



SEPT. – OCT. 2024

Orange County Cemetery District

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Anaheim City Council Gives Unanimous Approval for the Gypsum Canyon Cemetery Development Project!

On Tuesday, August 23rd, The Anaheim City Council voted unanimously 7-0 to approve all of the planning and development documents that were on the agenda for their review and approval. This included several resolutions and ordinances that allow for the development of two cemeteries on the 283.3 acres of land at Gypsum Canyon.

Two of the ordinances required a second reading which took place on Tuesday, August 13th.

The District is now moving forward on the next stage of the project which will include preparation of documents for the first phase of the public cemetery. We will also be continuing our collaboration with CalVet on the State Veterans Cemetery Development. The Environmental Team will be coordinating with resource and regulatory agencies, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, etc. in regards to permitting packages.



This beautiful location in Anaheim Hills, located at the intersection of the 241 Toll Road and CA-91 will be the future home of the Gypsum Canyon Memorial Park and the Southern California Veterans Cemetery.

Beginning in January, the Design team will commence the preparation of the construction documents to be reviewed by the various City of Anaheim Departments. We are also coordinating with Anaheim Public Utilities to provide electrical and water utility to the site.

It is our goal to have bid documents completed by December 2025, with final City approvals ready and made

available for a contract award period in early 2026. This would allow the project to commence construction activities in July 2026.

To learn more about this project and the latest developments please visit the Gypsum Canyon Cemetery Development Project website at: [Gypsum Canyon Cemetery Development \(occemeterydistrict.com\)](http://Gypsum_Canyon_Cemetery_Development.occemeterydistrict.com).

The District Welcomes Three New Staff Members!

With the retirement of Anaheim Cemetery Manager Bill Stelter, Santa Ana Secretary Diane Fuentes, and District Secretary Iris Tatro, we have been working hard to recruit additional personnel to ensure that all three cemetery offices and the District Office are adequately staffed.

As a result, we are excited to introduce three new employees who all joined the District in August!



**District Secretary &
El Toro Cemetery Asst.
Siennika Pryor-Winters**



**El Toro
Cemetery Assistant
Sydney Stechmann**



**Santa Ana
Cemetery Assistant,
Andriana Tristan**

Siennika Pryor-Winters

Siennika Pryor-Winters will be taking over as District Secretary and will also be serving as a Cemetery Assistant providing customer support at El Toro Memorial Park.

Siennika began her career in the death care industry in 1996 as an Administrative Secretary and Death Certificate Clerk at Cypress View Mortuary & Mausoleum in San Diego. Since then, she has taken positions as an Administrative Secretary, Office Manager, and Funeral Arranger at several private mortuaries and memorial parks including Anderson-Ragsdale Mortuary, Glen Abbey Memorial Park & Mortuary, and Greenwood Memorial Park and Mortuary.

When her family moved to Florida, she joined Gary Panoch Funeral Home as an Accounting Book-keeper where she worked with senior accounting staff to prepare financial documents and provide comprehensive accounting support including payroll, accounts payable and accounts receivable.

For the last three years Siennika has worked as an Administrative Specialist for the Veteran Affairs National Cemetery Administration, first at South Florida National Cemetery and then at Houston National Cemetery. We are fortunate in the timing of our recruitment as Siennika had been looking to return to Orange County in order to be closer to family.

Sydney Stechmann

Sydney will be manning the busy front desk at El Toro Memorial Park, assisting families, providing customer support and coordinating El Toro's constant flow of marker and niche plate deliveries and installations.

Sydney brings over eight years of experience in the death care industry. She obtained her certification as a California Funeral Arrangement Counselor and has worked as a Service Arrangement Representative for Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale; a Mortuary Office Specialist for Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary in

Whittier; and most recently as a Funeral Director for the Trident Society in Laguna Woods.

Andriana Tristan

Andriana will be providing full-time support in the Santa Ana Cemetery Office, answering phone calls, assisting families and visitors coming to the park, and managing marker and niche plate deliveries and installations.

Andriana graduated in 2020 with an Associate Degree in Mortuary Science from Cypress College. She worked as an Embalmer Apprentice at Greenwood Memorial Park and Mortuary and then as a Funeral Services Assistant with Alhiser-Comer Mortuary in Escondido.

Andriana stepped away from her career in 2022 with the birth of her daughter and, lucky for us, she was looking to return to the death care industry when our recruitment opened.

