

# **RULES & REGULATIONS FOR CEMETERIES**

## **NEWTON TOWNSHIP, TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

Adopted

January 26, 2004

Amended

April 30, 2007; Sept. 26, 2022

By

**Newton Township Trustees  
4410 Newton Falls Bailey Road  
Newton Falls, Ohio 44444  
(330) 872-0003**

The management of the cemeteries in Newton Township, Trumbull County, Ohio is under the auspices of the Newton Township Board of Trustees, O.R.C. § 517.06. There are seven cemeteries: Duck Creek, Lutheran, Newton Falls - East, Newton Falls - West, Pricetown, St. Michael's and Wilderson. Trustees have the right to amend regulations on the use of the cemeteries at any time.

Currently, grave space is available for sale only in the Lutheran, St. Michael's and Newton Falls - West cemeteries. Those who purchased lots decades ago will find that today's caskets require more space and the number of unoccupied grave sites may have been reduced. The availability of grave sites within a lot must be confirmed by the Cemetery Sexton. By law, pets are prohibited from being buried in any of these cemeteries.

### **I. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

#### **Part A. PURCHASING A CEMETERY GRAVE SITE**

1. All cemetery graves sites are sold by Newton Township at prices which are periodically adjusted by the Trustees. Prices vary between types of lots for upright or flat monument accommodations. To arrange an appointment to discuss the purchase of a grave site, contact the Cemetery Sexton, Newton Township Adm. Building, (330) 872-0003.
2. The Trustees reserve the right to limit the number of grave sites sold per family.
3. Funeral Directors can arrange for the purchase of a grave site from the Township through the Cemetery Sexton as part of a funeral arrangement.
4. Grave sites can be transferred by the owner or a legal representative to an immediate family member. Immediate family member is defined as: father, mother, son, daughter, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. In all instances, grave sites can only be

sold/transferred by the Fiscal Officer with the approval of the Trustees.

#### **Part B. OPENING A GRAVE**

4. Only a licensed Funeral Director may contact the Cemetery Sexton for a grave opening.
5. Costs for grave openings are set by the Township Trustees. The cost of a grave opening depends on the resident status of the deceased. Non-residents pay a higher rate. The determination of residency status is at the discretion of the Township Trustees. Typically, if an individual has made a permanent address change outside the city or township, that person would be considered a non-resident, even if the grave site was purchased when the individual was a resident.

#### **Part C. CREMAINS**

1. Up to four cremains in appropriate containers can be buried on a single grave site or on one occupied by a family member.
2. Arrangements and cost for the burial of cremains are obtained from the Cemetery Sexton by contacting the Newton Township Administration Building, (330) 872-0003. No cremains shall be interred without the authorization of the Cemetery Sexton.

#### **Part D. CEMETERY HOURS**

Hours of public access to all cemeteries in Newton Township are from dawn to sundown unless otherwise restricted or approved by the Newton Township Trustees.

#### **Part E. CHAPELS**

Use of the St. Michael's Cemetery chapel must be arranged with the Cemetery Sexton. There is an \$85 rental fee, but this fee will be waived for those St. Michael's Church parishioners who have grave sites purchased in the cemetery prior to Dec. 31, 2007. A letter from the parish is required to document parish membership.

Use of the chapel at Newton Falls East Cemetery is limited and must be arranged by contacting the Cemetery Association via the Cemetery Sexton at (330) 872-0003.

#### **Part F. SPECIAL EVENTS**

Any special event to be held in a cemetery must have prior approval of the Newton Township Trustees. A written request must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the event indicating the sponsor, purpose and type of activity, the date, time, and liability coverage. A written response of the Newton Township Trustees' decision will be issued to the sponsor in a timely manner. At the conclusion of the event, the cemetery must remain in no less condition than before the event was held.

**II. ALL CEMETERIES,  
EXCEPT NEWTON FALLS - WEST [SECTION E]**

**Part A. SPECIFICATIONS**

1. The dimensions of a grave site for burial are 36 inches x 8 feet.
2. The size of an upright monument for a double grave cannot exceed a maximum of 14 inches x 56 inches. On a single grave, the monument cannot exceed a maximum of 14 inches x 30 inches. Upright monuments will not exceed a height of 36 inches.
3. Peat moss or mulch must not exceed 12 inches in front of the monument.

