

## **Aging with Grace Report from Visit with Waud's Funeral Home (Miguel Perez)**

*by Bev and Kathy*

### **Key points**

- When someone dies at home suddenly or alone 911 needs to be called. Responders such as firefighters, EMTs or a doctor will come and pronounce the person has died. In that case bodies must be embalmed or refrigerated within 24 hours so the funeral home will be called by 911 to transport the body to the funeral home until burial or cremation. Cost of pick up and transport is \$295 during regular business hours within a radius of 30 miles. If the body is stored for more than a few days at some point an additional \$50/day will be charged. If someone dies and the death was expected the body can remain for 48 hours and hospice or a family member can call for transport of the body.
- Waud's says 90% of their dispositions are by cremation now with 10% burials. Burials can be green burials (no metal casket just a simple wooden box or shroud). There has been very few requests for human composting or aqua cremation (alkaline hydrolysis).
- Before burial a death certificate and final disposition permit must be obtained (\$55 total) through the Oregon Health Authority. The funeral home can handle this online. If you do it yourself there is a paper form. Funeral home can expedite this process. Death certificates can be picked up at the county.
- Miguel asserted that there are limited emissions from proper cremation but agreed that mercury can be released into the air the amount of propane used can be up to 500 gallons.
- Cremations cost about \$2000. You may purchase a container from the funeral home or bring your own. Cremated remains cannot be sprinkled on public land or without permission from private owners. You cannot bury an urn but can bury ashes.
- Immediate burials cost about \$2200 plus cost of casket if used. If green burial there is usually just a shroud.
- Bodies can be donated for science if they meet specific qualifications.
- Only the Bay City Cemetery (owned by John Cummings, 503-812-2695, 7555 Doughty Rd, Tillamook) can accommodate green burials. The other options are Sunset Heights Memorial Gardens and Tillamook IOOF cemeteries (owned by Harris Hanson at 503-842-2321, 7800 Trask River Rd.).
- It's important to plan ahead by making clear your wishes. If you haven't indicated your desires and made them known to the funeral home on a form signed by a notary, there is a succession of decision makers starting with spouse and ending with a personal representative. A Power of Attorney ends at death.