

**** Attention Ridgelawn Cemetery Gravesite Owners ****

On May 21, 2018, the Village of Breckenridge Council adopted Ordinance #169 Ridgelawn Cemetery Ordinance that included changes to the allowed decorations of gravesites.

Section 17. Details the allowed decorations of gravesites and is printed in its entirety below.

The Village recognizes that there are many gravesites in Ridgelawn Cemetery that will need to be brought to compliance with the decoration guidelines. The Village DPW staff is offering their assistance and equipment to anyone wishing to have help cleaning up any plantings/landscape stones/decorations, etc. that no longer comply with the written rules of the cemetery.

Please take the time this summer to read the below rules for decorations and remove anything from your gravesites that does not comply with the Ordinance. If you wish for the Village DPW staff to handle this for you or require their assistance, please contact the Village office at 989-842-3109.

Any gravesites with plantings/landscape stones/decorations, etc. that no longer comply with the written rules of the cemetery as of fall cleanup will be brought to compliance by the DPW Staff. Fall Cleanup will be October 1st – October 15th, 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact the Village Office at 989-842-3109. Thank you in advance for your patience, understanding and compliance.

Respectfully Submitted,
Village of Breckenridge Council and Staff

Ordinance #169 Ridgelawn Cemetery Ordinance

Section 17. Decoration of Gravesites

In order to preserve a peaceful, sacred resting place at Ridgelawn Cemetery, decorations must be done in a way that does not create a safety hazard, impede proper maintenance, infringe on other graves, offend others or diminish the character of the cemetery.

- a. A single grave may consist of only the following;
 - a. A foundation
 - b. A Headstone
 - c. Up to 2 urns properly installed on the foundation
 - d. Flowers placed inside the urns
 - e. Any and all additional embellishments must be placed on the foundation without overhang and shall not exceed the height of the headstone.
 - f. Excessive or unsightly embellishments may be subject to removal by cemetery management.

Any items that do not comply with the above may be removed by cemetery management.

- b. Lighting of any kind is prohibited. This includes but not limited to candles, solar lights, battery operated lighting, flashlights, etc.
- c. Ground plantings of any kind are strictly prohibited.
- d. Landscaping borders, bricks and rocks are strictly prohibited.
- e. The Village reserves the right to remove or trim any existing trees, plants or shrubs located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and the use of the cemetery.
- f. Cemetery cleanup is April 1st through the 15th and October 1st through the 15th. At this time any and all existing embellishments shall be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by cemetery management.
- g. Bereavement time will be honored up to 60 days from the date of burial. During this time, additional decorations and flowers may be placed anywhere on the grave. After 60 days, any item that still remains on the grave that does not comply with the above rules and regulations will be removed by cemetery management.

Section 18. Authority of the Village Management to Remove Unauthorized or Unlawful Items from Ridgelawn Cemetery

Any monument, marker, planting, trellis, personal item, urn, flowers or foliage (whether real or artificial), structure, flag (except for lawful veterans flags), or other item that has been placed, installed, left or maintained in the cemetery in violation of this Ordinance, any Village rule or regulation regarding the cemetery, or any county, state or federal law, statute or regulation may be removed by the Village from the cemetery at any time and destroyed or disposed of by the Village without any prior notice to, permission from, or liability or obligation to the person or persons who left, installed, maintained or kept such item in the cemetery.