



**SEPT. – OCT. 2020**

# Orange County Cemetery District

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## SANTA ANA CEMETERY CLOSED ON FRIDAY – AUGUST 28th

Please be advised that Santa Ana Cemetery will be completely closed on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> for all visitation and interment services. Ben's Asphalt will be conducting the final slurry throughout the entire cemetery to seal all the new asphalt roads.

Please do not attempt to walk in to Santa Ana Cemetery from Fairhaven Memorial Park as all roads

will be impacted. If you need to reach the cemetery office, you will need to call the office for assistance at (714) 953-2959.

The park will reopen for visitation on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your cooperation while this necessary work is completed.

## Santa Ana Cemetery – Interior Swing Gate Closures

As you may have noticed over the past month or so, the interior swing gates between the Santa Ana Cemetery and Fairhaven Memorial Park have been closed daily.

We have been working with Fairhaven staff in an effort to provide more safety and security to the visitors of the grounds and to minimize the amount of

cars travelling through each cemetery. We have received many compliments on the results of these closures from our families, but know that a few of you feel inconvenienced by not being able to enter or exit through Fairhaven to visit the Santa Ana Cemetery. We hope you understand and have made the adjustment when visiting. We anticipate that these closures will continue indefinitely.

## El Toro Memorial Park Paving Project Begins in September

The Orange County Cemetery District Board of Trustees recently approved a contract with All American Asphalt to perform asphalt and concrete improvements at the El Toro Memorial Park. The contractor will begin this project shortly after Labor Day Weekend. This will be a three-phased project which will include closures of the roads during each phase of the project. Unfortunately, this will impact interment services that can take place and access for regular visitation.

During Phase One, the main entrance road will be removed and replaced with new asphalt. This will

require the closure of the main entrance and the main road from the front gate to the public restrooms. During the week of September 14<sup>th</sup> through September 18<sup>th</sup>, all traffic entering the park should be prepared to use the rear entrance of the cemetery. In addition, interment services in Los Alisos 34 and 35 will be limited.

To locate the rear entrance of the park, visitors should travel to Old Trabuco Road which is located off of Lake Forest Drive one block up from Trabuco Road. Once on Old Trabuco Road, you will drive past  
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## El Toro Memorial Park Paving Project – Continued from Page 1

Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church and the Lake Forest Nursing Center. You will see the rear entrance to the cemetery at the end of Old Trabuco Road.

In addition, the contractor will be removing a road and curbs in the older section of the cemetery, which will allow the cemetery to create approximately 244 new interment spaces for future use (possibly available for sale within one year).

Phase Two will involve the removal and replacement of old asphalt curbs with new concrete curbs along Park Vista to the back entrance road. This will include parking impacts to those visiting Sections Hillside 1, 2 & 3, Park Vista and the niche garden located below the Angel of Hope. We estimate that Phase Two will begin the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>. Interment services in Park Vista and Hillside 3 will be limited while this phase of construction is underway.

Phase Three is expected to begin in early October and will include the removal of the roads and curbs surrounding all of the older sections of the cemetery, around the dirt/trash area, and the intersection next to the public restroom. Also included in this phase will

be drainage improvements, the installation of a large truck turnout near the dirt/trash area, and an improved garden and flag pole area in the flower bed across from the public restroom.

At the completion of the three phases, we will be coordinating with the contractor to place a final slurry seal coat and parking stall striping throughout the whole cemetery. We expect the slurry seal to occur on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. There is the possibility that El Toro Memorial Park may be completely closed for all visitation and services. The District is aware of Dia de los Muertos and will ensure that the grounds are open for visitation during the weekend of October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Please keep in mind that this construction schedule is tentative and is subject to change.**

We apologize for any short-term inconvenience that this may cause for visitation and for scheduling interment services. We appreciate your understanding on the need for these important capital improvements. If you have any questions or would like current updates on potential closures, please call the District office at (949) 951-9102.

## COVID Concerns Cancel 2020 Dia de los Muertos Programs

Due to continuing COVID-19 precautions, the District has made the difficult decision to cancel the Dia de los Muertos programs we had hoped to hold at both Anaheim and Santa Ana Cemeteries.

While we are discouraging families to gather in large groups on the cemetery grounds, the placement of Ofrendas on gravesites is still being allowed. **Ofrendas may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, October 15th and must be removed by Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.** Full park clean-ups will occur at all District cemeteries on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and all items on gravesites will be discarded.

