I had already put together an article and then I decided to write a different article more in what is taking place when it comes to our annual clean up week. Many of you call each year and ask questions about the cleanup so I am hoping that this will help but please do not stop calling us if you have a question.

But first I have to say that when I was ask to write a small article about the cemetery and its people I said “who me”. So I have to thank some folks who have pointed me the right direction when it comes to writing.

First to Bethany Royer she kept emailing me for an article that I just gave up and wrote one and the next and the next.

I have a graduate school professor, who keeps sending back paper work with a lot of corrections, and the thing is they don’t do corrections in red pen anymore; they do it with their computer. But I have to say I have learned how not only write better but to do better research.

Then comes to a young lady who suffered a serve head injury and was told she was never going to be the same and would never make it in college. Today she teaches at the Harvard Business School. While she didn’t directly help me to write she always states that if you want to be that then become that. So I quote from her this “Don’t fake it till you make it fake it till you become it’.” The more you write the better you will become.

Then there is Bill Lutz, I mention his name because he also writes articles for the paper. He told me one thing; like above the more you write the better you will be and you know he’s right. Thanks Bill.

So when you read what I write I sometimes will make a mistake so just read on by and I hope with your patience I will get better.

This week, the week of March 10th – 14th we hold the cemeteries annual cleanup of all the winter and old decorations. We do a cleanup twice a year and this is the first this year with the other coming in October.

So what does this mean? Why do we do it? What items are not permitted?

Let’s start with why do we cleanup the cemetery. As you drive around the cemetery it’s not hard to see many decorations that have blown away from where it was placed and now becomes litter, or you may see someone’s monument full of artificial flowers and signs just to name a few things. Many of the items are worn out or broken so there is the need to clean or the items will become more of a distraction to others then good.

Many Christmas and winter items remain from families that do not live around here and we remove them as well to keep the monument clean and nice looking.

So how do we perform this cleaning operation? We take each section at a time and walk each row and remove items that are bad or broken as well as winter time ground decorations, including grave blankets, so if you want to keep these as well as other items it’s good to come out before each clean-up week and pick them up.

We remove items that are stuck in the ground like artificial flowers, all flowers are to be in a vase or container, our weed trimmers don’t like items left out of a container. Please remember we have to use our own judgment when it comes to the removal of items.

Now the hard part, what items are not permitted as decorations or what are you not supposed to do when it comes to putting out decorations.

We do not permit ground decorations that contain wire; these mostly are the following items, styrofoam decorations, small wire artificial signs the kind that say mom or dad.

These again are hard on the trimmers as well as the mowers that can run over a bare wire and then throw it out which can hurt someone.

We do try to limit the amount of items that are placed at each grave site to three ground decorations, as required by the rules of the cemetery, this helps keep the cemetery clean and bright.

I know that this was not the most interesting article that’s been in the paper about the cemetery and many of those that have been laid to rest here. But we want everyone to be aware of some of the things we do and why we do them.

Forest Hill Cemetery is your cemetery and one that we here take great pride in and one that we want to make better and brighter than ever. But we cannot do this alone we need your help in keeping it clean and with your help we can do that.

Remember when you visit and before leaving if you have any litter just “can it” in one of the many trash containers we have throughout the cemetery.

We are working hard each and every day to improve what we have and many exciting things are taking place this year and years to come, soon the daffodils will be blooming along the banks and the tulips will be popping up.

Yes spring is coming so come out and take a walk and enjoy the many sights and sounds here at Forest Hill Cemetery.

And yes I do promise that the next article will have more to do with storytelling about the many people laid to rest here and an article that will be enjoyable too read.

Look for the names of Albert “Doc” McKnight, Clarence Wright just to name a few.