

BLENDON CENTRAL CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

RESOLUTION 2024 – 33
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 10, 2024
AMENDED DATE: September 18, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustees of Blendon Township have set the following rules and regulations for Blendon Central Cemetery:

FUNERALS

A. No interments, entombments, or disinterment's will be accepted at the cemetery on Sundays or the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

B. Funerals shall be scheduled for arrival to the cemetery prior to 3:00 P.M. Late arrivals will be assessed at a Saturday rate.

CHAPEL RENTAL

- A. Chapel Rental must be registered (at least 24 hours in advance) through the Cemetery Office.
- B. Rental block time not to exceed three (3) hours.
- C. No food or drink allowed in the Chapel at any time.
- D. Flowers and candles are only allowed during funeral service.
- E. Chapel must be returned to its original condition to avoid additional fees.
- F. If additional cleanup is needed, a minimum fee of \$50.00 per hour will be charged.

PURCHASING GRAVESITE PLOTS, CRYPTS, AND NICHES

A. Current residents of Blendon Township and Minerva Park may purchase spaces for their immediate family members at resident rates. Immediate family is defined as:

- Husband or Wife
- Children (including adopted and foster children) of one or both of the above
- Parents of the husband or wife
- Relatives residing in the family home

Resident or non-resident status shall be determined by the Ohio laws governing legal residence for voting purposes and shall be the same for minor children or property owners in Blendon Township. Spaces purchased by or for anyone other than the immediate family of Blendon Township residents, as defined above, shall be purchased at the non-resident rate.

- B. A valid I.D. with a Blendon Township address must be shown upon purchase of the plots. If no I.D. can be provided, we will accept mail, bills, etc. that prove residency.
- C. If purchasing for an immediate family member, the family member must provide valid I.D and state how they are related to the Blendon Township Resident. The immediate family member must be present during the purchase.
- D. Blendon Township Residents may purchase up to 4 spaces for immediate family members per year at the Resident Rate.

BURIALS & INTERMENTS

- A. The Township requires twenty-four (24) hours' notice for ALL burials and interments.
- B. Charges include the opening and closing cost, due the day of the burial or interment. Opening and closing costs cannot be pre-paid until the burial or interment has been scheduled.
- C. Only one casket, one casket and one cremation, OR two cremations are allowed in a gravesite plot.
- D. All opening and closings of a grave, crypt, or niche shall be under the direction of a Blendon Township Trustee, or their designee, or the Township Service Director.

DISINTERMENT

- A. Disinterments will be accepted Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM-2:00 PM. A five-day notice is required.
- B. Disinterments will be made upon court order. Permission to make disinterment's not ordered by the court will be given upon written order by the lot owner, surviving wife or husband, legal age children, or parents of the deceased (in the order stated) provided such disinterment is not made for profit or other reasons considered improper by cemetery authorities.
- C. No disinterment will be made until there is compliance with all State Regulations and Rules of the local Health Authorities.
- D. Although we take great pride in the quality of the interment of your loved one, we will not be responsible for vaults or caskets damaged during the disinterment of a full-body grave.

CRYPTS AND NICHES

- A. No flower arrangements, flags, decals, photographs, military insignias, or any other items may be taped, wired, or otherwise attached by any means to the front of crypts and/or niches.
- B. No decorations of any kind are permitted in the Mausoleum or Niche areas.
- C. All doors on the crypts and niches are engraved with the same size font by a professional engraving company approved by the Blendon Township Trustees. Only family information is permitted to be engraved on the stone. Veterans emblems may be added if space permits.
- D. No engravings or markings of any kind are permitted on any glass-front niches.
- E. The Cemetery has the right to remove any niche decoration deemed inappropriate.
- F. Wooden caskets are not permitted in the Mausoleum Crypts.
- G. All openings and closings of crypts and niches shall be under the direction of a Blendon Township Trustee or their designee or the Township Service Director. Openings and closings should take place during Cemetery business hours.

