



City of Santa Rosa

Finley Center
2060 W. College Avenue
Cypress Room

**BOARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND
SUMMARY REPORT - FINAL
JULY 26, 2023**

5:00 P.M.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING BY
ATTENDING IN-PERSON: 2060 W COLLEGE AVE. THE FINLEY
COMMUNITY CENTER, CYPRESS ROOM
(IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SOCIAL DISTANCING CONTINUE TO BE
OBSERVED),**

**ATTENDEES MAY ALSO JOIN:
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR BY VISITING
<https://srcity-org.zoom.us/j/84116324017>**

**OR BY DIALING (877) 853-5257
AND ENTERING WEBINAR ID: 841 1632 4017**

**DEADLINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ARE SET
FORTH BELOW:**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Live Public Comment: Public comment may be made live during the meeting, in-person, or via zoom.

E-mail Public Comment: To submit an e-mailed public comment to the Board of Community Services, please send to: BOCS-comment@srcity.org by 5:00 pm, the Monday before the Board of Community Services meeting. E-mailed public comments will be added to the record prior to the start of the meeting and will be distributed to the Board of Community Services members and uploaded to the agenda prior to the start of the Board Meeting for public access. Emails received will not be read into the record. Please note that all e-mails sent to the city are considered to be public records and subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

This is the time when any person may address matters not listed on this agenda, but which are within the subject matter of the jurisdiction of the Board of Community Services. Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to share their comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JUNE 28, 2023

Attachments: [Regular Meeting Minute - June 28, 2023 - draft](#)

5. REPORTS ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS

5.5 UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS - JULY 2023

Attachments: [UPCOMING AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS - July 2023](#)

6. DIRECTOR UPDATES

This time is reserved for the Department Director to provide a briefing on issues of interest. No action will be taken on these matters except to possibly place a particular item on a future agenda for consideration.

7. CHAIR/BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

This time is reserved for the Department Director to provide a briefing on issues of interest. No action will be taken. The Chair and Board Members may provide brief updates relevant to their district, Recreation and Parks, or updates relevant to the subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Board of Community Services

8. SCHEDULED ITEMS

8.1 COMMUNITY/FACILITY RENTALS

Recreation Supervisor, Jacqui Hamann will update the Board regarding programs and rentals at the community centers

Recommended Action: Information

Attachments: [Community and Facilities Rentals Presentation](#)

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Mayor's Lunch for Committee/Board Chairs

Recommended Action: Information

9.2 Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee

Recommended Action: Information

9.3 BOCS Governing Documents Subcommittee

Recommended Action: Information

10. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 JULY 2023 CEMETERIAN

Attachments: [July 2023 Cemeterian](#)

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

This schedule is tentative and subject to change pending final publication and posting of the Meeting Agenda. This time is reserved for discussion whether to place matters on a future agenda for further discussion.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting if the Board of Community Services will be held on Wednesday, August 23rd, at 5:00 pm

The City of Santa Rosa does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities in its employment, services, benefits, facilities, programs, or activities. Requests for accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services necessary to participate in a city program, service, or activity, including printed information in alternate formats, are available by contacting the Parks office at 707-543-3797 or 707-543-3770 (TTY Relay at 711) or jguzy@srcity.org. Requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible, but no later than two business days before the scheduled meeting.

This information can also be accessed via the internet at: <http://srcity.org>. Any writing or documents provided to a majority of the Board of Community Services regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Parks Office, 55 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA during regular business hours by contacting the Parks office at 707-543-3797 or 707-543-3770 (TTY Relay at 711) or jguzy@srcity.org. Requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible, but no later than two business days before the scheduled meeting.



City of Santa Rosa

Text File

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In Control: Board of Community Services

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Agenda Number: 4.1



Board of Community Services Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Vice Chair Castillo

2. ROLL CALL

Also in Attendance: Deputy Director Parks, Jen Santos and Parks Superintendent, James Castro.

