

THE GREENWOOD CEMETERY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CORPORATE BOARD MEMBERS

Improving Accessibility at Greenwood Cemetery: A Gift of Generosity and Purpose

Greenwood Cemetery is proud to announce the installation of a “gently used” aluminum accessibility ramp at the cemetery office — a meaningful addition that reflects our ongoing commitment to welcoming all members of the community.

This ramp was graciously donated through Ramps of Hope, a local ministry based in Indiana County that builds and provides ramps for individuals with mobility challenges. The organization is powered by volunteers who work tirelessly to make homes and public spaces more accessible to those in need. In this case, the ramp had previously been used at a private residence and was donated to Ramps of Hope by a woman whose husband, the original user, had passed away. In the spirit of giving, she wanted the ramp to continue serving others.

The Board of Managers at Greenwood Cemetery has long recognized the importance of making the cemetery office accessible to all visitors, including those with mobility issues. While the historic grounds offer a peaceful and reflective environment, the lack of easy access to the office has posed challenges for some. This generous donation is a much-needed solution, and it represents more than just a practical improvement — it is a symbol of compassion, community, and care.

The cemetery extends sincere gratitude to Ramps of Hope and the generous donor who made this gift possible. It is hoped that this new ramp will make visiting and engaging with the cemetery a more comfortable experience for everyone.



Greenwood Cemetery is deeply appreciative of the thoughtful donation of a ramp, generously passed along by someone who no longer needed it. Thank you for making our space more welcoming and inclusive. Photos by R. Ringler.

A Meaningful Addition to the Garden of Peace

A beautiful and thoughtful enhancement to the Garden of Peace is the newly installed entrance rock marking the columbarium area. This meaningful addition was the result of months of careful planning and collaboration, beginning when board member Gretchen Johnson partnered with RD Brown Memorials of Punxsutawney to design a monument that would harmonize with the garden's peaceful and reflective setting.

Working together, they selected a font and a dove symbol that would reflect the solemn purpose of the space while adding to its natural beauty. Every detail was chosen with care to ensure the stone would serve not only as a marker but also as a quiet invitation for reflection and remembrance.

On September 17th, the large stone was delivered to the site, where it was gently set into place with the help of a small crane. Now standing at the entrance to the columbarium, the monument serves as a respectful and welcoming feature—offering visitors a moment of pause as they enter the space.

Blending seamlessly into its surroundings, the entrance rock enhances the serenity of the Garden of Peace. It is sure to remain a lasting tribute—providing both beauty and meaning for generations to come.



RD Brown Memorials of Punxsutawney was responsible for engraving, delivering and installing the new entrance sign to the Garden of Peace columbarium area. Photos by R. Ringler and T. Ryan.

New Forklift Enhances Cemetery Operations



Cemetery employee Michael Lentz using the newly acquired forklift to unload a large number of granite backers. These 3-4 inch thick granite pieces are used as foundations for the bronze memorials in the Gardens. Photos by J. Foister.

This past spring, Head Caretaker Roger Ringler located a used forklift for sale just a short distance from Indiana that fit well within the cemetery's budget. Thanks to his efforts, the cemetery has gained a valuable piece of equipment that has already made a meaningful impact.

The forklift proved its worth almost immediately when 34 pieces of granite arrived from Georgia, requiring careful and efficient unloading. It was also instrumental in managing a recent concrete mix delivery, handling the task with ease.

Looking ahead, the forklift is expected to greatly enhance daily operations by safely lifting and transporting heavy materials. This addition not only improves efficiency but also promotes a safer working environment for the caretaking team.



The forklift was located and purchased in the Altoona area and delivered a few days later.

Storm Recovery and Tree Maintenance Efforts

A severe storm that swept through the area in May caused significant damage across Greenwood Cemetery. Several trees were uprooted, and debris was scattered throughout the grounds. Among the most serious impacts, two large trees fell across Hospital Road, blocking the roadway and effectively shutting it down for several hours.

In the immediate aftermath, Head Caretaker Roger Ringler and board member Ron Fairman quickly responded to the scene. Prioritizing public safety, they directed traffic away from the blocked area, helping to prevent further accidents. Their prompt and dedicated action made a real difference until the fire department arrived later that evening. By midnight, the fire company had successfully cleared the obstruction, and the road was reopened to traffic.

Following the storm, Greenwood's grounds crew worked diligently over several days to clear the downed trees and scattered debris. Their hard work was essential in restoring the cemetery's calm, orderly appearance and ensuring that no hazards remained.

In addition to addressing storm-related damage, the cemetery has also been proactive about long-term tree maintenance. Recently, five dead trees in Section 4 were professionally removed by Jarvie Tree Service to help maintain both the health and safety of the area. Two additional trees along Hospital Road have been identified as dead or dying and are scheduled for removal in the near future.

These ongoing efforts reflect Greenwood's commitment to preserving the beauty, safety, and tranquility of the cemetery grounds for all who visit



Significant damage was caused by the violent storm this past spring. The cemetery grounds crew spent many hours over a number of days cleaning up debris. Photos by R. Fairman.

Thank You Summer 2025 Workers

The Board of Managers recently approved the hiring of additional help for the summer season, allowing two local high school students to assist the full-time grounds crew with the demanding tasks of mowing, trimming, and maintaining the cemetery's landscape. Gage Henry and Camden Ringler, both dedicated students from Homer-Center High School, were selected for the roles and proved to be invaluable members of the team. Despite their own busy schedules, which included football conditioning and practices, they managed to balance their athletic commitments with their responsibilities at the cemetery.

Throughout the summer months, Gage and Camden worked diligently alongside the grounds crew, helping to ensure that Greenwood's property remained in top condition. Their efforts were not only appreciated by the full-time staff but also by the many visitors who commented positively on the cemetery's well-maintained appearance. The pristine grounds and neatly trimmed areas were a direct result of their hard work and commitment. In fact, numerous visitors took the time to compliment the staff on how beautiful and well-kept the

cemetery looked, highlighting the impact Gage and Camden had in contributing to the overall care of the site.

Before starting their work, both Gage and Camden took the necessary steps to obtain their working papers, ensuring they met all legal requirements to join the team. Their contributions this summer were greatly valued, and the Board of Managers is grateful for their dedication and the positive impression they left on the staff and visitors to the cemetery.



Camden Ringler (left) and Gage Henry (right) worked long hours in the hot sun to help keep the cemetery looking top notch June through August. A big thank you to both hard working young men for their excellent work ethic and skills. Photo by R. Ringler.

SEEN AT THE CEMETERY



Photo by T. Ryan

Looking for Contributors

This newsletter is noted as issue 8 for the 4th quarter due to a lack of content since issue 1 in the 1st quarter. If you have ideas for features or would like to contribute content, please contact Jan at office.gwcemetery@gmail.com.