

News & Notes

CALENDAR

- Sat., Aug. 30- Volunteer setup of the Field of Flags: 9 AM
- Mon., Sept. 01 Labor Day!
- Thur., Sept. 11 Patriot Day!
- Sat., Nov. 1 Wreaths Begin, summer bouquets will remain on the flower racks until Nov. 15
- Tue., Nov. 11 Veterans Day
- Thur., Nov. 28 Thanksgiving
- Wed., Dec. 24 Christmas
 Memorial Candles Placed
- Thur., Dec 25—We wish you a very Merry Christmas!
- Thur., Jan 1 Welcome the New Year with a candle
- Fri., Feb. 14 Valentine's Day: order candles for loved ones

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER: Christmas Candles \$25

Placed at gravesite Dec. 24-26 Extra Days - \$6

Winter Wreaths are Ready— Order Early for Best Selection!

- Weather resistant
- Custom-designs in three sizes
- Simplicity Basic greens with a bright red bow
- All wreaths feature a hand-tied-by-me bow.
- Mounted on our own wind-resistant heavy-duty stands. (Stands are also available for purchase.)

Order for here ... or for elsewhere. Some folks even hang them on their front doors!

Order details are below. As always, thank you for choosing to order from us. We appreciate you!

Have a wonderful fall and holiday season.



TO ORDER:

- Use the enclosed Order Form
- + Call us (814) 723-1541
- Visit www.wcmpark.org/shop
 - Stop in, say hi & see the wreaths on display!

Planning Ahead: The Advantages of Pre-Need Cemetery Arrangements

When it comes to end-of-life planning, many people find it difficult to begin the conversation—let alone make decisions. Yet one of the most meaningful and responsible choices you can make for yourself and your loved ones is to plan ahead for your cemetery needs. This process, involves selecting and purchasing cemetery property and related services and merchandise in advance of need. Though the topic may feel emotional or uncomfortable, the benefits are profound and lasting.

Eases the Burden on Loved Ones

One of the most compassionate reasons to pre-plan is to spare your family the emotional stress of making difficult decisions during a time of grief. When a death occurs, loved ones are often faced with numerous decisions within a very short time. Having your wishes clearly outlined and arrangements made in advance relieves them of that pressure. It allows them to focus on healing and honoring your life, rather than worrying about logistics.

Ensures Your Wishes Are Honored

Pre-need planning puts you in control. You can choose the cemetery location, the type of burial or interment you prefer (such as in-ground burial, mausoleum entombment, or cremation niche), and the style of memorialization that reflects your values and personality. By documenting and arranging these choices ahead of time, you ensure your preferences are honored and carried out exactly as you envisioned.

3. Locks in Today's Prices

Cemetery and funeral costs, like many other expenses, tend to rise over time. Pre-need arrangements typically allowyou to lock in today's prices, protecting you and your family from future inflation. This can result in significant financial savings and provides peace of mind knowing that your costs are covered.

4. Allows for Flexible Payment Options

Most cemetery providers offer flexible pre-need payment plans that allowyou to spread out costs over time. This can be far more manageable than having to pay a large sumall at once in the event of an unexpected loss. It also ensures that your family won't be left with financial obligations when the time comes.

5. Provides Peace of Mind

Knowing that your final resting place is secured and your wishes are in place offers a profound sense of peace—for you and for those who love you. It brings comfort in knowing that your family won't have to guess what you would have wanted, or worry if they're making the right decisions.

6. Opportunity for Thoughtful Decisions

Pre-need planning allows time for reflection and discussion. Rather than making decisions under emotional duress, you have the chance to explore your options carefully, ask questions, and make informed, thoughtful choices.

7. A Legacy of Love and Responsibility

Choosing to make cemetery arrangements in advance is a final, loving gift to your family. It reflects a deep sense of responsibility and care, and leaves behind a legacy of thoughtfulness that your loved ones will remember and appreciate long after the arrangements have been fulfilled.

