



425 East State Street • Fremont, OH 43420
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The purpose of this newsletter is to inform & educate the community on funeral service & grief support issues. Please accept our sincerest apologies if this has reached a home where there is illness or sorrow.

This newsletter is available to any home or public service organization.

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Newsletter Provided to help our community...

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Welcome to our next issue of the Outreach Newsletter.

In this issue, we cover many interesting and informative topics.

As the holidays approach, our thoughts always turn to family. In this issue we explore the many ways families can celebrate the holidays together with several ideas for fun and unique activities that just might start a few new traditions.

Next, we look at monuments. A monument is a lasting tribute to a person's life that will be cherished by generations to come. Because a memorial is a significant purchase, there are many critical decisions involved. In this article we review factors that must be addressed when ordering a memorial, offer some considerations for personalization, and discuss how our funeral home can help make the selection process easier.

After a loved one has died, we are often faced with putting their affairs in order. Among other responsibilities, handling their finances is one of the most important tasks that need to be addressed fairly quickly. This brief overview will help outline this important process.

The next article discusses the decisions that need to be made in pre-planning a funeral. Although you may not want to think about your own death, having the arrangements made in advance can assure that your wishes will be carried out, and can lessen the burden on family members to have to make these decisions at such a difficult time.

Our newsletter is one way we hope to be a resource to you and the other families of our community. I hope you enjoy this issue. If you have any questions, or if we can assist you in anyway, please call us at anytime.



Holiday Remembrance Service

Our funeral home has been annually hosting a Holiday Remembrance Service since 2005. This year the service was held at the Fremont Country Club because of the number of people attending. Speakers were Pat Suter and Sandra Robinson, Bereavement Facilitators from the local Grief Share Program. The service is for bereaved families and friends of the loved ones that we have been honored to care for. We believe bringing everyone together and acknowledging their loss with others, who share the same feelings, helps us during the holidays, the most difficult time. Glass angel ornaments were presented to family members. It is one of the ways that we give back to our community in a heartfelt and meaningful way.



If you are interested in being on the mailing list for next year please contact the funeral home.

"Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sand of time."
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(1807-82)



Pre-Planning: The Time Is Now



For most people, pre-planning a funeral is the last thing on their mind. However, regardless of whether you are young or old, pre-planning your funeral can be one of the greatest gifts that you give your family, saving them time, money and a great deal of stress.

When pre-planning a funeral there are many decisions to be made. Do you want to be buried or cremated? Do you want to have a visitation or gathering? A funeral or memorial service? Would you like a reception to follow? How about a graveside service? Our funeral directors can assist you in your decision-making process, and can explain many of the options we offer – including some you may not have thought of. We can then keep your specific choices on file so that your family need only make one phone call and all arrangements will be in place.

Once the specific arrangements are chosen, the next decision you must make is whether you want to pay for the funeral in advance. Although it is not essential to pre-planning, pre-funding a funeral certainly has its advantages. Namely, pre-funding allows you to allocate money for goods and services that will be provided in the future. If you choose to pre-fund your funeral you would buy a dedicated life insurance policy that would guarantee the funeral home charges in the future.

Pre-planning a funeral can be a huge relief to your family when they are faced with your death. With that in mind, a funeral service that reflects your personal taste and style and does not burden your family is the logical capstone to a life well planned and well lived.

Please call or stop by anytime for information about our pre-planning options. We offer free literature and a free consultation to answer all your questions.

Celebrating With Family At The Holidays

Celebrating holidays and establishing regular traditions are two of the most important aspects of family life. Regardless of the holidays you choose to celebrate or the traditions you decide to incorporate, it is important to have this sense of regularity and togetherness. This gives the family something to look forward to and creates memories that will last a lifetime.

