church Cemetery, Clarksville, DE. Photos by Cheryl Miller and Terrance Walters.

Tombstone repairs in Bryn Zion Cemetery, Kenton, DE. Photos by June Jarrell.