We are very excited to welcome these talented and skilled employees to our District family!

Wrought Iron Fence Repair Continuing at El Toro Memorial Park

The District is pleased to report that repairs to the wrought iron fencing in the Los Alisos lawns have been completed. This area includes the lawn sweeping up from the public restroom building, the lawn encircling the flag pole, and the upper lawn where the gazebo is located.

Years of rust had damaged several portions of the fencing in these areas which had to be removed and

welded with new wrought iron. All of the fencing was then carefully sanded and repainted with a classic black glossy finish.

By the end of August, we estimate that restoration of the fencing above the Niche Garden where the Angel of Hope is located will also be completed. The project will wrap up with the repainting of the rear gate and the wrought iron fencing along the back of Centennial.



Santa Ana Cemetery Road Closures Starting Soon – Pardon Our Dust

Construction is expected to begin soon to demolish three roads inside Santa Ana Cemetery and convert those areas to new interment lawns. These are the last possible road closures that can occur at Santa Ana Cemetery while still being able to maintain a safe flow of traffic.

The road closures are expected to generate an additional 540 new double-depth casket spaces, and an additional 220 new in-ground cremation spaces. Because the District has such a low inventory of available full-body burial spaces, these new casket spaces will only be sold to families that have had a death occur and are in immediate need of burial. The in-ground cremation spaces may be purchased for either advanced planning or for immediate burial.

Once these casket spaces become available for sale, we expect a substantial amount of activity all to be concentrated in the same areas. Therefore, we will not be planting any grass until interments in the majority of

an area are completed. At that time, the District will lay fresh sod for those gravesites. We have found with past road closures that it is futile to plant grass while interments are still occurring in the same area. The frequent opening and closing of graves with heavy equipment destroys tender lawns that have not become fully established. We hope to have these new spaces available for sale by late September or early October.

While construction is occurring, there will likely be noise, dust, and some additional traffic congestion on the grounds. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause for those visiting the grounds. We appreciate your patience as we work to make these new interment spaces available.



**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT
September/October Board Meetings**

The Board of Trustees for the Orange County Cemetery District typically holds regular meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 25751 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may also join Board Meetings remotely. Instructions to join remotely are posted on the agendas.

Agendas are available at least 72 hours prior to each meeting and are also posted on our District website at: www.occemeterydistrict.com. In September and October, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, September 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 1st at 10:00 a.m.**

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact the District Secretary, Mary Funk at (949) 951-9102 ext. 110.

Flower Removal and Holiday Schedule

Every Wednesday, groundskeepers remove and discard flowers and decorations throughout all three cemeteries. Families are encouraged to remove their flowers and/or decorations on Tuesday night. You can then place the flowers back on the space on Thursday morning. Please remember that the District policy only allows for two items to be placed on gravesites. This includes the in-ground flower vase and one other item. If gravesites exceed the number of allowed items, staff may remove and discard the excess items. Please do not leave items of great monetary or sentimental value on gravesites as the District cannot prevent theft.

Throughout the year, various holidays are recognized with extended periods between full park clean-ups. During these times, we ask that you empty the vase and place fresh water in the container every four to five days to eliminate mosquito breeding sources, which can cause serious health issues. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



In honor of Patriot Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, August 29th and must be removed by Tuesday, September 17th. In honor of Halloween and Dia de los Muertos, flowers may be placed on Thursday, October 17th and must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 12th. During this time, light clean-ups will still occur each Wednesday and only flowers that are obviously wilted will be removed.

During full park clean-ups everything on gravesites are discarded. Please be sure to remove items you do not want discarded before the cemetery closes on Tuesdays.

The 2024 Cemetery Grounds Wednesday Clean-up Calendar is available on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS

**Anaheim Cemetery
and
Santa Ana Cemetery**
are open for visitation, seven days a week,
from 8 am to 5 pm.

**El Toro Memorial Park is open seven days a
week from 8 am to 7 pm.**

Cemetery Offices are open M-F, 8 am to 5 pm.

**All offices are closed on the
weekends and on holidays.**

The Orange County Cemetery District manages and maintains Orange County's public cemeteries in a manner that preserves their beauty, dignity, historical and cultural values, and offers affordable interment service for County residents.

The Trustees and staff of the Orange County Cemetery District are committed to the following values:

- Integrity ■ Respect ■ Accountability
- Responsiveness ■ Empathy ■ Transparency
- Appreciation for Diverse Needs