DECORATIONS

- A. Gravesite plots allow a 12" strip of planted flowers at the front side of the headstone only. There shall be no trees of any kind permitted. Sites of four consecutive spaces or more may plant miniature shrubs or bushes between the headstones, except on the outside borders of the site. The selection of the shrubs or bushes must be approved by the Township Service Director prior to planting. The Township Trustees reserve the right to trim, cut down, or remove any plantings on lots that encroach on adjacent lots due to roots, branches, or other growth.
- B. In order to facilitate cemetery maintenance, no fences, hedges, curbing, or enclosures of any kind will be permitted. Placing of stone, limestone, wood chips, edging, wood border, etc. anywhere within the cemetery lot is prohibited.
- C. In order to facilitate lot maintenance, lot owners may not place any size/type of freestanding, illuminated cross, votive candle, and/or perpetual/memorial light or candle holder on any burial space. If the headstone has a base with a permanently attached holder or vase, the non-metal solar lights, perpetual candles, etc. must rest firmly in the holder. Shells, toys, wire arches, wooden trellises, globes, tripods, shepherds' hooks, and other objects are not permitted in any burial space. Metal solar lights and small shatterproof statues are permitted within 12" of the front of the headstone.
- D. Glass and other non-shatterproof containers shall not be permitted in the cemetery. Thin plastic and clay pots less than 8" are not approved containers.

- E. Silk flowers are permitted any time of the year only if you have a headstone with a base and a permanently attached holder/vase. Gravesites that do not have a headstone with a base and permanently attached holder/vase may have silk flowers placed during the non-mowing season ONLY (October-February). They are to be placed within the 12” space in front of the headstone.
- F. Artificial arrangements, wreaths, and grave blankets may be placed on gravesites during the winter months ONLY. Decorations remaining after March 15th will be removed and disposed of by Cemetery personnel. Artificial flower saddle arrangements (rests on top of the headstone) are permitted anytime, if it maintains a neat and clean appearance. Seasonal artificial flowers, including but not limited to poinsettia artificial flowers, will be removed after the winter season. Cemetery staff will dispose of any items deemed necessary.
- G. American flags (only 12” x 18”) can be placed in the first 12” of space in front of the headstone. All flags follow the United States Code Title 4 Chapter 1 – The Flag.
- H. Permanent benches, chairs, and settees are permitted during the burial ceremony. Granite benches in place of a monument may be placed at the head of the grave. All designed bench plans must be approved by the Board of Trustees, or their designee, or the Service Director.
- I. In order to maintain a neat appearance throughout the Cemetery, Cemetery staff shall remove funeral designs and floral pieces as soon as they become unattractive and assume no responsibility for their return. Unused cans, crockery, boxes, baskets, or watering pots left on graves are considered detrimental to the appearance of the Cemetery and will also be removed from the gravesites. The Township reserves the right to restrict unusual arrangements.
- J. The Trustees reserve the right to deem what is practical in our cemetery and cannot be responsible for the breakage of any items placed at gravesites. Visitors are discouraged from putting anything of sentimental and/or monetary value on the gravesites due to the possibility of vandalism, theft, or damage.

MONUMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- A. All foundations shall be built by the cemetery. The deadline for submitting orders for foundations in the spring is April 15th and the deadline for fall pouring is October 1st. The Township will never accept a verbal order for a foundation order over the phone or in person. All foundation orders must be in writing from a memorial/headstone company to avoid errors. All lots and sites are to be verified by the person purchasing the monument prior to submitting a foundation order.
- B. No plantings of any sort may take place without permission before the foundation and monument are permanently placed.
- C. We do not allow any foot markers on a gravesite plot except for veteran’s markers; see Veterans Markers below for more information.
- D. The minimum foundation for a gravesite is 1’x2’ at a cost of \$165.00. Any foundation over this amount will be at \$0.65 per square inch. A 2” apron is required and should be figured into the total amount of foundation.
- E. All inscriptions, symbols, and images on headstones must uphold the dignity and respectfulness appropriate for a cemetery setting. This includes refraining from explicit language, offensive gestures, or any content that could be considered disrespectful to the memory of the deceased or to visitors. Any disputes regarding the content on a headstone will be resolved by the Township Administrator. The Trustees have the final say over what is permitted.