**Part B. GROWING SEASON DECORATIONS**

1. Artificial decorations are not permitted except for Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Father's Day. They must be removed five days after each holiday.
2. No flowers, vases, urns, or any growth on the sides or rear of the monuments are permitted.
3. No shrubs, bushes, trees, wood chips, decorative stones/gravel or border ornaments/fixtures are permitted around the monuments.
4. At the upright monuments, planted flowers, fresh cut flowers in vases and urns, or potted flowers are permitted on the dates listed in Part B. no. 1. All flowers/plants must not extend over 12 inches in front of the monument or beyond the monument length.
5. One American flag in a holder or a vigil light is permitted if properly maintained. Assessment of improper maintenance will be at the discretion of the Newton Township Trustees.
6. April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> is the general clean up time for the cemeteries. All decorations you wish to keep must be removed by you prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>.
7. Military service organizations are permitted to place flags and flag holders at cemetery grave sites to honor veterans prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The flag holders may remain in place, but the flags shall be removed within four weeks unless a time extension is approved by the Newton Township Trustees.

**Part C. NON-GROWING SEASON DECORATIONS**

1. The non-growing season is October 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Artificial flowers, wreaths and crosses are permitted. They must not extend over 12 inches in front of the monument and beyond the monument width.
3. Any decorations deemed unsightly or interfering with normal maintenance as determined by the Newton Township Trustees will be removed. Decorations that become detached from monuments cannot be reset by the Newton Township workers.

**III.        NEWTON FALLS CEMETERY  
             - WEST [SECTION E]**

**Part A.    SPECIFICATIONS**

2.        Effective January 25, 1988, above ground memorials will not be permitted. Only flat, ground level memorials will be permitted in this section.
3.        The dimensions of a grave site for burial are 36 inches x 8 feet.
4.        The size of a flat monument for a double grave cannot exceed a maximum of 14 inches x 56 inches. On a single grave site, the flat monument cannot exceed a maximum of 14 inches x 30 inches.
5.        Peat moss or mulch must not exceed 12 inches in front of the monument.
5.        An unneeded grave site can be returned to the Trustees for its original purchase price, as required by law.

**Part B.    DECORATIONS**

6.        No planted flowers in the ground are permitted at the flat monuments.
2.        Fresh cut or artificial flowers in reversible urns are permitted at all times. Arrangements will be removed when they become unsightly, at the discretion of the Cemetery Sexton.
3.        Potted flowers and plants are permitted 5 days before Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Father's Day. These urns or pots of live flowers must not exceed 40 pounds in total weight and must be removed 5 days after each of these holidays.
4.        Winter wreaths not exceeding a total height of 36 inches and blankets are permitted November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>.
5.        No shrubs, bushes, trees, decorative stones, wood chips, or border ornaments/fixtures are permitted around the monuments.
6.        Making holes in the sod to hold containers or vases in place is not permitted.
7.        Glass containers and wire pins cannot be used since they can be hazards while mowing.
8.        Peat moss or mulch must not exceed 12 inches in front of the monument.
9.        April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> is the general clean up time for the cemeteries. All decorations you wish to keep must be removed by you prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**IV.    ST. MICHAEL'S CEMETERY**

On January 22, 2007, the Newton Township Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution regarding the

rules, regulations, and costs pertaining to St. Michael's Cemetery:

**RESOLUTION #010701**

*Be it resolved that the Newton Township Board of Trustees has accepted possession of St. Michael's Cemetery located on Newton Tomlinson Road in Newton Township, as per the request of the governing diocese of St. Michael's Church.*

*May it also be resolved that the Newton Township Board of Trustees as of this date will apply all rules, regulations, residency requirements, cost of graves, and opening and closing costs, which are already in effect to St. Michael's Cemetery with the exception of those who are current parishioners of St. Michael's Church in Newton Falls. These parishioners will be charged resident rates, until December 31, 2007, regardless of where they reside.*

*May it also be resolved that a rental fee of \$85.00 will be charged to anyone wishing to use the chapel located at St. Michael's Cemetery with the exception of the parishioners of St. Michael's Church located in Newton Falls. These parishioners will be exempt from said fee if their lots are purchased before December 31, 2007.*

Any parishioners who live outside Newton Township (Newton Falls City is part of Newton Township) have until December 31, 2007, to purchase lots at St. Michael's Cemetery at the resident rates. Those who currently have lots, and those who purchase lots prior to December 31, 2007, will not have to pay the \$85 rental fee to use the chapel. These parishioners will be required to provide a letter from the parish documenting they are parishioners of St. Michael's Church.