Conclusion

Pre-need cemetery planning isn't about focusing on death—it's about taking control of your future, protecting your loved ones, and creating peace of mind today. It's a powerful act of love that offers emotional and financial relief during life's most difficult moments. While it may be a challenging topic to approach, the advantages are undeniable, and the comfort it brings is immeasurable.

If you're ready to begin the conversation, reach out to us so we can walk you through the process with compassion, respect, and care.

The Average Cost of End-of-Life Decisions might surprise you!

According to CNBC and the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), they determined the following National Averages for services. Please note that this information based on national rates and could be different in our area here in North West Pennsylvania:

Average Funeral with Viewing and Burial: \$8,300.00 Average Cremation with Viewing and Burial: \$6,300.00

These rates do not include personal selections for services, only the necessary costs. These cost may go depending on merchandise selection, printing packages, cemetery monument/memorial, etc.

www.cnbc.com/select/how-much-does-funeral-cost/

We do, and always will, Remember 9/11.

As of the writing of News&Notes we are in the process of getting everything ready for our Annual Field of Flags. We would like to thank those who took the time out of their schedule to help us with this annual tradition.

Field of Flags will be available through the end of September for all to come visit, reflect, and honor those who lost and

sacrificed their lives on that tragic day in our history.



If tomorrow isn't promised, why do we so of ten postpone what mallers most?

<u>NEWS&NOTES</u> DIGITAL

We all know the current issues with the USPS can be challenging. If you would like to receive News&Notes via email, please let us know today!

This gives you the first access to the order forms, information, and jokes you love! Email us today at info@wcmpark.org to join!

COMMUNITY UPDATE

We had the pleasure of being able to be a sponsor of the 2nd Annual Freedom Fundraiser that was held on July 5th in downtown Warren, PA., organized by the Jefferson Defrees Family Center and Wicked Warrens.

This event was a 5K run/ walk & Kids Dash that supported the NF2 Biosolutions, which is researching a cure for the rare disease that Warren Native, Elliot Bevevino suffers from.

We are please to have been able to meet Elliot and his family, and proud to continue to support local families in their time of need!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

In cooperation with Blue Star Mothers, WCMPark is proud to be a part of Wreaths Across America this year. The Blue Star Mother's will have a full detail of how this program works, however we wanted to detail some specifics here.

- The Memorial Event is not held at each cemetery location, it is held at one location of Blue Star Mother's choosing.
- The wreathes are laid upon the grave.
- Volunteers are requested to help place the wreathes at each location participating.
- The wreaths are then removed after a set number of days; this
 is due to them being fresh wreaths.

Families will be allowed to have both a seasonal wreath (which stays from Nov. 1 until April 15) and a Wreath from Wreathes Across America for their veterans. We are excited to work out the details of this event with the Blue Star Mothers and participate as a partner in this event.

"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes" -Maya Angelou

~ DONOR & MEMORIAL BRICKS AVAILABLE ~

Standard Brick - \$100 Donation Up to 4 lines, 20 characters/spaces per line IN HONOR OF EDWARD L SEEBECK USN SUBMARINER FROM RUTH & JEN



Double Brick - \$250 Donation Up to 8 lines, 20 characters/spaces per line Clipart images are also available

Call or stop in for more details.

Living in the Moment After Loss

When we lose someone we love, it's natural for our thoughts to drift into the past - replaying memories, conversations, and moments we wish we could relive. Just as easily, our minds can race into the future, worrying about how we'll carry on without them. Both the past and the future matter, but neither is where we truly live. Life only happens in the present moment.

Living in the moment after loss doesn't mean forgetting. It means allowing yourself to be fully present for what is here now, while still honoring what was. A walk outdoors, a shared laugh with a friend, or a quiet cup of tea can be small anchors to remind us that even amidst grief, life continues to offer moments of peace.

Practicing presence can be as simple as pausing to take a deep breath, noticing the colors of the sky, or feeling gratitude for the love you once shared. These moments don't erase the pain, but they create space for healing to gently unfold.

By choosing to notice today - just as it is - we allow love and memory to walk alongside us, not as weights pulling us back, but as companions helping us forward.

