



Calumet Park News

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Fall 2009

Dedication of Butterfly Garden

On Saturday, July 25th, the new Butterfly Garden at Calumet Park Cemetery was dedicated. The Garden, designed by Wayne Gruber from *Garden's on the Prairie* and CPC Board of Director's member Jan Hahn, is just inside the West entrance to the cemetery and is filled with flowers that are known to attract many different species of colorful butterflies for the enjoyment of all who visit.

The fragrant aromas mixed with the flash of color hint at paradise within the boundaries of a cemetery. The reality is that this garden is meant for the living. It is designed to be a place of quiet ... a place for meditation ... a safe place to come and think of the good times shared with that special person in our lives who went before us.

The event was attended by over 180 men, women and children. Each person was given a butterfly for release during the ceremony. An opening prayer and greeting from Paul Vogel II began the dedication. Hunter Vogel, Logan Jones, Sydney Maley and Aidan Plemons shared in the reading of a poem about butterflies. Daniel Moran, accompanied by John Ochoa, sang Kenny Chesney's "Who'd You'd Be Today". Next came a touching poem written and read by Leslie Vogel entitled "Recollection in Summertime". Gavin Vogel read "The Legend of the Butterfly". As the legend goes, if one were to capture a butterfly and whisper your wish to it, upon releasing the butterfly, your wish would be carried to the Great Spirit in the sky who would be so grateful that you set his creature free that your wish would be granted.

After this reading, all those with butterflies were invited to encircle the Butterfly Garden and, on cue, wishes were whispered and butterflies were released. It was an absolutely peaceful and reverential release, and awesome in its simplicity.

Finally, as the dedication of the Garden came to a conclusion, John Ochoa sang an emotionally charged song by Mercy Me entitled "Homesick".

The dedication fulfilled a desire on the part of Jan Hahn and daughter, Kim Jones for Calumet Park to have a special section for nature lovers. After seeing a butterfly release at a wedding, the idea of the butterfly garden was born. It was the feeling of these ladies that Calumet Park Cemetery needed a place of beauty for quiet contemplation for any guest of the cemetery, and this Garden fulfills that dream.



Serving families since 1928

Help Wanted: Come Join the Calumet Park Team

Calumet Park Cemetery and Funeral Chapel is the 3rd largest cemetery in the state. We are now accepting applications and resumes for career minded individuals who are service oriented, financially ambitious and enjoy helping others.

Calumet Park Cemetery has been continuously family owned and operated since 1928. Experience in the industry is a plus. Medical benefits, paid vacation, 401K with matching contributions available when you qualify.

Fax your resume to Daniel Moran at 219-736-7409 or email to dmoran@calumetparkcemetery.com or call 219-769-8803.



**BACK TO NATURE CREMATION
GARDEN OPENED ADJACENT
TO BUTTERFLY GARDEN
GREEN BURIAL
UPDATE**



New Section For Cremation “Permanent Placement” and Memorialization

The recent trend toward “Everything Green” has prompted Calumet Park Cemetery to open a new *Back to Nature* section. The statue of a girl releasing a butterfly sits atop a cenotaph. A cenotaph is a place to memorialize a person who is buried elsewhere, or whose ashes were scattered.

The boulders shown above allow for ground burial of cremains in a natural setting. Adjacent to this natural setting is an area that has been platted with the thought of having “Green” burials with oversized 5'x9' graves meant to accommodate the land requirements for “Green” burials. Although not available at this time, this land has been set aside for the time in the future when a need for “Green” burials evolves in this region.

A green burial is basically a return to the days of our forefathers ... a time when a burial did not include chemical preservation of the body. In a green burial, the body is cleaned, and wrapped in a cloth or a biodegradable container and buried to allow a rapid return of the body to its most basic elements into the soil.



Name and date plate (shown above) is meant to be permanently placed on granite cenotaph (shown below).



Free Hayride and Pumpkin Decorating and Open House

On Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 1:30 - 4:00 there will be an afternoon of fun on the Calumet Park Funeral Chapel grounds. This is not a Halloween party, but rather it is a time for refreshments, a hayride, face-painting for the little ones and a chance for adults to have a short, informative guided tour through our funeral home. All are welcome! Put this date on your fun calendar.



