



SEPT. – OCT. 2023

Orange County Cemetery District

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Live Dia De Los Muertos Program Returns to Anaheim Cemetery! Thursday, November 2nd from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



we are working to secure a ballet folklorico group as well. While supplies last, attendees can enjoy free refreshments, desserts and Pan de Muertos. Children will enjoy the free craft station and facepainting.



The event will take place rain or shine and is free to attend. Seating is limited, and families are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs. Parking will not be allowed inside the cemetery for this event. Please plan to park on neighboring streets.

gravesites of loved ones at Anaheim Cemetery, Santa Ana Cemetery, and El Toro Memorial Park.

We are excited to welcome back the return of our in-person Dia de los Muertos celebration at Anaheim Cemetery, located at 1400 E. Sycamore St. The festivities will take place on Thursday, November 2nd from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Tradition of Building an Ofrenda

An important tradition for Dia de los Muertos is the creation of ofrendas – beautiful displays meant to honor the memory of a loved one. Ofrendas may be built on the

Items may be placed beginning on Thursday, October 19th and must be removed no later than Tuesday, November 14th. Any items remaining on gravesites on November 15th, will be discarded.

The program will begin with a blessing of the flowers. While supplies last, the Orange County Cemetery District will distribute free small marigold bouquets that can be used to decorate a loved one's gravesite.



Please do not leave anything of great monetary or sentimental value on the gravesites at any time. Staff cannot secure these items. Due to the fire danger, candles with real flame are strictly prohibited. Battery operated candles or solar lights are allowed.

RHYTHMO Mariachi Academy will perform throughout the evening and

We hope you can join us on Nov. 2nd as we celebrate together!

El Toro Memorial Park Limits Casket Space Sales for At-Need Use Only

For some time the Board of Trustees has been carefully reviewing monthly space sales for El Toro Memorial Park. Over the last three years, sales of full casket spaces have risen at an alarming rate. While the revenues that these sales generate are very beneficial to the District, as it is working to establish a new fourth public cemetery at Gypsum Canyon, the District must also be concerned about having enough available casket space remaining to serve families who have an immediate need for burial.

At the July Board Meeting, the Trustees were informed that the available casket spaces at El Toro had fallen to 923 spaces, and at the current rate of sale, the park would

be completely sold out in a matter of months.

The time frame for opening Gypsum Canyon Memorial Park is still uncertain and may be two to three years out. For this reason, the Trustees made the difficult decision to reserve these remaining casket spaces for only those who have had a death occur.

This decision was posted at the El Toro office as well as on our website and families had through July 31st to schedule appointments to purchase casket space on a pre-need basis.

Families interested in purchasing cremation space on a pre-need basis are still able to do so at all three of our District cemeteries.

Gypsum Canyon Waiting List

For those families who are now unable to purchase full casket interment space for future use, we sincerely apologize. We hope you can understand the necessity for this action.

If you are interested in obtaining burial space at the new Gypsum Canyon Memorial Park in Anaheim Hills, we have established a waiting list. Once the new memorial park is operational, we will contact those on the list in the order they were recorded, and offer them the opportunity to purchase. If you would like to be included on the waiting list, please call El Toro's office at (949) 951-8244 or the District Office at (949) 951-9102.

Gypsum Canyon Memorial Park – New Cemetery Development Update



Over the last ten months, the Orange County Cemetery District and its development team have been responding to comments from the City of Anaheim on our submittal for the development of a new fourth public cemetery. The discussions address all aspects of the project, including zoning changes, grading, utilities, traffic, environmental, design and many other items.

In addition, the District and its Community Outreach team have been working on addressing any concerns expressed by local residents. A community outreach meeting was held in Anaheim Hills. Staff made a presentation which included an overall summary of the project status, an updated project schedule, and answered questions from those attending.

The design team has also been working on a virtual animated tour of the proposed public cemetery development, which will be posted on the District's website and project website for the public to review.

Lastly, the District and County have been engaging with members of the California State Department of General Services and California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) on the feasibility study for the State Veterans Cemetery Development. A tour of the property was given to several members of their development team and monthly meetings are held to discuss the status of the study and development submittals. It is anticipated that the State will provide results of the feasibility study sometime in November.

Now is the Time to Sponsor a Veteran's Wreath for the Holidays

Wreaths Across America provides over 1.5 million wreaths worldwide to be placed on U.S. veteran graves during the holidays. Local groups register with Wreaths Across America to seek wreath sponsorships. The sponsorships cover the costs to produce the wreaths and can serve as fundraisers for local groups.

In 2017, a dedicated troop of American Heritage Girls were the first to sell wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park. Each year they lead a beautiful wreath ceremony at El Toro, and everyone is encouraged to place the wreaths that have been sponsored after the ceremony concludes.

At Santa Ana Cemetery, the Santa Ana Elks Lodge is also coordinating a ceremony.

Both programs will be held on Saturday, December 16th at 9:00 a.m. with the wreath placement to follow.

Our goal is to secure enough wreath sponsorships to ensure that every Veteran's grave is honored on December 16th. But we need your help! **We can't place wreaths unless wreaths are sponsored.**

Wreaths cost \$17.00 each. Wreath placements cannot be assigned to specific gravesites and are placed randomly on veteran graves. Also, sponsoring a wreath does not guarantee you will be able to place a wreath. Most years there are not enough wreaths sponsored to cover every veteran who is interred. When wreath placement begins, if you did not sponsor a wreath, please wait at least five minutes to allow those who did sponsor a wreath to have an opportunity to place at least one wreath. Wreaths are delivered directly to the cemetery prior to the wreath placement ceremony on December 16th. **The last day to sponsor a wreath is Nov. 28th.**



To sponsor wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park or Santa Ana Cemetery, please follow these instructions.

1. For El Toro Memorial Park please scan the QR Code above or visit:

www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org

For Santa Ana Cemetery please visit:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/casacc

From this page you can sponsor wreaths or volunteer to help place wreaths.

2. If you would like a portion of the proceeds to benefit one of the fundraising groups, scroll down to the bottom of the page to see "Local Groups Supporting Us" and select the group you want to sponsor through.

Your sponsorships make this program possible for our Veterans – Thank you!!

Join Us for Veterans Day on Saturday, November 11th at 11 a.m. as We Honor Our Veterans at El Toro Memorial Park



Save the date for Saturday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. El Toro Memorial Park will be hosting its 34th Annual Veterans Day program.

Laguna Woods Mayor and U.S. Veteran, Cynthia Connors will be the keynote speaker. The program will also include a selection of patriotic music, a presentation of beautiful floral wreaths provided by representatives from the surrounding cities, and an honor guard

rifle salute by members of the VFW Post 6024. Richard Cook will perform "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes and bugler, Alfred Lang will close the program with the playing of "Taps". Rev. Frank Cook with American Legion Post 862 will also be on hand with his educational World War I Historical Display.

The event is free to the public and will take place rain or shine. Come early for the best seats or bring your own chair.

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. Meetings are now being held in person and are open to the public. Members of the public may also attend 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 5th at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 3rd 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 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 is greatly appreciated.

In honor of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Mawlid, flowers may be placed on Thursday, Sept. 14th and must be removed by Tuesday, Oct. 3rd. In honor of Halloween and Dia de los Muertos, flowers may be placed on Thursday, Oct. 19th and must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 14th. During these periods, light clean-up will still occur each Wednesday and only flowers that are obviously wilted will be removed.

Please be advised, 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 2023 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 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

El Toro Memorial Park
Is open for visitation, seven days a week,
from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Cemetery Offices are open M-F
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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