Below are some reflection pieces to help you:

1. Finding Comfort in Ritual

After loss, our daily routines can feel empty without the presence of our loved one. Yet small rituals - lighting a candle, tending a plant, or sitting quietly in a favorite chair - can become ways to honor them. These acts remind us that love still finds expression in the simplest gestures.

Reflection Prompt: What small daily ritual could I create that helps me feel connected to my loved one?

2. The Healing Power of Nature

Grief can feel heavy, but nature offers gentle reminders of renewal. The turning of the season, the return of birds, or even a single flower breaking through the soil can reassure us that endings always hold the promise of new beginnings. Reflection Prompt: When I step outside today, what sign of life or renewal can I notice that brings me hope?

3. Carrying Stories Forward

Our loved ones live on in the stories we tell - over dinner, in laughter, or when passing along wisdom they once shared. Speaking their name and remembering their quirks allow us to keep their presence alive, not only for ourselves but for those who never knew them.

Reflection Prompt: What is one story about my loved one I can share this week with someone else?

Permanent Placement for Cremation

Scriptures

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

- Exodus 20:12

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day."
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for US"

-Hebrews 12:1

When a loved one is cremated, it can feel comforting to keep their cremated remains close. Yet choosing a permanent resting place - such as a cemetery niche, memorial garden, or dedicated urn space - carries deeper meaning and long term value.

An eternal resting place:

- Provides Stability for Generations
 Loved ones will always know where
 to visit, regardless of future moves or
 life changes. It anchors memory in a
 secure place.
- Creates a Sacred Space for Grief and Reflection
 A permanent site allows family and friends to gather, honor anniversaries, and find comfort in a shared space of remembrance.
- Honors Legacy with Dignity
 Establishing a lasting memorial ensures the loved-ones's life is remembered with respect, beyond the temporary storage of cremated remains at home.

An eternal resting place turns cremated remains into legacy - a touchstone of love, remembrance, and peace for all who come after.

Warren County Memorial Park is proud to offer many choices for cremation families.

September 11 Memorial Flags

The Field of Flags is raised each September in memory of those killed on 9/11/2001. ~ These sponsorships represent loved ones in your own families, veterans from all conflicts, firefighters, law enforcement and EMS service providers in our communities, and friends. ~ The funds raised from flag sponsorships, bricks and other sources help pay for replacement flags in the Memorial Field and on the fourteen flagpoles at the Emergency Service Memorial and Military Service Memorial. Thank you for your support of this project. Your generosity is most appreciated.

<u>A-B</u>

All Veterans

Arnold, Dorothy Anderson, Glenn

Barney, Edward & Rose, US Navy WWII

Barney, Frank & Anna, US Army WWI

Barrett, Charles, WWII

Bines, Robert

Blakeslee, Karina M, VFF

Blakeslee, Walter E, US Navy, WWII

Bohren, Ralph, US Navy WWII

Bohren, Rhea

Bohren, Virgil

Bowley, Ralph, US Navy, WWII

Brown, Don & Elsa, US Navy WWII

<u>C-D</u>-E

Carnahan, C. Dale Case, Richard, US Navy

Cassidy, Gerald, USAF Ret. Korea, Vietnam

Cole, Daniel, US Army

Cowan, James

Cristea, Sam, US Army WWII

Dake, Lisa "Hooker", IHC Angel #27

Dalrymple, Charlotte

Darling, Ronald E, USAF Korea

Deems, Jean

Elinski, Andrew, US Army WWII



God Bless America!

F

Fajbik, Ronald, USMC Vietnam

Fajbik, Brian, USMC

Fajbik, Laurlie

Farone, Samuel & Donna

Farr, Barbara

Feeny, John

Ferver, Daniel

Ferver, George & Thelma

Finger, Gary & Vera

First Responders

Fleming, Pearl

Fredericks, Walter A, US Army WWII

Froman, Barb

Froman, 'Bunky' US Army Korea

Froman, Charles, Jr.