Present: 6 - Vice Chair Paul Castillo, Board Member Guido Boccaleoni, Board Member Madonna Cruz, Board Member Carole Quandt, Board Member Carolina Spence, and Board Member Omar Lopez

Absent: 1 - Chair Logan Pitts

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTER

Public Comment was made by: Duane Dewitt. Supported work being done at Southwest Community Park.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Regular Meeting Minutes - May 24, 2023

Attachments: [Regular Meeting Minutes May 24, 2023 - draft](#)
[Regular Meeting Minutes May 24, 2023 - final](#)

approved as submitted

5. REPORTS ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS

5.1 REPORTS ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS

Attachments: [UPCOMING AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS - June 2023](#)

A list of accomplished and upcoming events was distributed to the Board and made available to the public prior to the meeting. Parks Deputy Director Santos highlighted the following:

Upcoming Highlights:

July 9: Deadline for Merit Award nominations

www.srcity.org/1241/City-Merit-Awards

Accomplishment Highlights:

June 5 - 9: In-Service Training held for Recreation's 300+ temporary summer staff.

Public Comment: Duane Dewitt spoke in support of local items

6. DIRECTOR UPDATES

Parks Deputy Director Santos provided the following update:

- Department name is clarified to remain as Recreation and Parks Department and as of July 1, 2023 are a unified department. A Director position will be open soon for Recreation and Parks, as will a new Parks Planner position.
- Funding for a new irrigation pond at Bennett Valley Golf Course and funding for a new landscape contract are being considered by City Council.
- VPP (Violence Prevention Partnership) is moving over to the Recreation and Parks Department. This will be updated in the future.
- Parks Maintenance and Field Services are focused on weed cutting in the City.
- July 11, 2023, the City Council will be presenting a Parks Make Life Better Proclamation, and City Council will receive a briefing on the Park A Month Volunteer Program.
- Hearn Hub Project meeting will be at Roseland Elementary School 7/29. There will also be a kiosk at Mitote Food Park, and a kiosk at the Roseland library 7/29 for feedback on the project.
- Fremont Park update. Working with consultant MIG, estimating a follow up with the Cultural Heritage Board in the Fall. Updates will be forthcoming as more is available.

Public Comment: Duane Dewitt spoke in support of the Director updates

7. CHAIR/BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Vice Chair Castillo - Visited Nagasawa Park.

Member Boccaleoni - No parks visited

Member Cruz - Attended "Child in the Wild" event. Attended Native American Graduation Ceremony. Did a land acknowledgement at Juilliard Park. Upcoming event "Youth Big Time" at Galvin Park.

Member Lopez - No new parks visited

Member Spence - Attended "Show and Shine Car Show" at Juilliard Park.

Member Quandt - Volunteered at the Doyle Park clean-up. Rural Cemetery had a booth at Juneteenth Celebration at MLK. Also attended "Show and Shine Car Show" at Juilliard Park. Also, a few tickets remaining for the Lamplight Tours at the Rural Cemetery.

Public Comment: Duane Dewitt spoke in support of the Board visiting all of the parks.

8. SCHEDULED ITEMS

8.1 ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Arts & Culture Manager, Tara Thompson and Arts Specialist, Jessica Rasmussen, introduced the Art in Public Places Program as coordinated through the Planning & Economic Development Department.

Recommended Action: Information

Attachments: [Art in Public Places Presentation](#)

BOCS discussion and questions ensued

Public Comment: Duane Dewitt spoke in support of art in public spaces.

8.2 ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF THE SANTA ROSA WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

The Board nominated, discussed, and voted to elect a member of the Board of Community Services to serve as Representative of the Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee.

Recommended Action: The Board shall, by motion, elect a Representative for a term of two (2) years *** (this was noted as one (1) year at the 6/28 Board Meeting, it is corrected to represent its current term of two (2) years)

Public Comment: none

Motion to nominate Carole Quandt: Board Member Cruz

Second: Board Member Lopez

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Castillo, Board Member Boccaleoni, Board Member Cruz, Board Member Quandt, Board Member Spence, and Board Member Lopez

Absent: 1 - Chair Pitts

**8.3 BOARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES (BOCS) ORDINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

Deputy Director, Parks, Jen Santos will discuss the reinstatement of the BOCS Ordinance Subcommittee and will also address the Board name.

