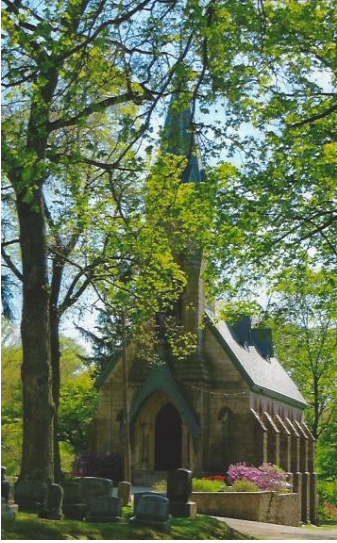


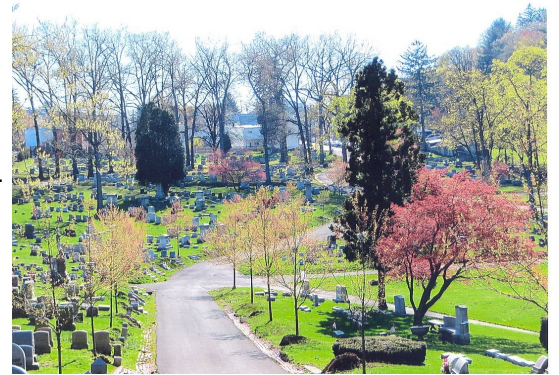
APRIL

“Invigorating”



March arrived, awakening us to the promise of spring and warm weather. By the first week of April, the trees have shaken off their winter sleep as their roots felt the thawing of the ground; and their bark felt the warming in air temperature. Slowly and tentatively a few eager trees like the ‘red sunset’ red maple unravel their tight leaf balls with their crimson color striping Mt. Laurel Avenue from the chapel to the 16th Street entrance. By the middle of April, the most stunning sight to see at the cemetery is the blossoming transition of the trees and the flowers. The white and bright yellow daffodils fronting the Baber plot to the south of the chapel and the purple azaleas and red tulips that flank the columbarium have come into full bloom. The magnolia, inside the Market Street gate, also has blossomed with its large deep pink flowers with bright white centers. By the end of April, the pink and white dogwoods have flowered as well. Some Japanese maples have opened their deep red leaves, while others opened their light green leaves which highlight their dark sinewy bark.

With April, comes frequent showers and some warm days followed by many cold days. The month of April is spent by the groundskeepers preparing and servicing the mowing and grass cutting equipment with oil changes, filters, blades sharpened, and ordering supplies for the weed whacker, the chipper, and the chain saw. There are broken branches and paper litter to pick up, if it wasn’t done in March. With the April showers, the grass has sprung into high growth mode and lawn mowing has begun. By the last week of April, the majority of the barren trees are showing some leaf growth. And the upper part of their trunks and limbs are becoming hidden by the opening foliage. As the leaves begin to unfurl on each tree, the variations and textural changes in the green colors of each specie sets it apart. Some trees are light green, others a yellowish green or a blue-green, others are medium green, and others are dark green. For some early blooming trees, the winged fruits or samaras have begun appearing. The varying shades of greens sprinkled with white and pink flowers and dotted with the reds of the Japanese maples offer all visitors a wide palate of colors.



In preparation for Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, Joe Orlowsky, Shade Commission, and Frank Snyder, DCNR, have staked out the ground where the ten new Arbor Day trees will be planted. By the third week of April, the ten new trees will be delivered; and Norm Kauffman will bring his equipment to dig the holes for the trees. The ten new trees will be ready for their \$400 per tree sponsorship and their blessing at the Arbor Day service on the last Friday in April. It is a very festive afternoon with Pottsville's mayor\councilmen, DCNR, the Shade Tree members and the sponsors in attendance. High school students read poems and essays about the trees. Pic-

tures, of the blessing of each tree, are taken. The developed pictures and thank you cards are sent to the sponsors. The memorial names or names of thanksgiving are transferred to a metal plate placed on a wooden leaf attached to the wall of the east gatehouse. The sponsorship money is used for the removal of dead or diseased trees at a cost of \$1,500-\$5,000 per tree. Depending on the trees height, width, and location.

The foot traffic on the grounds has also picked up. We have the daily trek of the school children crossing the property, and parents and grandparents appearing with children on tricycles and in baby strollers. We have robins, finches, and sparrows, and the red headed Pileated woodpecker. Yes, perky, invigorating spring with its lengthening day light hours, has arrived!