During the holidays, there are a number of ways family members can celebrate together, and express the gratitude and love they feel for one another. For instance, taking a family nature walk to collect seasonal items for holiday décor is always a great idea. You might also like to come together as a family and make a holiday scrapbook. You can include special holiday cards from friends and family (especially those far away who cannot be with you), your favorite holiday pictures, and even your “secret” family holiday recipes. You could gather everyone for a Family Night where you spend the evening reminiscing with family movies or videos, or playing favorite board games. If you are looking for an on-going family activity, then you could always start a holiday-themed puzzle somewhere in your home. This can be a great stress-reliever for family members and it gives you a goal to work towards together. If puzzles and games aren't for you, then why not cook a holiday meal together where everyone gets to select their favorite holiday item for one course. This way, everyone is happy with the menu, and nobody is stuck cooking the meal by themselves. Finally, the holidays are also a great time to count your blessings and give to those less fortunate than you, so you and your family might consider contributing to the charitable organization of your choice.

The holidays are the time of year to remember family. So this year, when your family comes together during the holiday season, try to plan some fun events and maybe even create some new traditions that remind you of the importance of family and bring you closer together.



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Dealing With A Loved Ones Finances After Death



All too frequently, death leaves behind not only grief, but also business which must be attended to in a timely fashion. However, during your time of grief, handling your loved one's business affairs can seem like an insurmountable task. Furthermore, if handled improperly, certain financial issues could lead to a significant loss of time, money, or both. For this reason, we have created a brief overview to help you in this important process.

The first thing you should do is determine who will be responsible for dealing with the deceased's financial affairs. If there is a surviving spouse, many of the tasks often fall to him or her, but this is not always the case. Indeed, other individuals might be named in any number of important positions, including: the executor of the deceased's estate, the beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement fund, the holder of power of attorney, a trustee, a joint owner of a bank account or safe-deposit box.

If you find yourself in a position where there has been little or no preparation and few if any instructions left, then it is likely that you will feel overwhelmed. To combat this feeling, you will want to remain organized and break the process of dealing with your loved one's finances into more manageable tasks. To this end, rather than allow the financial paperwork to pile up, create a simple filing system that will help you remember what all remains to be done. As financial affairs come to your attention, make a to-do list, focusing first on the essential issues which must be dealt with immediately, and developing a brief timeline for other financial items which can be handled later.

Once you have created a list, or lists, of all that must be accomplished, you will most likely need to seek out expert advice. In most cases, it will be a good idea to get a local attorney involved in the process, as he or she will know the state standards regarding wills and trusts and other legal documents pertaining to the transfer of property upon death. Furthermore, you should consider consulting with an accountant or financial planner, both of which can help you prioritize the payment of bills and various other expenses and advise you regarding insurance settlements and pay-outs from various other investment instruments.

It will inevitably be a nerve-racking if you are the person responsible for handling the financial aftermath of your loved one's death. That said, do not hesitate to ask for assistance from knowledgeable family and friends. Also, dealing with financial affairs will be much easier if there is help dealing with your accompanying grief, so make sure not to neglect your personal and emotional needs in this stressful time.

Our funeral directors can help you with securing death certificates and filing government paperwork. Many families see the wisdom in preplanning to avoid all of the stress of the details for other family members. We can assist you with preplanning as well.

Creating a Monument To Memorialize A Life



A memorial erected in memory of a loved one should be a fitting tribute to that person's life and the love that others felt for him or her. With this in mind, a monument is a distinctive way to recognize a life lived, and to mourn the loss of a loved one.

In designing a monument for your loved one, you will need to carefully consider a number of different options to ensure that you achieve the overall effect desired. First of all, if you are situating the monument in a cemetery, check with us regarding size and style. That said, unlike more traditional grave markers, which are often limited in shape and appearance, monuments can take many different forms, including sculptures or mausoleums, and sometimes even memorial walls or fountains. Additionally, when designing a personalized monument, there is vast opportunity for original detailing and the inclusion of artwork, whether it be a photograph or an etching – both of which can be added to the stone using modern, relatively inexpensive techniques. Finally, you can also accent and enhance the monument with beveling, slopes, trim and a variety of textures.

In addition to such unique features, the majority of funeral monuments also have the deceased's name and year of birth and death engraved on them. Frequently, a verse of scripture, a short piece of poetry or prose, or even just a few heartfelt words will be added. In some instances, vases (typically ceramic or bronze) are also attached or otherwise inserted into the design of the memorial.

A monument provides a unique means of commemorating someone special that you loved and lost. A funeral monument is a great option for those looking for a more personalized way to honor the deceased. Please contact one of our directors for more information.