Recommendation Action: The Board shall, by motion, address any changes to be recommended to Council

Attachments: [Ordinance Presentation](#)

RECIND MOTION:

Motion to rescind former recommendation to change the name from the Parks and Recreation Board back to the Recreation and Parks Board:

Board Member: Cruz

Second: Board Member Lopez

Aye's: 6 Nay's: 0

NAME OF ADVISORY BODY:

Motion to recommend to align the name with the Recreation and Parks Department to Recreation and Parks Board: Board Member Cruz

Second: Board Member Boccaleoni

Aye's: 6 Nay's: 0

**RE-ESTABLISH THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES ORDINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE:**

Motion to re-establish the subcommittee: Board Member: Lopez

Second: Board Member Cruz

Aye's: 6 Nay's: 0

**NOMINATE NEW MEMBER THE BOARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
ORDINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE:**

Motion to nominate Board Member Lopez to the Subcommittee: Board

Member: Cruz

Second: Board Member Quandt

Aye's: 6 Nay's: 0

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Castillo, Board Member Boccaleoni, Board Member Cruz, Board Member Quandt, Board Member Spence, and Board Member Lopez

Absent: 1 - Chair Pitts

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Mayor's Lunch for Committee/Board Chairs

Recommended Action: Information

No update was available

9.2 Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee

Recommended Action: Information

Board Member Quandt - meeting for June was held. Two parcels reviewed. Two new members on the committee. Field trip planned for Colgan Creek Reach

10 WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

No written or electronic communications were received

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VPP (Violence Prevention Partnership) update

Email was sent to all Board Members following the Board meeting regarding contact information for reporting parks issues to Parks Maintenance in a timely manner

DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging) update as becomes available

5-year financial goal for Recreation and Parks

Landscape Maintenance contract update

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting if the Board of Community Services will be held on Wednesday, July 26th at 5:00 pm

Vice Chair Castillo adjourned the meeting at 6:29 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 26, 2023, at 5:00pm.

Approved:

Shelley McClure, Recording Secretary



City of Santa Rosa

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July 26, 2023

UPCOMING AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS

To Sign up for volunteer events: [City of Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks \(volunteerhub.com\)](https://volunteerhub.com)
Recreation and Parks Homepage: [Recreation & Parks | Santa Rosa, CA \(srcity.org\)](https://srcity.org)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **July 28 – Oct 12:** Madeline Behrens-Brigham, Emily Florence, Babette Kemler and Kathryn Vesey are bringing their exhibit called “Art: 4 Ways” to Steele Lane Community Center. This exhibit of oil paintings and mixed media is available for viewing during operating hours M-F, 9am-5:30pm.
- **July 30:** Live at Juilliard Summer Concert Series www.srcity.org/2169
- **July 31:** Registration opens for Fall adult Softball League and closes 8/18. www.srcity.org/softball.
- **August 1:** League permits for Fall/Winter sports fields begin. Over 4,000 youth and adults will use our soccer, baseball, and softball fields. <https://www.srcity.org/2804/Register-for-an-Activity>
- **August 3:** Registration begins for City Booters, an instructional co-ed soccer league for youth ages 5-7. FREE Field Day is 9/9 from 9-11am at Rincon Valley Park and is opportunity to meet the staff and try the program before registering. <https://www.srcity.org/2804/Register-for-an-Activity>
- **August 4:** Neighborhood Services is hosting the annual SWIM BASH at Ridgway Pool, which is a free swim night for Neighborhood Services members along with a hotdog dinner, pool games and a free raffle. [Family Fun Times | Santa Rosa, CA \(srcity.org\)](https://www.srcity.org/family-fun-times)
- **August 12:** Park-A-Month Volunteer event at Pioneer Park, 9am-12pm. www.srcity.org/1028
- **August 12:** Rural Cemetery *Tapestry of Cultures* Tour. 10am-11am. www.srcity.org/1080
- **August 19:** Rural Cemetery Volunteer workday. 9am-12pm. <https://www.srcity.org/1066/Get-Involved>
- **August 28:** Neighborhood Services After School Programs begin (collaboration with Burbank Housing). <https://www.srcity.org/3048/After-School-Programs>
- **August 29:** NFL Flag Football Fall Season Begins. <https://www.srcity.org/3047/Sports>
- **September 4:** Junior Warriors Basketball Season Begins. <https://www.srcity.org/3047/Sports>

ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS:

- **June 26-30:** Girls on the Run: Neighborhood Services partnered with the Nonprofit, Girls on the Run, providing 25 Recreation Sensation participants with 18 hours of researched based curriculum that focused on; understanding of oneself, relationships, teamwork and recognizing how to shape the works at large.
- **July 8:** Senior Expo at the Person Senior Wing – One of our most successful Senior Expos with over 50 vendors and 600 attendees. www.srcity.org/2173
- **July 8:** Approximately 70 participants attended the *Walk Down Cemetery Lane* Tour at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery www.srcity.org/1080
- **July 8:** Park-A-Month at Juilliard Park from 9a-12p. www.srcity.org/1028
- **July 9:** Deadline for Merit Award nominations. Received 38 applications. www.srcity.org/1241/City-Merit-Awards
- **July 9:** Rec Sen Mania – All Recreation Sensation Camps gathered at Finely Park for a day of FUN! Campers participated in team building activities, nature art projects and sports intramurals. There were over 300 participants in attendance.
- **July 16, 23:** Live at Juilliard Summer Concert Series www.srcity.org/2169
- **July 22:** Work Experience Swim Party 6:30-9pm at Ridgway Swim Center to reward and celebrate our amazing summer work experience participants for all their hard work.



City of Santa Rosa

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COMMUNITY CENTERS

PROGRAMS AND RENTALS

The team



Skip Wallace
Recreation Coordinator



Michael Marx
Recreation Coordinator



Jeanne Pugh
Recreation Coordinator



Sara Costa
Recreation Specialist



Stephan George
Facilities Attendant



Dennis Layden
Facilities Attendant



Amanda Hurst
Facilities Attendant

What we do



Contract Classes

Life-long learning, camps, theater, youth enrichment programs, fitness activities and skill building workshops



Tots Programs

Traditional “Tiny Tots” pre-school program, kindergym, Art 2 Play 2, and crafts workshops



Rentals

Social gatherings, community events, trainings and workshops hosted by private citizens, nonprofits and commercial entities



Special Events

Crafts Fair, Fairytale Ball, Earth Day, Senior Expo, Oktoberfest and more!



Gathering Spaces

Places for passive recreation including reading, playing cards, eating lunch, and enjoying art.



Contract Classes

Contract Instructors share their passions with the community

- FY '23 we had 4422 registrations
- \$356,000 Revenue
- Currently working with 33 instructors
 - We are always looking for MORE!
 - Instructor proposals are available on our website.



A SAFE PLACE TO LEARN,
PLAY, AND EXPLORE

- Staff lead programs for ages 2+
- Traditional “Tiny Tots” pre-school program, kindergym, Art 2 Play 2, and new crafts workshops
- Engage with our youngest community members



Tots Programs

Lead by our fantastic
TOTS TEAM





- 7 facilities available for rent
 - FY '23 - 700 Contracts (1700 bookings)
 - Over 7,000 hours of facility use
- 95% of our rental customers would recommend the venue to a friend
- 97% felt their rental was appropriately priced – affordability was listed as the top reason people rented from us



Rentals

Places for social gatherings, business meetings, self-help groups, cultural celebrations, training events, and more

Gathering Spaces

Open spaces available for community use to facilitate residents socializing and enjoying a richly fulfilling sense of community



Goals

New Flooring at Finley Community Center

- Funding source has been identified
- Purchasing process to begin this Fall



Contract Class Surveys

- Improve solicitation of feedback
- Provide information to our contractors
- Help guide decisions about renewing contracts



Sensory Space Cedar Lobby

- Passive recreation opportunity for our youngest visitors
- Improved seating options for visitors



THANK YOU



City of Santa Rosa

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Agenda Number: 9.3



City of Santa Rosa

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In Control: Board of Community Services

File Type: BCS-Agenda Item

Agenda Number: 10.1



**SANTA ROSA
RURAL
CEMETERY**

Where History Comes to Life

The Cemeterian

A Publication of the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery
Preservation Committee

—dedicated volunteers working with the City of Santa Rosa to operate,
maintain, and preserve the Rural Cemetery, including interpretation and
education, special projects and restoration, publicity, and fundraising.