Froman, Rick, ROTC

Froman, Mary

G-H-I

Goerlich, Cole, USMC

Goldthwaite, Kenneth, VFF

Goodard, Glenn & LaDora

Gray, William

Haynes, Wrayburn & June US Army WWII

Haynes, Wrayburn, US Army WWII

Haynes, Wrayburn, Jr, US Army Vietnam

Henry, Chris, USNG

Hodas, Frank, US Army, WWII

Horner, Charles W & Mable, US Army WWII

Horner, Jeffrey

Horner, William A, USAF Rtd.

Iron Horse Cowboys

IHC #66 Ron Velthoven, USAF

IHC #16 Garrett Robinson

IHC #315 Vinny Lisa Cuzin, 911 Run Chaplin

J-K-L

Jackson, Richard G, US Army Johnson, Howard Kosinski, Charles, WWII Krespan, James & Victoria Kushner, Mary Lafferty, James US Navy WWII Lewis, Clyde & Mary, US Army WWII Lundberg, Walter US Army WWII Lyle, Nathaniel US Navy

Manno, John H., USMC Vietnam Manno, Sam, USMC Vietnam, Purple Heart Martin, Judy McKown, Derek & Pamela McMillen, Jack, US Army Korea Mead, Leonard J, USMC WWII Mohney, Lance Myers, William "W.C.", US Army Vietnam Nelson, Joseph & Eleanor Nelson, Thomas, US Navy Vietnam Nesmith, Jefferson Nicodemus, William J.

Park, Kenneth, USMC WWII

Paul, Lloyd, US Army National Guard Korea Pearson, Charles & Mary, WWI Preston, Robert J, USMC Peace Time

Q-R-S

Raymond, John, USAF Peace Time Rossey, Leo M., US Army WWII Scarpo, Betty Seebeck, Edward L, US Navy, Vietnam* Seebeck, Richard J, US Navy WWII Seebeck, Robert N, US Navy Rtd. Service Women Shall, Ed Shattuck, Chester A., US Navy WWII Shattuck, Dorothy L Shattuck, Norman D, US Army Vietnam Shaw, Robert, US Army Korea Shaw, Valerie Simonsen, William & Marilyn, US Army WWII Smith, Xavier Songer Family Studd, Brad Lee Sweetland, John & Ester Sweetland, Robert & Vivian

T-U-V

Tack, John, USAF Tannler, Walter & Louise, US Army WWII Trask, Gilbert 'Pete' & Wilma, US Army Trayer, W. Ronald Vera Finger's Piano Teaching

W-X-Y-Z

Wertz, Ronald White, Dave Wholeben, Alyce Wholeben, William Winegardner, Jake, US Navy Korea Witherow, Spurgeon, US Navy WWII Zock, James, Sr. & Brian, US Army Korea

Flag Orders as of 8/1/2025 All subsequent orders will be printed in the next fall issue with the 2026 Flag Orders.

Thank you for your continued support!

I am the American Flag I have earned the right to be heard. I will speak from the wisdom of life. Look at my face, I have known over 40 Presidents. I have traveled far. I have lived long and seen much. I have paid the price for my freedom of speech. I have wrapped my arms around those who have died for me. I am proud of my country, preserve my dignity; You have the freedom to choose. Old Glory they called me, and I am the AMERICAN FLAG, Under God, with Liberty and Justice For All.

-Unknown

Maintenance Updates

2025 has been the year of Murphy's Law in the Park! Anything that could go wrong, tended to go wrong at exactly the wrong time.

We were faced with one of the harshest winters of recent years, followed by a very, very, wet spring. As you know, this resulted in unfavorable conditions for maintenance of the grounds, which led to a period of being unable to get our equipment onto the grounds (aside from burials) to cut grass, tend graves, etc. We spent some time repairing and servicing french drains at the top of the cemetery help redirect water flow, which we believe will help the grounds dry out a bit quicker. Our tractor had some electrical issues that were finally diagnosed and repaired, but then further into this year experienced some transmission issues that took some time to diagnose, find the parts, and we are currently repairing the transmission. Our 140 tractor is over 50 years old, and while that may sound like a lot, it is important to note that we have not had to replace the transmission in that time, so it was due. Otherwise the tractor is in great mechanical shape.

