



JULY – AUG. 2026

Orange County Cemetery District

TRUSTEES

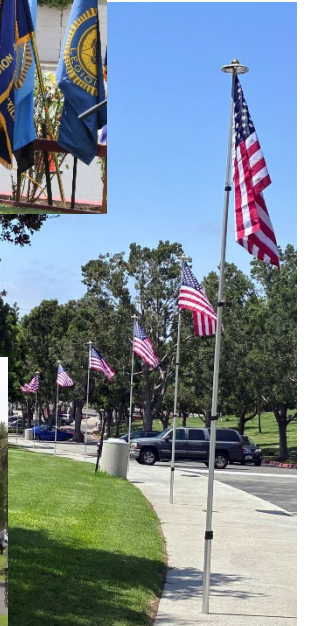
Noel Hatch, Chair
Ray Schnell, Vice Chair
Donna Marsh Peery
Kelly Rivers

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

Highlights from our Memorial Day Observances

Thank you to the small army of volunteers who made sure that our Veterans were remembered and honored! If you placed a flag on a Veteran's grave, gave an address, sang a song, read a poem, played a musical instrument, served on a color guard, presented a wreath, participated in a rifle or cannon salute, passed out water or programs, set up a stage, ran a sound system, gave a buddy poppy, led a prayer, or simply attended one of our programs – THANK YOU! May our Veterans always feel the appreciation of our grateful nation!!



Please Welcome Our New Trustee, Donna Marsh Peery

On June 23rd, the County of Orange Board of Supervisors appointed Tustin resident, Donna Marsh Peery to serve on our Board of Trustees.

Donna Marsh Peery grew up all over the United States and throughout Europe and found her forever home in Tustin when her father retired from his Air Force career more than 50 years ago. She loves her community!

She volunteers her time with several Tustin non-profits in the city, spent 17 years on the Community Services Commission and was a past president of the California Association of Parks & Recreation Commissioners and Board Members. She was recognized as the 2010 Tustin Woman of the Year and recipient of the California Parks and Recreation Champion of the Community and the Gem of Tustin awards for her efforts and leadership.

After retiring from a 28-year career in the insurance industry, she found a

dream second life career as the Office Manager of the Tustin Area Historical Society. This blends her love of history and her hobby of research and genealogy. She is most proud of her passion of sharing the history of the Tustin men that have been killed or missing in action from World Wars I & II, Korea and Vietnam and making sure that they are never forgotten.

She believes that history teaches us that the strongest communities are those that understand their roots and the foundations that have been laid by the people that came before us. Through her efforts, and that of her fellow researchers at the Tustin Historical Society, she has led several tours of the Santa Ana Cemetery highlighting many of the Orange County pioneers interred there.

She is the proud mom of Jason and Jennifer, (son-in-law) Michael, and grandmother to Rose, Caroline, August and Annie.



Trustee Donna Marsh Peery

We are so excited to welcome Trustee Peery to our Board! We know that her professional experience, her dedication to her community, and her passion for history will be great assets to the District in the years ahead. She will take her oath of office on July 1st and we look forward to her attendance at our next Board Meeting on July 14th!

Orange County Cemetery District Board Approves 2026-27 FY Budget

At the June 2nd Board Meeting, the Trustees adopted the 2026-27 Fiscal Year Budget which runs from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. The budget serves many purposes. It is a communication device, a policy document, a resource allocation tool, an accountability tool, and a management tool that grants spending authority to District staff, as well as providing the spending plan for the Orange County Cemetery District.

Overall, the 2026-27 projected total revenue of \$8,728,673 is \$77,286 less than the 2025-26 budget. This

is primarily due to dwindling casket inventory at both El Toro Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery.

The total proposed 2026-27 General Fund Operating Expenditure Budget is \$6,407,261. This includes salaries for 29 authorized full-time positions, benefits, professional services and supplies, equipment and a provision for economic uncertainty. When compared to the 2025-26 budget, this represents an increase of \$666,552.

For equipment expenditures, the District has allocated \$175,000 for

the purchase of a recycling mower and utility gator for El Toro Memorial Park. The District will also purchase a truck for the District Mechanic.

