

ObitsOhio.com

Go to: <http://obitsohio.com/>

Read "About Us" and "ObitsOhio Guide," which are accessible from the blue menu bar at the top of the page, for details about our obituaries service.

As you explore the site, you will notice that none of the obits or listings is about people who died in the last couple of days. In fact, the first obit posted was for someone who died two years ago.

We'll make the site more current as funeral homes begin using this service. The Reported Deaths list is the cornerstone of our website. It's the feature that should keep people coming back for the latest news about Ohio deaths and the lives that preceded them.

I'm asking that, beginning as early as today, you and your staff let me know about each case you handle as soon as you possibly can, so we can list them under Reported Deaths. Our ultimate aim is to let our readers know who in or from Ohio died today or last night.

This is a public service for our readers, the families and the funeral homes, so there is no charge for the Reported Deaths list. Listings include the person's name, date of death, identifying markers such as age, city of residence, occupation and/or claim to fame, and the date, time and place of the funeral and calling hours. We also can run a photo of the deceased, preferably a picture of the person's face.

Go to the "Regional Coverage" section in the lower lefthand corner of the mainpage. Click a region, and you'll see what I'm talking about. Start with Northeast Ohio.

If the funeral information isn't available when you report a death to us, we'll post that information under "Memorial Events" right after you send it to us. If obit information comes in drips and drabs, we'll update the personal page as we get the additional info.

This variation of the old Plain Dealer free 5-word Northeast Ohio Deaths list is automatic. We want every funeral home in Ohio to share at least this much obit information with us. This basic listing will not include surviving relatives (unless being the parent of a famous person is the claim to fame), donations requests or extended biography.

From June 30 through Aug. 31, 2009, while we're trying to show what we can do, we're also offering at no charge the services which in the future will be available only to funeral homes that subscribe to our service.

The subscription fee for Sept. 2009 will be \$50. That single monthly subscriber's fee will cover publishing edited versions of family-written obits for all the people whose arrangements you handle that month.

One fee, multiple obits.

We'll also post photos (more than one), videos and links to your website and other sites that will enhance each person's life story.

Check out the obits and "In Remembrances" for Merle Levin, Herman Pirchner, Art Perko, James Butler, Beatrice Mountain, Rosalie Sims and Adrienne Rotta. These are just some of the ways we can do obits.

The other Reported Deaths are simply linked to online news reports about fatal accidents and such. If we were connected to the funeral homes that handled arrangements for those folks, we'd do more.

The obits and deaths listings will remain online for as long as ObitsOhio.com exists. We won't come back a year later and ask for addition fees for what is already on the site. We will, however, charge families who want us to publish and "In Remembrance" on the anniversary of the death, a holiday or whatever. "In Remembrance" is a glorified "In Memoriam."

If all goes well, I expect ObitsOhio.com will exist for decades to come. My son, who designed the website, and my colleagues, who will handle various regions of Ohio, will carry on in the event of my death or if become unable to maintain the site.

You can send information for Reported Deaths, Memorial Events and/or obituaries to us at northeast@obitsohio.com.

Call or write to me if you have questions. I look forward to working with you.

**Regards,
Alana**

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