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|  | **Town of Waterford**  **Cemetery Update**  **Fall 2023** |

From the desk of Newell Andrews, Waterford Cemeterian….

* American flags must be placed on veteran grave sites in the week preceding Memorial Day in May, and removed within the week following Veterans’ Day in November. Waterford volunteers place 326 American flags annually to honor the veterans buried at one of our four town cemeteries (Elm Vale, Pulpit Rock, Bisbeetown, and Woodlawn).
* Also, due to some state requirements for perpetual care, the town should be notified of any veteran’s grave site that is not located in one of the public town cemeteries.
* Differing from past practices, temporary cemetery decorations (artificial flowers, vases, potted plants, etc.) should be removed from family lots by the end of the week following Veterans’ Day. After that week, cemetery staff will remove them.
* Some families have voiced concerns about sod damage this year due to animals digging for grubs. As a recommended solution, families are welcome to treat their lots with grub control treatment. This can be applied, most effectively, in the spring between the blooming of forsythia and lilacs shrubs.
* Lastly, at the recent annual meeting of the Maine Cemetery Association, we learned that the Association is now designating those, in their respective cities and towns, who manage cemeteries as **“Cemeterians”**. The former title of “Sexton” is still relevant for those who manage church buildings and properties, etc.

Thank you to everyone, for the support I have received as Town Cemeterian. Best wishes to everyone for a warm and happy holiday season,

Newell Andrews