



October 29, 2024

Richfield Village Council adopted Ordinance 45-2022 on 12/14/2022 and established the first set of codified Cemetery Rules for the Village as Chapter 945 of the Codified Ordinances. On 6/4/2024, Council passed Ordinance 37-2024 and adopted amendments to Chapter 945. The amendments cleared up unnecessary language and revised pricing for plots and services in the cemeteries.

One of the sections of in Chapter 945 is “945.04 Grades; Planting and Decoration”. This section outlines what is and is not allowed to be placed on any grave in either cemetery. This section has always been part of the rules and was in place before the rules were adopted in 2022. The subsections that outline what is allowed are 945.04 (b) and 945.04(c). Section 945.04(g) outlines when holiday decorations are allowed and when they must be removed.

These sections have never been enforced, and the additional time required to mow and trim around is adding up. The Cemetery Board has unanimously agreed to direct the Director of Service to enforce section 945.04, remove any unapproved decorations, and to establish a schedule for the removal of holiday decorations. The Cemetery Board also agreed that we should provide a notice to the residents of the Village and allow anyone who has a loved one resting in either West Richfield Cemetery or Fairview Cemetery the opportunity to remove their decorations. We feel strongly that making sure the Village residents are informed will make the enforcement of section 945.04 easier to understand.

Beginning in 2025, the Service Department will begin removing any decorations that are not allowed as outlined in Chapter 945. Holiday decorations will be removed based on a schedule that will be posted in both cemeteries. Any decoration that is removed will be taken to Village Hall (4410 W. Streetsboro Road) where they can be collected during normal business hours.

The Service Department is creating a schedule of when holiday decorations are allowed, and the schedule will be posted in several places including in both cemeteries under the rules that were posted in 2022. If you would like to review the cemetery rules, they can be found on the Village website under Codified Ordinances/Legislation in the “Government” tab, and “View the Village of Richfield Codified Ordinances”. The direct link is https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/richfield/latest/richfield_oh/0-0-0-13989.

You can contact the Service Department or email me directly with questions, my email is jstoppenhagen@richfieldvillageoh.org. Either the Service Department or I will be happy to answer your questions.