Pre-arranging Cemetery and Funeral Needs

Planning ahead means more than just making choices. To truly pre-plan one's cemetery and funeral needs means to make choices **and** arrange funding (paying) for the goods and services in advance. The funeral home portion of final arrangements includes the funeral service and casket. The cemetery part includes a grave, vault, marker and opening/closing (or crypt or niche for above ground placement.) Calumet Park Cemetery funds pre-need agreements at no interest with a minimal down payment.

Call the office for more information: 219-769-8803

Sandy Ferris' Recipe for Cowboy Salsa

- 2 cans corn (drained)
- 2 cans black beans (drained)
- 1/2 cup onion (chopped)
- 3 large peppers - any color (chopped)
- 4 avocados (chopped) drizzled with lemon juice
- 1-2 large cans chopped tomatoes (drained)
- 6 green onions (chopped)
- 1 cup oil
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 2 packages dry Italian salad dressing

Blend all vegetables. Mix oil, vinegar and dressing mix and pour over all, and mix.

Serve with your favorite chips (scoops or tortilla).

Enjoy!



Sandy Ferris (shown above) shares the responsibilities of receptionist with Kathleen Davis. Kathleen and Sandy are the first contacts, in person and by phone, between the general public and Calumet Park Cemetery.

Spotlight on...

Kathy Chepela Senior Family Service Advisor



Kathy Chepela joined the Calumet Park Cemetery team in 1997 and is now a senior family service advisor. Her early roots were in the Robertsdale Section of Whiting and Hammond. Living within such a close-knit, ethnic community helped Kathy relate to the religious rituals and traditions of her clients, including their unique beliefs in caring for their dead.

Kathy currently resides in South Lake County. A recent widow (with the passing of her husband, Robert, in 2007), she has three grown children, Rob, Paul and Alison. When not at work, Kathy enjoys baking and cooking. She loves attending concerts, and has enjoyed the live performance of Burton Cummings of The Guess Who on numerous occasions.

During her 12 years at Calumet Park, Kathy has achieved great success. She has been the Counselor of the Month several times, helping many families of every race, religion and creed with their final arrangements.

In 2008, Kathy was the top performer in sales on both the cemetery and the funeral side of the business. She is caring and kind and concerned with the welfare of each family she serves. Kathy is a true "cemeterian" and is a valued employee as she is always willing to help her families, as well as her co-workers, whenever and wherever needed.

**It's better to have it and not need it
than to need it and not have it!
(cemetery and funeral arrangements)**



Fishing For Memories

The fishing for memories event in June had over 60 small ones casting for bluegills and bass. Memories were created at this catch and release event that will never be forgotten. It is not certain whether the kids or their parents and grandparents had more fun, but it was agreed that everyone in attendance had a great time.



Could you write a check today for \$12,000?

If an unexpected death occurred in your family yesterday, where would you get the money to pay for the funeral today? In 2008 the average cost of cemetery and funeral expenses was \$12,000! Except in rare instances, cemeteries and funeral homes would expect to be paid in full prior to rendering their services.

Why must everything be paid up front? The plain and simple truth is that payment plans have been arranged for people in the past, and more often than not, they do not pay as promised. Like any business, cemeteries and funeral homes would have the right to pursue payment within the confines of the law, but even when a cemetery or funeral home wins in court, there is no guaranty that they will ever collect the debt. And unlike a house or a car that the buyer defaults on, a cemetery or funeral home cannot dig up dear old dad and return him to the family.

Such a thought may be funny to some, and revolting to others, but the bottom line is that a cemetery or funeral home cannot win by pursuing deadbeats. Newspapers would love to have a human interest story of a sweet, elderly lady being sued for non-payment of her husband's funeral expenses. Who do you think would come out looking like the bad guy?

So, Calumet Park, like most cemeteries and funeral homes around the country, made a decision that all the final expenses must be paid in full prior to services being rendered. Letting families pay on a monthly payment basis sounds good, but when payment is not made, the price goes up for all other families in the future to make up for the loss ... and where is the fairness in that?

To keep your family from being in a position that the money issue becomes a real burden on top of the loss of a loved one, consideration should be given to pre-planning.

Calumet Park Cemetery and Funeral Chapel has programs available, from pre-need free graves to 20% discounts on all funeral services for property owners (owners of burial rights). A person may prearrange all

or any part of his or her cemetery and funeral needs, and on a pre-need basis, monthly installments can be arranged without an interest charge added on ... ever!