VETERANS MARKERS

- A. The cemetery will place veterans' markers, at no cost to the owner, at the foot of the gravesite onto a pre-made foundation.
- B. Veterans' markers can be placed at the head of the grave only if the marker will serve as the headstone. If the marker is being purchased to be mounted onto a headstone, this will be at the owner's expense and will need to be placed by a monument company.
- C. The Boy Scouts place American flags on gravesites with veterans' markers on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. If no veteran marker is located on a gravesite, they will not place a flag.
- D. The cemetery crew will place a flag holder and flag at the grave if it has a Veterans Marker, at the request of the plot owner.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. In order to maintain a high standard of care and service consistent with changing conditions, the Trustees reserve the right to change these rules at any time they deem necessary.
- B. Blendon Township will use reasonable care in engaging competent and experienced cemetery employees and in seeing that the work is done with due care. However, it disclaims any responsibility or liability for accidents or damage to headstones, vases, or monuments resulting from the ordinary hazards of cemetery work. In addition, it does not assume any liability for accidents or damage to persons or property due to defects in machinery, implements, tools, and equipment used in cemetery work.
- C. The deed to a lot conveys only burial rights, and the title to the land remains in the Township of Blendon.
- D. Blendon Township shall assume NO responsibility for any marker, memorial, urn, shrub, grave decoration, or planting being damaged in any way during the regular course of cemetery maintenance or due to subsequent burials or vandalism.
- E. Cemetery mowing shall be restricted to cemetery personnel or their appointees. This includes but is not limited to filling and reseeded settled areas.
- F. After a burial, the Township will lay topsoil and grass seed on the gravesite. Sod is permissible at the expense of the family, but the Township prefers a nursery lays the sod if that option is chosen; the Township is not responsible for the sod failing to live.
- G. Trustees shall have the right and duty to remove any portion of tree or shrub on any lot that is deemed unattractive or becomes detrimental, dangerous, or inconvenient to adjacent lots or walks due to roots, branches, or other growth.
- H. As much as may be practical, the cemetery will handle the planting of trees and shrubs in the landscaping and general background of the cemetery but will not undertake plantings on individual lots.

CRYPTS

Crypts are acceptable upon request and under the following conditions:

- A. The size and type of the crypt requires prior approval of the Board of Trustees of Blendon Township.
- B. Cemetery officials will determine the number of lots to be purchased to accommodate the size of the crypt.
- C. Cemetery employees will not pour the foundation for crypts.
- D. The Blendon Township Service Director has inspection and approval responsibilities over all construction activities involving the crypt.

GRAVESITE DIMENSIONS

The gravesite dimensions are fifty-two (52) inches wide and ten (10) feet long.

OWNERSHIP

The deed holders are permitted to transfer or return ownership of lots to the Township Trustees only. There is an administration fee of \$50.00. Return of a crypt, niche, or columbaria will be charged the cost of a new door if the existing door is already engraved, in addition to the \$50.00 administration fee. These sites cannot otherwise be sold.

Cemetery spaces may be put on hold for up to six months, without payment. Holds may not be extended past the six-month deadline. Holds may not be transferred into someone else's name and extended longer. If the space is not paid for once the six-month expiration date occurs, the space will be changed to available for the public to purchase.

PAYMENT




We accept credit cards, check/money orders, and cash as payment. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover Credit Cards are accepted for card payment. Cash payment must be exact change. All checks or money orders for fees or lots should be made payable to Blendon Township Trustees and are to be deposited into the Township Cemetery Fund for the care and maintenance of Blendon Central Cemetery. This action is mandated by the Ohio Revised Code, as these funds can only be used for this purpose. There is a minimum charge of \$25.00 on returned checks.

FEES & PRICING

A schedule of fees and charges shall be available for inspection at the cemetery office and subject to amendment by the Trustees of Blendon Township. NOTE: Any of the above schedules listed in this document can be modified as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees of Blendon Township

Any questions regarding this document may be directed to the Cemetery Office. The Trustees have the final say over what is to be permitted in the Cemetery.

Attest. 
Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer

**Blendon Township
Board of Trustees**

Jan Reichel., Chairperson

Cathy Shinaberry, Vice-Chairperson

DeLena Ciamacco, Trustee