We were able to get the park looking good for Memorial Day and continued to work at getting caught back up despite the set-backs.

Many thanks need to be made to Davies Tractors, who helped us every time we needed it most!

As we are starting to dive into fall maintenance, we are looking at getting the fountain repaired (which took a back burner because of the grounds).

We continue to be dedicated to ensuring that WCMPark remains the best cemetery in Warren County.

"Laughter's the best medicine!"

A young girl watched her grandmother move several duck figurines from the bottom shelf to the middle shelf of a cabinet. The grandmother picked up one of the ducks and then set it down on the middle shelf. She picked up another duck figurine from the bottom shelf and set it beside the first duck. She continued moving the ducks from one shelf to the next.

Finally, she stood back and looked at the cabinet.

"Hmm..." She moved back to the cabinet and began moving the ducks onto the top shelf.

"Grandma," the little girl finally spoke, "what are you doing?"

"I'm just trying to get my ducks in a row," the grandmother answered

"A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing." - Emo Phillips

I am at that age where "getting lucky" means being able to find my car in the parking lot after What do newborns and seniors have in common? They'll both nap anywhere.

We leave this world the same way we enter it: bald, confused, and wearing a diaper.

I decided I wasn't going to let getting older slow me down, but my body had other plans.

They say kids have selective hearing, but seniors do too - we just turn our hearing aids off!

Two older men catch up over a hot lunch at their favorite diner.

"Larry, those docs told me that my new hearing aids are the highest quality ones on the market, and they should be with how much I paid for 'em."

"I'm sure they are! Have you really had the chance to exercise their potential, yet?"

"Why on Earth would I exorcize the things? My doctor's a card-carrying Catholic."

I asked the librarian if the library had books on paranoia, she whispered, "They're right behind you".

Let Someone Hold the Lantern for You

Grief can feel like walking through a dark forest with no map. Some days you're just trying not to trip over the roots. Other days, you can't even find the path. And the thought of asking someone to join you in that darkness? It feels awkward, maybe even impossible.

You might think, I don't want to be a burden. They have their own lives. Or maybe, If I let someone help, it means I'm not strong enough. But here's the thing — grief isn't about proving your strength. It's about surviving something your heart never wanted to face.

Sometimes, you just need someone to hold the lantern for a while so you can catch your breath.

Asking for Help When the Words Are Heavy

Skip the speeches. You don't need to explain every detail. "Can you come sit with me?" is enough.

Be small and specific. "Could you pick up groceries?" or "Would you call me tonight?" makes it easier for people to say yes.

Let it be imperfect. You might cry, sit in silence, or talk about random things. That's all okay.

Accepting Help Without Feeling Like a Burden

Think of help like a handrail on a staircase. You still climb the steps — the handrail just keeps you from falling.

When someone offers, try saying, "Yes, thank you" instead of "You don't have to."

Let yourself remember: people offer because they care, not because they pity you.

One day, you'll get to be someone else's handrail, too.

You Don't Have to Light the Whole Path Alone

Grief is heavy. Sometimes unbearably so. But the weight shifts when you let a few trusted people carry pieces of it with you. You don't have to see the end of the forest yet — just enough light to take the next step.

And if the only step you can take today is whispering, I could use a little help, then that's enough.

Keepsake Tools for Helping with Grief

We have put together some tools to help you or someone you know deal with grief. Please feel free to clip these or save this page.

Five Quick Tools for Dealing with Grief

- 1. <u>Ground yourself through Breath & Body Awareness</u> Inhale 4 sec, exhale 6-8 sec. - keep your hand on your chest
- Expressive Outlets
 Write a letter, journal, draw, or talk out loud.
- 3. <u>Rituals of Remembrance</u> Create a small ritual: light a candle, look at a photo, cook a meal
- Gentle Structure in Daily Life
 Stick to small anchors; daily tasks at the same time.
- 5. <u>Supportive Connection</u> Reach out to trusted friends, family, or a support group.