The proposed 2026-27 capital improvements total \$2,100,000 of which \$300,000 is for improvement projects at our three existing cemeteries. The remaining \$1.8 million are for anticipated expenses for the development of Gypsum Canyon Memorial Park.

To view the full budget, please visit: <https://www.occemeterdistrict.com/budget-salary-information>

New Master Fee Schedule to Take Effect July 6, 2026

As a part of the annual budget process, staff reviews all of the fees which are charged for interment space sales and services and all related fees on the District's Master Fee Schedule.

With the approval of the new 2026-27 budget, the following increases will take effect on July 6, 2026.

The cost of interment spaces will go up 3.7% which reflects the current Consumer Price Index for the LA/Riverside/OC area since April 2025. This will amount to an

increase range of \$50 to \$175 between the various space types.

All Endowment Care Fees will also go up by \$25. This reflects a 3.5% to 4.0% increase based on the type of space.

Only minor changes were recommended to service fees including a \$15 increase for weekend casket burials; a \$125 increase for casket disinterments (which is when remains are removed from the gravesite and collected by a funeral home or

mortuary); a \$20 increase for weekend memorial service set-ups; and a \$20 increase to the late hour burial fee.

For those who call to schedule appointments to make burial arrangements on or before Friday, July 3rd, the District will honor the current price sheet, even if your appointment falls on or after July 6th.

To view the new price lists for each cemetery, please visit our website at: www.occemeterydistrict.com and click on the Services & Fees tab.

El Toro Memorial Park to Host Garden of Innocence Service Saturday, August 8th at 10:00 a.m. Please Join Us!

Every day deceased babies are abandoned around the world. Without someone to care for them, these children are often buried in an unmarked potter's field, abandoned and alone.

Garden of Innocence is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing unidentified or abandoned children with a dignified and loving goodbye.

Garden of Innocence partnered with El Toro Memorial Park in 2016. A small area of the park near the infant section has been dedicated for these children. The first burial occurred January 23, 2016 and since then we have provided a final resting place for 44 abandoned babies.

On August 8th at 10:00 a.m. El Toro Memorial Park and Garden of Innocence will be

holding another service for five more children whom the Garden of Innocence has named: Evelyn, Madelyn, Brianna, Hannah, and Norman.

The public is encouraged to attend. During each program the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard and the Orange County Sheriff's Department escort the urns for each child in a beautiful processional to the Garden.

Those in attendance form a Chain of Love, where the urns are passed from person to person. Each child receives the prayers and blessings of those who form the chain. A special poem is also read and dedicated for each baby. The service also has special music, a guest speaker, and it concludes with a white dove release.



**El Toro Memorial Park's
Garden of Innocence is located near
the Infant Section in sight of the
Angel of Hope Statue.**

Garden of Innocence could not exist without the support and help of volunteers and donors. The Orange County Cemetery District wishes to thank all those organizations, volunteers and donors who make these services possible. If you would like to learn more about the Garden of Innocence for Orange County, please visit their website at:

www.gardenofinnocence.org/goi-orange

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

July/August 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 July and August, meetings will be held as follows:

➤ **Tuesday, July 14th at 10:00 a.m.***

* Due to a lack of quorum, the regularly scheduled July 7th board meeting will be adjourned to July 14th.

➤ **Tuesday, August 4th 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.

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 for visitation, 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 provides affordable interment services for County residents and taxpayers. We strive to maintain the beauty and dignity of the grounds while preserving their historical and cultural value for the benefit of all.

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

Integrity ■ Respect ■ Responsiveness
Empathy ■ Transparency

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 three items to be placed on gravesites. This includes the use of in-ground flower vases. If gravesites exceed the number of allowed items, staff may remove and discard the excess items at any time. Items should not exceed 21" in height. Items should be placed within 12" of the bottom of the marker. 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 place fresh water in the vase every four to five days to eliminate mosquito breeding sources, which can cause serious health issues. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Decorations for Father's Day and 4th of July, may be placed on Thursday, June 11th and must be removed by Tuesday, July 14th.

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 is discarded. Please be sure to remove items you do not want discarded before the cemetery closes on Tuesdays.**

The 2026 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.