It costs nothing to look. If you do not have an extra \$12,000 laying around that may be needed on an instant's notice, you might want to call Calumet Park Cemetery and set up a time to design your own funeral, and to get a no-obligation look at how much money you will need to have the service you want

Jan Hahn Outstanding Attitude Award



In January, Calumet Park set up a monthly award to be presented to the person who demonstrates the best attitude. The selection is made based on nominations from employees and customers, so feel free to vote for your favorite person whenever you stop in for a visit.

The first winner was Dianne Correll, shown in the center of the above photo. Also shown from left to right are Rob Vogel, Jan Hahn, Carl Paunicka, Ed Klein, (Dianne), Paul Vogel and Paul Vogel II. Other recipients were: Tim McClure, Jeff Towne, Tom Music, Stephanie Szymanski, Linda Carter and Tammy Pressel.



Sherry Williams, managing funeral director of Calumet Park Funeral Chapel is currently offering a complimentary memorial video and a photo woven blanket to all families that choose Calumet Park for their funeral needs. Call 219-736-5840 with questions, or if you would like to set up an informational tour of Calumet Park Funeral Chapel.



What is “Perpetual Care”?

“Perpetual care” is often misunderstood by those who purchase burial rights in a cemetery. According to Indiana Code (IC 23-14-33-30), perpetual care or endowment care as it is sometimes known, means within the limits permitted by the net income received from the perpetual care fund or endowment care fund required by IC 23-14-33-48 and from other care funds or endowments, the maintenance of the cemetery grounds and graves in keeping with a properly maintained cemetery. Simply put, this means cutting the grass on cemetery lots at reasonable intervals, raking and cleaning of cemetery lots at reasonable intervals, pruning shrubs and trees, procuring, maintaining, and keeping cemetery equipment in workable condition, keeping in repair and preserving drains, roads, buildings, fences and other structures, including statues and embellishments of a general character applicable to the cemetery as a whole or a particular area.

Also, the administration of the cemetery, including the payment of insurance premiums, the payment of pensions and maintaining necessary records of lot ownership or holdership, burial right ownership or holdership, burials, and other necessary information.

When used in connection with a mausoleum, columbarium, crematory, or other structure, the term perpetual care means the general upkeep of the structure and the grounds surrounding the structure, the repair, replacement and improvement of the structure, the procuring, and maintaining and keeping machinery in reasonable condition the, tools, and equipment needed and for the replacement of machinery, tools, and equipment when necessary.

Perpetual care does not include reseeding graves, raising markers, replacing evergreens and bushes (other than those under the one year warranty) or watering flowers, evergreens and bushes.



Tom Music shown with mini-dump truck.

What people are saying ...

Dear Sherry,
... I felt so welcome, secure and cared for in difficult times ... Everything was perfect in every way ... *(from Mrs. S.S.)*

Dear Kathy,
... You were there to direct me and assist me at every turn in the process of laying Ellen to rest with her family ... *(from C.I.)*

Dear Cassandra,
... Thank you for all your help with our monument. My husband and I truly appreciated your compassion and professionalism ... *(From I. & A. B.)*

Dear Tim,
... I would like to thank you for the kindness and thoughtfulness that you showed us during the very unexpected death of my brother. We had no idea how to do anything or even where to start and you just took us and guided us through the entire procedure ... *(from C.B.)*

Dear Maria,
... Thank you again for all your help with my parent’s burial ... the holidays were difficult but slowly the good memories are returning ... *(from N.K.)*

Dear Sherry,
... You are incredible at what you do and your sincerity and genuineness make you one of a kind ... *(from the S. family)*



Winter Grave Blankets

Traditional grave blankets have been around for years and are made from live pine branches, pine cones and red ruscus. They are used to decorate grave sites in the winter when flowers are not available or are too fragile to withstand the bitter cold. A grave blanket is to a grave what a wreath is to a door. They are designed for decorating the grave site for a short time and are then removed by the beginning of March. Calumet Park Cemetery is not responsible for damage to grass from winter blankets.