Vol. 30, No. 3

July 2023

*Our front-page features two stories spanning three centuries, the width of the cemetery,
and many of one extended family's 150-plus Rural Cemetery residents*

Dick Oberg, Fulkerson Descendant



Richard “Dick” Norris Oberg died of natural causes on June 4, 2022, which was his 99th birthday. However, his remains were interred along with those of his wife Patricia

in Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery in Fulkerson plot 53 on June 4, 2023, which would have been Dick’s 100th birthday.

Dick worked in the insurance industry in the Bay Area and then in Southern California. But when he turned 40, he passed the California Bar, hung up his shingle, and became a sole practitioner for the next 45 years.

Eventually he and Patricia moved north and settled in Santa Rosa. At the time, they had no knowledge of the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. But subsequently, Dick learned about the cemetery, and to his surprise, he discovered that his great-great-great grandparents, Richard Fulkerson and Sallie Shephard Fulkerson, as well as his great-great grandparents, Samuel Harris and Phebe Fulkerson Harris, are buried in the Fulkerson Family Plot with other family members.

Of interest, Dick’s great-great grandfather, Samuel Harris, was a veteran of the War of 1812, who at the age of 18 served with Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans. Additionally, Thompson Mize—the first recorded burial in the cemetery, was the first husband of Dick’s great-great aunt, Ruth Fulkerson Harris—directly connecting Dick to the Rural Cemetery’s 1854 founding!

Dick volunteered for many years helping maintain the Rural Cemetery grounds. But at the age of 89, as his daughter Lisa so sweetly put it, “his knees no longer allowed him to do so.”—Sandy Frary

Key Stones Return, Decades Later

The industrial shelving that lines the back wall of the cemetery’s storage crypt is heavy with old, broken tombstones. There are a few clues to whose graves they once marked: A partial name. A partial date. An initial. Thick marble shards. Pieces to puzzles guaranteed to be eternally incomplete.

When a call from City staff said someone wanted to return some broken tombstones, we tempered our expectations. A reference in the message to the name “Fulkerson” was both exciting and daunting: Was it the multi-acre cemetery being cited or the family itself—and from which generation?

Jigsaw puzzles arrive boxed and oftentimes you separate and remix the pieces before you begin. (*That’s what makes it a puzzle!*) We expected no box. No connected pieces. No answers—just more questions. And instead, on a sunny Santa Rosa morning we got first and only dibs on the ultimate Rural Cemetery garage sale, laid out for our inspection in a neat row, many years in good-intentioned storage. Free to the original owners. *I’ll help you load these in your truck.*

The most frequently asked questions from first time visitors to the Rural Cemetery concern the earliest burial: Who, when, where and why. Knowing the correct answers is Cemetery Volunteer History Lesson #1: *Thompson Mize. 1854. Drowned in a puddle in downtown Santa Rosa. Eastern Half Circle. Let me show you the plot....*

The nearly dozen recently returned headstones and foot stones are all from this extended family’s first plots in the Rural Cemetery: Fulkerson. Mize. Harris. Wife. Infants. Children. All essentially complete and prime for restoration and reinstallation, decades after being well-intentionally removed, more than 150 years after the deaths they mark.

We invite you to read and watch Kerry Benefield’s “Tombstone Return” features from the July 3 *Press Democrat* for more on this story.—Carole Quandt



Please do not move any tombstones you might come across in the cemetery—broken or not—as current locations are the best indicators of where stones belong! Preserving and restoring the Rural Cemetery remains the primary purpose of the Preservation Committee and returns of all artifacts are sincerely appreciated, no questions asked. Call 707-543-3279.



Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery is comprised of four separate historic cemeteries: the Rural Cemetery, and Fulkerson, Stanley and Moke cemeteries. Moke is the smallest and arguably the remotest of the four cemetery components. And some interesting and perhaps dark side burials took place...

