

Rules and Policies

Plot Ownership

- All land within the Cemetery boundaries is owned by Smithfield City.
- Ownership of a lot within the cemetery provides only the right to be interred in the cemetery and is not a deed to convey title to real property.
- Purchase of lots shall be limited to four (4) burial spaces per head of household.
- Resale, transfer, or conveyance of lots to any person, group or organization, except Smithfield City, is prohibited. Smithfield City will repurchase lots for the original purchase price.
- Owners of burial lots will be issued a certificate of burial right which must be presented as evidence of the right to burial.
- Sale of burial lots by the City will be in groups whenever possible so to avoid the creation of single lots throughout the cemetery.

Headstones

- Headstones are the property and responsibility of the owner.
- Headstones are placed by the monument company and may be set prior to burial to mark burial lots. Setting of headstones shall be through the direction of the Cemetery Sexton.
- Families are encouraged to use headstones that do not extend above the surface of the ground. Headstones extending above the surface of the ground are subject to damage during the course of routine cemetery maintenance.
- Cemetery maintenance personnel will take precautions to protect headstones during routine cemetery maintenance, but assumes no responsibility for damage to headstones that extend above the surface of the ground.
- In cases where headstones are pre-set, removal will be necessary by maintenance personnel prior to burial. Removal of headstones during winter

months is especially difficult as they become frozen. Damage to headstone during removal, especially to the base, is possible. Although damage is rare, the city assumes no responsibility should it occur. Arrangements may be made by the family with the monument company to remove the headstone if desired.

- The city may require the lot owner or family to make arrangements for removal of pre-set headstones prior to burial if they are deemed to be too large, fragile, or troublesome to move in order to preserve the integrity of the marker.
- The width of a single headstone or marker shall not exceed thirty (30) inches, excluding the base.
- The width of a double headstone or marker shall not exceed fifty-five (55) inches, excluding the base.
- Concrete headstone bases must be within the confines of the lot.
- Headstones, statues, sign cutouts, and all other types of markers shall not extend to a height greater than 42 inches above the ground level concrete base. Shepherd hooks are excepted from the height restriction.
- Headstones, statues, sign cutouts, and all other types of markers with the exception of shepherd hooks, shall fit within the confines of the ground level concrete base.

Interment

- If the deceased is the sole owner of the lot, the City shall verify the identity of the deceased prior to interment. If the lot is owned by someone other than the deceased, written permission in a form acceptable to the City from the owner of the Certificate of Burial Right shall be required.
- Caskets shall be placed in a vault made of concrete, fiberglass, steel or of such other material approved by the City. Infant's caskets of fiberglass or plastic are the exception, as are urns.
- No more than one body may be buried in each lot, except cremated remains and the remains of

infants less than one year in age may be buried in a lot occupied by and on top of another individual. In such cases, written permission must be obtained from the owner of the plot or nearest living relative.

- All bodies, remains, or other items buried with the body must be in a casket, coffin, or urn.
- Graveside services or interments shall not be conducted on any Sunday, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Pioneer Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day.
- Graveside services or interment shall be conducted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise approved by the City.
- Graveside services and/or interment shall not exceed two (2) hours in length unless otherwise approved by the City.

Decorations

- Grave decorations, funeral designs, flowers, or other items placed during interment shall be removed within seven (7) days following the interment. Items left beyond the four days will be removed by cemetery personnel.
- All items placed on graves during the Memorial Day observance will be removed on the Monday following Memorial Day.
- With the exception of the Memorial Day observance, a maximum of two (2) items may be placed on graves by family members as part of routine decorations. All items must be placed on the headstone, marker, or base.
- All items that become unsightly in the opinion of the cemetery sexton will be removed.
- The city is not responsible for the loss or removal of items from the cemetery.

Grave Site Care and Landscaping

- No lot shall be defined by fences, railings, coping, hedges, trees, shrubs, or any other markers to describe its corners except for those which are pre-existing and installed by the City.

- The planting of trees, shrubs, bushes, or other vegetation by the public shall not be permitted.
- Trees or major tree roots will not be removed by the City to accommodate a burial. In circumstances where the city deems it undesirable to remove interfering trees or roots, the lot owner may trade the lot for another lot that may be available.
- The City does not maintain a Perpetual Care Fund for the cemetery. As a result the cemetery is maintained using the general funds of the city.
- Cemetery personnel are dedicated to the maintenance of the cemetery to include mowing, watering, spraying weeds, fertilizing, and trimming.
- Care of the cemetery does not include the replacement of grass in areas suffering from the lack of sunlight, the intrusion of tree roots, and removal of trees that may crowd headstones. Due to the number of headstones, maintenance personnel are unable to trim around headstones weekly.
- No benches are to be placed on or by graves by family members or others.
- Water may not be available for the washing and care of headstones. Family members are encouraged to bring water for that purpose.
- Animals shall not be allowed in the cemetery except in the confines of a vehicle and must be at all times retained within the vehicle.
- Horsedrawn carriages that bring the deceased to the cemetery will be allowed as long as the horses are held in control by the driver or attendant.
- The following activities are prohibited:
 - Skateboarding, rollerskating, or rollerblading.
 - Sledding or tubing.
 - Motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATVs, or similar motorized vehicles.
 - Bicycles, unless they are the primary means of transportation to the cemetery, and scooters.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the cemetery.

SMITHFIELD CITY CEMETERY

Established 1860



Mission Statement: To provide an affordable, peaceful, and well-maintained permanent resting place and memorial for the deceased.

Open: Monday through Sunday
Dawn until dusk