Please do not leave any items of great sentimental or monetary value as these items cannot be secured. The use of candles with real flame is prohibited. Thank you!



**Ofrendas welcome! An important tradition on Dia de los Muertos is the creation of ofrendas – beautiful displays meant to honor the memory of a loved one.**

## Veterans Day Program Canceled at El Toro Memorial Park But Flag Placement at El Toro Memorial Park Will Continue



### VETERAN GRAVESITE FLAG PLACEMENT

With the help of local Boy Scout Troops and other community volunteers, U.S. flags will be placed on the grave of every known Veteran at El Toro Memorial Park between November 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The flags will be removed the following week after Veterans Day is over.

If you have a loved one who was a U.S. Veteran, but they do not have a military marker or there is nothing on the gravestone that would identify them as a Veteran, but you still want a flag placed on their gravesite, please contact El Toro Memorial Park. The cemetery has a special list of Veterans who have a civilian marker. We make sure that every Veteran on this list has a flag placed on their grave each Memorial Day and Veterans Day. To add your loved one's name to this list of Veterans, please call the cemetery office at (949) 951-8244.

For the last thirty-one years, the Orange County Cemetery District has honored our nation's heroes with a Veterans Day program at El Toro Memorial Park. Although this year's pandemic has put a halt to the gathering itself, it will not impede our duty to honor our Veterans and express our gratitude for their sacrifice and service.

This nation's tradition for honoring Veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup> began 102 years ago in 1918. World War I began on July 28, 1914, when a young Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was assassinated along with his wife by a Serbian named Gavrilo Princip. They were killed as they visited the city of Sarajevo in Bosnia. Eventually, the whole world was seemingly drawn into this conflict. 65,000,000 men fought; 8,500,000 were killed and 21,000,000 were wounded. The United States entered the conflict in 1917. After four years of fighting, an Armistice was signed on the morning of November 11, 1918 at 5:00 am, effective six hours later at 11:00 am.

In 1919, US President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11<sup>th</sup> as Armistice Day to honor those who had fought in World War I. Armistice Day became a legal holiday in 1938. The name of the holiday was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 to honor veterans who had fought in all American wars.

**To all our Veterans – Thank you for your service!  
We owe you a debt of gratitude for securing the  
freedom and liberty that we all enjoy!**

## Please Remember the District's Gravesite Decoration Policy

For many years the District's policy on flower decoration has been as follows:

***“Each interment space may have no more than two (2) flower containers. One container shall be a flower vase placed flush with the surface of the ground and installed by District employees. The second container may be an additional flower vase OR a flower container.”***

In an effort to be sensitive to the grief of families, the District has only loosely enforced this policy. Unfortunately, many gravesites now routinely overflow with an abundance of items. We have received many

complaints from families trying to visit neighboring gravesites who feel decorations are encroaching on their loved one's space. Numerous decorations across the length of the grave also make mowing and trimming extremely difficult. Large items left on the lawn also harm the grass.

Please limit gravesite decorations to no more than two items, placed on or near the gravestone. Do not line the perimeter of the gravesite with items such as fences, flags, solar lights, or especially rocks. Rocks become dangerous projectiles when mowing. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Exceptions for holidays such as Dia de los Muertos are allowed. Please follow the holiday flower schedule.**



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

The Board of Trustees for the Orange County Cemetery District 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. **Until further notice these meetings are being teleconferenced, but the public may also attend electronically. Please call the District office for the meeting link.**

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

- **Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Wednesday afternoon. 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 flower clean-ups. During these times, we do 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 in this regard is greatly appreciated.

**In honor of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, flowers may be placed at El Toro Memorial Park beginning on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. In honor of Dia de los Muertos and Halloween, flowers may be placed at all District Cemeteries on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and must be removed on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2020 is available on our website at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

**In observance of Labor Day, all Cemetery Offices will be closed on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The grounds will be open as usual for visitation.**

**CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS**

All District cemeteries are open year-round for visitation, seven days a week.

**Anaheim Cemetery**

is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Santa Ana Cemetery**

is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**El Toro Memorial Park – Extended Hours**

Open from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

When Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> the park will close at 5:00 p.m.

Offices are open M-F - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
All offices are closed on the weekends.

**Our Mission Statement & Values**

*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