Where Stanley Meets Moke

The Bed Frame

It's not unheard of to find a full-scale bed made of concrete displayed on top of a grave. It's reported that this practice first turned up in 18th century graveyards and signifies "eternal rest" or "eternal slumber." Even Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery has one: The large concrete headstone on 60-year-old Charles Bunz's grave (MC 254) is shaped like the headboard of a bed, and the foot stone resembles a footboard.

But it's most unusual to find an actual metal bed frame displayed on a grave—except, that is, in Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. Decades ago someone secured a single-size metal bed frame to a grave in the Fountaingrove Plot area in Stanley Cemetery, in the vicinity of plot VII-27.

According to Jonathan Quandt—head of the Tombstone Trio—the steel bed frame was factory made and embellished in an Art Nouveau-style with six sculptural floral ornaments reminiscent of lilies. There's also a sculpture set in a concrete base with the same floral arrangement, all painted with light green paint and a swag of chain connecting the parts. Originally anchored to the grave, over time the frame has broken free and shifted slightly from its original location.

When Jonathan first saw the bed frame he was immediately impressed by the devotional quality of the sculptural embellishments. This, he says, and the fact that the grave adjoins the Fountaingrove Plot, seems to place the bed frame in that similar era of late 19th/early 20th century. Trio members



Greta Sweet and Rachel Ailworth have spent considerable time clearing the ivy that covered the entire Fountaingrove plot area, exposing this "treasure" for all to see.

As for who is buried beneath the bed frame, that is a mystery.

No name or statistical information remains at the grave site to identify the person for whom the bed frame is intended to memorialize. But I do believe the person's name may actually be listed in the Rural Cemetery burial listing database with the notation "burial location unknown," which would make it impossible to connect him or her to the bed frame. Unfortunately, of the 825 people on record as being buried in Stanley Cemetery, the burial location of 147 of them is unknown.—Sandy Frary

Fountaingrove

With its old and gracious palm tree and recent landscape tending, the Fountaingrove plot (Stanley VII) appears quite proper and idyllic. Its 100-year residents however—if looking through sets of 2023 eyes—might disagree.

Thomas Lake Harris, mystic and prophet of the 19th century Brotherhood of Life Church came to Santa Rosa in 1875 to establish a new home center for his devotees, and a winery to finance his ambitions. By 1890 Fountaingrove produced 200,000 gallons of wine, extolled to bring "spiritual qualities" upon the drinker. Harris claimed knowledge of the Deity and had visions—heaven-sent—which could bestow eternal life on earth to his followers.



Here in this small plot, clinging to a cool slope, workers of Fountaingrove Ranch found their eternal rest and believers in Harris ended their quest for immortality.

We encourage you to visit the last vestiges of Fountaingrove's utopian community and conduct your own research so that you might fathom the depths of this sometimes dark piece of Santa Rosa history.—Jonathan Quandt





Terrence Fitts



Crossing the roadway from the bed frame and Fountaingrove plots is Moke plot 234, home to an unassuming plaque atop a concrete-capped plot. Facing away from the roadway, the marker shows but three initials: T.J.F.

Until 2021 the identity of the person buried in Moke 234 was unknown.

That's when our historian Ray Owen picked up the trail and connected the pieces, pinpointing the burial site of Terrence Joseph Fitts, one of three men hanged from a locust tree at the front of the Rural Cemetery in December of 1920—one of the last known vigilante lynchings west of the Mississippi River. And there's every likelihood that George Boyd, a second member of the notorious Howard Street Gang lynched that night in December, is buried next to Fitts in the Moke section of the cemetery.

A bit of background for the few readers who might not be familiar with one of Santa Rosa's most notorious tales: Fitts and his two cohorts had been apprehended and jailed in Santa Rosa for crimes committed in San Francisco and the subsequent murder of Sonoma County Sheriff James Petray during the ensuing Santa Rosa shootout. Late on the night of December 9, a mob of masked vigilantes attacked the local jail, overpowered the officers, and in the wee hours of that Friday morning drove the three to the Rural Cemetery and hanged them all from a single branch of that locust tree.

On December 11, 1920, the day after the lynchings and following a morning and afternoon when more than 3,000 persons (including women and children) filed through Welter Mortuary to view the remains of all three men, Frank Welter announced the bodies of Boyd and Fitts had been buried in an undisclosed location. The remains of the third man, Charles Valento, had been claimed by family members and shipped to San Francisco.

