

MAY

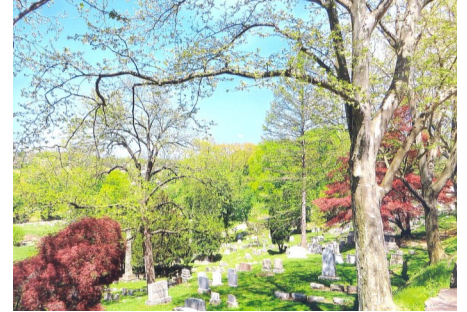
“Energetic”

May is a month when everything is fresh, green, blooming, and energized. The nights are still cold with some frost, but the days quickly warm up sometimes to 77 degrees. There are rain showers, often accompanied by rumbling thunder, intermittent between downpours and clearing, then downpours again. And with the rain and warming weather, the grass is rapidly growing, often putting the cemetery workers behind their mowing schedule. The April early bloomers like the azaleas, tulips, daffodils, and dogwood have fading flowers. The ‘red sunset’ red maples, with their opening red shoots of March, have now changed to green. The callery pear has blossomed with its white flowers; and the rhododendron tree shows off its wide full purple flowers. In May, wave after wave of the wide variety of trees comes alive. So many shades of greens and yellows and rustic reds to see.

The Japanese maples are cloaked in rustic red with their shapely limbs now hidden. The mature pin oaks in the circle by the 16th St. gate, the London planetrees inside the Market Street wall, and the little leaf lindens by the carriage house are late bloomers, with their foliage not coming fully open until

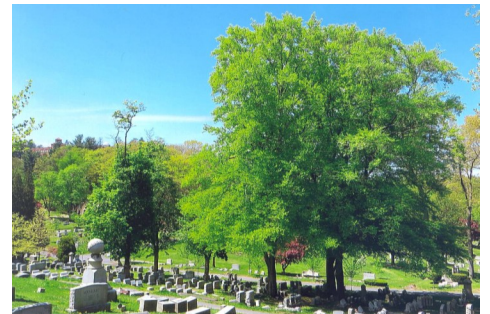


late May. So are the swamp white oaks and the baby pin oaks that have recently shed their dry brown leaves which they carried all winter long. However, the European hornbeam trees that run along Market Street on the outside of the wall have fully blossomed into their cone or tear dropped shapes. The ivy covering part of the long stone Market Street wall has turned bright shiny green; and is growing in leaps and bounds.



On the other side of Trinity Avenue (the first street running parallel to the inside wall) and across from the slow blooming London plane-trees, the American beech and the white ash are

in full foliage. The Japanese larch with their strands of spur needles and the tall thin female and male ginkgos also have blossomed. In front of the chapel and to the east, the Norway maple are almost fully developed, while their tall wide branched white oak neighbors are shyly and tentatively unfurling their leaves. Near the pond, the sugar maples have gotten quite full as have the newer planted sweet gum. The mature elm by the Comloquoy mausoleum, the newer planted hybrid ‘homestead’ elm, and the feathery dawn redwood are also slowly blooming.



The parents with their toddlers in tow along with many dog walkers are appearing in increased numbers. The children are still in school, so the ones that cross the property do so at a more leisurely and carefree pace. With more dog walker traffic, the walkers have to find a rhythm or routine because some dogs conflict with other dogs. All dogs must be leashed and the owners must clean up after the pets. Everyone is welcome to walk the paths whether by themselves or with children or with pets, as long as courtesy abounds and dog refuse is picked up by the owners.

Memorial Day ends the month of May, and it is celebrated at Baber Cemetery with a service of 4th grade school children

replacing the veterans' flags on all the graves, and with a 21 gun salute, the playing of taps by the Joint Veterans' Association, and with prayers from a Trinity Church celebrant. All of the tree, shrub, and grass growth, and the increased pedestrian traffic makes May a month of high energy and activity.

