



## Community Planning and Economic Development Department

# Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

## Cinema in the Cemetery returns with Alien Invasion: Films from Another World to Benefit Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery

**WHAT:** Starting on Wednesday, September 10, the Friends of the Cemetery in partnership with The Trylon Microcinema and All-Star Productions will show three alien invasion films to benefit Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery located at 2925 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis. The three films include: *The Blob* (September 10), *Plan 9 From Outer Space* (September 24), and *The Thing From Another World* (October 8). The proceeds from the out of this world film series will support the Friends of the Cemetery's efforts to restore the limestone pier fence that serves as the border of the cemetery along Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

"The alien related films were chosen as they will provide family fun in the spirit of Halloween and other autumn celebrations with a dose of nostalgia reminiscent of drive-in movies," said Sue Hunter Weir, President of Friends of the Cemetery. The Friends of the Cemetery's intention with special events like these is to make the cemetery space one that can be enjoyed by and welcoming to all.

Gates will open for each event at 5:30 p.m. and the films will start at dusk (approximately 7:00 p.m.). Moviegoers arriving early will have the opportunity to experience the historic cemetery and partake in a smart phone history hunt. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs, but pets will not be allowed during the event. Coolers and alcoholic beverages will also be prohibited during the event, but food will be available for purchase from the Taco Taxi food truck.

The Friends of the Cemetery hope to have more than 500 attendees come out for each of the film viewings. Tickets are \$8 for one film or \$20 for all three films; kids under 12 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at [brown paper tickets](#) or at the door (cash only). Alternative dates for inclement weather have been set for September 17 (*The Blob*), October 1 (*Plan 9 From Outer Space*) and October 15 (*The Thing From Another World*). If you are unable to attend these events, but would still like to support the fence

restoration project, you can go online to the [Friends of the Cemetery site](#) and learn how to Adopt-A-Picket for \$30 or make any size donation.

**WHEN:** [The Blob](#), Wednesday, September 10  
[Plan 9 From Outer Space](#), September 24  
[The Thing From Another World](#), October 8

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Alternative dates for inclement weather for each film respectively: September 17,  
October 1 and October 15.

**WHERE:** Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, 2925 Cedar Avenue,  
Minneapolis. On-street parking is available; no vehicle parking allowed in the cemetery.  
Using public transportation or biking to the event is encouraged as the Lake Street light  
rail stop is a short walk from the cemetery and it is also easily accessible from multiple  
bike routes. Bike parking will be provided within the cemetery.

**MORE:** **About Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery:** Minneapolis Pioneers  
and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, established in 1853 and originally named Layman's  
Cemetery, is the oldest cemetery in Minneapolis. It is also a [Minneapolis landmark](#) and  
the only cemetery in Minnesota that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.  
It is the final resting place of over 21,000 pioneers, veterans, and immigrants. It contains  
the graves of some of the first settlers of the city, many of whom made major  
contributions to local history; soldiers and veterans of the War of 1812, the Dakota  
Conflict, the Civil War, the Mexican American War, the Spanish-American War, and  
World War I; mid to late nineteenth century European immigrants, early African  
American citizens, and abolitionists. Notable individuals buried in the cemetery include  
Philander Prescott, Charles W. Christmas, and William Goodridge. In 1925, a group  
began to organize to save the cemetery for its historical importance. The group's effort is  
recognized as an early, local attempt at historic preservation.

**One of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places:** In 2008, to raise awareness about  
the challenges of maintaining this landmark, the [Preservation Alliance of Minnesota](#)  
placed the cemetery on its "[Ten Most Endangered Historic Places](#)" list. Today, the  
cemetery is in need of substantial capital improvements. The most immediate of those is  
the restoration of the historic fence that lines the cemetery on Lake Street and Cedar  
Avenue. The steel fence is 1,953 linear feet, contains 3,510 pickets, 67 metal sections and  
65 limestone piers.

**Fence Restoration Project Update:** The \$1.2 million metal fence restoration project is  
complete. This portion of the fence restoration project was funded in part by a grant from  
the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Program. Funds are currently being raised to  
complete restoration to the 65 limestone piers that line the cemetery on Lake Street and  
Cedar Avenue.

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