The reason given at the time for not disclosing the grave site of Fitts and Boyd was to comply with the Fitts family's request and because of a concern the graves might be vandalized and the bodies desecrated. (This may well have proven true: The black locust tree from which the three were hanged was chopped down in short order to prevent people from continuing to cut pieces of wood souvenirs from it.)

Visit this often-overlooked part of the Rural Cemetery—where Stanley meets Moke—and perhaps allow in thoughts from our collective history's dark side.—Carole Quandt

Much appreciation to published works from local historians Gaye LeBaron, Jeff Elliott and Ray Owen for Fountaingrove and Fitts information. All have much more info available online.

County Cemetery Shaping Up

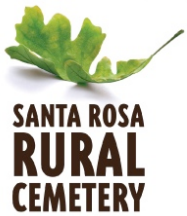
County-sponsored volunteer work parties have taken place twice so far this season in the County Cemetery, continuing the area's rehabilitation after the removal of 100+ eucalyptus trees. On a recent Saturday morning, nearly a dozen volunteers under the guidance of County Park Project Leader Michelle Karle spent several hours pruning and weeding, as well as removing invasive non-native vegetation and ivy patches from outside of the split rail fence area.

"What most excites me," said Michelle, "is the hope that we can restore the space with native plants in a way that enhances it for passersby, provides for wildlife and reduces fire risk. Removing eucalyptus can be such a daunting task, I want the process to become easier for us as a community. Volunteer workdays can be a great way to get to know people and learn about the county, and this group of hard-workers made for a wonderful Saturday morning."

Volunteer Mary Catelani spent time using the hula hoe. "The cool morning was welcome for a rewarding day working at the cemetery. Making new friends and learning about the history of our area was a bonus, which always happens when volunteering. And working up a decent sweat while removing invasive weeds is very rewarding work!"

For more info on this worthwhile project, or to join in the volunteer effort, call or email Sonoma County Parks Volunteer Coordinator John Ryan at 707-548-4424/john.ryan@sonoma-county.org.





The Cemeterian

Rural Cemetery Preservation Committee
c/o Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks
415 Steele Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

88-0910



The Cemeterian

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Preservation Committee Meetings

Regular meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Steele Lane Community Center, 415 Steele Lane

Contact Information

Bill Montgomery (City Liaison) 510-735-5026 • montyw2170@gmail.com
Nancy Godfrey (Work Party) 707-544-2332 • ngodfrey@sonic.net
Jonathan Quandt (Adopt-a-Plot) jfaquandt@comcast.net
Laurie Jacobson (*Cemeterian*) 707-538-9893 • lauriejacobson@juno.com

♿ For accessible meeting information, please call (707) 543-3737

Join our 3rd Saturday work parties:

July 15, Aug. 19 and Oct. 21 at 9 a.m. at Franklin Gate.

Final free Saturday morning walking tour in 2023:

“Tapestry of Cultures” Aug. 12. Tours depart from Franklin Gate every 20 minutes from 10–11 a.m.

“**Lamplight Tours**” are Sept. 15 and 16 and a few tickets are still available! For more info and to register for these activities, see Rec & Park’s Activity Guide.

The Continuing Nancy Story Story

In our last issue we featured this toppled mighty oak: Resting on its root ball in the Stanley section of the Rural Cemetery, its sprawling limbs in our neighbor’s yard across the fence, the downed tree was recently extricated from under the weight of Mary Story’s massive slab. No harm was done to any other plots, and Mary is waiting patiently for her grave marker to be returned to its original location. It will take more than the Tombstone Trio’s combined talents to right this one. The Nancy Story story continues!—*Carole Quandt*

Subscribe to *The Cemeterian* online at srcity.perfectmind.com by logging in and clicking the “Donations” tab. A basic \$15 donation gets you one year of our digital newsletter. Digital subscriptions are also available by sending a check for \$15 (made payable to “Community Foundation of Sonoma County”) to **Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery, c/o Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks, 415 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.** Please include your email address. Print subscriptions are available for \$20 per year. Larger donations are always welcomed, include *The Cemeterian*, and contribute to ongoing cemetery projects and events.