Calumet Park Cemetery 2009 Winter Blanket Order Form

Call your order in now to be sure to get your winter grave blanket: 219-769-8803

Blanket Types: Adult grave blanket with red ruscus \$85.00 x # of blankets _____

Infant grave blanket with red ruscus \$55.00 x # of blankets _____

Total amount enclosed with order (includes 7% sales tax): _____

**Make checks payable to Calumet Park Cemetery Corporation.
Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.**

**To order by phone, have your VISA, MasterCard or Discover card available,
including card type, number, expiration date, name of cardholder.**

Enter location below if known. Thank you for your help.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Full name of deceased: _____ On grave in section _____

_____ Lot # _____ Grave _____

_____ In front of monument _____

Full name of deceased: _____ On grave in section _____

_____ Lot # _____ Grave _____

_____ In front of monument _____

Calumet Park Cemetery, Inc., 2305 West 73rd Avenue, P.O. Box 10487, Merrillville, IN 46410

Email address: cpc@calumetparkcemetery.com www.calumetparkcemetery.com

Grave blankets may be purchased beginning October 15th by filling out the form above, or by calling 219-769-8803, or by stopping by the the office in person to place your order. Calumet Park Cemetery orders 500 blankets, and they are sold on a first come, first served basis. Blankets may be placed on graves or in front of family owned monuments. Blankets purchased from us will be placed around Thanksgiving and will be left on the graves until March. Please keep in mind that no artificial decorations will be accepted by Calumet Park and will be removed and destroyed, should you elect to purchase your grave blanket elsewhere and they don artificial decorations. Blankets must be made of natural greenery and may be decorated with a red ruscus spray. A note from Tim McClure, Superintendent of Grounds: If you are planning on having a winter grave blanket, be aware (especially on newer graves) that there is a possibility of the grasses being killed off as they are tender and vulnerable to the cold. Older graves are even subject to grass kill off during exceptionally harsh winters. The cemetery is not liable for damage to grass caused by the placement of grave blankets. Further, there could be a problem with "critters" hiding and nesting under the blanket. While they do not affect the integrity of the grave, they do burrow enough to stay warm in the winter and may impact the new spring grasses. Should the grass on your grave be damaged due to grave blankets, we are able to reseed for a nominal fee come spring.



Single mausoleum crypts from as low as \$5700 pre-need, 10% down and \$86 per month for 60 months, 0% interest.

Call for 219-769-8803 more information.

Angel Tree Lighting Ceremony

On Wednesday, December 2nd, Calumet Park Funeral Chapel will present its fifth annual tree lighting ceremony. The event will be in honor of those families who have lost someone during the previous year. For this special occasion, a member of each family will be presented with a personalized "Guardian Angel Ornament", which will be placed on our tree by you in remembrance of your recently departed loved one. It may remain on the tree throughout the holiday season, or you can take your angel with you. For those who leave their angel on the tree, it will be returned after the holidays.

Registration for the ceremony will begin 6:00 P.M. sharp. After all are registered and receive their angels for the tree, the ceremony will begin with a guest speaker who will make some appropriate comments, to be followed by the reading of the names and hanging of the angels, concluding with a time of fellowship over complimentary refreshments. Appropriate music will be performed live for the enjoyment of all in attendance.

This event has offered an opportunity for people to join with others who want to remember their loved ones in a special way during the holiday season. Although there is seldom a dry eye by the end of the evening, the tears are but an expression of the emotions that build up over time. It is a healthy outlet, and has been received by all attendees in the spirit of the season; a spirit of love.

Special invitations will be sent to those who allowed Calumet Park Funeral Chapel to serve their families during the past 12 months. However, we are opening this event up to all families who wish to be involved in this program. Angels will be made available ONLY to those people who respond no later than November 15th. Should you wish to have an angel to hang on the tree, call 219-736-5840 at once to make your reservations. Space is limited, so avoid being disappointed as angels are custom made in advance. Cameras and video recorders are encouraged.

Mausoleum Spaces Available



It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Anyone who has chosen ground burial as a final resting place for a loved one can appreciate the difficulty associated with visiting a loved one's grave in the dead of winter. (see below)

Although Calumet Park keeps all five miles of its paved roads cleared during snowstorms, finding an individual grave with even an inch of snow on the ground is difficult.

An alternative choice for those who do not own cemetery property might be a mausoleum crypt. This form of burial is clean, dry, permanent, dignified and affordable for most. Visitation all year long is much easier, and for those who select inside crypts, the temperature is a constant 70 to 72 degrees, summer or winter.

Photo shown above is a view from inside the original chapel showing the beautiful stained glass and the glass front niches used for cremations.





Calumet Park

Cemetery and Funeral Chapel

2305 West 73rd Avenue, Merrillville, IN 46410

Cemetery Office: 219-769-8803

Funeral Chapel: 219-736-5840

www.calumetparkcemetery.com



A day of fun at the annual catch and release at Calumet Park.

Garry the Groundhog meets the kids during the June outing. Shirts, bait and snacks were free to all.