You Don't Have to Carry This Alone

Grief is heavy, and some days even asking for help feels impossible. But you don't have to explain everything — "Can you sit with me?" or "Could you bring dinner?" is enough.

When someone offers help, say "thank you" instead of "you don't have to."
They're not trying to fix you — they just want to walk beside you for a while.

You're still the one moving through this, but letting others hold part of the weight can make the next step possible. And right now, the next step is all you need to take.

It is okay for me to feel exactly what I feel.

I carry their memory with me, in my own way, I keep their presence alive.

Healing doesn't mean forgetting - I can move forward and still hold them in my heart.

Family News - From Our House to Yours

All has been relatively quiet in our family this summer. We were able to make some trips to Williamsport and Philadelphia to visit family, spend some time at the many festivals and parades here in Warren County, and enjoy the last days of spending most of our time with Bobby daily. We had the awesome experience of being able to see a Savannah Bananas banana-ball (baseball with different rules - think Harlem Globetrotters of baseball) game in Philadelphia with my brother's family and Kate's parents.

We were able to bring some of nephews up to stay with us for a few days, each separately so we had time with them individually. One of my nephews was able to catch a pretty big bass up on Chapman lake - which was good because all he wanted to do here in Warren was fish! Bobby also had the opportunity to go spend a week with them, which allowed him the opportunity to go see the Little League Parade in Williamsport.

Our biggest change has been that Bobby started Kindergarten! It is hard to believe, but painfully real when trying to wake him up in the mornings! It is a big adjustment for both us and him not being able to spend the days together. His is enjoying school and meeting new friends, but isn't particularly fond of that early morning bus ride!

We lost another duck from the pond, unfortunately. We had two mallards left that would always be together. When we were taking Bobby to the bus we noticed there was only one and a large eagle flew from a tree down towards the river. We believe the eagle got one of them and had we not scared it, may have gotten the second. We are looking at the possibility of getting some ducklings in the spring to introduce to the pond.

We appreciate everyone's patience this year with the mowing - it has been nothing short of a nightmare, but many of you expressed understanding and patience with us, and for that we are always eternally grateful!

- Rich Winter

The Dying Veteran

Amid these days of order, ease, prosperity,
Amid the current songs of beauty, peace, decorum,
I cast a reminiscence—(likely 't will offend you,
I heard it in my boyhood)—More than a generation since,
A queer old savage man, a fighter under Washington himself
(Large, brave, cleanly, hot-blooded, no talker, rather spiritualistic,
Had fought in the ranks—fought well—had been all through the
Revolutionary war),

Lay dying—sons, daughters, church-deacons, lovingly tending him,

Sharping their sense, their ears, towards his murmuring, half-caught words:

"Let me return again to my war-days,

To the sights and scenes—to forming the line of battle,

To the scouts ahead reconnoitering,

To the cannons, the grim artillery,

To the galloping aids, carrying orders,

To the wounded, the fallen, the heat, the suspense,

The perfume strong, the smoke, the deafening noise;

Away with your life of peace!—your joys of peace!

Give me my old wild battle-life again!"

By Walt Whitman

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

- John Fitzgerald Kennedy

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

- Ronald Reagan

"My heroes are those who risk their lives every day to protect our world and make it a better place – police, firefighters, and member of our armed forces." – Sidney Sheldon

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Warren County Memorial Park

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

for Order, Information, and burial locations. **Check out our website at** www.wempark.org

"Where Beautiful Memories Remain Beautiful - For 70 years ... and Forever."

Warren County's Cremation Memorialization Specialists

Warren County Memorial Park is pleased to offer a vast array of memorial options for those who choose cremation.

We currently offer the following services: Cremation Burial, Granite Benches, Columbaria Niches, Cremation Boulders, Remembrance Bronze Butterflies, Memorial Bricks and Stones, Memorial Tree Plaques.

We are always looking for more options for families to honor their loved ones. If there is something you may be interested in but do not see in the list above, come ask us! We will see what we can do to honor your wishes!