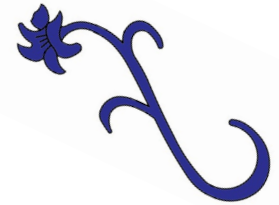




SPRING IS HERE!!



The Spring clean up of The Holy Sepulchre Cemetery is underway! The landscapers have been up at the cemetery for the last three weeks loaming and seeding, removing fallen tree limbs, and removing debris. This has all been in preparation for the big clean up this weekend, May 6-7th. You should expect to see our cemetery crew up at the cemetery hard at work until Wednesday, May 10th which is when the entire clean up is expected to be complete. They have been arriving at the break of dawn and are in and out of the cemetery throughout the day.

I would like to offer my sincere apologies that I did not communicate the plans of the cemetery's Spring clean up to all of you sooner. I have been so focused on the clean up plans and there execution to ensure that our cemetery will be stunning for Memorial Day that I failed to post the timeline to all of you. I am truly sorry for this and hope the Spring clean up actions will show you all how important The Holy Sepulchre Cemetery is to me and the entire staff.

The water at the cemetery is turned back on each year on May 1st. We did have an issue with the pipes this year that is being worked on. I have been promised that the piping issue will be repaired by Monday May 8th. We are also addressing all of the water faucets that need to be repaired and have been exploring options with The Catholic Cemetery Association of how to keep the entire cemetery watered and looking its best all year long.

I would like to briefly address one of our on going struggles up at the Cemetery: the illegal dumping of trash and other items. Last year we removed four 30-yard dumpsters of trash from the borders, in the woods, and from inside the blue trailers. That is enough trash to cover an entire football field. That was an incredible amount of work, but unfortunately, not a very visible action for all of you to see. We currently are having issues with mattresses. We have the mattresses removed and then new ones appear. We have notified the Stoughton Police about the issue and are working with The Catholic Cemetery Association on the best way to address the on going issue of people treating our cemetery like a local dump. After I share with you the Spring Clean Up plans I will give you an update on all of the items that we are working for the upcoming year.

The Cemetery Services Inc. is the company that is now maintaining our cemetery grounds. They have been working on removing fallen tree limbs, dead flowers, and weed whacking around the headstones. From this weekend until Wednesday they will continue to remove all of the debris, weed whack the entire cemetery, cut down dangerous low hanging limbs, ensure the water is working properly, continue to loam and seed, prune shrubbery, and mow the entire cemetery. They will continue to come out weekly until Memorial Day to ensure it stays looking immaculate. After Memorial Day they will continue the upkeep as well. They will also install the new cemetery sign before Wednesday. They will then work on some new landscaping around the sign and the Respect Life Monument.

Now for behind the scenes! Last year we used the funds we had available for capital repairs to address the clean up of the dumping, and to purchase new equipment for our burials. We purchased a new (safe) lowering device with all the accompany equipment needed, as well as new greens for the burials.

We are currently putting together a report of all the items that need to be repaired or purchased. As does everything in life, this project needs to be funded. We are working on this as well. We would love to create a volunteer "Friends of Holy Sepulchre" group to help us with all of the great ideas we have lined up. Our hope is this group could help with some mailings, simple data entry, and just help us keep our log of issues up to date. If the word gets out that we now have a group of non-employees keeping an eye on the cemetery as well I think it will help our cause in more ways than we can imagine!

Some of the improvement items being discussed at the meetings are:

- The removal of the Blue Trailers
- Gates at the entrances and cameras to watch for illegal dumping
- New regulation signs and respectful enforcement of the rules
- A new section of graves that are not back-to-back
- A Columbarium Garden for cremation internments
- An evergreen "fence" of tree plantings to block out the view of the CVS parking lot
- Removal of the dead trees and plantings of new trees
- A tent and chairs for burials
- Repair of broken headstones in the older sections
- A watering system solution to keep the entire cemetery green
- A plan for yearly fertilizing and grub control

These are not the only items being discussed and we are still working on our list. I welcome your ideas of what you would like to see happen. I welcome anyone who would like to join us in the mission and be part of the "Friends of the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery" group. Again, I apologize this information was not shared with you sooner.

Please contact me with any questions you may have about the clean up, ideas for our improvement list, or if you are interested in being part of the change. "Don't let the past disturb you - just leave everything in the Sacred Heart, and begin again with joy." *Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

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